



*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* directed by Stephen Chbolsky  
Reviewed by Sam



Teen Romance/Drama

**Rated PG-13** on appeal for mature thematic material, drug and alcohol use, sexual content including references, and a fight - all involving teens

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

The Perks of being a Wallflower follows a teen named Charlie, fifteen, who is attending high school in his small town. Charlie meets his new friends Sam and Patrick who help him break out of his shell. With his new friends, Charlie finds his own confidence and mental strength among their friend group. Just when things are going smoothly, college starts creeping up on the two seniors, Sam and Patrick. Charlie's mental health starts to rapidly decline due to his anxiety about the future of their friend group. Due to his poor mental state, he reaches out to his sister Candace. The situation escalates and lands Charlie in a mental hospital where he opens up about past trauma with his late Aunt Helen. Though he opens up about the past trauma, his friends and family support him through it all.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I was drawn to this movie by social media. I've been let down by social media before with other show, movie, and book recommendations but this one did not disappoint. I was interested because of the storyline and plot for the overall movie. I think I really liked it because it is a coming-of-age movie that isn't super happy and bright all the time and it explores some tough topics that are difficult to talk about. I liked the smalltown aesthetic of the movie along with the relationship dynamic of the characters. I think it represents high school friendships/relationships very well as it's a part of life that everyone goes through, there's a lot of changes during this time and it's a lot to process sometimes.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

Honestly, no. When I usually see coming-of-age movies, they don't feel genuine. They feel like they are made by adults who just make what they think teens are like, which is almost never realistic or true to real life. This movie showcased issues that most teens face today such as relationships with partners, feelings of anxiety concerning the future, and friendship.

**To whom would you recommend this book?**

I would recommend this movie to all teenagers and young adults. I think this movie does a very good job displaying the issues teens face today. It does the characters and the plot justice. This movie is for teens who are unsure of their future/life in general, it gives a sense of hope that many need. For myself, I had a really good cry during the movie but I really enjoyed the feeling of hope at the end. It made me feel that everything would be okay and sometimes you just need someone to tell you that it'll be okay.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Absolutely! I loved this movie so much; it makes you cry, laugh, smile, and get angry. It forces a mix of emotions but that's why I personally really liked it. It does have, what some would say, darker themes such as bullying, suicide/suicidal thoughts, self-harm, homophobia, sexual assault, and domestic violence. For these certain topics, I think some might not be comfortable with but it is important to talk about and bring awareness to these issues. It forces you to see others struggles that you, yourself, may not endure.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

To wrap up, I truly wish everyone could give this a watch at least once in their life. It gives you insight into what some people, classmates, and maybe even friends might be going through. It teaches you about being honest and true to yourself, and that you'll always have someone who loves you and cares about you. You can see yourself, friends, or other loved ones in the characters.