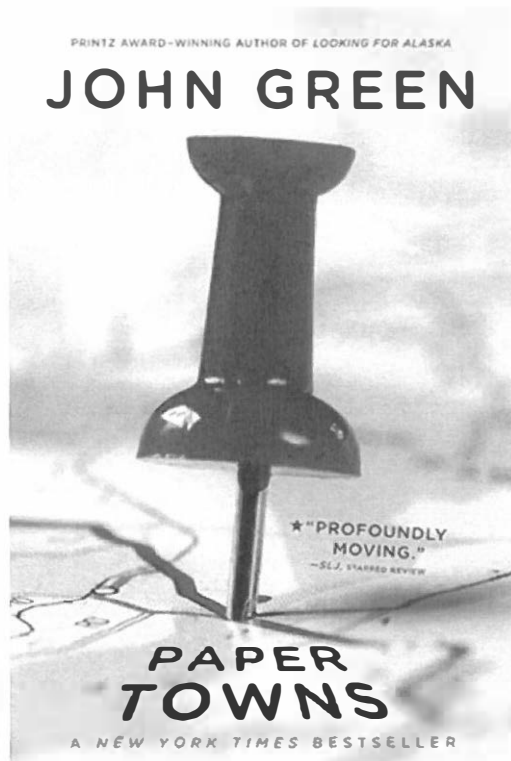


Contemporary Novel Review: *Paper Towns* by John Green (2008)

By: Kiersten Bradley



[Book cover of *Paper Towns* by John Green]. Retrieved on April 5, 2015, from https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6442769-paper-towns?from_search=true

What can be said about Margo Roth Spiegelman? She's the adventurous, mysterious, and beautiful next-door neighbour of Quentin "Q" Jacobsen. After finding a dead body together as children, Q has spent the better part of his life crushing on Margo from afar. That is, until

one night when Margo climbs through Q's bedroom window dressed like a ninja, insisting that he come with her. After spending the night wreaking havoc on the town and breaking into a marine theme park, Q can't wait to see Margo at school the next day. But, Margo Roth Spiegelman has vanished.

Q soon discovers clues he believes Margo left for him. Determined to find out what happened to her, Q sets out with his friends to follow the mysterious notes Margo left behind. But, it's hard to find clues in Walt Whitman poems, and it's even harder to find someone you never really knew.

In *Paper Towns*, Green explores the idea of how people see others differently based on what characteristics they want or believe them to have. Throughout the novel, Q struggles with the idea that Margo may not be the girl he thought she was. It is an intellectually stimulating work, encouraging readers to reflect on their preconceived ideas of people.

While portions of *Paper Town* drags and it is one of Green's slower novels, it is still wonderful. It has funny moments that will

make readers laugh out loud, it inspires teens to think critically, and it has all the fun elements of a mystery novel.

Q and his friends go through a period of self-discovery and personal growth. Green has a great talent for capturing teenage emotions and struggles, allowing teens to relate to the novel.

Green's novels follow a similar formula and all have a similar tone and feel, and *Paper Towns* is no exception. Therefore, if you enjoyed Green's other books, you will enjoy this one as well.

This book has been adapted into a movie and is expected to release in July 2015.