

The Viral BookTok Author Colleen Hoover and the Issues with her work



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Colleen Hoover, a New York Times bestselling author, an 'on average' five star Goodreads holder and teen girl's favorite young adult romance writer. Colleen Hoover, a sensational writer who took the title of my favorite in the realm of BookTok and BookTube. Colleen Hoover, a writer of questionable stories with even more questionable depiction of romances. Colleen Hoover, my little arch nemesis. Now, if you are in the sphere of the book lovers/enthusiasts on either TikTok or YouTube,

it is a guarantee that you will have at least heard of Colleen Hoover, and if not her, perhaps her books. I was first introduced to her when I started reviving my hobby of reading and her most acclaimed book "It Ends With Us" was one that I would see real life people on campus reading (it happened twice). It was everywhere on the scene of any hashtags targeted for book readers, whether it was people recommending her novels or making cute trends over Colleen Hoovers' books and her written love interests. I should note that people are obviously inclined to enjoy whatever they enjoy, and if reading Colleen Hoover is one of them, then awesome! I am just surprisingly in the small minority that really dislikes her. It's not that her writing is really unappealing and juvenile (yes, I know it's under the young adult genre) and her plots are quite dull and unfulfilling, but rather the overall controversial takes that occur in her books. The small minority of people who do not like Colleen

Hoover struggle against a loud crowd of fans, because even the people who adore her are aware of these issues too (I mean they have to be, right?). I think it'll be fun if I gave you a brief synopsis of a Colleen Hoover book, you'll just have to decide which is hers. **(There are spoilers, sorry.)** Our first story: The male love interest does not do relationships because of unresolved issues from his past but our protagonist falls in love with him anyway! A love/hate, "will they/won't they?" trope and even more toxic examples of how relationships work, and showing that if you simply comply with a relationship that does not fit your needs and desires, stay because if he cannot provide emotional intimacy than physical intimacy is enough. A breathtaking message, truly. Second story: Our protagonist, a house-fire burning victim who lo and behold, falls in love with the person who was responsible for the house fire, who

manipulates her into falling in love with him as this was a way for him to forgive himself and her, of course, for the consequences of his actions. Third story: An angsty attempt to write an even more angsty forbidden love story, over who you may ask? A student and a teacher! But it's okay because never mind the absolute power dynamic difference because she's 18 and he is only 21, saved by the bell! (Inspiration from "Pretty Little Liars" for sure.) Have you made your guess? No, well good because this was all a ploy and all these potential "fake" stories are all true and they all belong to her. In order, the books are: "Ugly Love," "November 9," and "Slammed." In retrospect, this is what I was to take away from her novels. Some would compliment her writing, her romance, her use of favored tropes in literature and even celebrate her inclusion of reality and honesty in her books, making it authentic



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALLAS MORNING NEWS

and intimate. But, I thought that we all as a society moved on from books romanticizing toxic male characters, and stapling young girls as this naive character to stick around awful and emotionally abusive relationships and be motivated to stay to essentially fix what's broken. Granted, some of her books were written before the world began to point fingers, but even then, is it okay? I don't necessarily have anything against Colleen Hoover, not on a personal level but her books are too highly rated for young readers whose demographic and target audience are young girls, to read about bad relationships and bad coping mechanisms in said bad relationships.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

LAILA CASINAO | STAFF WRITER

"PIRANESI" BY SUSANNA CLARKE



Photo Courtesy of Vox

I have read 31 books in the past few months and all the books that I own and completed are typically classified as contemporary and modern fiction. I have a few fantasy books, a lot of young adult fiction, some mysteries and embarrassingly quite a bit of romance.

"Piranesi" is unlike any fantasy book I have ever read or heard of. Every person I managed to hear speak of this book, stated in their own opinion and critique claiming that this short novel was unparalleled to other fantasy novels within the genre. And I understand why.

At first glance, the book is stunning. A beautiful illustration of a satyr playing the pipes as it stands on a roman-Greekesque column. Its embellishment of gold aspects on top of a dark blue background creates this enchanting and captivating book cover, complimenting and capturing the story within.

This is a spoiler free review, but I will be quite descriptive and detailed so that if you wish to know more about this incredible book then you'll be satisfied, but I strongly encourage you to take a chance on "Piranesi!"

"Piranesi" is sectioned off into seven parts, with the first being the introduction of the main character Piranesi and the beginning of the unique world that the book takes place in. This chapter is essential, it sets the tone of the book: capturing, creating and establishing world building. Settings and

precision of important emblems and symbols that we will be reading from here on out are vital to how we envision the world.

In "Part 1: Piranesi," we as the readers are reading the novel as if we are reading a journal. Repeating introductions of journal entries becomes the way that Piranesi keeps track of his days as he does his duties throughout the world. I should preface that the world is completely unlike our own, of course it would be, it's a fantasy book, but Piranesi's identification of his settings and surroundings are surreal. Piranesi's unique ways to label the essential labyrinth that he exists in is what encompasses this truth of his connection to this place. Such as referring and labeling every hall, vestibule, room as well as the mention of numbered doors and windows by their own uniqueness. The place is infinite. There is more to discover within this place and Piranesi is all knowing, mapping places and being able to recite every hallway, vestibule, room, door, window and even statues.

The statues. The statues are symbolic, to what? Well, that's a spoiler, but essentially in every vestibule or end of hallways there are statues that exist and they all vary. Some represent humanity, animals, recreations of Greek gods and goddesses, some are of tragedy, love and hope. They are symbolism of something and they "communicate" to Piranesi. He views these statues as messengers whenever he's in need.

This world, that Piranesi exists in, is often referenced as the "house OR the beauty of the house," and as the "labyrinth." And besides Piranesi, there is only one living being in this world and he is named "the Other."

The Other is a scholar seeking for the great perhaps, the scientific discovery, the answer to everything and anything within the world and Piranesi is his sidekick, essentially. The Other needs Piranesi for his knowledge of the house and overall help for these experiments. Further questions of what this great discovery is will be unanswered for the sake of keeping the story spoiler free, but let's just say that this effort to find the answers of the great scientific discovery avalanches to the books conflict.

Betrayal. The truth of the world, of Piranesi's identity, of the Others' true motives, the mysterious trespasser that the Other fears so heavily, the journal entries being mis-numbered and mislabeled and faulty memories.

This book combines the genres of fantasy and subtle mystery in the most extraordinary way possible. I was told by book reviewers that going into the story unaware and unknowing of what this could be is the best way to go, so I did. And though I managed to explain a bit more than what I knew when I first read it, my obliviousness to how the story was going to start and end was nothing in comparison to what I could have conjured up.

HOROSCOPES

☀ - IN SEASON

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p>ARIES +</p> <p>(March 22 - April 19)</p> <p>As new opportunities are presented to you, you should rise up and take them. Now is the time for new beginnings in your life.</p>	<p>TAURUS</p> <p>(April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>At this time of your life, you may feel as if you're no longer being challenged. Take time to reassess your priorities and goals for the future.</p>	<p>GEMINI</p> <p>(May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>This week you should trust your intuition more and take the opportunity to dive deeper into yourself.</p>	<p>CANCER +</p> <p>(June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>As many choices present to you this week, you should try to weigh the pros and cons of every decision to know that you are making the right choices.</p>
<p>LEO</p> <p>(July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>Big changes are headed your way and now is the best time to determine what you're happy with and what you want changed in your life.</p>	<p>☀ VIRGO ☀</p> <p>(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>This period of your life is full of new beginnings so don't be afraid to shed what doesn't serve you anymore.</p>	<p>LIBRA +</p> <p>(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>Now is the time to reevaluate your life to determine what's stopping you from achieving true happiness.</p>	<p>SCORPIO</p> <p>(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>At this time of your life you have the chance to start anew with the resources you already have. Use this time to look further into your career path and what careers may work with your skill set.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>Success will follow you everywhere this week. Be thankful for what you have as you celebrate your abundance of luck.</p>	<p>+ CAPRICORN</p> <p>(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>As new things come into your life that test your patience, be mindful and learn to manage your emotions.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS</p> <p>(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>Learning to manage your time with careful planning will yield successes in your future.</p>	<p>PISCES +</p> <p>(Feb. 19 - March 21)</p> <p>As you work towards your career and goals, make sure to stay true to yourself instead of bending to the stereotypes of your profession.</p>

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