



The Giver Quartet

Lois Lowry

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Now a major motion picture starring Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep, Katie Holmes, Taylor Swift, Alexander Skarsgard, and Brenton Thwaites

This boxed set includes the complete Newbery Medal–winning Giver Quartet series: *The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*. In addition, it includes a new and exclusive map of the Giver world. Enter this dystopian, futuristic world through all four of these refreshed hardcovers on a page-turning dystopian journey that concludes the masterpiece *The Giver* started twenty years ago. A great deal and the perfect gift for a fan's library!

The Giver Quartet Details

Date : Published October 7th 2014 by Houghton Mifflin (first published November 5th 2013)

ISBN : 9780544340626

Author : Lois Lowry

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Genre : Fiction, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review The Giver Quartet for online ebook

rivka says

4.5 stars

Each of the 4, especially the first, is excellent.

The problem with reading them immediately after each other (as opposed to how they were written, or how I read them originally, years apart) is that it emphasizes Lowry's inconsistencies from earlier books to later ones with the same characters. Events retold in later volumes are not only from someone else's perspective (reasonable), they are distinctly different. Things that happened in the morning are retold as having been at night. Or two weeks later than they should be. The locations of retold events change.

Nonetheless, definitely a series I recommend to all those who enjoy YA books.

Chanda says

Typically I make a point to review each individual book in a series because, as we've all experienced, not all installments are created equally. This time separating the individual books in the quartet seemed to give the wrong idea about the group as a whole. As a quartet, I rated it a 3 but given the chance I would have given it a 3.5.

I really enjoyed the first one, *The Giver*. On its own I rated it a 4. These are written for middle-school and junior high-aged kids but reading them as an adult gave me a different perspective than I had as a kid. I was fascinated by the world Lois Lowry created and even more intrigued when I read the note to readers in the back of the book. The ending provides readers the opportunity to speculate on where Jonas ends up and I was delighted by the varying ideas fellow readers had about how it ended. I was so intrigued by this first book, I immediately started the second one.

Gathering Blue was my least favorite book in the group. On its own I gave it a 2.5. It seemed so completely unrelated to *The Giver* I couldn't see how it tied in at all. There were so few story elements to celebrate in *Gathering Blue* it was difficult not to find the whole thing too depressing to continue with. It takes place in a dismal place of hardship and disappointment and I felt sorry for the characters stuck there. It was my curiosity about how these stories could possibly be related that kept me reading into the next one.

I'm glad I continued with *Messenger* because it was then that a few things began to come together and I was able to start making connections between the first two installments and this third one. On its own I rated it a 3.5. Even though I enjoyed the tying in of the first two novels, the momentum of *The Giver* is still not recovered in *Messenger*. The quartet officially becomes what a reviewer I admire calls an "eat-your-vegetables-book". It's good for you to read but not always necessarily pleasant during consumption. Still, I had to know how the four books would come together full circle...

This brought me to the final installment, *Son*, which I rated a 3. I was completely engrossed in the first 25% of *Son*. At last, all things were coming together and I could finally begin to speculate on where everyone ended up! Through the middle Lowry loses the momentum again and I had to wait until the final 25% to get it back. That's not to say that I wasn't still interested because I certainly was but the story moves at a slower pace and I couldn't help but wonder if I was ever going to find out how it all coincided. The quartet ends well

with most of my questions answered and I was glad to have experienced all of the novels one right after the next. If I hadn't been able to continue through all four of them without waiting for the next to be published, I'm not sure I would have read them all. I think reading all four of them and discussing them all at once would make for a fabulous book club discussion because it's difficult to completely value one without the support of the others. I'm looking forward to catching up with my friends who decided to read them all with me.

Check out the engagement reading for this novel at <http://bibliofilesbookrating.blogspot...>
To find out what an engagement reading is, visit <http://bibliofilesbookrating.blogspot...>

Kim Woolfson says

The stories were so thought through and unique. At first I was confused because they were all so different, but in the end it all tied together and made sense. I would definitely recommend this series.

Bill says

I read this series after seeing the 1st (I hope) movie with Brenton Thwaites as Jonas. I'd not heard of the series. I was a bit skeptical as Amazon's age range is 12 and up, *vis à vis* YA. I like reading good YA as they usually have elements that take maturity and experience to fully realize and they make me feel young again, a rational pursuit. These are not children's books.

The Giver Quartet does this well. The books are easy 1 nite reads (I always read from 10 pm till I start nodding). The prose is simple while being eloquent and easy to speed read, if you like. I didn't as there is much to savor in her prose. The main characters are compelling. I liked those emphasized in each of the novels. Of course I identified with Jonas who I'd call The Protagonist of the entire series, though that's arguable. He certainly pulls them all together.

Each of the novels concentrates on a young individual coming to terms with a special power. It explores love, honor, duty, social responsibility, cultures... for each of them and for the reader.

I am giving my copy to my 12 y/o granddaughter, Ria

8 of 10 stars.

Stuart says

The Giver is premiering this Friday August 15th. To the younger generation of moviegoers, those in their teens most likely, this is another blockbuster in the same vein as Hunger Games. It's got some big names like Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep, Alexander Skarsgård, Katie Holmes, and even Taylor Swift. To an older audience, those in their 20s to 30s, they know that this was actually a book released in 1993 by Lois Lowry. Some from this generation, like my wife, actually had this assigned as summer reading, which was pretty remarkable and groundbreaking for the time given the content of this book.

The Giver is a book that takes place in the future, a dystopian future. However, the book is initially painted in a utopian light that becomes more dystopic the more you read. The society has eliminated pain and other negative emotions from their society, called "Sameness." There is no privacy, and no one seems to really mind. There is one man, however, the Receiver of Memory who stores all past memories before the "Sameness." The main character is a young boy named Jonas who has the same pale eyes as the current Receiver of Memories. Jonas has been chosen to be the new Receiver of Memories. By taking on this role, he experiences a lot of pain, but he also experiences genuine happy emotions for the first time as well. By receiving this influx of emotions, he learns one of the gruesome prices his community pays for peace. He also longs for a time and place different than his current one. I won't continue to give plot away, but just know that the end of the book leaves you at a sort of cliffhanger, wishing for more answers.

Books with unsatisfying endings always leave readers wanting closure. They also cause dedicated fans to write to authors and implore them to write more of the story. Some choose to, like L. Frank Baum who kept writing because children kept asking him to do so. Others choose not to, like J.K. Rowling. She is happy with how Harry Potter ended and has no plans to write more books in that world. It took seven years by Lowry wrote a somewhat sequel called "Gathering Blue." However, it didn't pick up where "The Giver" left off and introduced us to a new character named Kira. In 2004, Lowry released "Messenger" which helped tie together "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue." "Son" was released in 2012 and also has strong connections to the first book.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt did fans of this series a HUGE service by combing all the books in a beautifully bound hardcover omnibus. It's just under 800 pages long, has a ribbon place-marker, and is a super reasonable price. I also really appreciate the fact that even though they turned The Giver into a movie that at least with this omnibus didn't make a new cover with the main actors and actresses. So if you have seen the movie already or are going to see the movie, I definitely recommend taking some time to read the book. It will be a bit different than the movie but in a good way.

classic reverie says

I was pleasantly surprised how much I loved reading this story & devoured it in about 7 days. The Giver was written in 1993 & the sequels which after reading all gives you a deeper understanding of the author's intent. Gathering Blue written in 2000. Messenger in 2004. Son in 2012. I will write about the Giver & others in general so for those interested are not spoiled in the journey. If you want a detail of all after you read this let me know. The Giver book is a dystopian society where everything is controlled from birth to death. Jonas & his friends will soon find what path in life that is chosen for them. Will they be lawyers, care takers or birth mothers. This society controlled & the people seem happy but do they know what happy is? Can they leave & can they have any failures? These questions & the strange family unit are something that Jonas starts to question. The main point of the first book is freedom important to you or would you rather be safe/without any needing wants. Gathering Blue- Takes you into a totally different society where cruelty & getting your needs met without a care for others. Kira a lame girl has just buried her mom & is fighting for the right to live life. It all depends on the elders & she wants to see where her destiny leads here. One thing she possess might help her survive! Messenger- Yet another society with familiar characters but evil comes here. The trade master has a special power to grant wishes but at what price? The villagers start to change & the leader starts to worry what comes next. Matty starts to see the changes & looks to help his adopted father. Son- The last book tells the story of Claire & her desire to dream & want something that seems impossible. She must make a choice that will effect her life. All these books tell a wonderful story of strength, determination & what to improve there society & community. The Giver- My general feeling when reading this book was interest in the dreary & safe society of these people on the surface seem happy but in reality the emotional feelings are nothing. They discuss dreams & feeling but it is a ritual and true feelings are dulled or not

apparent. Later out find they take a pill to dull any urge so that the sameness of everything is the quest for those in charge. You see no apparent torture so you think that this place is not that bad but then you learn about releasing a person after attempts at sameness or following the errors in behavior. Then in horror you see what releasing is by Jonas' father injecting something to kill a twin so not to be identical. The heavier twin lives & the father does all this as procedure & no thought yet he can speak kindly & sing song like. The mother is so tough in manner & the father the opposite yet you see that any emotions are just on the surface. Everything is controlled & destinies too. Jonas & The Giver agree that all the emotions that Jonas receives will be released after his escape. I wonder if the society changed after they left but I have a feeling that if it was change it would be not too significant. How he gets his powers to see beyond & what is the common thread with light color eyes. So much to think about here. Gathering Blue_the burying ground is so sad & Kira having to stay with her died mother until her spirit leaves. This society is cruel & looking out for oneself is priority. There are families who seem more caring than the Giver society. Hunger is the main driving force. Kira's & other powers Her powers are interesting & her decision to stay & how much of a change is there. I loved when her father came back. The Messenger- This ending was so sad. Matty the rascal of a kid & now a teen helped erase evil but paid with his life. This was so sad. Kira mentioned that she saw how special he was in saving Branchie life & the life of the puppies. This village with all the refugees from other places was interesting but the border reference seem to try to make a comparison to present state of affairs. I general I understand her points but in reality much more complex. The town changing to evil & the Mentors wish for the widow & his dealing with the devil.

Son_ I liked Clairie & her strong bond of her to her son. Her not taking the pill is another instance of how it controlled behavior. The village she came to was so different & the people seemed almost perfect but when hearing about her having a child without a father & shunning was quite sad. It shows that prejudices in human nature & need to evaluate life. I was so sad when she left Einer & there love that had grown but her desire to bewitch her on was strong. You wonder about her choice with the trades master was smart & her youth given away but after hearing about Gabe's desire to find his mother was the right one. If she had not traded he might have and his powers would be useless. In fighting the tradesmaster you see the force of good & evil, Gabe chooses the lesson of God & when so he denies all the offered that evil bring. I loved the ending & see Claire & Gabe search for Einer's village so they can be together. Even though this was a kids book it was filled with many human concepts & that made it grand. The powers & many things seem impossible but the points are clear enough.

Kathy Hulin says

I saw the movie and I know the book is always better. I enjoyed the movie, but it left me wondering what happened next. I am glad I didn't buy just the book "the Giver" because it is exactly like the movie and it leaves you wondering what happened too. But this book tells 4 different stories and gives you the whole story. I could see similarities in the story to how our lives and the way we live could cause misguided leaders to think all the problems in the world could be solved if only we did "this" or "that" differently. But a perfect world doesn't exist and would not make us happy anyway. Those who legislate and try to control only cause more problems and we need to fight to protect our quality of life. Evil will always exist in some form or another and true happiness is when we help and support each other and use our God given gifts to make the world a better place. I could not put this book down!

Shelby says

Classic.

Christina says

The Giver Quartet is an absolute must read. Each of the four novels is beautifully written, but when read consecutively in this omnibus format, it becomes clear how brilliantly Lois Lowry tied them together. There is something to learn in each story, and I think Messenger is especially meaningful given our current political climate in America. Please give this series a read if you haven't yet.

Zachary says

The Giver Quartet is a series of short stories about different dystopian societies. It begins with Jonas who lives in a society where pain and suffering is no longer known. But the price paid for a life without pain is a life without love, a life without happiness. Everyone in the community is a follower of Sameness; and they live by many strict rules. Precision of language is important. It doesn't do to use words with abstract definitions; if the definition is too broad, how will you ever understand the meaning behind the spoken word?

In December, Jonas becomes a Twelve. It's the start of their last days as a child; it'll be the start of the rest of his life. At the ceremony, Twelves are assigned a job to keep for the rest of their lives. There's caretakers, and teachers and any title that helps keep the community going like it always has. But Jonas isn't assigned anything like that. No, Jonas is to be the new Receiver of Memory.

His job is to carry all the memories from the past. To keep the community without pain; it's his job to carry the bad memories of pain and hurt. But he soon realises there's so much more to it. There's good memories too. Memories of what a snowflake feels on your nose, or what it is like to love. It's a feeling hard to forget – and he has a hard time letting go of the thought that there must be more to life than Sameness.

Oh, wow. The first short story, The Giver, completely blew me away. It hit me quite hard on a personal level. It was just as beautiful and empowering as it was sad. I don't necessarily agree with the whole "if you don't know sadness, you can't know happiness" point of view but the story definitely made me think my own experiences over; both good and bad. I feel like the point is that all the memories and experiences make us who we are.

I didn't like the second story as much. I feel like I would've liked it if it hadn't dragged out the beginning so much – I would've loved it not to end as soon as it did but rather that the first half became more like the first half of the first half. It was slow and ended just as it got interesting. The same more or less goes for the third one; it feels forced and unnecessary. Like it was mostly done to link The Giver and Gathering Blue together.

But the fourth one? I do have some issues with what parts the author decided to give more pages but over all, the plot is just as beautiful and painful as The Giver. I'm sad it's last in the series because I have a feeling the quality of Gathering Blue and The Messenger will cause a lot of people to give up reading; which means they are missing out big time. It was definitely worth to get through those stories to get to this one. It's going to be hard to ever forget it.

Camille says

4.25

The Giver : *5*

Gathering Blue : *4*

Messenger : *4*

Son : *4*

André Oliveira says

~~*The Giver*~~ - 4.5*

~~*Gathering Blue*~~ - 3*

~~*Messenger*~~ - 3.5*

~~*Son*~~ - 3.5*

BlackhamBoys says

While "The Giver" was written years ago, I did not discover it until this year. So lucky me, I got to read all four books in the series quite close together (although not directly back-to-back). Although unlike other series, the four books didn't weren't technically sequels/serials (each book picking up where the last left off) ... in fact, it was a bit of a stretch to tie the books to each other.

Book 1: The Giver: I really liked this story. The reader is introduced to a pretty "perfect" society... a Utopia one would think. Perfect families (one boy one girl in each), perfect professions for all, no sickness, no old age, no turmoil ... no OTHER things too (color, music, mountains). Despite some implausibility, it was an enjoyable and introspective read. I would mention aspects of it to my boys, wondering if it might stir their interest at all. It was pretty easy/short, and had a young boy as the protagonist. It is considered a YA book, yet I think I appreciated it much more as an adult that I would have as a teenager. Content: There is some talk of "stirrings" (sexual thoughts) which are immediately suppressed with pills.

Book 2: Gathering Blue: Do NOT consider this a SEQUEL to "The Giver" or you will be disappointed. You could read this on its own, not having heard of "The Giver" at all. It is a completely different story, in a completely different setting, completely different characters. That said, it again was a very interesting story. This time with a female protagonist, and the setting cannot be considered Utopian in any way. I wasn't quite satisfied with the ending (while "The Giver" was completely open ended, this one seemed MORE abrupt, without closure.)

Book 3: The Messenger: What I liked about this book, is that it tied Book1 and Book2 together. It was very satisfying to have both stories intertwine. But overall ... I can't say that I LIKED this book. It left me sad, disturbed ... it was very thought provoking. I'm not saying it was bad, I'm just saying it wasn't an enjoyable read.

Book 4: Son: This book tied all THREE books together. To start, the reader is BACK in the world of "The Giver" ... at the same time, same characters, just a different point of view. It was really interesting to see some of the same scenes through different eyes. I really liked the first portion of the book. The second section dragged a little, and the third section brought everything from the first three books together. It felt a little too easy at the end, everything coming together, but I left the book (and the series) on a very positive note, happy with how (almost) everything turned out.

Mary says

The Giver Quartet has been on my To Be Read list for quite some time now. I finally finished it while waiting for another book to come in and maybe my impatience colored my opinion of this one a bit. Frankly, and I'll keep this short, this series by Lois Lowry was very well written. I enjoyed the reading, though I feel like I rushed through it. It wasn't earth-shattering or life-changing for me but it did keep me entertained for the few days it took to read.

The characters are very crafted but the world-building was vague for much of the book. Whether that was done purposefully or not, I don't know. Needless to say, it made understanding certain aspects confusing much of the time. I do recommend the book however, it may be one that should be savored slowly rather than used as filler.

???? out of 5 stars

Abooktopia says

<http://abooktopia.weebly.com>

I quite enjoyed the simplicity of this book. Each book told of a different story from someone else's point of view, yet in the end they are all connected together and brought together the story through different perspectives. The main moral of the story explains how our lives and the way we live can sometimes be the outcome of how some misguided leaders think problems in the world should be solved or eliminated, though there is no such thing as a perfect world, and even if there was, it wouldn't necessarily make us any happier. Those misguided leaders who try to control and change the world mostly end up causing more problems that we need to fight against to protect the meaning of our lives. Evil is always lurking near by and can only be overcome through happiness, which is accomplished when we help and support one another, and use our gifts to make the world a better place.
