

LOOKING FOR ALASKA

by John Green

Published in 2005

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary/Realistic



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

Set in the early 2000's, Miles Halter convinces his parents to send him to boarding school in Alabama. He is obsessed with famous last words and intends to seek his "Great Perhaps" in his new life. Upon arriving, he meets three curious characters: "The Colonel", Takumi, and Alaska. The four go on adventures, pull pranks, and learn what it is to be young and to try and find meaning in life. The beautiful Alaska particularly fascinates Miles and he spends time trying to understand her and her strange moods. After tragedy strikes, Miles and his friends begin to understand the complexities of grief and loss.

This book struck me as very different. It has a typical setup for a coming-of-age where the protagonist is initiated into a tight knit group. The writing style felt incredibly humorous and relatable. The atmosphere felt stifling and euphoric at time. I really felt like I was in the book and I knew the characters personally. The depictions of friendships, mental health, and grief were very well done and nuanced. I'd recommend this book to high school students who enjoyed *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. I think this book can be truly impactful to anyone who might feel alone in their own life.

By Celeste O, 12th grade, enjoys reading contemporary, fantasy, historical fiction, & romance