



The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel

By Gabrielle Zevin

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A New York Times Bestseller, a #1 Indie Next Pick, and a #1 LibraryReads Selection

“This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory.” ?Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child*

A. J. Fikry, the irascible owner of Island Books, has recently endured some tough years: his wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and his prized possession--a rare edition of Poe poems--has been stolen. Over time, he has given up on people, and even the books in his store, instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly. Until a most unexpected occurrence gives him the chance to make his life over and see things anew.

Gabrielle Zevin’s enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love.

“Readers who delighted in Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows’s *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Rachel Joyce’s *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and Jessica Brockmole’s *Letters from Skye* will be equally captivated by this adult novel by a popular YA author about a life of books, redemption, and second chances. Funny, tender, and moving.” ?*Library Journal*, starred review

“Wade into summer reading with this sweet yet soulful tale of love, loss, the power of friendship--and books. Like sunshine on a breezy spring day, you won’t want it to end.” ?*Family Circle*

“Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books . . . Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere.” ?*Booklist*

“Zevin is a deft writer, clever and witty.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“A wonderful, moving, endearing story of redemption and transformation that will sing in your heart for a very, very long time.” ?Garth Stein, author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

In this sweet, uplifting homage to bookstores, Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books. A. J. Fikry, the cantankerous owner of Island Books, is despondent after losing his beloved wife and witnessing the ever-declining number of sales at his small, quirky bookstore. In short order, he loses all patience with the new Knightly Press sales rep, his prized rare edition of *Tamerlane* is stolen, and someone leaves a baby at his store. That baby immediately steals A. J.'s heart and unleashes a dramatic transformation. Suddenly, the picture-book section is overflowing with new titles, and the bookstore becomes home to a burgeoning number of book clubs. With business on the uptick and love in his heart, A. J. finds himself becoming an essential new part of his longtime community, going so far as to woo the aforementioned sales rep (who loves drinking Queequeg cocktails at the Pequod Restaurant). Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere. --Joanne Wilkinson

Review

"Zevin has done something old-fashioned and fairly rare these days. She has written an entertaining novel, modest in its scope, engaging and funny without being cloying or sentimental. On top of all that, it is marvelously optimistic about the future of books and bookstores and the people who love both." *?The Washington Post*

"This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory." *?Eowyn Ivey, author of The Snow Child*

"[A] jaunty little novel." *?Entertainment Weekly*

"Wade into summer reading with this sweet yet soulful tale of love, loss, the power of friendship--and books. Like sunshine on a breezy spring day, you won't want it to end." *?Family Circle*

"*The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* reminds us what saves us all from a life of loneliness and isolation: our sense of empathy; our ability to love and be loved; our willingness to care and be cared for. Gabrielle Zevin has written a wonderful, moving, endearing story of redemption and transformation that will sing in your heart for a very, very long time." *?Garth Stein, author of The Art of Racing in the Rain*

"Readers who delighted in Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Rachel Joyce's *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and Jessica Brockmole's *Letters from Skye* will be equally captivated by this adult novel by a popular YA author about a life of books, redemption, and second chances. Funny, tender, and moving, it reminds us all exactly why we read and why we love." *?Library Journal, starred review*

"A beautiful story about getting a second chance at love. A-" *?The A. V. Club*

"*The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* is a breezy, big-hearted treat, especially if you've ever wondered about the inner workings of America's national treasures--neighborhood bookstores." *?Jami Attenberg, author of*

The Middlesteins

“In this sweet, uplifting homage to bookstores, Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books . . . Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere.” **?Booklist**

From the Inside Flap

We are not quite novels. We are not quite short stories. In the end, we are collected works. A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died; his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history; and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. Slowly but surely, he is isolating himself from all the people of Alice Island--from Chief Lambiase, the well-intentioned police officer who's always felt kindly toward him; from Ismay, his sister-in-law, who is hell-bent on saving A.J. from his dreary self; from Amelia, the lovely and idealistic (if eccentric) Knightley Press sales rep who persists in taking the ferry to Alice Island, refusing to be deterred by A.J.'s bad attitude. Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. These days, he can only see them as a sign of a world that is changing too rapidly. And then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore. It's a small package, though large in weight--an unexpected arrival that gives A.J. the opportunity to make his life over, the ability to see everything anew. It doesn't take long for the locals to notice the change overcoming A.J., for the determined sales rep Amelia to see her curmudgeonly client in a new light, for the wisdom of all those books to become again the lifeblood of A.J.'s world. Or for everything to twist again into a version of his life that he didn't see coming. As surprising as it is moving, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* is an unforgettable tale of transformation and second chances, an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jimmy Robertson:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book entitled *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel*? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Amelia Page:

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Philip Nguyen:

The book *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the good thing like a book *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel*? Several of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim this book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel* has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by open up and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Roman Morris:

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