

# Book Summaries

## 1. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

**Published: 2017**

Starr Carter is a sixteen-year-old girl who lives between her Black neighborhood and a mostly white private school.

Her life changes when she witnesses her childhood friend Khalil being shot and killed by a police officer.

As the shooting becomes national news, Starr faces racism, protests, police violence, and pressure to remain silent.

The story also contains strong language, drug references, and mature discussions about relationships and sexuality.

The novel explores racism, identity, justice, friendship, and the importance of speaking up.

## 2. The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

**Published: 1985**

Offred lives in Gilead, a dystopian society where women have lost their freedom and basic rights.

She is forced to become a Handmaid whose reproductive ability is controlled by the government.

She remembers her husband and daughter while secretly looking for ways to resist the system.

The novel contains sexual violence, abuse, executions, religious extremism, and disturbing descriptions of oppression.

It explores power, freedom, gender inequality, religion, reproductive control, and resistance.

## 3. The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini

**Published: 2003**

Amir grows up in Afghanistan with his best friend Hassan, but their friendship is changed by a traumatic act of violence.

Amir fails to protect Hassan and carries guilt about what happened for many years.

After moving to America, he eventually returns to Afghanistan to confront his past and help Hassan's family.

The novel contains sexual violence, war, disturbing events, strong language, and controversial religious themes.

It explores friendship, betrayal, guilt, family, forgiveness, and redemption.

## 4. Looking for Alaska — John Green

**Published: 2005**

Miles leaves home to attend boarding school and hopes to discover a more exciting life.

He becomes close to Alaska Young and experiences friendship, romance, drinking, smoking, and teenage rebellion.

A tragic event changes his life and leaves him struggling with grief and guilt.

The book includes sexual content, profanity, alcohol, drugs, smoking, and discussions of suicide.

It explores love, friendship, loss, responsibility, and growing up.

## 5. A Clash of Kings — George R. R. Martin

**Published: 1998**

Several powerful kings and families fight for control of Westeros during a brutal civil war.

Political alliances constantly change as characters compete for power and survival.

Jon Snow faces dangers beyond the Wall while Daenerys tries to strengthen her position elsewhere.

The novel contains graphic violence, death, sexual content, rape, incest, and strong language.

It explores ambition, power, loyalty, betrayal, war, and survival.

## **6. Kingdom of Ash — Sarah J. Maas**

**Published: 2018**

Aelin is imprisoned while her friends and allies fight to save her kingdom. Her companions gather armies and prepare for an enormous final battle. The characters experience imprisonment, torture, violence, loss, and difficult sacrifices. The book also contains sexual content, profanity, and other mature themes. It focuses on courage, friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, hope, and fighting for freedom.

## **7. Empire of Storms — Sarah J. Maas**

**Published: 2016**

Aelin returns to Terrasen and prepares for a massive war against powerful enemies. She gathers allies while trying to protect her kingdom and the people she loves. The characters face battles, violence, imprisonment, betrayal, and painful sacrifices. The novel also contains explicit sexual situations, profanity, and mature romantic themes. It explores love, loyalty, friendship, power, sacrifice, and war.

## **8. A Court of Wings and Ruin — Sarah J. Maas**

**Published: 2017**

Feyre returns to the Spring Court while secretly gathering information for her allies. She discovers that a major war is approaching and that the different faerie courts must unite. As Feyre and her friends prepare for battle, they face violence, danger, and painful sacrifices. The novel also contains explicit romantic and sexual content, profanity, and references to abuse. It explores love, friendship, courage, loyalty, freedom, and survival.

## **9. Tower of Dawn — Sarah J. Maas**

**Published: 2017**

Chaol travels to a distant kingdom hoping to find someone who can heal his serious injuries. He meets Yrene, a healer who initially distrusts him because of his past actions. Together they uncover a dangerous threat that could affect kingdoms far beyond their own. The story includes violence, mature romantic relationships, sexual references, and discussions of trauma. It focuses on healing, forgiveness, friendship, romance, politics, and adventure.

## **10. A Court of Frost and Starlight — Sarah J. Maas**

**Published: 2018**

Feyre and her friends try to recover after surviving a devastating war. They return home and celebrate the Winter Solstice while attempting to rebuild their lives. Although the war is over, the characters continue to experience emotional and psychological effects from it. The book includes sexual references, mature relationships, profanity, and references to previous violence. It focuses on healing, friendship, love, recovery, and rebuilding.

## **11. The Bluest Eye — Toni Morrison**

**Published: 1970**

Pecola is a young Black girl who believes that having blue eyes would make her beautiful and accepted. She grows up surrounded by racism, poverty, neglect, and harmful ideas about beauty. Her difficult childhood becomes even more traumatic when she experiences severe sexual and physical abuse. These disturbing experiences contribute to her emotional and psychological breakdown. The novel explores racism, beauty standards, childhood trauma, abuse, identity, and self-worth.

## 12. Water for Elephants — Sara Gruen

**Published: 2006**

Jacob joins a traveling circus after losing his parents during the Great Depression. He becomes the circus veterinarian and falls in love with Marlena, who is trapped in an abusive marriage. Her husband August is violent toward both people and animals, creating constant danger. The novel also includes sexual situations, profanity, alcohol, and disturbing scenes involving animal cruelty. It explores love, survival, cruelty, friendship, and life during the Great Depression.

## 13. Thirteen Reasons Why — Jay Asher

**Published: 2007**

Clay Jensen receives recordings made by Hannah Baker before her death. Through the recordings, Hannah describes bullying, relationships, sexual experiences, and painful events that affected her. Clay listens to the tapes while trying to understand what happened and how people treated Hannah. The book contains discussions of suicide, sexual assault, drugs, alcohol, and strong language. It explores grief, bullying, guilt, responsibility, and the effects people's actions can have on others.

## 14. Milk and Honey — Rupi Kaur

**Published: 2014**

*Milk and Honey* is a collection of short poems about love, heartbreak, trauma, relationships, and healing. Some poems deal with sexual experiences, abuse, and the emotional effects of painful relationships. The collection is divided into sections that represent different stages of suffering and recovery. Kaur uses simple language and illustrations to express difficult and personal experiences. The book focuses on self-worth, survival, healing, and learning to move forward.

## 15. A Stolen Life — Jaycee Dugard

**Published: 2011**

Jaycee Dugard was kidnapped at the age of eleven and held captive for eighteen years. During her captivity, she experienced severe abuse and was separated from her family and normal childhood. She eventually became a mother while still being held captive. After her rescue, she describes the psychological effects of her experiences and her difficult journey toward recovery. The memoir focuses on survival, trauma, family, resilience, and rebuilding a life after captivity.

**reason why they have been banned :**

**none of these books is universally banned.** Most have been **challenged, restricted, or removed from particular schools/libraries.** The reasons below are the common objections that have been reported for each title.

### 1. The Hate U Give — Angie Thomas

- Profanity and strong language.
- Violence and police brutality.
- References to drugs and drug dealing.
- Racism and racial injustice.
- Sexual references and mature themes.

### 2. The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood

- Sexual content and sexual violence.
- Profanity.

- Disturbing descriptions of abuse.
- Religious and political themes considered controversial.
- Discussions of women's reproductive rights and oppression.

### **3. The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini**

- Sexual assault and references to rape.
- Violence and war.
- Profanity.
- Drug and alcohol references.
- Religious and political themes.

### **4. Looking for Alaska — John Green**

- Sexual content and references to sex.
- Alcohol and drug use.
- Smoking.
- Profanity.
- Suicide and grief-related themes.

### **5. A Clash of Kings — George R. R. Martin**

- Graphic violence and death.
- Sexual content.
- Rape and sexual violence.
- Incest.
- Profanity and other mature themes.

### **6. Kingdom of Ash — Sarah J. Maas**

- Graphic violence and war.
- Sexual content.
- Profanity.
- Torture and abuse.
- Other mature themes.

### **7. Empire of Storms — Sarah J. Maas**

- Explicit sexual content.
- Profanity.
- Graphic violence.
- Alcohol and mature situations.
- References to abuse and other adult themes.

### **8. A Court of Wings and Ruin — Sarah J. Maas**

- Sexual content.
- Profanity.
- Graphic violence.
- Sexual assault and abuse references.
- Mature relationships and themes.

## **9. Tower of Dawn — Sarah J. Maas**

- Sexual content.
- Violence.
- Profanity.
- References to trauma and abuse.
- Mature romantic themes.

## **10. A Court of Frost and Starlight — Sarah J. Maas**

- Sexual references/content.
- Profanity.
- References to previous sexual experiences and relationships.
- Violence and war-related themes.
- Mature romantic themes.

## **11. The Bluest Eye — Toni Morrison**

- Sexual abuse and incest.
- Child abuse.
- Racism.
- Profanity.
- Disturbing descriptions of trauma and sexuality.

## **12. Water for Elephants — Sara Gruen**

- Sexual content.
- Violence and domestic abuse.
- Animal cruelty.
- Profanity.
- Alcohol and drug references.

## **13. Thirteen Reasons Why — Jay Asher**

- Suicide and suicide-related content.
- Sexual assault.
- Bullying.
- Drug and alcohol use.
- Profanity and concerns about the portrayal of suicide.

## **14. Milk and Honey — Rupi Kaur**

- Sexual content.
- References to sexual violence and abuse.
- Profanity/strong language.
- Mature relationship themes.
- Discussions of trauma and sexuality.

## **15. A Stolen Life — Jaycee Dugard**

- Sexual abuse.
- Kidnapping and captivity.
- Violence and psychological abuse.
- References to pregnancy and sexual exploitation.
- **Disturbing and traumatic descriptions.**