

*Looking For Alaska*

By John Green

Penguin

Fiction

221

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*Unforgettable*

The novel, *Looking for Alaska*, written by John Green, tells the story of young, teenage love with an unexpected twist that changes the character's life forever. *Looking for Alaska* is the heart-wrenching story that will keep you on a whirlwind of emotion throughout the whole book. When a teenage boy named Miles, later nicknamed Pudge, goes to a new boarding school he experiences something he was not expecting. He went hoping for a new adventure, a little danger in his boring life, and finally got it; Alaska, the captivating beauty that he becomes consumed with from the very first second he laid eyes on her. "I was gawky and she was gorgeous and I was hopelessly boring and she was endlessly fascinating. If people were rain, I was drizzle and she was a hurricane." This evolves into a novel packed with adventure, tragedy, and regret.

John Green is a famously known author in the literary world. His novels tell moving stories that almost every audience can love and enjoy. Green is a New York Times author and is widely known for his novels. He was the recipient of the Michael L. Printz award in 2006 and has since been nominated for several more awards. John Green uses strong vocabulary and excessive sentence fluency that adds a special something to his writing.

The book opens when the main character, Pudge, enrolls in a new school. He was looking forward to a fresh start at a new school where he could create memories and adventures. He soon meets his roommate Chip “The Colonel” Martin and is ironically given the nickname Pudge because of his tall, skinny appearance. The Colonel then introduces him to Alaska. The beautiful, mysterious, unpredictable girl who captures Pudge’s attention right away. “It was not enough to be the last guy she kissed. I wanted to be the last one she loved.” This quote was said by Pudge and shows his extreme love for Alaska and his desire for her love in return.. As the plot continues, The Colonel, Pudge, and Alaska have crazy adventures that they will never forget. Every day that him and Alaska are together, he grows fonder of her and slowly begins to fall in love with her. Suddenly, something extremely tragic happens to Alaska and Pudge’s world is never the same again. This book portrays the struggle that Pudge has to deal with in order to propel his life back to normal. His pain and suffering after this tragedy will forever stay with him, but by remembering all of the good memories that they shared will always remind him of the times they spent together. To Pudge, Alaska will always be unforgettable.

A weakness that I felt occurred in this book was during certain parts the story would drag on a little too much. Also, the beginning starts off fairly slow and takes a while for the reader to become invested in the story. Fortunately, after the reader passes these sluggish points in the book, it starts to speed up and pull you into the story.

On a scale from 1 to 5, I would give *Looking For Alaska* a 3.5-4. I give it this rating because I enjoyed it a lot but I did not think that it was as good as some of John Green’s other books. As for recommendations, I would definitely recommend this book to others. I believe the BBHS audience would enjoy the novel just as much as I did because it was a quick read that will leave you with a vast amount of emotions.