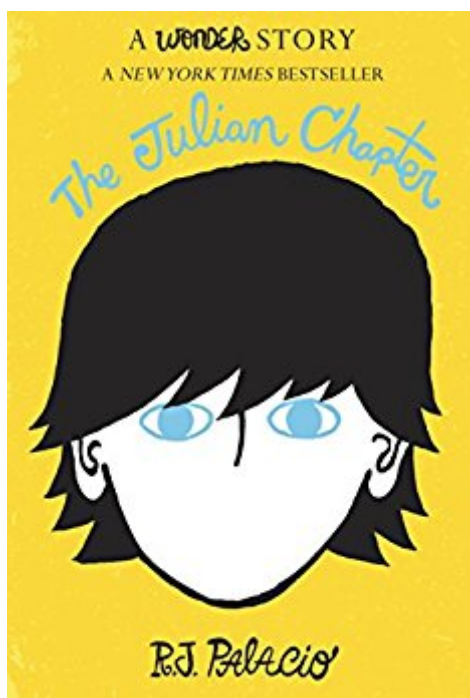


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The Julian Chapter: A Wonder Story (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

WONDER IS SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING JULIA ROBERTS AND JACOB TREMBLAY! Over 6 million people have read the #1 New York Times bestseller Wonder "the book that inspired the Choose Kind movement" and have fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. From the very first day Auggie and Julian met in the pages of R. J. Palacio's life-changing book Wonder, it was clear they were never going to be friends, with Julian treating Auggie like he had the plague. And while Wonder told Auggie's story through six different viewpoints, Julian's perspective was never shared. Readers could only guess what he was thinking. Until now. The Julian Chapter will finally reveal the bully's side of the story. Why is Julian so unkind to Auggie? And does he have a chance for redemption?

Book Information

File Size: 3158 KB

Print Length: 85 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (May 13, 2014)

Publication Date: May 13, 2014

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00IBZ5YKW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,173 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School #21 in Kindle Store > Kindle Singles > Fiction

Customer Reviews

My Review: I cannot stress strongly enough how much I adored R.J Palacio's debut novel, Wonder. Let's just say that I adored it with a capital A. The Julian Chapter is a companion book to Wonder

and shows the reader the story from the point of view of Julian, the bully in Wonder. The Julian Chapter had moments that were touching as well as frustrating but I still didn't feel as emotionally involved in Julian's story as I did with Auggie's. While I liked and enjoyed the book I can't help but feel that it didn't have as much heart as Wonder. I wasn't invested into Julian's story as I had been with Auggie's and with the ending that was tied up a little too neat and tidy this book felt a little short for me. What this book does give the reader is another view of how kids navigate the tumultuous world of Grade 5 (which, honestly feels more like grade 7 to me). I like the fact that the reader gains a better understanding of why Julian treated Auggie so terribly. But even though Julian's behaviour isn't viewed as acceptable in any way, the reason why Julian's bullying behaviour begins felt a little contrived. It was the secondary characters, like Julian's mother and especially Grand-mere, who stood out for me. I enjoyed how the author brought to light how Julian's parents, specifically his mother who was incredibly frustrating, played a role in his bullying behaviour. But it was Grand-mere's voice and story (as well as Torteau's) who stole the show for me. If only more troubled kids had Grand-mere's like Julian's in their corner, the world would be a much better place. It was her relationship with Torteau that was my favourite part of the book. Even though Palacio did a good job giving the reader a better look into Julian's take on what happened, I didn't feel nearly the connection to Julian as I did to Auggie. But that's perhaps not quite fair because Auggie will be one of those main characters that will always stay with me. Overall, this was a good companion to a truly wonderful book. If you still haven't picked up Wonder I highly encourage you to do so. Read it by yourself or even better? Read it with your kids. I think reading both Wonder and The Julian Chapter could be very useful to start a dialogue with kids about the effects of bullying. My Rating: 3.5/5 stars

this book was not what I was expecting. since I read the first book, wonder and since I knew it was from the perspective of a contrasting character. I was expecting the book to be told in a let's say "bratty" way. my prediction was totally wrong. I loved the way the the book played out and liked how it was told from Julians perspective. Even though it wasn't what I was expecting I still loved it. and I will probably read it again and again.

My sisters and I love Palacio's Wonder, so when they urged me to read this extra 'chapter' from the same story, I enthusiastically sat down and read it in one sitting - took me under an hour and a half. Julian, who is the main antagonist at August's school, gets his chance to explain things. But the voice Palacio gives him isn't unique or interesting enough to make it on its own. The best and most interesting voice and narrative in this 'chapter' is actually that of Julian's grandmother. She tells him

such a good story that her adventure should and could be made into an entirely different book all on its own. It's more interesting than Julian's story and takes wind from his sails. If this 'chapter' had been a full book-length production, or had been included directly in the book, it would have fit better and read better. Taken on its own though it is too short, as Julian's change doesn't get enough room to transpire properly. It's too obviously formulaic. Wonder was long enough for August's classmates to undergo a believable change of attitude toward him. I would suggest that the author come out with a new edition of Wonder, with Julian's chapters worked into the book in their proper place.

I absolutely loved the Julian Chapter. When I finished the book Wonder, I didn't realize that it hadn't given much detail on Julian, other than that he was a jerk. This book explains that Julian, in the end, changed. That he wasn't all bad. It also explains a little about why he hated Auggie in the beginning, about the nightmares. Obviously it still wasn't right to blame someone for nightmares you had about them, but it gives some background on the situation. I very much enjoyed the story his grandmother told, about her expedience with someone who was a little less than perfect on the outside, but a lot more than perfect on the inside. This book (chapter?) was touching and helped me realize that Julian is more than what is explained in Wonder, because he never got to share his side of the story. Maybe it's time we saw him in the proper light. At any rate, the conflict was caused more by his mom than him, and then his dad got involved and made things worse. So it wouldn't exactly be fair to pin it on him for EVERYTHING that happened to Auggie. And I was most happy that he saw his mistakes and fixed them. I haven't read Wonder in a long time, and I don't remember Auggie getting Julian's letter of apology. Though that may just be my horrible memory. It has been a year since I read Wonder, and I know I've been mentioning it a lot in this review, but that is only because I love it so much. It is important that we realize people make mistakes, and it only matters when they don't fix them.

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