



# Love, Stargirl

*Jerry Spinelli*

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*LOVE, STARGIRL* picks up a year after *Stargirl* ends and reveals the new life of the beloved character who moved away so suddenly at the end of *Stargirl*. The novel takes the form of "the world's longest letter," in diary form, going from date to date through a little more than a year's time. In her writing, Stargirl mixes memories of her bittersweet time in Mica, Arizona, with involvements with new people in her life.

In *Love, Stargirl*, we hear the voice of Stargirl herself as she reflects on time, life, Leo, and - of course - love.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Love, Stargirl Details

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Author : Jerry Spinelli

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# From Reader Review Love, Stargirl for online ebook

## Emma (Miss Print) says

I just finished Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli. And I have not been able to pick up another book because I don't want to lose the feeling of satisfaction that came from finishing it. At first, I didn't think that this book could be as good as it's "prequel" Stargirl, but not I'm hard-pressed to say which was better.

Love, Stargirl picks up where Stargirl left off. She has left Mica High in Arizona and, more importantly, her boyfriend Leo. The story reads as a year-long letter to Leo as Stargirl lives life as only she can and tries to understand how things went wrong with Leo and what her feelings are for him now.

Spinelli brings in a lot of memorable characters. My favorites are Charlie and Betty Lou. Betty Lou, particularly, has a special place in my heart because she gives some of the best advice I have ever heard when she tells Stargirl to live in the now and make the most of each today that she finds. Which, being Stargirl, she does. As the story progresses, Stargirl changes from a stranger to an integral part of her new hometown. Through small kindnesses, unexpected friendships, and leaving behind lots of oranges, Stargirl makes as much of an impression here in Pennsylvania as she did at Mica High-maybe even more.

The entire novel, especially the ending, is magical. I am as enchanted with Stargirl now as I was when I read Spinelli's first novel about her. It was refreshing to see this amazing girl's thoughts and hear things from her point of view (the first book is told in Leo's POV). If you aren't touched by Stargirl and her little kindnesses and the beauty of this book, then you are beyond all help. These books are fairly quick reads with straightforward prose, but both are the rare books that I feel strongly everyone should read (definitely read Stargirl before picking up this one since they are basically two parts of one, larger story). I think that if everyone tried to be a little more like Stargirl the world would be a better place.

You can find this review and more on my blog Miss Print

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## Najme Ghanbari says

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## Tulleskirt says

God, I am so elated right now. I just finished this book and it was, I am happy to say, just as extraordinary as the first.

You know, I started reading this because I'm a senior in high school and I'm tired of assigned books of Great

Literature. Don't get me wrong, *The Scarlet Letter* is one of my favorite novels ever, but I wanted something lighter and when I heard *Stargirl*, the book that WAS my sixth grade had a sequel...well, I ran out and got it.

And I loved it. Oh god, do I love this book. It's as magical, sweet, emotional and zany as the first book, if not more so. We hear the titular heroine speak, as you've probably noted from other reviews and she's really everything we could expect. She's never cloying, trite, or too fished-up-from-the-sixties--she is, as she would have us perceive her, entirely *Stargirl Caraway*.

I don't understand the complaints that she's somehow diluted in this book--she's as ukulele strumming and rat-toting as usual, she smashes all the clocks in the house for god's sake and the book's climax takes place during her 5 AM Winter Solstice party. But beyond that, people are saying she's turned into this moon-eyed teenager, pining for her white knight to come home, and to that I say bullshit (a word that does appear in this book, though in a less abrasive way). This reminds me of another book for young readers that's read by all ages anyway (yes, *Harry Potter*). When the sixth book came out, I knew a few people that railed against Hermione, the smart, pragmatic one, going all weepy over a \*boy\*. Oh, heavens and calamity, no! I'm not going to lie, *Stargirl* spends a good chunk of this book upset over the loss of Leo (or Starboy, as she once addresses him) and yeah, the book is essentially a massive letter/diary to him. But so what? She can't be...well, a teenage girl? One of the core components of her character is that she's intensely emotional and besides that dreamy--when she falls for a boy, she's going to fall hard and she does. This doesn't mean she isn't the fairylike Ondine (hee hee) we've come to love--frankly, I liked that it humanized her. If we hadn't seen this sighing girl within, she would've been a bit too enchanting, crossing that line into Role Model for Grade Schoolers and yeah...that would've sucked. So psshhh to all of the qualms with her feelings--they were some of the best parts of the book in my opinion.

Oh yeah: Dootsie was cute too. Go read this book.

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### **Casey says**

I was so excited when I heard this was coming out. SO EXCITED. I'm sorry to say, though, that I actually kind of hated it. *Stargirl* herself is kind of lame. All she does is moons over Leo and acts vaguely obnoxious. Why doesn't she have any friends her own age? The side characters are supposed to be wacky, but they just come off as forced. Also, they all seemed like less good versions of characters from *Maniac Magee*. Dootsie feels like a bad Hester and Lester, and Alvina is a poor man's Piper and Russell. Betty Lou is an agoraphobic Grayson. Perry isn't like a character from another book, but I struggle to understand what *Stargirl* sees in him. I mean, he litters! And the "Honeybees" are idiots. And I get a little mad thinking about them.

I love Jerry Spinelli, but I think this one is a miss. I'm so disappointed!!!

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### **Haleema says**

I finished this super fast because *Stargirl* bored me to death and I skimmed through it.

Anyway, like my rating, I thought this book was simply ok. I mean, there was nothing truly magnificent about it. The only characters that I seemed genuinely interested in were Archie and Perry. Wise, old man Archie. Mysterious, daring boy Perry. *Stargirl* just kept whining about her relationship with Leo. MOVE

ON, LADY! Those little "codes" annoyed me to death. I hated her poems as well. She's a crappy writer. I hated her little "mini-imaginary-conversations" with her and Leo. They were so pathetic and such a waste of time. She's still in love with a guy who truly does not give a crap about her. It's so obvious.

1. He made her change herself.
2. He didn't take her to the dance.
3. He gave up on her.
4. He doesn't feel any remorse whatsoever.
5. He's a dull, freaking jerk.

Perry would have kicked Leo's butt by spitting lemon seeds at him. He would die a horrible death, being attacked by lemon seeds.

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## **Tamara says**

Three stars is more of a "grand scheme of things" than a "enjoyed in the moment" thing.

Stargirl returns. The POV is now from Stargirl and not from Leo. This changes things. I feel like her voice gets lost a little in the transfer. Before you see Stargirl in this almost mythical proportion, because Leo is so enamored. When you hear things from her POV, she starts to seem more human, and slightly less magical.

She doesn't lose her happiness, which is good. She does spend a little too much of the book heartbroken.

Actually the shining star of this story is Dootsie, Stargirl's 6 year old best friend. She provides all of the magical insights.

But don't get me wrong. I definitely enjoyed this book in the moment. It's just hard not to compare it to its predecessor.

Favorite quotes:

"Under each tombstone lay a memory, a dead day. Here Lies the Day in the Enchanted Desert. Here Lies the Day We Followed the Lady at the Mall and Made Up Her Life. Each night I lie down in a graveyard of memories."

"I think I had discovered that the closest I could come to reliving the past was to tell my story to someone, the right someone."

"Snow lay over the earth like piled moonlight."

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## **Lisa Nelson says**

Dear Stargirl,

You left me asking e tu Stargirl? I loved the first book about you and was excited to dive into this sequel written in letter/diary form by you. You were an amazing role model for young girls your age in your first

book as an independent, free-spirited and eccentric girl. Even though you were different than other kids you were charming and I felt drawn to you. That's why I was so disappointed that you spent almost half of your next book pining over Leo back in Arizona. I guess I'm not very sympathetic, but I am tired of reading about girls your age that get overly obsessed and whining over boys. (i.e. Bella!) I guess I expected you to be well, more you. It seems like even if you were feeling bad about a boy that you wouldn't lose yourself in the process. I was sad that you did. My daughter read both of your books and I was hoping that we could continue to have discussions about what it means to be yourself, about following the crowd, and about finding your own star. Now with this second book I'm finding we will have a very different discussion.

By the end of the book you started to come around and in the process the book got a bit more interesting. But, it was all a little too late for me.

Love,  
Julia's Mom

P.S. If book three is love, marriage and the baby carriage for Stargirl and Leo then I will take back my letter and review.

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### **Camilla says**

Light, enjoyable and quite fun. *But*, I enjoyed the first book about Stargirl sooo much more.

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### **Nadia Uhlenhaker says**

Wow. Just, wow. Yet again, I have been introduced to Jerry Spinelli's FANTASTIC writing and characters.

This book was better than the first. I LOVED reading from Stargirl's POV, and I fell in love with every single character. I cried a few times while reading this book, not because I was sad exactly, but because of various emotions that were all over the place. I felt all the feels.

I thoroughly enjoyed the characters, and their growth. There wasn't a character that I didn't like, and I wanted more of them. I don't want to say too much because this book is best if you walk in blind, but they were all so good.

I did feel like there were some things left unfinished- some loose ends that need to be tied in. I felt like the ending was a little abrupt, but I liked it oddly enough.

I loved Stargirl and I love this book even more. I definitely suggest this book to anyone and everyone.

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### **Jennifer says**

I was really disappointed in this book. I had high hopes because it is the sequel to one of my favorite books. The spirit of Stargirl wasn't as powerful or as meaningful in this book as the previous book. She was spending the year trying to get over Leo and her suffering from a broken heart in such a way didn't seem to

be her. I also thought the theme of the book, to live in the moment and see where life takes you, was forced. I also thought that this sequel was definitely for more advanced readers than Stargirl because some of the content. It was nice to still hear about a young person with a free spirit who tries her best to bring happiness to the world but it seemed very deliberate.

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### **Melissa Robinson says**

One of my favorite characters from all of YA literature returns! Told from the point of view of Stargirl herself this time, the novel takes the form of a very long letter to her ex-boyfriend, Leo. Not quite as amazing as the original, *Love, Stargirl* takes a little while to get going. Spinelli seems to struggle with finding an authentic voice for his quirky but lovable character. Once he does, however, Stargirl shines as bright as ever. Reading this one, like reading the original, makes you long to know and be more like the ukulele-playing, rat-loving, solstice-celebrating Stargirl.

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### **Alyson says**

Didn't love it.

*Stargirl* was such a totally charming book. Open-ended somewhat, and I wanted to know what happened next.

This is a sequel, I guess, a what-happens-sort-of-next and this time it's narrated by Stargirl. But it isn't the same Stargirl of the first book. All of the things Stargirl *does* and has done for years are absent here. There are flashes of Stargirl behavior, it's like this girl is a Stargirl wannabe who is sort of faking it.

I was disappointed that it didn't even reach as far in time as the end of *Stargirl* (which sort of zips forward fifteen years in the last chapter) and so there's no real resolution to that book. And it throws in so many bizarre things that weren't in *Stargirl*. The characters are neither as real-life nor as endearing.

True confessions: I skipped probably a third of the book, just decided to skip ahead and see if it was *ever* going to get to the part I wanted it to. The quirky situations and characters (that had nothing to do with the original story I loved) weren't enough to keep me interested.

I'm utterly unfulfilled!

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### **J-Lynn says**

I was already worried about the premise of this book when I started reading it. What I loved about the original *Stargirl* is the mystery behind the exuberant, eccentric stranger who comes into Leo's life and turns everything upside down. The first book is about not conforming to expectations, being true to yourself, putting other people first, and learning to see beyond yourself. Archie even explains that star people are not meant to be understood by the rest of us.

So, why would I want to read a book from Stargirl's perspective? When I first started *Love, Stargirl* I was

disappointed to read that she was a normal teenage girl who was pining over Leo, humiliated by his betrayal at the school dance, and barely noticing all of the unique people around her. But, I kept reading and as Stargirl started to find herself again (with an assist by the loveable Archie) I started to love her again. I suppose even star people need a break to collect themselves every once in a while.

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## **Dracolibris says**

Oh Stargirl, how I missed you. You can make me laugh, cry, love and think really deep thoughts like no one else. And at the end of reading this, your second story, I just wanted to reach through the pages and give you a big hug to let you know it will all be all right. But you knew that already, didn't you? :-)

Just as good as the first book, this volume finds Stargirl one year older and a lot sadder. Her happy bucket is almost empty of pebbles, and she is still pining for her lost love Leo. But an assortment of strange and beautiful characters in her new hometown begin to crack through her grief, and the Stargirl we know and love begins to shine through.

I would recommend this book to everyone who loved Stargirl the first time around, and who can appreciate the struggle we must all face to be true to ourselves.

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## **Debbie says**

I really liked Stargirl, so I was excited to read this sequel. But at first I found it unnerving to be reading Stargirl's point of view, her first-person narrative, instead of Leo's. Stargirl in Stargirl had seemed more a character in a story, but Stargirl in Love, Stargirl was suddenly a person, and at first I didn't like that. Reading her actual thoughts, and her reactions to her thoughts, removed her aura of mystery and magic and left her a real, thinking, feeling, human girl. But maybe that's the real charm of Stargirl - even though we're normal human beans, to quote Stargirl's 6-year-old new friend Dootsie, we can still share magic with those around us.

These are things Stargirl did that I particularly liked:

- wrote a book-length letter to her old boyfriend that she sometimes wanted him to see and sometimes didn't.
  - got rid of watches and clocks at home but made her own calendar by marking the points of sunrise in an empty field once a week. I really liked the poem she wrote about time, too.
  - continued to keep track of her level of happiness by placing pebbles in or removing them from her happy wagon. It's an intriguing idea, quantifying happiness. I think it would make you more aware of your feelings, which could make you enjoy your good times more or realize how it's usually the little things that make you put in or take out a pebble. But if you got compulsive about it, that would be bad.
  - witnessed and celebrated the appearance of the vanilla-scented flower on her friend Betty Lou's night-blooming cereus that blooms just one night a year. I wanted to be there with them.
  - ate donuts frequently enough to enjoy them, but sparingly enough to appreciate them. What book isn't made better when the characters get to eat freshly made donuts?
-



## Uci says

Di bagian awal saya agak kecewa dengan lanjutan kisah Stargirl. Terlalu datar dan serius. Maksud saya, kita sedang bicara tentang Stargirl bukan? Gadis yang tak pernah mencemaskan hari esok dan hari kemarin, mengapa dan bagaimana...

Tapi rupanya perpisahan dengan Leo membekaskan luka yang begitu mendalam padanya, sehingga Stargirl terus berpikir dan bertanya-tanya dan sedih sepanjang waktu. Ya, itu kesan untuk bagian awal buku ini. Murung.

Namun sedikit demi sedikit Stargirl mulai kembali menemukan dirinya. Melalui pertemanan yang tidak biasa dengan Dootsie, anak perempuan 'edan' berumur 6 tahun, Alvina si gadis galak, Betty Lou yang sudah 9 tahun tak pernah keluar rumah karena menderita agorafobia, dan Charlie yang selama 4 tahun setelah kematian istrinya Grace, setiap hari duduk dengan setia di sisi makam sang istri. Karena menurut Charlie, cerita hidupnya adalah cerita Charlie dan Grace, yang dicintainya sejak mereka berumur 6 tahun. "Tidak ada sebelum Grace."

Saya pun makin cinta pada orangtua Stargirl, yang memberikan ruang seluas-luasnya kepada putri tunggal mereka untuk menjadi diri sendiri. Berapa banyak orangtua yang bersedia menghancurkan seluruh jam di rumah mereka karena putrinya menganggap hidup tidak sepatutnya dibatasi oleh waktu? Berapa banyak yang mau menjahit tenda besar dari kain super tebal agar putrinya bisa merayakan Titik Balik Matahari setelah 46 minggu harus bangun dini hari setiap Kamis untuk mengantar putrinya menancapkan penanda waktu alami di puncak bukit yang gelap?

Meskipun begitu, terus terang saya sempat skeptis, kok bisa Stargirl menemukan teman-teman seunik itu dalam satu wilayah perumahan. Terlalu dramatis? Bisa jadi. Tapi kemudian saya berpikir, mungkin kalau kita mau membuka mata dan tidak terpolusi oleh pendapat umum tentang apa yang dianggap 'normal,' sebenarnya orang-orang yang menarik seperti itu bertebaran di sekeliling kita. Hanya saja kita langsung mencap mereka aneh dan tidak mau repot-repot berteman dengan mereka. Apa lagi memahami keunikan mereka...

Stargirl sekali lagi menunjukkan bahwa menjadi diri sendiri, diri kita yang sebenar-benarnya, tanpa terpengaruh siapa pun...adalah hal paling indah dan paling damai di dunia.

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## Kelly says

I was excited when I heard this book was coming out - a sequel to one of my favorite books, Stargirl. But it's a bit like those who write sequels to Jane Austen novels and Gone with the Wind. How could it possibly hold up? I think maybe its biggest problem is that this time Stargirl is the narrator. She was so mysterious and surprising in Stargirl because you didn't know what she was thinking and what she would do next. This is still a good book, but I plan on reading Stargirl many times in the future and I probably won't ever return to

this one.

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### **Colleen Houck says**

The formatting was very interesting. I enjoyed getting into Stargirl's head via her journals or a letter she's writing to the boy she loves. Loved Cinnamon the rat.

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### **Julie Zantopoulos says**

I loved this book just as much as Stargirl. Oh gosh, Stargirl is so precious. I want her to stay that way forever, please never let her change. Again, some truly beautiful and lyrical lines in this book and plenty of annotated and tabbed passages as Stargirl writes letters to Leo and navigates a new life for herself away from him.

It's a stunning look at getting over a first love, moving on while also nurturing that hope that someday, somehow, your paths will cross again and your love may work the second time around. It's beautiful, absolutely heartbreakingly and soul-nurturing beautiful. I don't want to spoil the plot by quoting any of my faves but oh, guys, it's great.

There's still the classic Stargirl randomness and quirk that endears you to her, the community building and giving nature that Stargirl is famous for but she's growing, maturing even more, into this amazing woman and I loved seeing that in this book. Absolutely loved it.

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### **Michelle says**

I looked back at my review for Stargirl to find inspiration to write this one, but I didn't review Stargirl! I'm not sure why because I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

Love, Stargirl was just as good as Stargirl, but maybe even slightly better because this story was told by Stargirl herself in long letter/diary format. It was a nice contrast being in her head versus being in Leo's head as he observed his confident, non-conformist girlfriend win over and then become alienated by his public high school classmates.

In the second book, Stargirl has moved away and is back to being home-schooled, but it doesn't take her long to make friends in her new town. She is drawn to broken and damaged characters, and they are inevitably drawn to her because of her positive spirit and charisma. Through her, they begin to heal, and through them, Stargirl works through the pain of losing her first love.

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