

# Teen Book Reviews

## Slaughter House-Five

By Kurt Vonnegut

Plot: This book is about a man named Billy Pilgrim, a veteran from World War II who has been kidnapped by aliens called Tralfamadorians and now can transport from time to time in his life, becoming “ stuck in time”. A funny looking weak youth, Billy was trained as an assistant chaplain for the war. After the war he became an optometrist and got married to Valencia. Most of the events in this book occurred during his experiences in Dresden. Some parts are when he was in Tralfamadorians’ spaceship as a Zoo animal, and other are at home when he’s older.

Rating: I rate this book a 4 because it is very unique and fun to read, yet it is a tad bit frustrating because it gets confusing due to the unorganized jumping of events. However, this book is educational because it taught me about World War II and the attack in Dresden which is not very well known. Also, this book is funny and made me laugh, so that’s definitely a good book.

Reviewed by Lani L.

## Under the Eagle

By Simon Scarrow

First of a series of novels, Under the Eagle takes place in the Ancient Roman times when Claudius ruled. Quintus Lucinus Cato, a former slave of the Imperial household is to join the army. Because of his Imperial relations, he instantly made second in command of his Centurion, which angers the fellow Legionnaires. Cato will have more to prove than others. This book gives the account of Cato’s early life in the army as he makes friends and enemies, develops a close relationship with Centurion Marco, foils the plot of a traitor, etc. Near the end, they journey to Britain to help in the campaign to conquer the island.

I give this book 5/5, because it is exciting, the settings are well described but not too much, and the characters very interesting. Great for a first novel!

Reviewed by Abhik B.

## **Lovesick**

By Jake Coburn

Lovesick describes a fragile relationship between two troubled teens: Ted is an alcoholic who crippled his legs when driving drunk and Erica is a bulimic with family tensions. After losing the basketball scholarship with nothing left, Ted is offered an opportunity for a free ride through college in exchange for his help at spying at Erica's dangerous lifestyle. However, Ted and Erica slowly fall in love. Having enough, Ted spills his "job" to Erica, and Erica reacts violently and confronts her father for hiring Ted. Ted chases after her, but he is unable to stop her from disappearing. Years later, Erica comes back to Ted from a private institute and hides with Ted in his hometown.

The ending is terribly ant-climatic with the pair meeting years later with nothing but acceptance that doesn't quite make sense. Ted also lives with a quiet life which doesn't make sense since he almost killed his sponsor Michael. In Lovesick, the drama is lacking.

Reviewed by Joyce L.

## **The Great Gatsby**

By F. Scott Fitzgerald

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* portrays the slow destruction of Jay Gatsby, a man obsessed with a woman of his past – Daisy. As the narrator, Nick, gets to know Gatsby better, Gatsby's life is revealed to the reader as one that is completely immersed in the hopes to win back his past and his American dream. Gatsby attempts to impress Daisy with materialistic wealth, showing her his great mansion the first time he sees her, letting her tour his wealth. Fitzgerald's novel, set in the 1920's, depicts the culture of the period, and represents the figments of the author's life.

I felt that this novel's symbols and plot were well-written, however, I dislike the ending, as Gatsby dies, albeit the fact that it presents a theme that people who live in their fantasy world of false hopes, unable to accept reality, will not succeed in their pursuits.

Reviewed by Jake C.