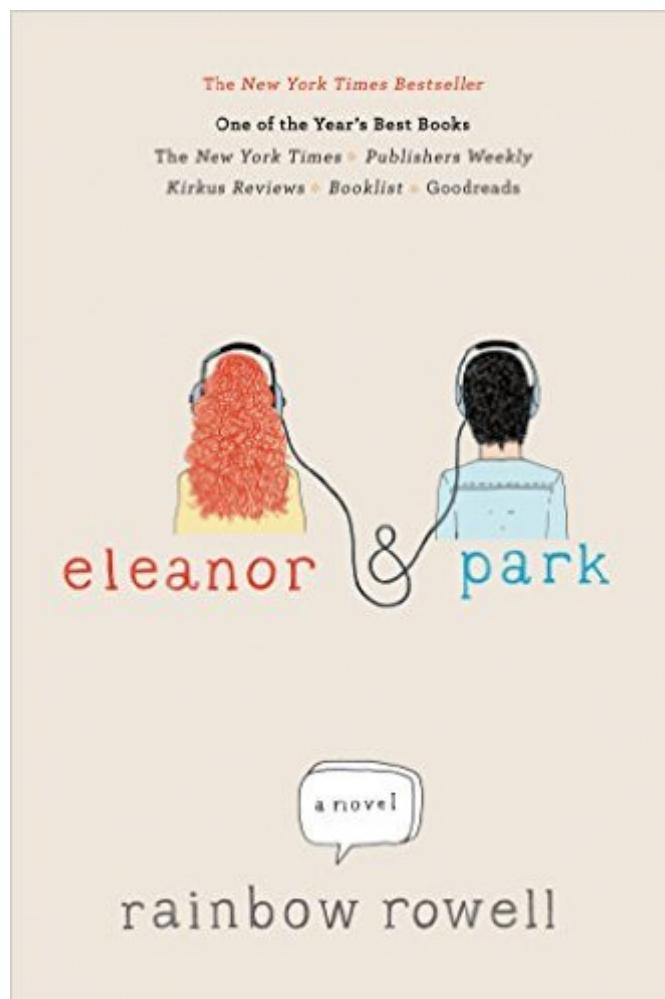


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# Eleanor & Park



## 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 ReviewBono 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 LiteratureEleanor & 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 2013A Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of 2013An NPR Best Book of 2013

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (3,363 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÂ  Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary #129 inÂ  Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

When I received the review request from St. Martin's Press, as I always do, I popped over to Goodreads and to read the synopsis and take a closer look at the author. Had I gone by the blurb on Goodreads (the one shown above), I may have passed this book up. It was what I saw on that had me anxious to read Eleanor & Park: 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. It was the banter between these two that I found intriguing. Plus, I am a product of the eighties...if I thought I could get away with it, I would probably still have my hair in some ridiculous angular cut. Okay, not really but you will still find me lovingly listening to "new wave" music while I clean my house. Anyway, what I'm saying is the book seemed like something I would like. I was wrong. This book is something that I loved. When I read on my Kindle, I highlight all the bits I want to remember for when I write my review. There are usually a handful. If you peek at my Eleanor & Park file there is yellow all over the place. There is so much good stuff here, it has it all. Eleanor has a rough life and that is putting it mildly.

I picked this book up for some light reading on a day home sick from work. I saw the high reviews and thought, not my typical read and I certainly am not the target demographic but, I'll give it a whirl. I wasn't expecting what I received from reading this book. How to explain what I did get...and the following isn't intended to be melodramatic. I was sucker punched, emotionally invested (hugely), horrified, awed, saddened, at times uplifted, grateful for some aspects of human nature and then human nature made me horrified by morally repugnant events. I guess what I'm trying to communicate without being overly sappy (and failing) how much this book made me feel. Highs and lows. It was demoralizing and insightful at the same time. There are so many simple moments of raw emotion on each opposite end of the spectrum and they transition so rapidly, you find yourself going, whoah how'd we get here when we were literally just over there? But in a good way. It is an emotional roller coaster, but one of simplicity. The writing is fairly clean and well presented. The characters are complex in their simplicity and they invoked strong reactions in me. I wanted to get to the next sentence, paragraph, and page as quickly as possible to find out more about them. I was cheering and jeering alternately for almost each primary figure and several secondary ones. The book starts a little slow and then when you're not looking or expecting it, your stomach drops out on you, just like riding a roller coaster. All of a sudden you're roped into this complex scenario which almost everyone who's been in high school has experienced to a lesser or greater degree.

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