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Stargirl



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Synopsis

A modern-day classic and New York Times bestseller that celebrates the power of individuality and personal expression from beloved Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli.Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of Ã¢â ¬Å“Stargirl, Stargirl.Ã¢â ¬Â• She captures Leo BorlockÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t miss the sequel, Love, Stargirl, and Jerry SpinelliÃ¢â ¬â„¢s latest novel, The WardenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Daughter, about another girl who can’t help but stand out. Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Spinelli is a poet of the prepubescent. . . . No writer guides his young characters, and his readers, past these pitfalls and challenges and toward their futures with more compassion.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York TimesFrom the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590L (What’s this?)

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (May 14, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 037582233X

ISBN-13: 978-0439444439

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 1,447 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,599 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #1 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Loners & Outcasts #5 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"She was homeschooling gone amok." "She was an alien." "Her parents were circus acrobats." These are only a few of the theories concocted to explain Stargirl Caraway, a new 10th grader at Arizona's Mica Area High School who wears pioneer dresses and kimonos to school, strums a ukulele in the cafeteria, laughs when there are no jokes, and dances when there is no music. The whole school, not exactly a "hotbed of nonconformity," is stunned by her, including our 16-year-old narrator Leo Borlock: "She was elusive. She was today. She was tomorrow. She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl." In time, incredulity gives way to out-and-out adoration as the student body finds itself helpless to resist Stargirl's wide-eyed charm, pure-spirited friendliness, and penchant for celebrating the achievements of others. In the ultimate high school symbol of acceptance, she is even recruited as a cheerleader. Popularity, of course, is a fragile and fleeting state, and bit by bit, Mica sours on their new idol. Why is Stargirl showing up at the funerals of strangers? Worse, why does she cheer for the opposing basketball teams? The growing hostility comes to a head when she is verbally flogged by resentful students on Leo's televised Hot Seat show in an episode that is too terrible to air. While the playful, chin-held-high Stargirl seems impervious to the shunning that ensues, Leo, who is in the throes of first love (and therefore scornfully deemed "Starboy"), is not made of such strong stuff: "I became angry. I resented having to choose. I refused to choose. I imagined my life without her and without them, and I didn't like it either way." Jerry Spinelli, author of Newbery Medalist Maniac Magee, Newbery Honor Book Wringer, and many other excellent books for teens, elegantly and accurately captures the collective, not-always-pretty emotions of a high school microcosm in which individuality is pitted against conformity. Spinelli's Stargirl is a supernatural teen character--absolutely egoless, altruistic, in touch with life's primitive rhythms, meditative, untouched by popular culture, and supremely self-confident. It is the sensitive Leo whom readers will relate to as he grapples with who she is, who he is, who they are together as Stargirl and Starboy, and indeed, what it means to be a human being on a planet that is rich with wonders. (Ages 10 to 14) --Karin Snelson

Part fairy godmother, part outcast, part dream-come-true, the star of Spinelli's novel shares many of the mythical qualities as the protagonist of his Maniac Magee. Spinelli poses searching questions about loyalty to one's friends and oneself and leaves readers to form their own answers, said PW in our Best Books citation. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

If you like humor, love, and peer pressure first hand, this is the story for you. I goes through the emotions of wanting to be diffrent but not ,because of being scared of what others think.. I

absolutely can’t tell you how much this is true.. Every school has that one person who no one thinks much about, but you’d be surprised at what they can do. this is Stargirl.. I can’t wait to read the second..

Stargirl is everything someone out of the norm can relate to.I will admit, an hour after reading, that the story as a whole seems predictable; though, that is not the case at all. Plot aside, this book is a fantastic telling of self-worth, and staying true to ones self.I am well out of high school, and I found this book to be very inspirational. You should never compromise who you are in order to be accepted by your peers. Stargirl exemplified the ideals that many of us have. Everyone wants to be accepted by society regardless of personality and/or physical traits. Should we conform in order to feel more comfortable amongst peers?I will admit some of the character development is bland; but Stargirl is the focal point. Her personality and quirkiness overrides any flaws this story has. She’s the star (pardon the pun; intended!) of this story.I believe this was the first story where I loathed the narrator. It’s also the first first-person narrative I’ve read where the narrator isn’t necessarily the main character.All in all, Stargirl was a more-than pleasant read. Highly recommended!And for crying out loud, who doesn’t love a girl with an ukulele?

It is not easy to be a "starperson" for the rest of us. Although I have read of a few people, I have only met one.

This story is about a girl who lives outside the lines; who dances in the rain without an umbrella; who has a rat for a friend; who erases herself so she can blend into a moment in time. This is a story that is told in the first person narrative by a boy who is not the first person. This is about what happens in High School when someone weird walks the halls.After having been immersed within the pages of some serious readings, this book was a breath of fresh air. Stargirl swept me off my feet into a world I knew was always in me. I lost track of that world as I grew into adulthood where ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœlifeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ somehow made me forget what was real. Stargirl brought it all back.A very nice YA telling. Very nice indeed.

Bought it for my 14 year old granddaughter. Very sweet book that addresses the courage it takes to be different and the importance of kindness and acceptance of others. Is heartwarming how Stargirl makes it her Quest to help people feel good about themselvesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â .

When I read this I found myself more and more wanting to be Stargirl. Every bad act that was directed against her I felt in my body - just like her when she saw others get wounded in different ways. In everyday life it is hard to be yourself, since everything around tells you not to be; to be better. When I feel like I don’t want to be me anymore I think of Stargirl and right away change my perspective.With that said, I believe this is a beautiful book that can be read at any age by someone who wants to become more self confident.

Stargirl is what the best in every person desires to be... Compassionate and spontaneous, but with completely altruistic motives to match. She truly has no ego. Leo is fascinated by her different-ness, and how she stands alone and does not seem to notice. She is friends with everyone, but still she is not loved by everyone. Those in her class seek to change her, to bring her back to what they deem comfortable and normal, while in the process, they too are becoming aware of their own uniqueness and ability to see beyond themselves. I found myself wanting to do the same. Stargirl awakened the dormant mud frog in me with her subtle ability to change the lives of others. "It was wonderful to see, wonderful to be in the middle of we mud frogs awakening all around. We were awash in tiny attentions. Small gestures, words, empathies thought to be extinct came to life. For years the strangers among us had passed sullenly in the hallways; now we looked, we nodded. We smiled... It was a rebellion she led, a rebellion for rather than against. For ourselves. For the dormant mud frogs we had been for so long(pg. 40)." Jerry Spinelli captures the essence of high school so perfectly... The spirit, the friendship, the cruelty, and the bitter reality that what is best is not always what is accepted. A definite must-read for any teen or adult.

This book is super weird. Stargirl (the character) is so fictional that it’s hard to relate to the book at all. Still, I liked the book until the end; it feels like the author had an okay groove going, and then wrapped up the book with an incomplete ending. I was disappointed and donated it as soon as I could.

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