



Hot Ticket

Tracy Marchini

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Juliet Robinson is the only sixth grader in John Jay Jr. High who hasn't received a "hot ticket" from the mysterious ticket dispenser. When one of the dorkiest kids in school - Crammit Gibson - receives a ticket before she does, Juliet decides that the ticketing system has to stop. With the help of her best friend Lucy, a Daria-esque Madeline and her almost-crush Crammit, Juliet is determined to climb a few rungs on the middle school social ladder and catch the ticket dispenser once and for all!

HOT TICKET is the first book in the Hot Ticket Trilogy.

Hot Ticket Details

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Author : Tracy Marchini

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From Reader Review Hot Ticket for online ebook

Katie Fitzgerald says

Almost everyone in the sixth grade at John Jay Jr. High School has received a ticket. Most kids have received a "hot ticket" - an orange rectangle made of cardboard - as a reward for doing something cool. Some kids have also received "shame tickets," as reminders of their most embarrassing moments. Even dorky Crammit Gibson has a few tickets to his name. But Juliet Robinson is the only one who hasn't received any tickets at all, and she's sick of it! Obsessed with the idea of the tickets, she becomes determined to find out who the ticket dispenser is - no matter what it takes. But Juliet's pursuit of this mystery has a definite cost. It puts a strain on her relationship with her best friend Lucy, complicates her blooming crush on Crammit, and interferes with her day-to-day life at school.

There were a lot of positive qualities to this book. Juliet's voice was probably the strongest aspect of the story, because of its realism, humor, and honesty. She came across as an authentic middle schooler, and her obsession with the tickets mirrored the social concerns tween girls deal with every day. I also think the concept of the tickets is a stroke of genius. There have been a lot of stories about popularity written for this age group, but the idea of an actual ticketing system is a clever - and cruel - way to highlight who is hot and who is not. The ticketing system gave the author a lot of interesting scenarios to play with, and brought new life to an often overused topic. I also thought the mystery was plotted quite well - I had trouble figuring out who the dispenser was, and I was impressed with the author's use of suspense, which kept me guessing right up until the big reveal.

The story could have used some stronger editing in some places. I don't recall seeing any spelling or grammar errors or anything like that, but there was an overall feeling that the book was not fully polished. Some parts seemed to drag and lost their cleverness and creativity. Other parts just lacked explanation. I was at least halfway through the book before I felt like I had a handle on what the tickets actually were, which was a problem since they figured so significantly into the plot. I would have benefited from a straightforward description of the ticketing system early on in the story that established for the reader what is common knowledge for all the students in the story.

I wasn't sure what to expect from Hot Ticket when the author first offered it as a free download on Smashwords, but I'm glad I took the time to download and read it. My enjoyment of the book far outweighed its flaws. In fact, it reminded me of several other novels and series about middle school that I have read, including the How I Survived Middle School series, the Snob Squad trilogy, The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman by Ben H. Winters and Nerd Girls by Alan Lawrence Sitomer. Juliet's interest in Crammit also reminded me of Sonya Sones's novel in verse, What My Mother Doesn't Know. Part of me is disappointed that this book wasn't edited and published by a traditional publishing house, but there is also a significant part of me that likes the idea of people writing, editing, publishing and marketing their own books. Certainly this book did not fit the stereotype of poorly written self-published books. It's not perfect, but it is a solid story, with a strong protagonist and lots of great moments.

I look forward to reading books two and three, Shame Ticket and No Ticket.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Juliet thinks life is so unfair. Everyone is getting a "hot ticket" and she can't even get a "shame ticket". It's the thing to do in her middle school. Everyone is being recognized in one way or another for their actions,

and it is super cool. Juliet is the only person who has not received a ticket at all.

What else is a precocious 6th grader going to do? Investigate of course. She teams up with her best friend, and in her search finds two more friends. She is on the case. One way or another, she will be recognized, or alienate everyone trying.

This book reminds me how hard it is to be in school and the desire by everyone to be liked. Juliet reminds me of a middle grade Junie B. Jones. I love Junie B and I couldn't help but love Juliet. A kid who has a sense of humor and has the best intentions but messes up everything is great children's literature in my opinion.

Renee Hand says

Hot Ticket is a fun story that children in middle school can relate to, yet has interesting twists and turns.

Juliet Robinson is just a regular girl trying to survive middle school. There's not much she feels she does right. She tries to stay out of trouble but finds herself, more often than not, sitting down by the principal's office. It wasn't her fault she "accidentally" punched the most popular girl in school in the face, was it?

John Jay Junior High or most commonly called, Triple J, was a unique middle school because the students were enthralled with hot tickets since the beginning of the school year. Hot tickets could be awarded for doing something cool, saying something funny, or sometimes even just wearing something the ticket dispenser liked. There were also shame tickets. These tickets were given out if someone did something shameful, like punch the most popular girl in school in the face. A student would get recognized for this behavior also.

The problem was that Juliet had never received a hot ticket or a shame ticket throughout her 6th grade career. She found this very upsetting. Her friends around her even received them, but no matter what Juliet did, right or wrong, she never received one. This led her, along with her friends Lucy, Steve, and Madeline, to form a group to discover who the ticket dispenser was. You see, these tickets were handed out randomly, though no one really knew who delivered them. Students found them on their desks, in their lockers—wherever. When a student received one, they showed them around school suddenly getting more attention and feeling just a little bit more important.

Juliet wanted to be popular and well thought of. Her goal was to discover who the ticket dispenser was, and in return, the school would love her for it, treating her with the respect and attention she deserved. Juliet had become so obsessed with the task of finding out who the ticket dispenser was, that she began to miss the bigger picture. Will Juliet be able to discover who the ticket dispenser was? And if she did, would she be happy with the results, or surprised that she had taken out a rewarding system that recognized people who would have normally been overlooked?

This story touches on many topics. No matter what school a child goes to, there will always be children who think they are better in some way than somebody else. There are those popular people and the not so popular. But who decides this ritual, and is it always right? This story, in some ways, breaks down that barrier and exposes the insecurities of those popular people. Every child should be treated with an equal amount of respect, regardless of what they do or where they are from. In this case, Juliet realized that she had to earn the masses respect, and she did that in an unexpected way.

In this 170-page chapter book, children will be able to relate, in many ways, to the feelings and trials that

many of the characters go through in middle school. Confidence and belief in one's own abilities will help guide them in finding their own strengths and to not worry about what other people think. Children will be eagerly awaiting the next volume in this series to see where Juliet Robinson will take them next.

Robin Morgan says

Being a child of the 1950's I know we didn't have anything resembling the tickets this book is about, nevertheless we still had our own popularity contests. While I'd never been consider very popular I still had my circle of friends.

I loved the steadfast determination of Juliet Robinson to track down the distributor of the Orange Hot Tickets, tickets which have suddenly become the rage in deciding who the most popular classmate in the sixth grade at John Jay Jr. High [triple J's] is.

These tickets are mysteriously given out to sixth grade students for something they've recently done or something about the person they are.

The story itself consists of humor which at times can be somewhat unpredictable and characters who are real enough so that a reader of the book's targeted age group can easily relate to them.

While all this is happening there's a hidden back story to the book which deals with what can happen in regards to a sibling rivalry when a family of two suddenly becomes a family of four.

For having me and others my age something to remember the days of our youth; as well as an enjoyable read for its young readers; I'm giving this book 5 STARS.

I read this book as an Amazon-US KINDLE Unlimited download.

Kyria says

This book is told from the viewpoint of a Middle School girl who thinks she is not very popular. The reason she thinks this is because there is a secret ticket giver, who gives out hot tickets for doing something "cool" or shame tickets for doing something embarrassing. Juliet doesn't receive either one, although several kids have dozens of them, even her friends.

Juliet sets out to find out who is dispensing the tickets so she can out them and end the ticket giving altogether. In doing it she makes new friends, makes some people mad and gains a certain fame at school.

This book was a cute story, but didn't have a lot of substance to it. It did remind me of how silly high school was, and how we used to put such importance on things such as "popularity". I thought it was told well and had some funny twists and turns. If you are looking for a quick and easy read about a silly situation, you would like this book.

I give it a 3 out of 5.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Juliet thinks she is the most un-cool kid in the whole 6th grade. And now these things called Hot Tickets are showing up and everyone seems to be getting one but her. Juliet is going crazy wondering where the Hot Tickets are coming from so she decides to make it her job to solve the mystery and figure out the person behind the social craze. Certainly unmasking the Hot Ticket master will earn her a year's worth of coolness. Maybe she'll even get her picture in the yearbook!

I really enjoyed reading this middle grade novel. Juliet is a fun, likeable character with a knack for getting into trouble. Her take on 6th grade and the cool crowd is humorous. There were several times in the book I found myself snickering. My favorite line (because it's probably one I can really relate to) is, "Cindy's left ear is probably cooler than my entire body ever will be." It was fun to watch Juliet learn about friendships and how to treat others as she navigates through her 6th grade mystery.

I appreciate that this book is free of swearing so I can happily hand it right off to my kids. Hot Ticket is the first book in a trilogy and I look forward to reading the continuing story.

I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. This is currently available as an e-book. I read mine on my Kindle.

AD23 AD23 says

This was a very cute story for elementary to middle grade kids. The author was comical while addressing some important social issues that kids face growing up. I like the variety of characters, the adorable relationship between Crammit and Juliet, and the whole "hot ticket" concept. In real life, kids cast their votes on who belongs in the "in" crowd, often times unfairly which, in the words of Lucy is "tote ridic", but this story added tangible proof of being cool, as well as acknowledging shame. Having read The author's comedic short story, Effie at the Wedding, I knew I was in for some laughs.

Maxine says

"I didn't punch Cindy Newsome in the face on purpose."

This is the first line of Traci Marchini's little charmer of a book, Hot Ticket and it sums up the story of heroine Juliet Robinson's life exactly. No matter what she does, something always seems to go wrong, but never intentionally. Juliet is headstrong, impulsive and very likable so when she is the only kid in school who hasn't received a hot ticket or, at least, a shame ticket, she has to find out why.

Given how far I am past the target audience of this book, I was surprised at how much I liked it and most of this is due to Juliet, the main character, and her friends Lucy and the unfortunately named Crammit Gibson (a nickname Juliet gave him in third grade but which, some how, stuck).

Ms Marchini has captured quite nicely what it feels to be a sixth grader in middle school, the lowest of the low on the school rung and, worse, to feel like you're the least cool kid around. So, if you're looking for something to entertain your own middle schooler on a rainy afternoon, this book would be perfect. And you might want to sneak a peek yourself not to, of course, read it read it but to, you know...umm...make sure it's a safe read because, as Lucy might say, that wouldn't be 'tote ridic'.

Tina says

Rated G. I totally got into this book and felt for Jules so much that I had to put the book down once before I thought she was going to embarrass herself. A quick read. Normally I can't stand to read about middle schoolers because they're illogical, but I enjoyed reading this book.

Inga says

My review:

Hot Ticket is a book which touches many topics important to middle grade kids: being liked, getting along, friendship. I enjoyed reading it. It was well written, had very good dialogue, it was filled with quirky humor and believable characters.

Regarding the plot:

Meet Juliet Robinson, a girl who desperately wants to get a ticket. She goes to John Jay Junior High and studies in the 6th grade. It is a special school, because students are given Hot Tickets. These tickets can be given for behaving nicely; doing a good deed, saying something nice, but you can also get shame tickets. The problem is that Juliet has never received ticket and after her best friend Lucy gets a ticket, Juliet decides to find out who is behind the ticket dispenser, who is organizing for creating and giving out the tickets and why is she the only one who has not got any tickets yet.

Regarding the characters:

Juliet was sweet and I enjoyed how the author was describing what was going on in Juliet's head. Tracy Mancini was able perfectly to create the mind of a 6th grader. It was fun, sometimes annoying, but filled with quiriness and sincerity. I also enjoyed Crammit, who somehow secretly balanced Juliet's eagerness.

Generally:

Hot Ticket is a very suitable book for middle grade readers. I as an adult enjoyed the writing style, the humor, ell written dialogues. The only thing what I am still wondering about is, that Hot Ticket is 1st book in Trilogy, so I am thinking that what the author might add to the plot and characters to write a trilogy out of it. Looking forward finding out how the story will continue.

4 stars out of 5.

Thanks goes to the author Tracy Mancini for providing me with the book!

Elizabeth Robbins says

This was a fun read. It brought me right back to childhood "cool" points! Anyone who says that they didn't care about being COOL as a kid, is a liar. While I wasn't nearly as cool as Cyndi, I could have held my own. As a kid, it's a constant battle to stay "just cool enough". I never wanted to be on top (too much work) but I didn't want to be lumped with the kid who ate his boogers all day, either. This book perfectly illustrates the mindset of a 5th or 6th grader, while also providing a powerful message. My son is headed to seventh grade in September, so guess what his summer reading homework is gonna be? Love!

Elizabeth says

Juliet Robinson is trying to get through sixth grade. Anyone who did something interesting was getting an orange card the read *Hot Ticket* and why they got it. Juliet is pretty sure she is the only one not getting a ticket and she us determined to find out who is giving them out and why. She enlist her best friend Lucy, Steve "Cammit" Gibson and popular "mean" girl Cindy Newsomes' step sister, Madeline to help her solve the mystery. Very well done young adult story about a pretty typical self centered kid trying to just get through her day. Funny and sweet, it was a nice way to spend a day in the sun.

Tara Calaby says

Hot Ticket is an extremely fun novel for younger readers. It's been a while since I've read a book that has felt so perfectly pitched towards an audience. I would have lapped this up in upper primary school – and loved every moment of it as an adult as well.

One of the things that makes *Hot Ticket* work so well is its great cast of characters. In Juliet, Tracy Marchini has created an entertaining, and yet realistic, protagonist. She is clumsy, overly-spontaneous and often thoughtless, but it is such faults that make her so easy to identify with. She's also creative, tenacious and quick to attempt to right any wrongs she may become aware of, and I think it would be difficult for any reader not to like her. She has an incredible energy that's very well portrayed.

The supporting characters are similarly well drawn. Lucy is the perfect foil to Juliet's bold nature, providing a little calm where needed. She is definitely given a personality of her own, however and, although she isn't as large on the page as her best friend is, she's very likeable nonetheless. Crammit is great as the former victim of Juliet's loud mouth turned friend (and possibly more). Any hint of romance is perfectly played out for the young audience of the book, which I definitely appreciated. I'm not a fan of junior fiction that shows kids acting like teenagers or adults when it comes to romance.

The best thing about *Hot Ticket*, however, is the plot. It's a mystery concerned with exactly the kinds of

things that its audience cares about. It explores ideas of popularity and exclusion, of peer influence and self-esteem, and does it in a way that can't help but hold the reader's attention. There is no obvious moralising here, but there *are* good messages to be gleaned amongst the humour of the situations that Juliet gets herself into. Young readers will love *Hot Ticket* because they'll care about its storyline and will be able to fit it into their own world. They'll be able to understand Juliet's frustration and anxiety because they'll have experienced similar situations themselves.

The only negative for me was the fact that there were a few grammatical errors and typos within the text. The book wasn't full of them, by any means, but there were enough for it to be noticeable.

Despite this, I would have no hesitation in recommending *Hot Ticket* to young readers. It's wonderfully age-appropriate and just so much *fun*.

Sarah (Workaday Reads) says

I can describe this book in one word: FUN!

This is a great middle grade book that will appeal to not just kids. It is both hilarious and heart-warming.

Poor Juliet. She just can't win, no matter how hard she tries. She's the klutz of the class, and everything she touches seems to go wrong. Reading it, I really wanted her to achieve something other than just being the girl to avoid.

The love story portion was so cute. Middle school romance is so awkward and adorable. Really makes you look back at the simplicity of those days and just smile.

Overall, this is a great book. It is light-hearted and entertaining. As Lucy would say: tot ridic! I would recommend this to young teens, and really, any reader who wants a quick, humourous story.

Jill says

Grade school is never easy when Julie finds herself on the outside without a "Hot Ticket" to instant notoriety.

Author Tracy Marchini has created a delightful story about the twists and turns of popularity in this age appropriate middle grade school setting by using a "hot ticket" that magically appears when least expected. Julie Robinson and the other 6th graders all desire a ticket that marks them as one of the cool kids. When she is one of the last students not to receive a ticket, she is determined to find out who is responsible and why. Follow her and the other students as they explore relationships and jockey for their place in the wacky world of teenage trials and tribulations.
