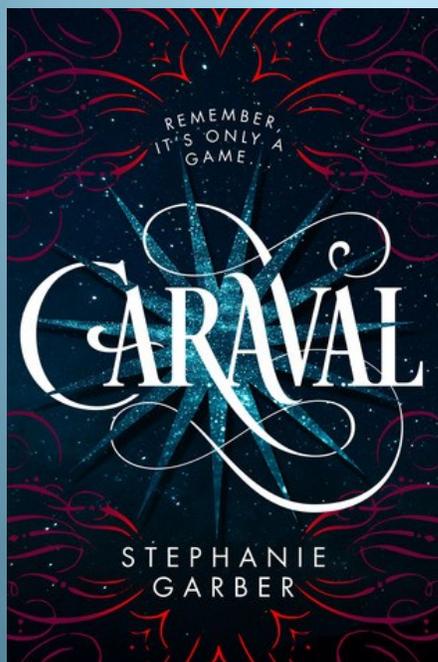


Books reviews have been provided by a secret patron-*Ladybooklover*, who loves to read and share her thoughts. Please feel free to send your comments, questions or book reviews to: [teens@franklinlakes.bccls.org](mailto:teens@franklinlakes.bccls.org)

## **CARAVAL** by Stephanie Garber

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**C**ome, play a magical and breathtaking game where your deepest wish may be fulfilled! *Come to Caraval!*

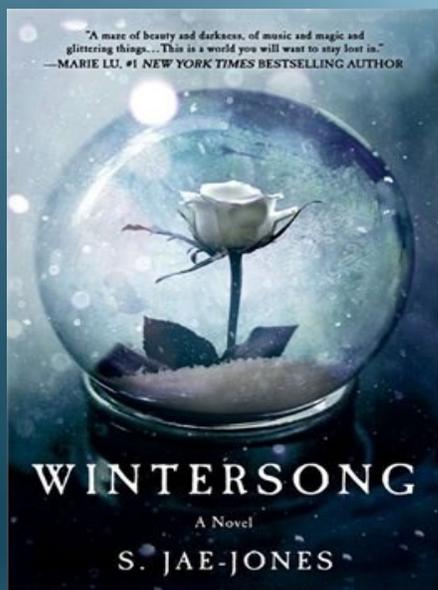
This is the story of two sisters, Scarlett and Tella Dragna, as they journey through a world which blends fantasy with reality. Caraval is actually more than a game. They soon realize this when Tella is kidnapped, and Scarlett will risk everything, even madness, to save her.

Prepare yourself for numerous twists and turns, romance and heartbreak, choices and consequences, all of which makes excellent reading. The center of this tale is the love and devotion of the sisters.

If you enjoy enchanting locations, riveting romance, and mysterious tunnels, then this is the book for you. Otherwise, you will miss out on meeting my favorite character, Master Legend!

## **WINTERSONG** by S. Jae-Jones

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**I**t is easy to love a man with kindness and gentleness in his heart. Could you love that same man if he had another side which was mysterious and frightening?

As children, Liesl and the Goblin King, shared their love of music. But children grow up. Some forget and some are foolish. Liesl's life now consists of caring for her younger siblings. There is the beautiful but easily tempted Kathe, and Josef, who was born to play the violin. Kathe is abducted by the Goblin King to be his bride. She is taken to the Underground World, and Liesl must follow to save her.

Once you enter the Underground world, you cannot leave. It is a world of labyrinths, twisting dank tunnels and darkness. Nothing is as it seems, and lies and deceptions are plentiful. Liesl will have to make the supreme sacrifice to save Kathe. As for the Goblin King, who is he really? Is he lover or jailer, friend or foe, or simply a monster? Are our paths already set in life? Do you believe in fate?

This tale is intense, intriguing and at other times almost dream-like. Any happiness here is bittersweet. Do you dare to read it? I hope so, because it was quite good.

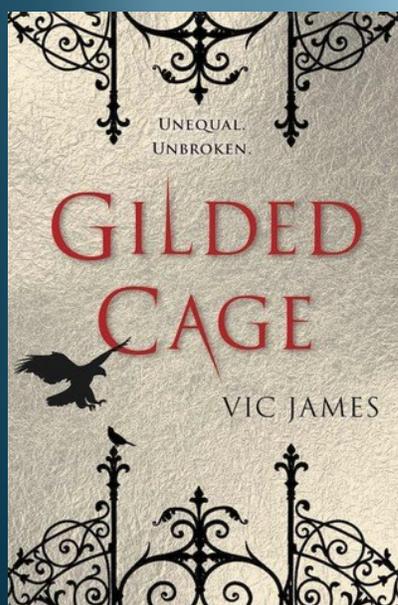


## ***WE ARE OKAY*** by Nina La Cour

**W**hen you lose a loved one, there is tremendous grief. What if that loved one had kept secrets from you? What if your whole world suddenly slipped out from under you?

Such has happened to Marin, and her first reaction – run! So she did, with only loneliness and emptiness as her companions. Trying to distance herself from this tragedy, she is isolated from those who love her, namely her best friend, Mabel. Now, Mabel is coming to visit. Hopefully with her love and support, Marin will find a way to cope with her past and be ready to brave her future.

This is a beautifully written and touching story of the struggles in life and in dealing and accepting the events we cannot control. I especially enjoyed the friendship that Marin and Mabel shared. If you have one true friend, who knows you better sometimes than you know yourself, you are truly lucky. Share this story with that friend.



## **GILDED CAGE** by Vic James (Book One in the Dark Gifts series)

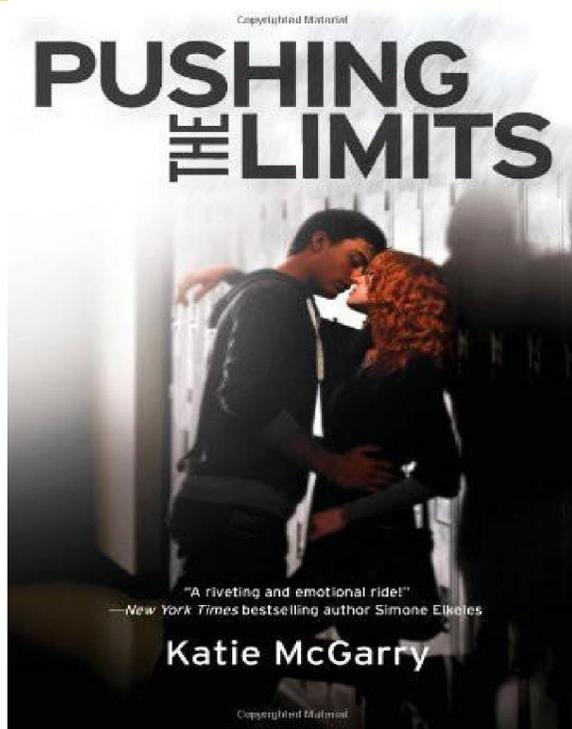
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**I**n a disturbingly, deeply dark, and brutal world, the Equals rule and govern the commoners without mercy. They use their magical and mysterious skills to live luxuriously while controlling the commoners who work and starve. They are so powerful that one can invade your mind and erase all your memories, especially those not serving their best interests. They can imprison your mind. You are caged. Nothing will change from year to year while the rest of the world moves on around you.

Abi and her brother, Luke, like a number of commoners, cannot continue to accept being treated so horribly with no chance for freedom. This tale is their struggle for survival, escape from the monstrous Equals, and finding the courage to forge a better life.

This book, aptly named, is one of the best, in my opinion, this year. The characters are intriguing and memorable. You will find yourself sharing their emotions and caring about them from the start. As this world unfolds there are betrayals, forbidden romance, horrific deeds, and so much more. It is an amazing read. I anxiously await the next in the series.

# Book Reviews Provided by *BookLovingMasocist*



Katie McGarry's first installment in the Pushing the Limits series entails the unique story of Noah Hutchins and Echo Emerson. Noah is a foster kid with two brothers that he is kept apart from. Echo is a girl whose life has been a series of nightmares starting with her parent's divorce and the death of her brother Aries. Not to mention a traumatic event she experienced that she has no recollection of, but the scars to prove it happened. All the two of them wish is for their lives to go back to normal. While this may seem like a typical high school drama, these teens have been through more in their life than most adults. Originally, they meet through the new guidance counselor at their school named Mrs. Collins. As they recognize similar hurts within each other, they grow closer. Will they manage to stay together through new challenges that will rock the unstable foundation they have built?

My Rating is: **7 out of 10 stars**

