

Better Bookkeeping

App Analysis of Goodreads vs. Fable



Maeve C. Cox | September 2024



Goodreads

Goodreads is a application that allows readers to track, find, and share books with people who enjoy the same genres, series and authors.

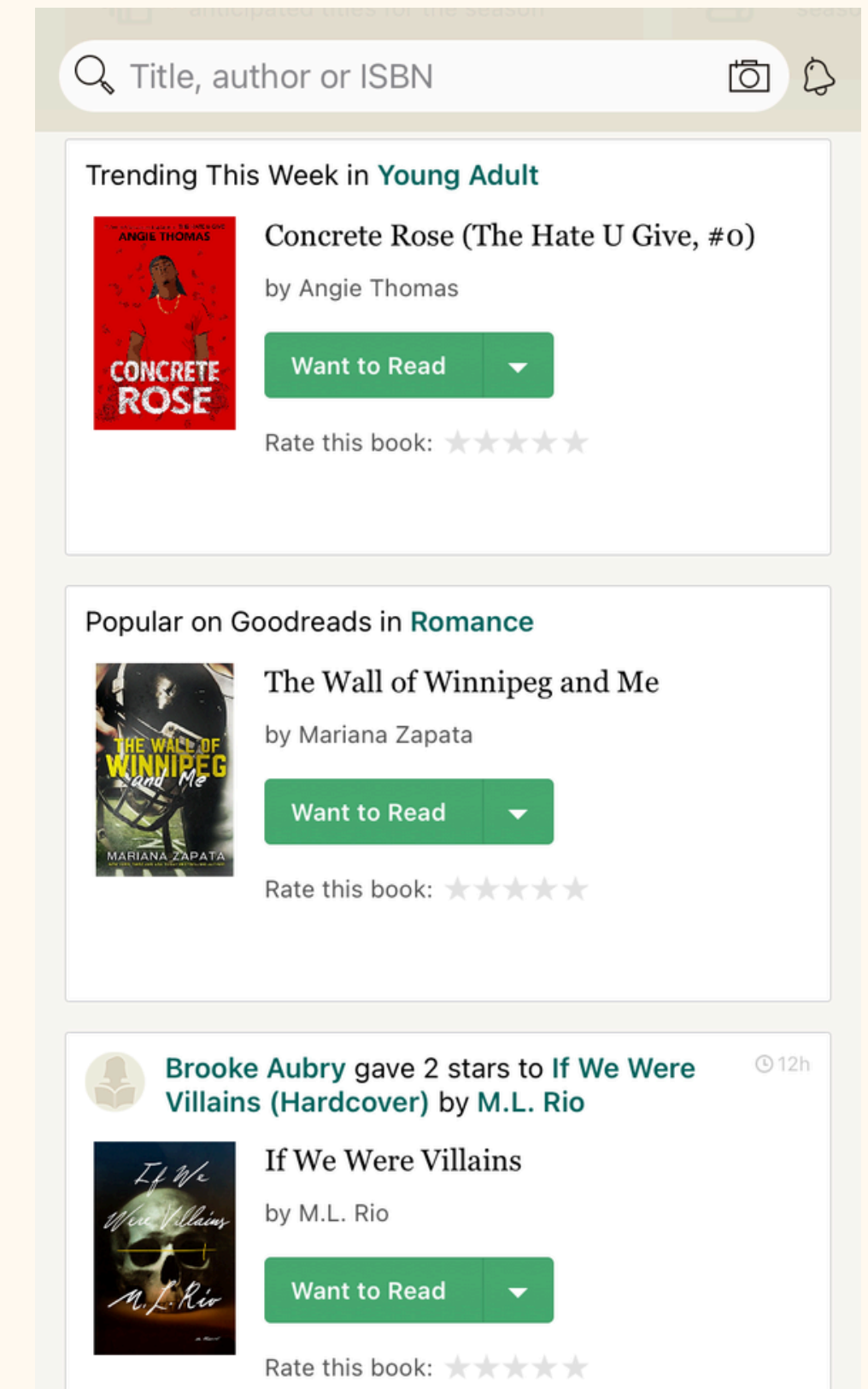
I have been a Goodreads user since December 2022.

g The Landing Page

The Goodreads landing page makes me feel **overwhelmed** because of my need for **flow and organization** is not being met.

The landing page consists of book recommendations based on trending, new releases, popular on Goodreads, and your friends finished books. Within each recommendation box a user is told the title, author, and why the book is on their landing page. The recommendations are based on genres or your friends recently finished books. The scrolling structure does not provide users with hierarchy in recommendations.

In the boxes, users are also encouraged to add the book to their “Want to Read” folder and to rate the book. I find this to be a confusing UX design decision because a user would not be able to rate a book if they have not read it yet. Instead the average rating should be visible.




“My Books” Page

The Goodreads “My Books” page makes me feel **accomplished** because of my need for **closure and choice** is being met.

The “My Books” page features the book I am currently reading, the books I want to read, the books I’ve read, and links to my reading activity. Seeing the read shelf grow to have a higher number than my Want to Read list is exciting. Goodreads enables its users to create their own shelves which allows for users to further organize books they want to read.

I don’t use the “kindle notes & highlights” section but should. The reading activity section of this page leads me to remember why I started reading again. Seeing my overall reading progress for the year reminds me how close I am reaching my yearly goal.


READING:




Ripple Effect (Coastal Universi...
by Ki Stephens

UPDATE PROGRESS

PROGRESS: 0%




Want to Read
24 books




Read
81 books


YOUR READING ACTIVITY



Kindle Notes & Highlights



2024 Reading Challenge
 30/35



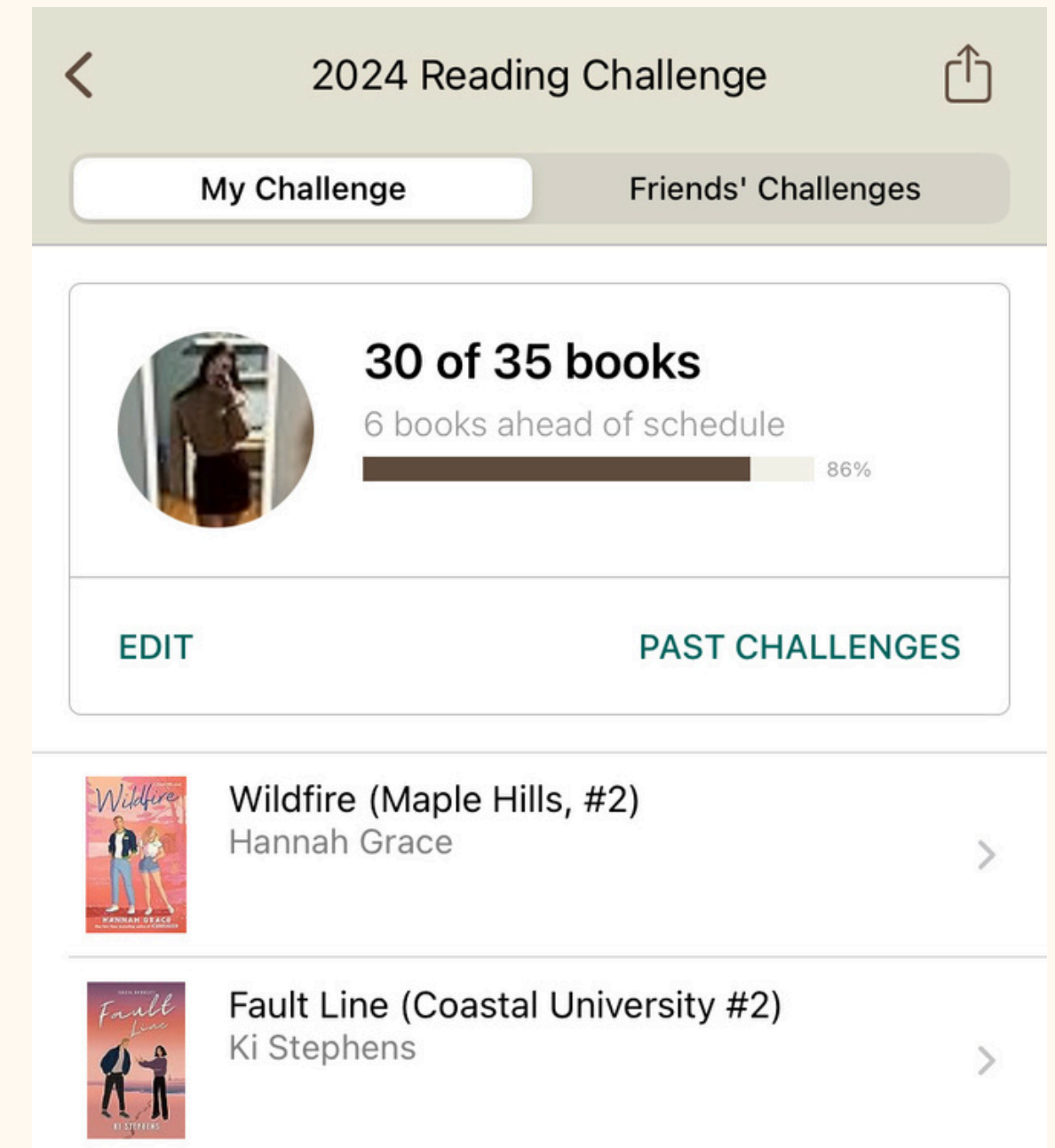
2023 Year In Books
30 books

g 2024 Reading Challenge

The 2024 Reading Challenge page makes me feel **satisfied and motivated** because of my need for **purpose** is being met.

I am motivated by a check lists and progress bars. If I had not set a reading goal at the beginning of the year I would likely spend more time doom scrolling on Tik Tok. I read for fun so seeing that I am ahead of schedule does make me less stressed when I have to focus on school work.

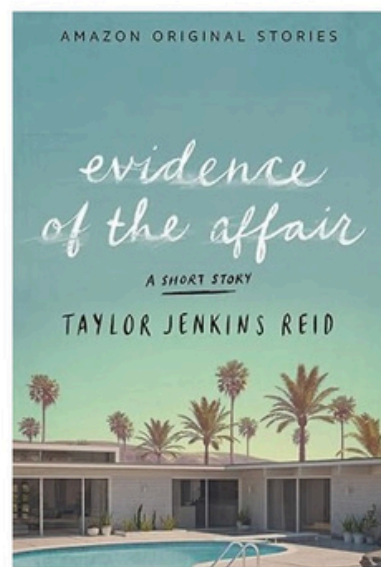
This page is the easiest way to find my friends reading recommendations. As your friends complete books, their reading challenge progress increases and you are motivated to stay in line with their completion rate.



g My Year in Books

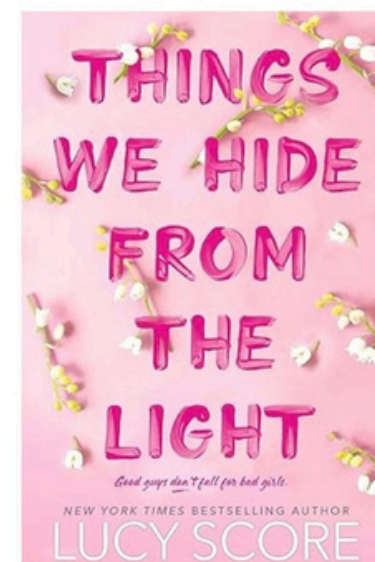
The “My Year in Books” page makes me feel **inspired** because of my need for **challenge** is being met.

If I ever need a reading prompt I look at my 2023 Year in Books and find a book that succeeds my previous accomplishments. A prime example of this is finding a longer book, a shorter book, or five star book.



Shortest Book

88
pages



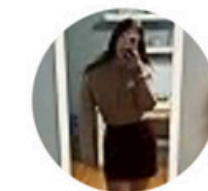
Longest Book

594
pages



My Year in Books

11,679
pages read



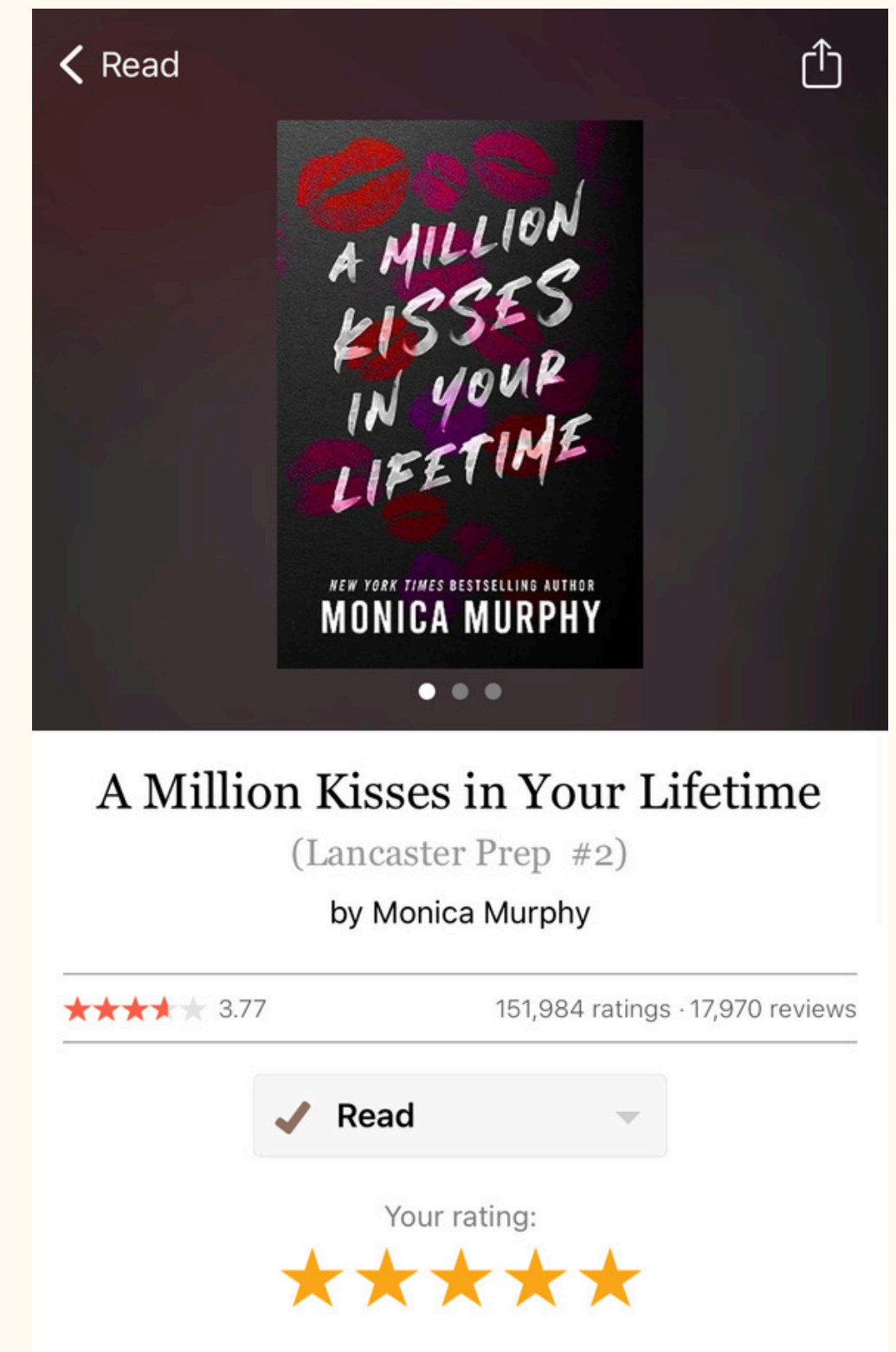
30
books read

Book Reviews

The book reviews on Goodreads makes me feel **nervous** and **perplexed** because of my need for **reassurance** and **communication** is not always met.

I do not read book reviews or summaries before reading a book because if I see a negative opinion on a book I am excited about, I will be deterred from reading it. I also find great reviews lead me to have such high expectations of a book but I get let down.

I constantly have to remind myself that everyones rating criteria is different. A five star for me could be a three star for someone else and vice versa.





Fable

Fable is a application that allows users to find, track, and discuss books, tv shows, and movies with communities of like-minded people.

I learned about Fable in July 2024 through a Youtuber, Sara Carrolli's recommendation.

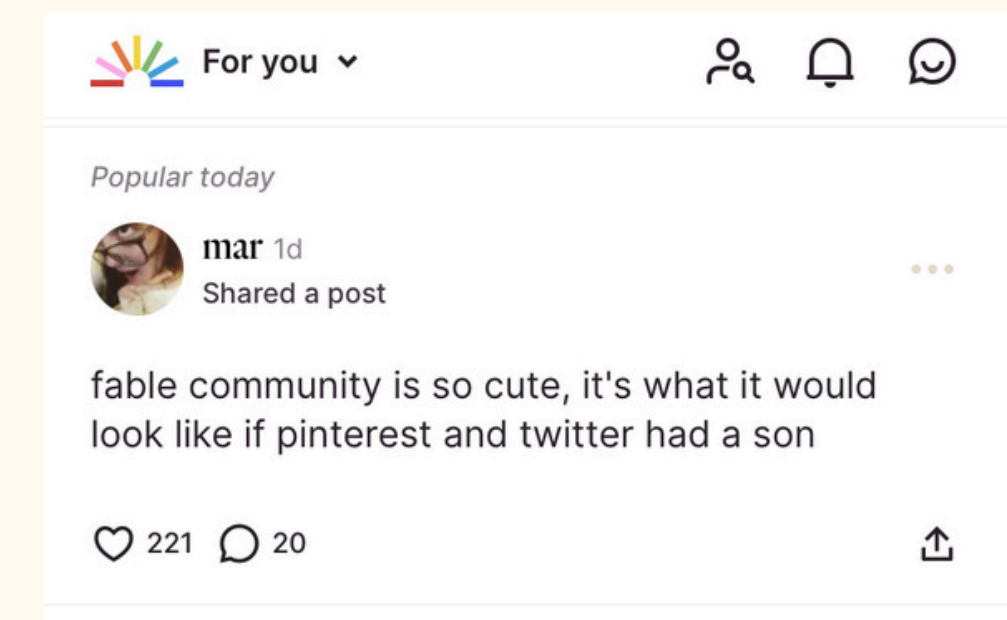
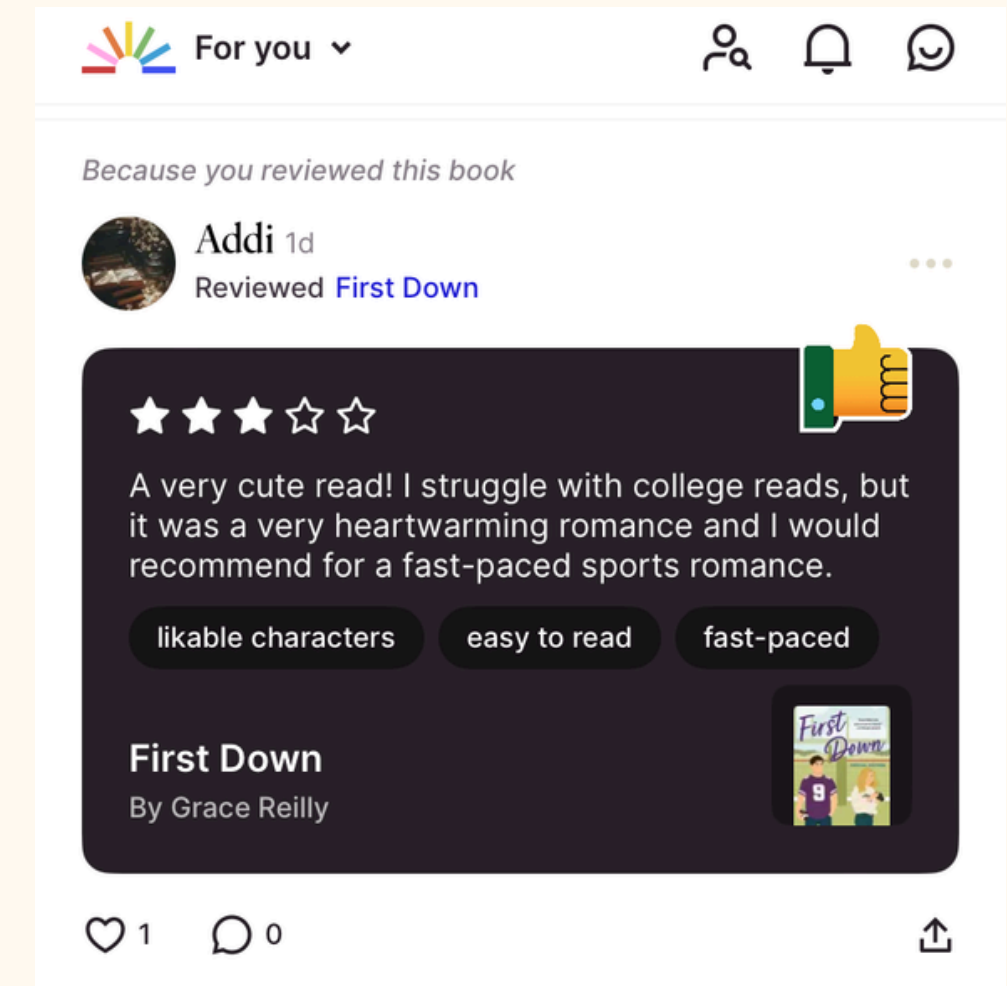


The Home Page

The Home page makes me feel **stimulated** and **inspired** because of my need for **self expression** and **companionship** is being met.

This is because it has two viewing modes, For You and Friends, that give me personalized view points of people reading and watching content that I am also interested in. On the For You mode I consume lots of photos of people reading books with their pets and also reviews of books that I have already finished.

There is a strong community growing on the app. I've made a list of bookstores people recommended to visit and buy from. While I would not make public posts of personal information I do love being a silent member of the book community.





Review the Book

The reviewing system makes me feel **troubled and hesitant** because of my need **be honest and correct** is not being met. This is because there is a delay in the software asking for the review and the criteria for the review is more involved. The first two questions are about the duration reading took and this is where my hesitation hits. Without the start date being saved at the day I begin reading I will stop tracking my reading all together. There are four steps that users have the ability to skip. Having the ability to do half points in the ranking and adding an emoji to solidify a feeling outwards. The third prompt asked of users is to describe the book and there are subjects within the step to pick from. Such as characters, language & writing style, plot, setting, theme & tone, warnings for other readers and what wasn't for you. I find myself skipping this and the written out prompt.

STEP 1 OF 4

How would you rate this book?

★ ★ ★

STEP 2 OF 4

How did this book make you feel?

🤔

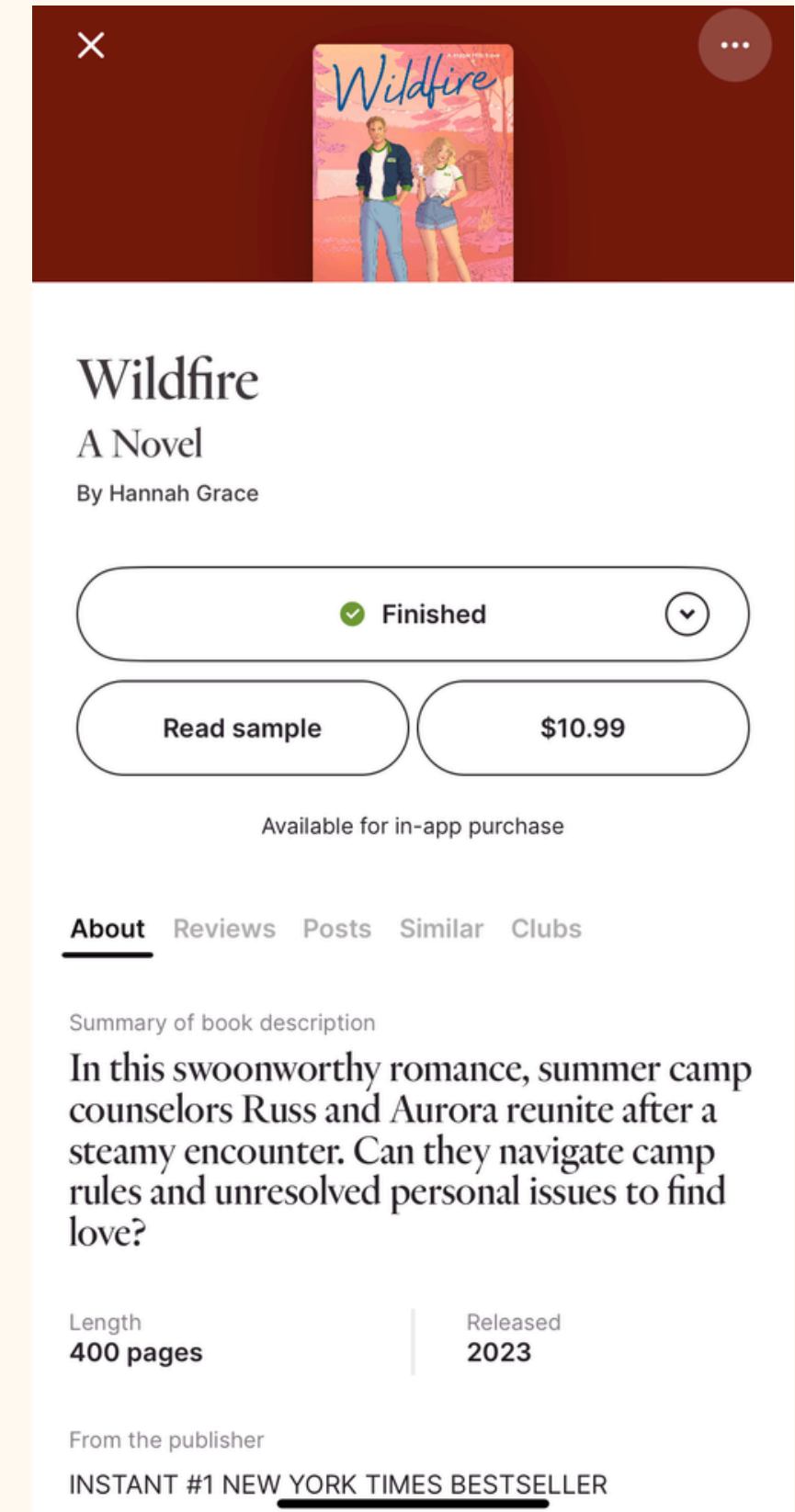


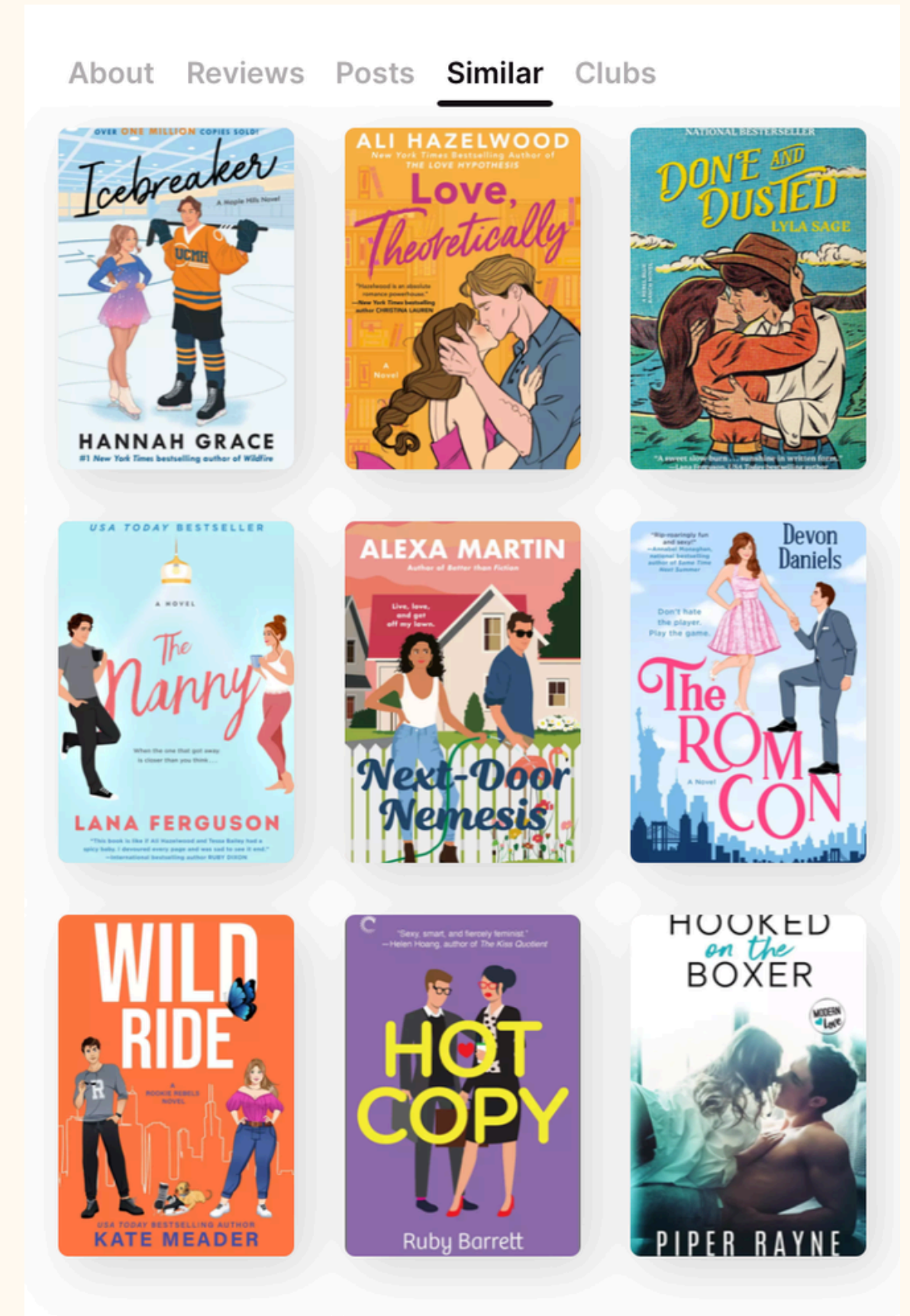
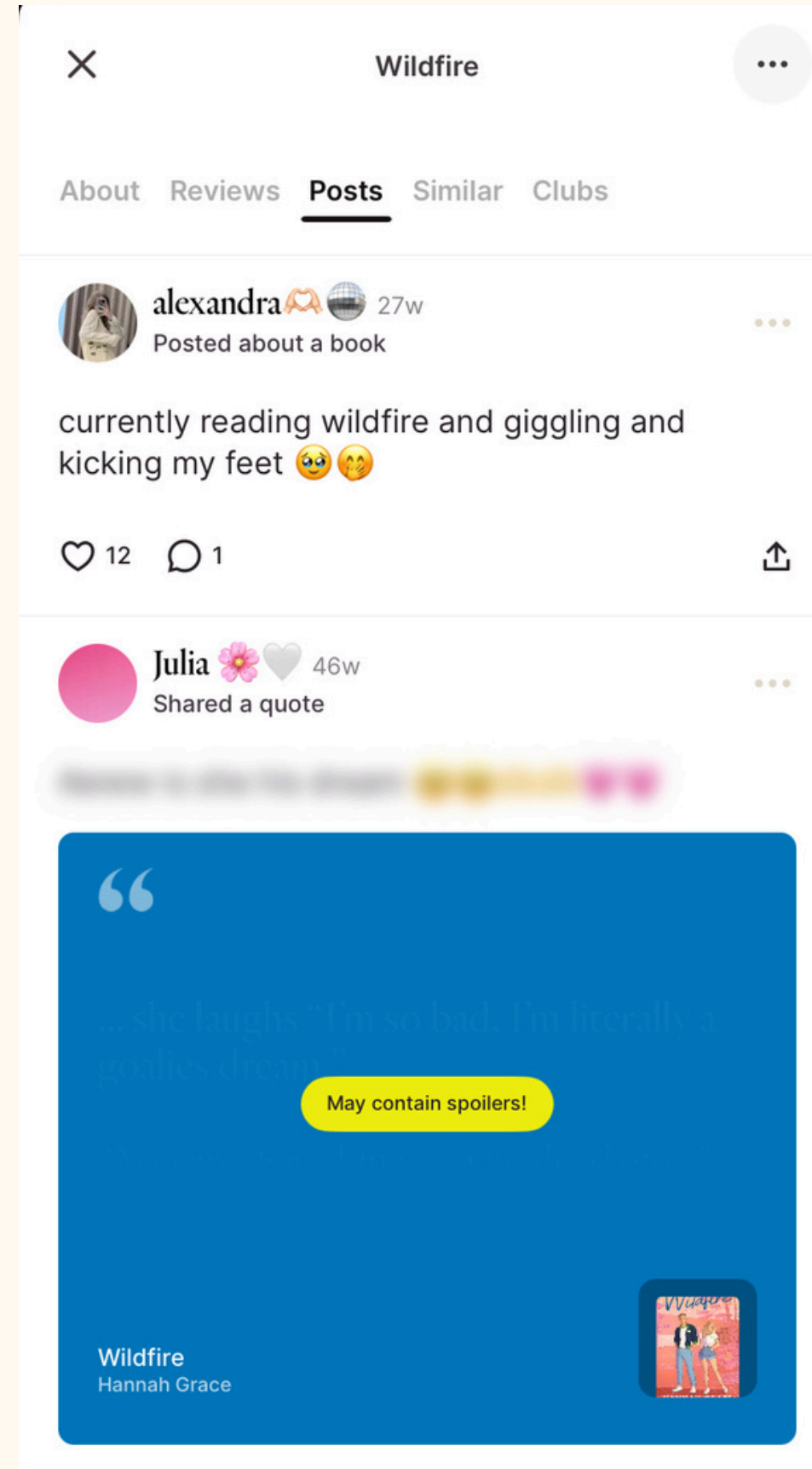
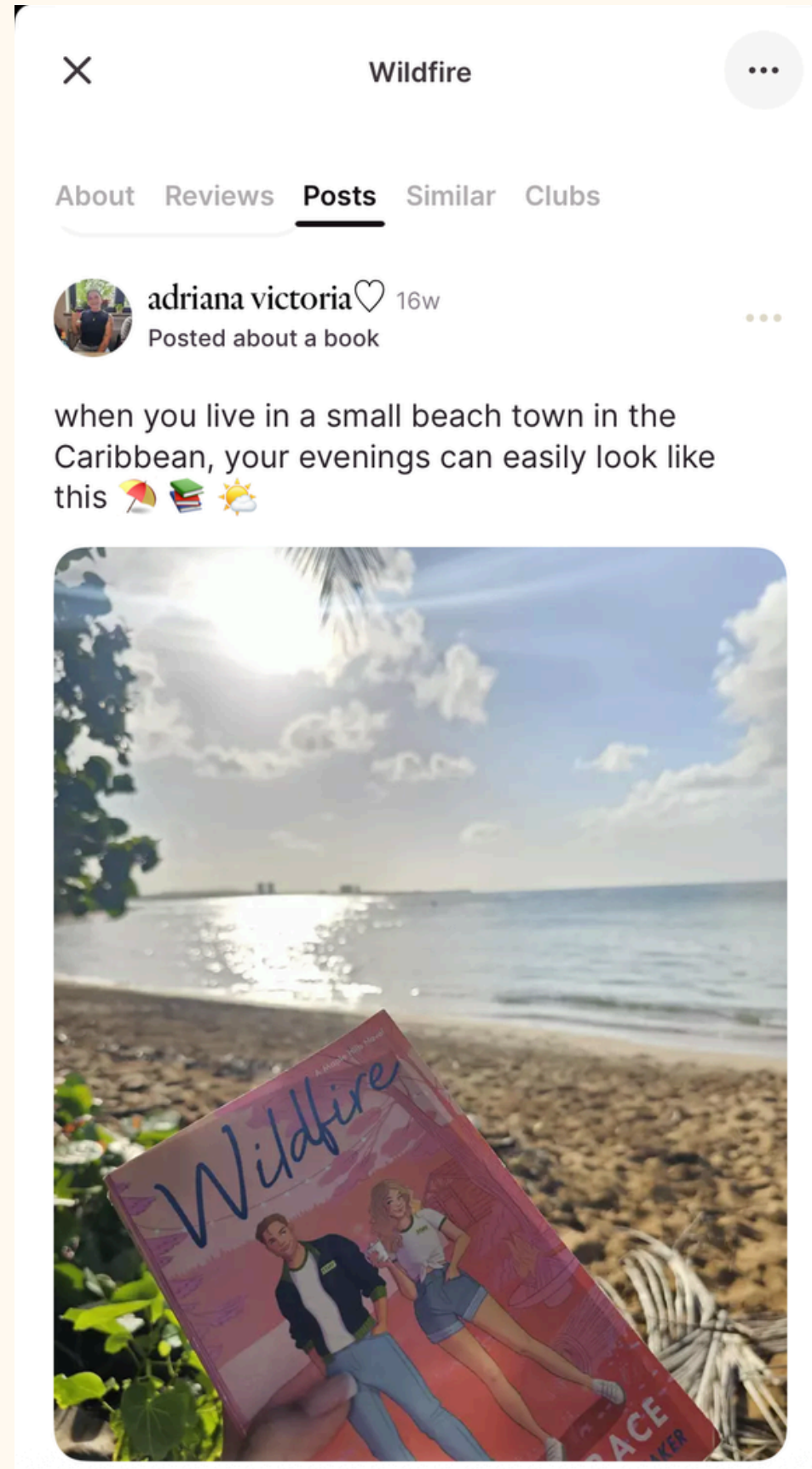
Book Profiles

The Book Profiles make me feel **confident and satisfied** because of my need **to be seen** and **understood** is being met.

This is because many of my friends do not read books. Each book profile has three basic descriptions, a summary of the author's book description, reviews, reader's posts, and similar books. The interface is clean and easy to use.

The summary of the book descriptions are so helpful as someone who dislikes how much you can predict from a book description. I only read the reviews after I complete the whole book but the posts category gives insights into the book and the readers environment.



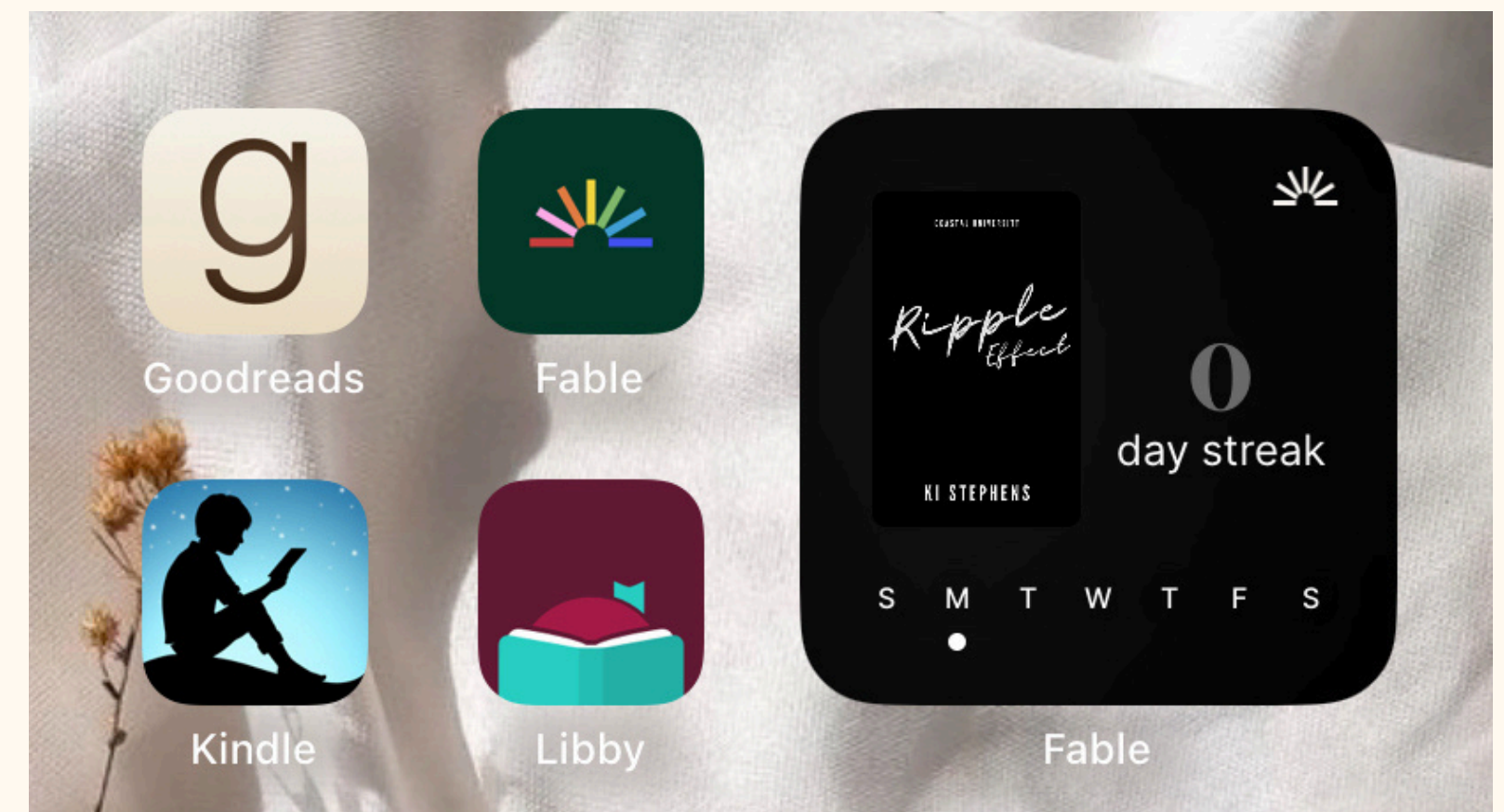




Reading Streak Widgets

The reading streak widget makes me feel **relieved and encouraged** because of my need for **growth and rest** is being met.

This is because when I see the widget say I have read multiple days in a row, which ultimately means I spent less time consuming social media. I am someone who is chronically on my phone if I have free time but the dopamine from seeing more than a 7 day streak at the end of the week is great.



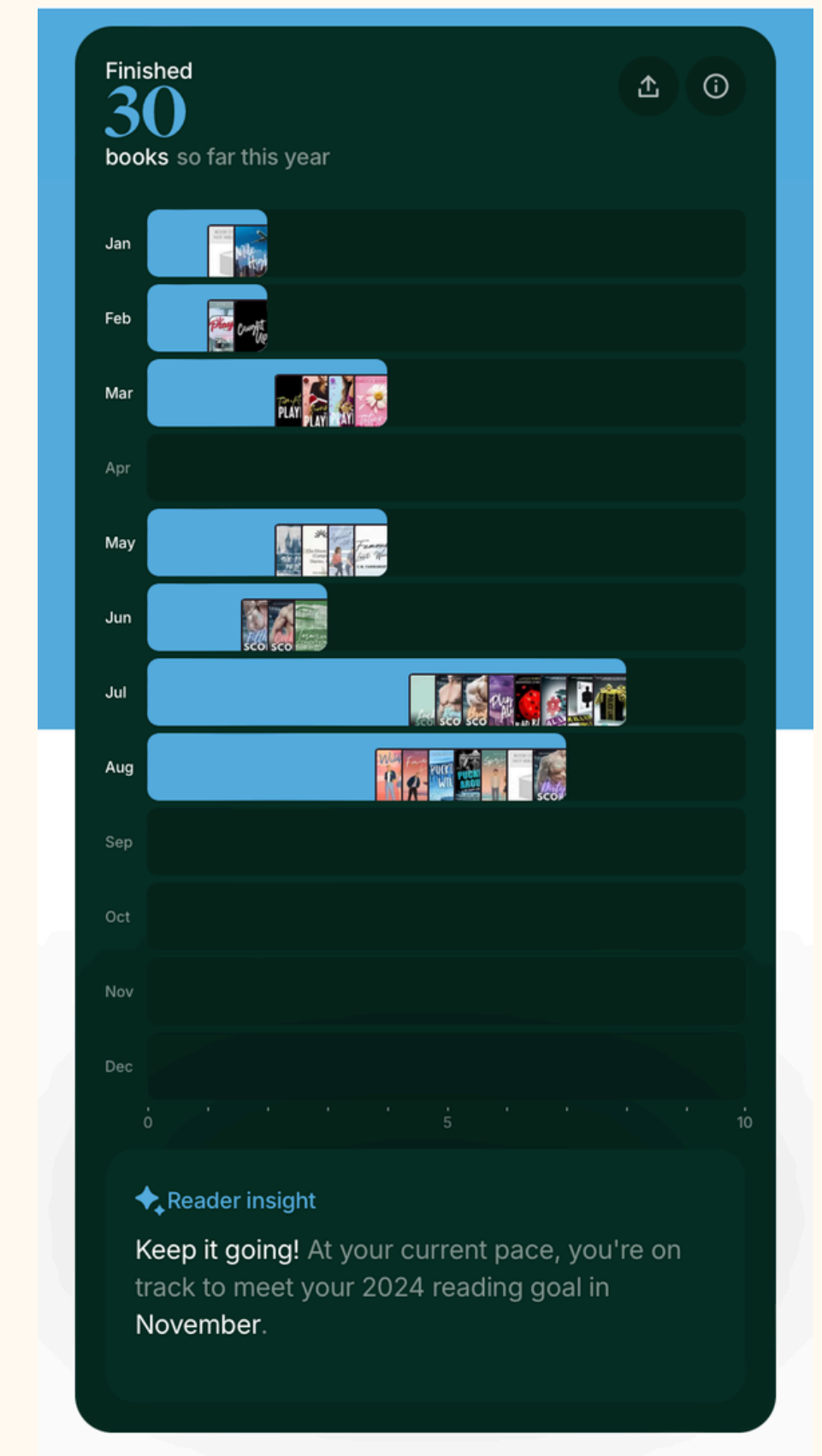
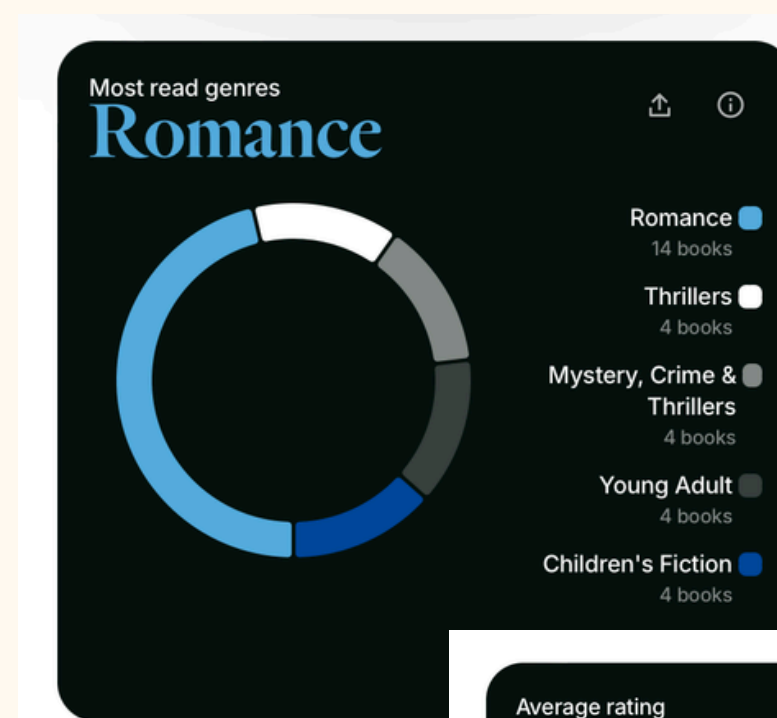


2024 Reading Stats

The 2024 reading stats make me feel **joyful and engrossed** because of my need for **transparency and beauty** is being met.

This is because I can watch my stats change throughout the year. Fable made it so easy for users to transfer their Goodreads data into their software. The pie and bar graphs help me get a visual of the content I am consuming and should be consuming.

Users can also customize the theme of their stats to visually match a personal aesthetic.





INNOVATIONS BY MAEVE COX