BOOK RESUME: I’LL GIVE YOU THE SUN

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This radiant, award-winning novel from the acclaimed author of The Sky Is Everywhere will leave you breathless and teary and laughing—often all at once.

At first, Jude and her twin brother are NoahandJude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them.

Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor.

The early years are Noah’s to tell; the later years are Jude’s. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they’ll have a chance to remake their world.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “Readers are meant to feel big things, and they will—Nelson’s novel brims with emotion (grief, longing, and love in particular) as Noah, Jude, and the broken individuals in their lives find ways to heal.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

★ “A resplendent novel...Art and wonder fill each page.” —School Library Journal, starred review

★ “Nelson’s prose is replete with moments of stunning emotional clarity, and her characters are as irresistible to the reader as they are to each other . . . No matter how they hurt each other, the love among all the characters is huge here—huge enough to destroy, huge enough to forgive, and huge enough to put their broken world back together again.” —BCCB, starred review

★ “In an electric style evoking the highly visual imaginations of the young narrators, Nelson captures the fraught, antagonistic, yet deeply loving relationship Jude and Noah share.” —Booklist, starred review

★ “An intricate and absorbing work of art emerges from the details of the interlaced sections. Few novels about twins capture so well the rewards and challenges . . . or the way in which people who have loved us remain in our minds after their deaths.” —VOYA, perfect score

Updated 3.25.2024
Penguin Random House
Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.
★“Readers will be hooked.” –Library Media Connection

“The novel is structurally brilliant, moving back and forth across timelines to reveal each teen’s respective exhilaration and anguish . . . Nelson’s prose scintillates . . . dizzyingly visual . . . Here’s a narrative experience readers won’t soon forget.” –Kirkus

“Told in poetic prose with the barest hint of magical realism . . . a compelling meditation on love, grief, sexuality, family, and fate.” –Horn Book


“Have you ever wanted to put a book in all of your friends’ hands? This is that kind of book . . . Heartbreakingly honest.” –San Francisco Chronicle

“This book is many things at once, all of them engaging. It’s a book where teenagers think in almost indulgently poetic language while still sounding genuinely adolescent. It’s two separate but equally intoxicating love stories. . . . Most of all, it’s the mystery of what happened to tear Noah and Jude apart, and what—if anything—can bring them back together again.” –NPR’s Guide to 2014’s Great Reads

“I’ll Give You the Sun is a daydream . . . otherworldly and mesmerizing . . . Nelson’s evocative language envelops one’s imagination . . . an exquisite surrender to wonder and possibilities.” –The Boston Globe

“This book is about many things: grief, sexuality, creativity, bravery, identity, guilt. But mostly it’s about love. Be prepared with more tissues than you needed for The Fault in Our Stars, a chunky notebook to scribble down all the quotes and a handful of witty responses when people ask why you’re chuckling to yourself in the corner. Because this book will make you realise how beautiful words can be.” –The Guardian

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award
- Winner of a Stonewall Honor
- One of Time Magazine’s 100 Best YA Books of All Time
- New York Times Book Review Notable Children’s Book of the Year
- TIME Magazine Top Ten Young Adult Book of the Year
- Boston Globe Best Young Adult Novel of the Year
- Huffington Post Top 12 Young Adult Book of the Year
- Cybil’s Award Finalist
- YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction of the Year for Young Adults

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• An ALA Rainbow List Selection Top Ten of the Year
• Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year
• School Library Journal Best Book of the Year
• Booklist Editor’s Choice Book of the Year
• "A New York Times bestseller
• One of Time Magazine’s 100 Best YA Books of All Time
• Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award
• A Stonewall Honor Book
• ACL Distinguished Books selection
• A Colorado Blue Spruce Teen Book Award selection
• An Ohio Buckeye Teen Book Award selection
• A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
• A Commonwealth Club of California Book Award selection
• A Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award selection
• A New Hampshire Flume Teen Reader's Choice Award selection
• A Garden State Teen Book Award selection
• A Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers selection
• A Michigan Great Lakes Great Books Award selection
• A Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice Award selection
• A Nevada Young Readers Award selection
• A North Carolina Young Adult Book Award selection
• A Connecticut Nutmeg High School Book Award selection
• An NYC Reads 365 Reading List selection
• An ORCA High School Oregon Reader's Choice Award (ORCA) selection
• A Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award
• A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
• A Virginia Readers’ Choice Award selection
• A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award Young Reader's Choice Award selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

• TeachingBooks.net
• NCTE Books That Deal with Death and Grief

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