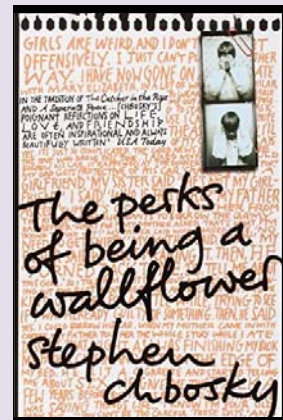


**Book** : *The Perks of being a wallflower*

**Author** : *Stephen Chbosky*

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Do you have friends to whom you can tell anything and everything and be rest assured that whatever you tell them will always remain with them and will not be divulged to anyone else. Your secrets are safe with them. It is very relaxing to have such a person in your life. You can pour your heart out and feel free. But, what about that person? With whom should they share their secrets? How do they unburden themselves?

This book is about one such person who writes a letter to an unknown person whom he thinks will not share his secrets with anyone else. The author of the letters identifies himself as Charlie. He doesn't use his real name in these letters and keeps the identity of the people mentioned in these letters safe and hidden.

This book is the coming-of-age story of Charlie. He is a typical wallflower. As a shy and introvert person, he often keeps to himself and has very few friends. During the course of the story, Charlie develops a strong bond of friendship with Patrick and Sam, an older brother-sister duo. Patrick is Sam's step-brother, but they love each other unconditionally. Charlie starts tagging along with Patrick & Sam for all the social events like parties, prom, etc. As the story progresses, Charlie falls in love and understands what is unconditional love, to love without wanting anything in return. He also goes through a m elange of new experiences with them. He gets to be friends with a lot of people who start noticing Charlie, now that he is with the famous brother – sister duo. He begins experimenting with tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. As the story further unfolds, Charlie becomes more aware of taboo topics like sexuality and sexual orientation. Charlie becomes the person who holds the lid tight to the pot of secrets of his friends. He in turn pours his heart out through his letters to the stranger.

The flow of the story is really candid. Charlie writes as he talks. He reads a lot of books which his English teacher gives. Charlie is expected to write an essay about every book that his teacher gives him. His teacher polishes his writing through his inputs on the essays. The change in the writing can be observed as we proceed through the book.

Although, this book is a coming-of-age story, it is a good read for people of any age group. This epistolary novel has a cult fan following. The story is set in the early 1990s and the author has made many references to that era by means of music, books, movies, pop-culture etc.

This book must be on everyone's must read list, so please give it a try. We rate it a 4 out of 5.