

The yoto 
Carnegies

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP MAGAZINE

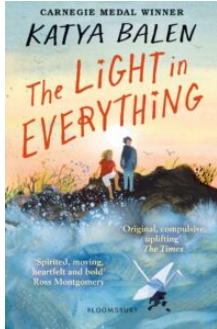
JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION...

#YotoCarnegies23 | YOTOCARNEGIES.CO.UK



ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about two characters who are polar opposites, forced together when their single parents get together and they go to the same school - they don't like each other and they don't want this to happen.

When reading the book, I liked the first-person narrative structure and how it got across the view points of the characters.

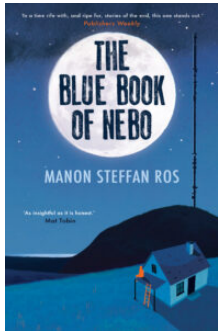
However, I'm normally more into `thriller` or `action` books, and this was more of a `teen drama` novel, so I found the story boring at times.

If you like `real life` stories, this is a good book for you - if you like more action, this book may not appeal to you. Rating: Two stars (out of five).”

- Sakeenah

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“This science fiction novel is a post apocalyptic story that is both heart-warming and yet so very tragic. It is a reflection of a mother and son’s relationship and how they survive after the end of the world.

When reading the novel, I liked the slight change in writing style between the mother and son when telling their story, I found it to be very subtle, but a great way of creating dramatic tension.

However, the change in style between each chapter did occasionally make the events each narrator was discussing slightly disjointed and hard to follow, I also found the twist in the ending quite sudden and abrupt - but, overall, I enjoyed the book.

Star rating: 3.5 stars (out of five).”

- Usmaan

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a 17-year-old boy who is still in school whilst his friends are completing their A` Levels, but he is also still in contact with his friends who have left school.

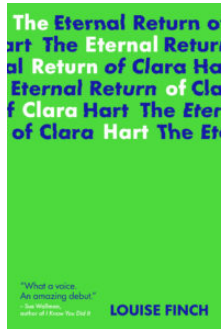
I found this book to be very relatable, as I know people in this situation, although I did find it hard to understand the deeper meanings behind the story, as it sounds like a poem and I struggled with parts of this structure (such as some of the language).

Rating: Three stars out of five.”

- Yusuf

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The book follows the story of Spence, a sixth form student who keeps reliving the same day over and over again.

What I liked about the book is that Spence tries to redeem himself by changing the outcome and saving Clara Hart’s life - the story has a big impact (dealing with serious issues) and delivers a very interesting ending.

What I did not like about the story was the amount of `mature` language shown in it, as I found some of it to be unnecessary and made it really feel less like a book for teens and more for young adults.

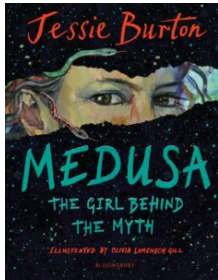
Overall, it was an amazing story and I would recommend it to others.

Rating: Four 1/2 stars (out of five).”

- Safina

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The book is about a girl called Medusa - known as a mythical creature that can turn anyone into stone who looks at her, but there is a way to stop the spell.

I liked how she revealed herself at the end - I was surprised when she showed her face, but I didn't enjoy the part when (early on in the story) Medusa kills a lot of people, as I felt sorry for them and hoped that at least one of them might live.

But, overall, I thought this was an amazing book and would recommend it to others.

Rating: Five stars (out of five).”

- Subhan

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The book is about a girl called Charlene who loves knitting and is put into foster care. While in this new home, she knits a special blanket for her sister - who she hasn't seen for two years. However, Charlene loses her temper and reacts badly when someone destroys the blanket she is making.

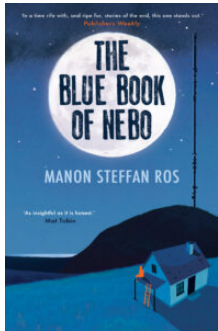
I really liked the character of Charlene's foster mum (Annie) as she has a confident personality and stands up for what she believes in. I also liked how Charlene uses knitting as a way of stress relief, although I did find the story to be a bit bland for me in places and some of the violence when Charlene loses her temper can be a bit uncomfortable to read - I think it is probably better for older teenagers.

Rating: Three stars (out of five).”

- Maryam

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about Dylan and his mum and their lives both before and after the end of the world, told from both of their points of view - as they keep a shared journal.

The way in which the author structured this book was something I really liked, as we get to hear both sides - showing an adult and a kid’s perspective on how life was before and how they survive after.

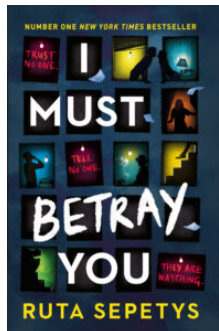
Overall, I thought this book was a masterpiece. It kept up the suspense, which I thought was amazing and why I would recommend this book to others.

Rating: Five stars (out of five).”

- Umme

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“Set in the 1980s, the story is about a 17-year-old Romanian boy who longs for a better life away from the Communist state. Soon to be code named OSCAR, an American dollar gets the protagonist in a twisting journey, going through a relationship, lying to save his grandfather, and experiencing grief, pain and betrayal.

One of the strengths of the book, and a thing which I liked, was the poem at the end, showing the true colours of Romania at the time. I also felt that what happened to the Leader and his wife at the end (spoiler) was what they deserved.

Although I liked the mystery element of the book, I found some aspects of the romance narrative a little ‘inappropriate’ at times, but overall it was a good plot and well written.

Rating: Three stars out of five.”

- Habiba

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“Charlene is a teenage girl who was separated from her younger sister, who loves knitting and decides to make a dinosaur blanket for her sister, Kandi. The foster mum’s son, Blake, destroys the blanket that she was making, and in a blind fit of rage, she stabs his hand with a needle.

I liked the fact that it raises awareness on racism and how parts of it dive deep into what life is like for some people on a day-to-day basis.

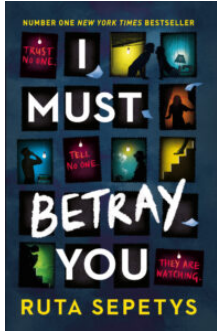
The story is tough to digest in some parts, due to its sensitive topics such as racism and discrimination. Also, the way certain parts are dragged out for longer periods of time, making it too hard to stay focused and engaged throughout.

All in all, a good, exciting book, which I would recommend to others. Star Rating: 3.5 stars (out of five).”

- Usmaan

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



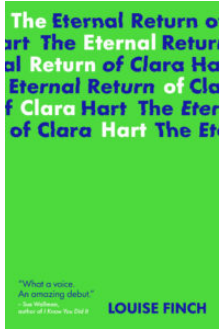
“It is about a 17-year-old named Christian in Romania in 1989, and how Romania was in a Communist rule and when Christian is found in possession of an American dollar, and how they blackmailed him to become an informer.

I like how it is set in Romania and talks about what it used to be like for them in 1989 but is written in a creative style and, overall, I thought that this book is well written - an amazing book, which I would recommend to others. Star Rating: 4.5 stars (out of five).”

- Umme

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The eternal return of Clara Hart is about a day that keeps resetting and a teenage boy that tries to better himself throughout the entirety of the book.

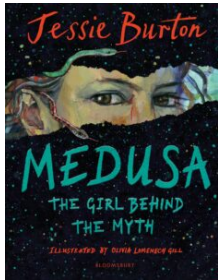
I liked how this book raised awareness about teenage issues and sexist remarks women and girls have to face every day. This book is relatable, and I think young people can learn a lot from this book.

However, in my opinion the issues could have been resolved more adequately, but overall I did enjoy this book. Star Rating: 3 stars (out of five).”

- Madiha

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about a girl who was cursed by the Gods, falls in love. Just as she begins to love herself and work up the courage to reveal her true identity to her first love, she finds out that the real reason he is here is to kill a monster, and that monster is her.

I really liked how the story ended differently to the myth and showed a journey of self-love and acceptance. Character development was written well, and it felt real rather than a basic re-telling. It was hard to put down once the plot and pace picked up.

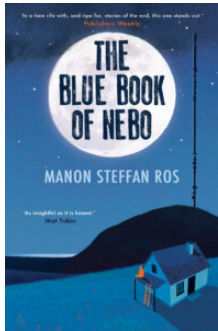
In places it felt a bit long and repetitive. The poetic expression of the book could be annoying at times, and sometimes the book just needed simplicity. It took a while (50+ pages) to pick up in terms of the story. Also, the images didn't match up with the page sometimes which disrupts the flow.

Overall, I felt it was nicely written with a modern twist. Star Rating: 4 stars (out of five).”

- Ruqayya

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS

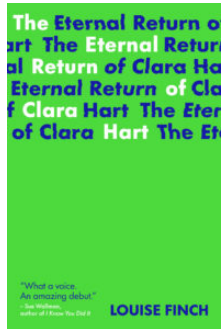


“In the story it is all about a boy named Dylan who talks about his own life in the book, after surviving the end of the world. I felt Dylan was the best character and it was fun when his younger sister was doing a lot of funny stuff. Overall, I loved the whole book, there were no dislikes and I would tell a lot of friends to read this book. Star Rating: 4.5 stars (out of five).”

- Subhan

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“As a big fan of science-fiction and time travel, I was really looking forward to reading this book - which plays like a teenage version of `Groundhog Day` (although this is more a case of the `multiverse` rather than a `time-loop` scenario).

The initial premise is quite an exciting one, as Spence is forced to re-live the same day (one year after his mother`s death), in which one of his friends dies at a house party he is attending.

As a method of exploring `toxic masculinity`, the author really capitalizes on how the repeating day format allows the events to affect Spence and question his own behaviour and that of his friends.

My main concern was approaching this as a piece of `teen-fiction`, as the language and events described seemed a little to mature for our aged 11-16 reading group - this feels more like a book appropriate for A` Level students (as a parent, I don`t think I would be comfortable with my 12-year-old son accessing this book yet).

Overall, this is a clever use of the sci-fi genre to explore current issues and attitudes (which is what the best science fiction should do), but as a piece of `teen` fiction, I might struggle with this book being accessed by our younger school readers.

I would give this book THREE stars out of five (plus one star, if recommending it to older readers).”

- Mr. Robinson

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about Kai, Orla and Zak - who grow up together with hopes and dreams, until Kai’s family suffer a huge loss and Kai has to find a way to cope with loss and grief.

I really enjoyed the beginning of the novel, where Kai’s family were so happy and before **** (character name hidden - spoilers!) dies. I also enjoyed the part where Kai, Orla and Zak all become best friends.

I did not enjoy the part where Kai’s dad tries to hurt himself and when Kai goes missing. This is probably because this is not the type of genre I normally read, but it would be great for someone who enjoys real-life dramas (tragedy novels).

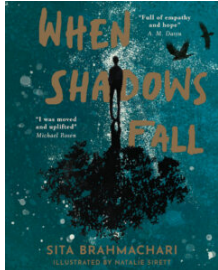
Overall, I thought it was good, although not really my sort of book - I would recommend it to older readers.

Star rating: 3 STARS (out of five).”

- Maryam

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about Kai, Orla and Zak - who grow up together with hopes and dreams, until Kai’s family suffer a huge loss and Kai has to find a way to cope with loss and grief.

I really enjoyed the beginning of the novel, where Kai’s family were so happy and before **** (character name hidden - spoilers!) dies. I also enjoyed the part where Kai, Orla and Zak all become best friends.

I did not enjoy the part where Kai’s dad tries to hurt himself and when Kai goes missing. This is probably because this is not the type of genre I normally read, but it would be great for someone who enjoys real-life dramas (tragedy novels).

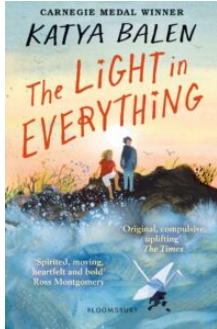
Overall, I thought it was good, although not really my sort of book - I would recommend it to older readers.

Star rating: 3 STARS (out of five).”

- Maryam

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“The story is about Tom, quiet and shy, and Zofia, loud and bold. They cannot stand each other but Tom’s mum and Zofia’s dad are in love and having a baby, so they must learn to get on with each other.

What I liked about this book was when Zofia and Tom both bond over building the boat and how they both care for their baby sister.

An area I felt could be improved was when Zofia locked Tom in the boat, I thought it was cruel and not a great thing to do.

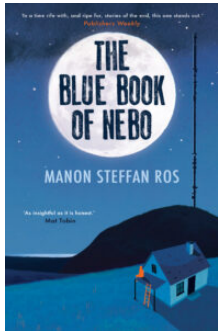
Overall, I thought this book was amazing and would read again.

Star Ratings: 4 stars (out of five).”

- Maryam

ROCKWOOD READS SHADOWING GROUP

OUR REVIEWS



“Having visited the area of Anglesey many times, I was fascinated to read this book (which I did whilst visiting Wales) and recognized many of the places it describes - as the world comes to an end (in the book!)

I found this to be a very powerful and moving story of survival in the face of Armageddon, with the switching narrative structure, between the two main characters, proving a great way to explore the narrative as the tragic events unfold.

However, a third-act death (which I will not spoil in this review) was extremely heartbreaking, pushing me out of the story and made the final few chapters somewhat difficult to invest in after that.

I also found the events of the ending to feel a little bit rushed - I could have happily read another 50 pages (or more) of this book, to allow the ending to build and develop.

Overall, I would give this book three stars out of five.”

- Mr. Robinson