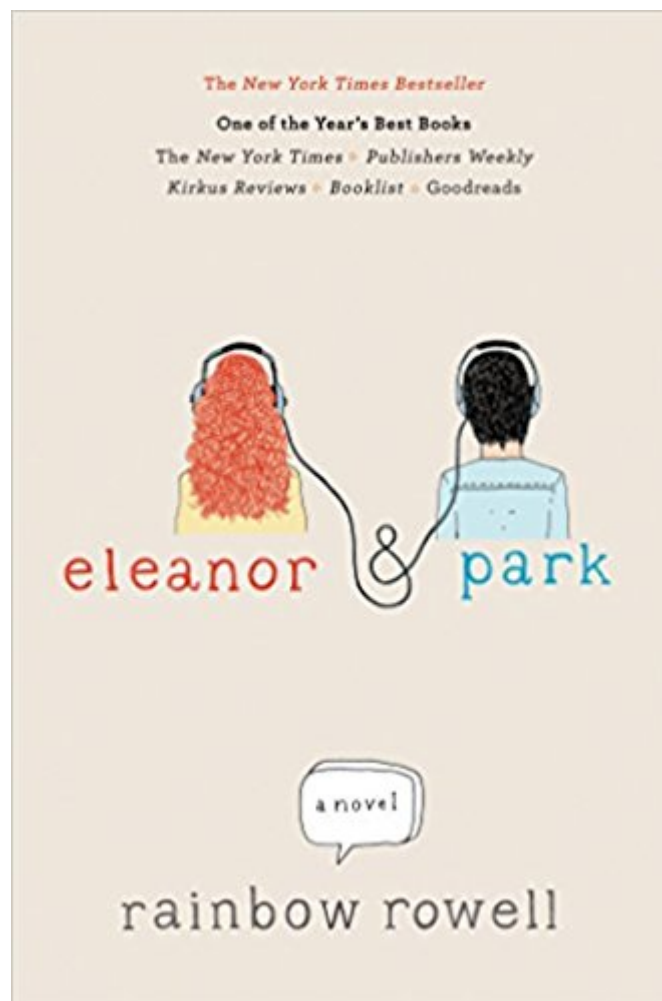


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# Eleanor & Park



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times Best Seller!"Eleanor & Park reminded me not just what it's like to be young and in love with a girl, but also what it's like to be young and in love with a book."-John Green, The New York Times Book Review  
Bono met his wife in high school, Park says. So did Jerry Lee Lewis, Eleanor answers. I'm not kidding, he says. You should be, she says, we're 16. What about Romeo and Juliet? Shallow, confused, then dead. I love you, Park says. Wherefore art thou, Eleanor answers. I'm not kidding, he says. You should be. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits-smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love-and just how hard it pulled you under. A New York Times Best Seller! A 2014 Michael L. Printz Honor Book for Excellence in Young Adult Literature Eleanor & Park is the winner of the 2013 Boston Globe Horn Book Award for Best Fiction Book. A Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of 2013 A New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of 2013 A Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of 2013 An NPR Best Book of 2013

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, March 2013: While Eleanor & Park is technically classified as YA lit and has a cutesy cover, don't let the stigma of "books for teens" fool or deter you. It is written about teens, sure, but the themes are so universal that anyone who survived high school will relate to the lives of the two protagonists. Eleanor is the new girl in town and her wild red hair and patchwork outfits are not helping her blend in. She ends up sitting next to Park on the bus,

whose tendencies towards comic books don't jibe with the rest of his family's love of sports. They sit in awkward silence every day until Park notices that Eleanor is reading his comics over his shoulder; he begins to slide them closer to her side of the seat and thus begins their love story. Their relationship grows gradually--making each other mixed tapes (it is 1986 after all) and discussing X-Men characters--until they both find themselves looking forward to the bus ride more than any other part of the day. Things aren't easy: Eleanor is bullied at school and then goes home to a threatening family situation; Park's parents do not approve of Eleanor's awkward ways. Ultimately, though, this is a book about two people who just really, really like each other and who believe that they can overcome any obstacle standing in the way of their happiness. It's a gem of a book. --Caley Anderson

**\*Starred Review\*** Right from the start of this tender debut, readers can almost hear the clock winding down on Eleanor and Park. After a less than auspicious start, the pair quietly builds a relationship while riding the bus to school every day, wordlessly sharing comics and eventually music on the commute. Their worlds couldn't be more different. Park's family is idyllic: his Vietnam vet father and Korean immigrant mother are genuinely loving. Meanwhile, Eleanor and her younger siblings live in poverty under the constant threat of Richie, their abusive and controlling stepfather, while their mother inexplicably caters to his whims. The couple's personal battles are also dark mirror images. Park struggles with the realities of falling for the school outcast; in one of the more subtle explorations of race and the other in recent YA fiction, he clashes with his father over the definition of manhood. Eleanor's fight is much more external, learning to trust her feelings about Park and navigating the sexual threat in Richie's watchful gaze. In rapidly alternating narrative voices, Eleanor and Park try to express their all-consuming love. You make me feel like a cannibal, Eleanor says. The pure, fear-laced, yet steadily maturing relationship they develop is urgent, moving, and, of course, heartbreaking, too. Grades 9-12. --Courtney Jones

I doubt that I fall into the 'target market' for this book. I'm not even sure what a young adult is. Should I recommend this book for my 14 year old grandson? But then I don't think any of these labels or definitions matter at all when the book under question is a really well-written book as is "Eleanor and Park" (EP). I was attracted to it because I had read many complimentary reviews and found it on a number of lists of 2013 best books. And I was in the mood for something different. And EP is very different from my normal crime fiction/spy novel selections, a nice break. Park is sitting

on the school bus one morning as usual, when he looks up during one of the stops and spots an obviously new student, lost and frozen in place, looking for a "safe" seat to claim. Her style is all her own right up to the mass of tangled bright red locks crowning her dome (see the cover). Park, anxious to break the tension created by a yelling bus driver ("sit down!"), makes room for her, utters the standard expletive, and gets results.....she sits. It's not a Bogart-Bergman moment. But slowly and tenderly a relationship develops, and it becomes evident that this author knows how to pace her story. But Ms. Rowell's skills go far beyond. She may not know her audience, but she knows her characters, and not just her main ones, but high schooler's parents, siblings and teachers as well. The dialog rings true and spot on. Here are two people who first appear as suited for each other as oil and water, but gradually mesh together in perfect sync. They have their ups and downs, and they face problems from parents and other students, but they are honest and have few pretensions - and they are in love. And their romance works and the story does as well, all the way till the very end. So I recommend this highly - for "young adults" of all ages.

Eleanor and park book review The book Eleanor and Park takes place in August of 1986, in Omaha Nebraska. The story is about 2 Teenagers who fall in love in high school. Park is a half Korean half White 16 year old boy and Eleanor is a rather large 16 year old girl with red hair. They first meet on the school bus during 10th grade. Park is someone that his classmates considered a loner. He tries not to make a target of himself by offering Eleanor to sit by him. Despite the challenge over the coming weeks they share a seat on the bus and begin a friendship. At the time Eleanor's home situation is very difficult to deal with. She becomes dependent on the friendship with Park as an outlet of happiness. Her relationship with her step-father is thin on ice as prior to meeting Park she was kicked out of their house during an argument, and it took her mother a year to let her come home. Park's home life is drastically different. Park's father is harder on him than his brother. His father wishes that Park becomes a different kind of teenage boy. There's a lot more of love shown in Park's household than Eleanor's. Eleanor is constantly harassed at school by not only the students but the faculty plays a role as well. Park is her protector from the bullies she deals with on a daily basis. He even got into a fight with one of his friends because he was giving Eleanor a hard time. Park is a lonely troubled boy and Eleanor has her issues. The relationship between them grows everyday they spend. They become inseparable and really love each other's presence. Park got a smooch before winter break and that really set the tone that they really are falling for each other. So if you look at the messages this book tries to convey, love is love. It doesn't matter how hard your life is or

your appearance to others, there is always someone who will love you for who you are. Keep looking and eventually you'll find your big red head or your skinny Asian.

**Eleanor & Park Review** In Rainbow Rowell's novel, *Eleanor & Park*, two young teenagers experience the difficulties of falling in love as well as balancing their personal life. Based during the 1980s, the era of acid jeans, mixtapes, misfit and comics. Eleanor the different quiet girl who comes from a large dysfunctional family, who is having trouble finding her way. She begins to become the main talk of the school for her lack of style and grace. Who sits next to a boy on her way to school. Park the strong bodied, well-known Asian-American who begins to show his love to the misfit girl. He begins to discover who he truly is. This is perfect book for high school students and adults who are trying to escape reality; to relive their high school years. Eleanor comes from a dysfunctional family of seven and learn how to cope with an abusive step-father. While Park has the "perfect" family; everything seems like the universe is on his side. Eleanor and Park describes how two misfits from different home life can come together. The way the book is written in two different perspectives its able to give a better grasp on what both characters are feeling. It also helped us understand why we shouldn't be too quick to judge people by their appearances, by not knowing their background. It also shows how bullying effects not just one person but everyone around.

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