



# The Perks of Being a Wallflower

By Stephen Chbosky

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## The Perks of Being a Wallflower By Stephen Chbosky

Read the cult-favorite coming of age story that takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory. Also a major motion picture starring Logan Lerman and Emma Watson, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a funny, touching, and haunting modern classic.

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, *Perks* follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

A #1 *New York Times* best seller for more than a year, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults (2000) and Best Book for Reluctant Readers (2000), and with millions of copies in print, this novel for teen readers (or “wallflowers” of more-advanced age) will make you laugh, cry, and perhaps feel nostalgic for those moments when you, too, tiptoed onto the dance floor of life.

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## The Perks of Being a Wallflower By Stephen Chbosky Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

What is most notable about this funny, touching, memorable first novel from Stephen Chbosky is the resounding accuracy with which the author captures the voice of a boy teetering on the brink of adulthood. Charlie is a freshman. And while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. He's a wallflower--shy and introspective, and intelligent beyond his years, if not very savvy in the social arts. We learn about Charlie through the letters he writes to someone of undisclosed name, age, and gender, a stylistic technique that adds to the heart-wrenching earnestness saturating this teen's story. Charlie encounters the same struggles that many kids face in high school--how to make friends, the intensity of a crush, family tensions, a first relationship, exploring sexuality, experimenting with drugs--but he must also deal with his best friend's recent suicide. Charlie's letters take on the intimate feel of a journal as he shares his day-to-day thoughts and feelings:

I walk around the school hallways and look at the people. I look at the teachers and wonder why they're here. If they like their jobs. Or us. And I wonder how smart they were when they were fifteen. Not in a mean way. In a curious way. It's like looking at all the students and wondering who's had their heart broken that day, and how they are able to cope with having three quizzes and a book report due on top of that. Or wondering who did the heart breaking. And wondering why.

With the help of a teacher who recognizes his wisdom and intuition, and his two friends, seniors Samantha and Patrick, Charlie mostly manages to avoid the depression he feels creeping up like kudzu. When it all becomes too much, after a shocking realization about his beloved late Aunt Helen, Charlie retreats from reality for awhile. But he makes it back in due time, ready to face his sophomore year and all that it may bring. Charlie, sincerely searching for that feeling of "being infinite," is a kindred spirit to the generation that's been slapped with the label X. --*Brangien Davis*

### From Publishers Weekly

A trite coming-of-age novel that could easily appeal to a YA readership, filmmaker Chbosky's debut broadcasts its intentions with the publisher's announcement that ads will run on MTV. Charlie, the wallflower of the title, goes through a veritable bath of bathos in his 10th grade year, 1991. The novel is formatted as a series of letters to an unnamed "friend," the first of which reveals the suicide of Charlie's pal Michael. Charlie's response--valid enough--is to cry. The crying soon gets out of hand, though--in subsequent letters, his father, his aunt, his sister and his sister's boyfriend all become lachrymose. Charlie has the usual dire adolescent problems--sex, drugs, the thuggish football team--and they perplex him in the usual teen TV ways. [...] Into these standard teenage issues Chbosky infuses a droning insistence on Charlie's supersensitive disposition. Charlie's English teacher and others have a disconcerting tendency to rhapsodize over Charlie's giftedness, which seems to consist of Charlie's unquestioning assimilation of the teacher's taste in books. In the end we learn the root of Charlie's psychological problems, and we confront, with him, the coming rigors of 11th grade, ever hopeful that he'll find a suitable girlfriend and increase his vocabulary. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### From School Library Journal

Grade 9 UpAn epistolary narrative cleverly places readers in the role of recipients of Charlie's unfolding story of his freshman year in high school. From the beginning, Charlie's identity as an outsider is credibly

established. It was in the spring of the previous school year that his best friend committed suicide and now that his class has gone through a summer of change, the boy finds that he has drifted away from old friends. He finds a new and satisfying social set, however, made up of several high school seniors, bright bohemians with ego-bruising insights and, really, hearts of gold. These new friends make more sense to Charlie than his star football-playing older brother ever did and they are able to teach him about the realities of life that his older sister doesn't have the time to share with him. Grounded in a specific time (the 1991/92 academic year) and place (western Pennsylvania), Charlie, his friends, and family are palpably real. His grandfather is an embarrassing bigot; his new best friend is gay; his sister must resolve her pregnancy without her boyfriend's support. Charlie develops from an observant wallflower into his own man of action, and, with the help of a therapist, he begins to face the sexual abuse he had experienced as a child. This report on his life will engage teen readers for years to come. Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Hickman:**

The book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* to become your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a guide *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this book?

#### **Angela Smith:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children till adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important normally. The book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* was making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The guide *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is not only giving you much more new information but also being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. You never experience lose out for everything if you read some books.

#### **Cynthia Campbell:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

**Zandra Woods:**

Many people spending their time period by playing outside using friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, think reading a book can actually hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The Perks of Being a Wallflower which is obtaining the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

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