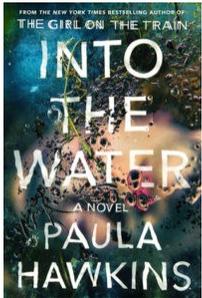


A Book with Bad Reviews

Challenge: Find a book with a not-so-flattering review. This might mean that the book was reviewed by a book critic for a magazine or a newspaper. This could also mean that it received one or two stars from reviewers on Goodreads or Amazon. The examples below are just a few books that received poor reviews. Do you agree or disagree with the reviewer's assessment?

Reading ideas:



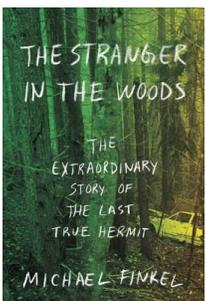
"*Into the Water* isn't an impressive book. Its tone is uniformly lugubrious and maudlin, and Hawkins' characters seldom rise to the level of two dimensions, let alone three....few readers will have difficulty figuring out who's guilty of what well before Hawkins delivers the obligatory twists."

—Laura Miller ([Slate](#))



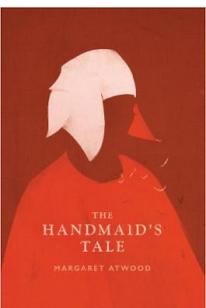
"It too has a lot of characters, but very few of them spring to life, and many of them seem repetitive. Without speculating on what the father-son writing process was like, it feels as though some kind of politesse kept this 700-page book from being usefully tightened ... *Sleeping Beauties* will inevitably wind up on the screen somehow. Whoever adapts it will have to beef up the characters and deflect attention from the nonthrilling main theme ... What you may well come away thinking is: meh."

—Janet Maslin ([The New York Times](#))



"Next to the great fictional solitaires and rejecters of the world—Crusoe, Bartleby, Boo Radley, Kafka's Hunger Artist, half of Conrad's protagonists—Finkel's errant knight cuts a dim figure."

—James Lasdun ([The Guardian](#))



"The writing of *The Handmaid's Tale* is undistinguished in a double sense, ordinary if not glaringly so, but also indistinguishable from what one supposes would be Margaret Atwood's normal way of expressing herself in the circumstances. This is a serious defect, unpardonable maybe for the genre: a future that has no language invented for it lacks a personality. That must be why, collectively, it is powerless to scare."

—Mary McCarthy ([The New York Times](#))