**IST 263 Project Milestone 2 – Copy Document**

**Name**: Leah Farrell

**Description (From Milestone 1)**:  
This website is dedicated to book reviews, offering literary insights and recommendations for readers. By providing a user-friendly platform that combines analysis, personal perspectives, and interactive features, the site will serve as a comprehensive resource for readers searching for their next great read. The platform will bridge the gap between readers and quality literature, offering in-depth, trustworthy book evaluations across multiple genres.

**Home Page**

**Short Description**

The home page will include a brief site introduction, featured book reviews, latest recommendations, and search functionality. I hope to make the home page attractive, with welcoming design components.

**Actual Page Text:**

**Welcome to PageTurner**

Discover your next literary adventure. We’re passionate readers dedicated to helping you find books that resonate, challenge, and inspire.

**Why Pageturner**

At PageTurner we believe every reader deserves to find their next great read. Through deep dives into contemporary releases, each review strives to offer a thoughtful analysis that goes beyond simple ratings.

**Feature Reviews**

**Editors Pick of the Week**

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah: A breathtaking story of survival and resilience set in the Alaskan wilderness. Kristin Hannah carefully crafts her works with the powerful narrative of love, loss, and the enduring strength of community. Read our in-depth review to discover why this book is must-read.

**Recently Reviewed**

**-***The Wish by Nicholas Sparks*

*-Part of Your World by Abby Jiminez*

*-The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah*

**Find Your Next Read**

Browse by genre, mood, or theme. Our curated collection include:

(Each title will be linked to their review)

**-Staff Picks**

The Great Alone, Evicted, Part of Your World

**-Award Winners**

The Nightingale

**-Hidden Gems**

The Wish

**Join Our Community**

Share your thoughts, discover new perspectives, and connect with fellow book lovers.

*“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”* -Stephen King

**Page 2**

**Title:**  Book Review Catalog

**Short Description**

The second page will serve as the review catalog, displaying a comprehensive list of book reviews which will be categorized by genre. Each book title will be linked to its review.

**Actual Page Text**

**Explore Our Book Review Collection**

Below you will find a library of book reviews categorized by genre.

**Featured Genres**

**-Non-Fiction**

* *Evicted*

-**By Matthew Desmond** *Genre: Nonfiction/Sociology* ★★★½ (3.5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

*Evicted* follows eight families in Milwaukee struggling with housing insecurity, documenting their experiences with eviction, poverty, and the challenges of finding stable housing. Through extensive fieldwork, Desmond reveals how eviction perpetuates poverty cycles in America.

**Strengths:**

-Thorough research

-Compelling personal narratives

-Strong policy analysis

**Limitations:**

-Repetitive at times

-Occasional loss of narrative focus

-Milwaukee specific focus limits broader application

**Themes:**

-housing insecurity

-Economic struggles

-The impact of poverty on individuals

* *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*

-**By Jose Antonio Vargas** *Genre: Memoir* ★★★★½ (4.5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

In this powerful memoir, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas reveals his life as an undocumented immigrant in America. Sent from the Philippines to live with his grandparents at age twelve, Vargas discovers his undocumented status at sixteen and spends the next decades navigating American society while harboring this secret.

**Exceptional elements:**

-Raw, honest portrayal of living undocumented

-Clear, compelling journalistic style

-nuanced exploration of identity and belonging

**Themes:**

-Identity

-Family

-Belonging as an undocumented immigrant

-Social integration

**-Romance**

* *The Wish*

-**By Nicholas Sparks** *Genre: Contemporary Romance* ★★★★★ (5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

In *The Wish*, Sparks masterfully weaves together two timelines: 2019 New York City, where successful photographer Maggie Dawes faces a terminal diagnosis, and 1996 Ocracoke Island, where teenage Maggie experiences first love with Bryce Trickett during a life-changing year living with her aunt.

**Why Five Stars**

* Flawless narrative structure
* Deep character authenticity
* Meaningful exploration of photography as metaphor
* Balance of romance and life reflection

**Emotional Impact**

The novel delivers an extraordinary emotional punch without feeling manipulative. Sparks handles terminal illness and first love with equal sensitivity, creating genuine moments that resonate long after the final page.

**Themes:**

-Young love

-Family relationships

* *Part of Your World*

-**By Abby Jimenez** *Genre: Contemporary Romance* ★★★★½ (4.5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

A wealthy ER doctor from a prestigious medical dynasty meets a small-town carpenter after he rescues her from a ditch. Despite their different worlds, they form an undeniable connection that challenges both their life paths.

**Standout Elements**

* Sharp, witty dialogue
* Complex family dynamics
* Authentic exploration of class differences
* Well-developed supporting characters
* Perfect balance of humor and serious themes

**Minor Drawbacks**

* Some plot resolutions feel slightly rushed
* Secondary antagonist's arc could be more developed

**Themes:**

-Family obligation

-Unlikely romance

-Domestic violence

**-Historical Fiction**

* *The Great Alone*

-**By Kristin Hannah** *Genre: Historical Fiction* ★★★★★ (5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

Set in 1974 Alaska, *The Great Alone* follows the Allbright family—Ernt, Cora, and their thirteen-year-old daughter Leni—as they move to a remote wilderness, hoping to escape Ernt's Vietnam War-induced PTSD and find a new life. What begins as an adventurous escape quickly transforms into a harrowing story of survival, both against the brutal Alaskan wilderness and the more dangerous threat within their own home.

Hannah masterfully captures the raw, unforgiving landscape of Alaska as a metaphorical backdrop to the family's internal struggles. Ernt, a traumatized Vietnam veteran, becomes increasingly volatile and abusive, creating a pressure cooker of tension that mirrors the extreme, isolated environment.

**Themes:**

-Domestic violence

-Female resilience

-PTSD

-Community and survival

**Recommended For Readers who enjoy:**

-Strong female protagonists

-Survival narratives

-Stories about family dynamics/trauma

* *The Nightingale*

-**By Kristin Hannah** *Genre: Historical Fiction* ★★★★★ (5/5 Stars)

**Summary**

Set in Nazi-occupied France during WWII, *The Nightingale* tells the story of two sisters—Vianne Mauriac and Isabelle Rossignol—who resist the German occupation in their own distinct ways. While Vianne struggles to protect her daughter and help Jewish children escape, Isabelle joins the French Resistance, becoming the celebrated "Nightingale" who guides downed Allied airmen across the Pyrenees to safety.

Hannah crafts a masterful dual narrative that explores how ordinary women become extraordinary in times of war. The parallel stories of the sisters showcase different forms of resistance and courage—Vianne's quiet, desperate fight for survival and Isabelle's bold acts of defiance.

**Themes:**

-Life during war

-Female resistance

-survival in wartimes

**Recommended for readers interested in:**

-WW11 historical fiction

-Female resistance during WW11

-French history

* *The Four Winds*

-**By Kristin Hannah** *Genre: Historical Fiction* ★★★★☆ (4/5 Stars)

**Summary**

Set during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl era, *The Four Winds* follows Elsa Martinelli, a Texas farmer's wife who must fight for her family's survival when drought and dust storms threaten everything they own. After circumstances force her to leave Texas, she embarks on a treacherous journey to California with her two children, hoping to find a better life.

**Strengths:**

-Meticulous historical detail about the Dust Bowl Era

-Vivid descriptions of Depression-era hardships

-Strong character development

**Areas for Improvement:**

-Pacing slows in the middle sections

-Abrupt ending

**Themes:**

-Maternal sacrifice

-Economic inequity

-Environmental disasters

**Page 3**

**Title:** About/Contact

**Short Description**

The third page will be an about/contact page that will provide a more in-depth overview of the website’s purpose and a personal bio. Finally, users will be able to access additional social media platforms and a contact form.

**Actual Page Text**

**About Leah Farrell:**

Leah Farrell is a dedicated Policy Studies and Citizenship & Civic Engagement major with minors in French and Information Management & Technology. Passionate about housing policy and government consulting, Leah has actively engaged in the field through various work experiences, including an internship with the Neighborhood and Business Development Department in the City of Syracuse. During this role, she analyzed the relationship between Syracuse landlords and Section 8 housing and contributed to an economic redevelopment plan for the East Adams neighborhood. She also co-authored a literature review, "Beyond the Viaduct," which examines the impact of the I-81 viaduct on respiratory health in local communities and explores ways Syracuse University can enhance its involvement with the city.

Beyond her academic and professional pursuits, Leah enjoys running, spending time with friends and family, and diving into a good book. A devoted reader, she is particularly fond of Kristin Hannah’s novels, with *The Great Alone* ranking as one of her favorites. She also loves watching *Gilmore Girls*, a show based on her hometown of New Milford, CT. These diverse experiences and interests not only fuel her passion for policy work but also provide balance and perspective as she navigates her career aspirations.

Leah’s passion for literature and storytelling has led her to create this book review site, where she shares her thoughts on compelling reads across genres. Whether you're looking for your next favorite book or engaging discussions on impactful narratives, Leah’s reviews offer thoughtful insights and recommendations for all book lovers.

**Connect with Leah**

**For inquiries, feel free to reach out via email or LinkedIn:**

* **Email:** lafarrel@syr.edu
* **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leahafarrell/>

**Want to send in your own review? Complete the form below and send in your thoughts about your most recent read!**

Name:

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Book:

Author:

Review: