



## **The Listmaker**

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While living with her old-fashioned great-aunts in a small Australian town, twelve-year-old Sarah makes an unlikely friend, learns something about the amazing Piriell Starr, and breaks the habit of a lifetime.

## **The Listmaker Details**

Date : Published January 1st 1997 by Viking

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Author : Robin Klein

Format : Paperback 218 pages

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## **From Reader Review The Listmaker for online ebook**

### **Susan Day says**

I quite enjoyed this book but I was surprised about how quickly we've adapted technology into our lives. For example, pay phones are used and there's no talk of emails, the internet... not a thing! The young girl does receive a computer but mainly plays games and uses it as a word processor. The book was published in 1997 and just goes to show you how far we've come.

I enjoyed the characters in the this book, especially the old aunts and I was a little envious of their charming cottage. I think this is a book many children will enjoy reading as it deals with blended families, peer pressure and odd friendships.

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### **Sally says**

Not as good as I'd expected from Robin Klein. One to read once, give away, and forget all about.

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### **Aislinn says**

3.5 stars A sweet and gentle tale with fantastic supporting characters, but not quite as memorable as some of Robin Klein's other stories.

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### **Ruby says**

Well, I wasn't gobsmacked, but it was a pleasant enough read, and also lovely to relive my childhood love for Robin Klein and her characters. Ms Klein has a real flair for human interaction and for creating a beautiful sense of home in her writing. It is easy to quickly become fond of her characters. There is something delightfully eccentric and Australian about her writing. Yes, the plot was a bit predictable, but I don't feel like being a hard marker about that, because I think as a kid I would have loved that sense of security, where everything works out in the end. I really enjoyed revisiting My favourite childhood author, and I will always be grateful to her because she was probably one of the first writers I read who focused on character development, instead of having very two-dimensional characters enacting the plot.

It probably wasn't one of her best, in my opinion, but perhaps that is because I read it as an adult who is used to reading more 'sophisticated' books. Even so, I enjoyed reading it.

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### **Emily says**

It had a bit of a slow start for me, but by a little before halfway, I was hooked.

For me, a lot of the way through the book, Sarah was an unlovable character, however, by the end I was liking her more and more.

I don't think that this is a representation of a mental illness habit, but just a safety habit, so if your looking for a mental health read this isn't really for you, however I would recommend it!

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### **Rebecca says**

It's nice to see a character go from uptight young girl to a more mellowed out person. Sarah is not the greatest character, but the supporting characters such as her aunts and neighbours are eccentric (but believably so) and provide comic relief as well as being interesting counterpoints for Sarah as she struggles to figure out her place in her father's life and new relationship. And yes, there are many lists.

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### **Roslyn says**

3.5

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### **Robynt says**

the listmaker was entertaining and was confusing in some aspects but was very sweet and had a charming story i have to say that i did from the begining think that piriell was a bit bonkers but i enjoyed the begining the middle and the end

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### **Tashiii says**

We had to read this book at school in year 7. I have one word for it: BORING! Don't waste your time on it.

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### **Jacqueline Tasik says**

I love this book, it's a young adult book. It is about a girl who is twelve years old trying to decide who she is and where she belongs

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### **Leia Winter says**

This book was one of the worst I've ever read. It was so boring and predictable. The writing style was not bad but the story itself went no where and did nothing.

While I hated it I understand some people have different tastes than me so may enjoy its writing style.

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## **Kimberley says**

Robin Klein has written a great book about the sudden changes in an ordinary teenage life. Personally, I found this book really boring halfway through, although it had a wonderful ending. The book was a bit predictable and it's easy to tell what's coming next. I don't really think the book was completely about the annoying habit of making lists; that just came up in the beginning of the story but doesn't really get dwelled on much. The storyline was good though and Robin Klein finished it with a fantastic decision of the main character which completely changes everything.

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## **Emmeline says**

The Listmaker takes me back to my childhood. I think it's technically defined as middle-grade. It is the story of a 12-year-old girl, Sarah, living with her two great-aunts over the summer. She is looking forward to the start of the school term, when she will move into a shiny new city apartment with her father and his shiny new will-be wife, Piriell Starr. Of course, this move will transform her from an unpopular, neurotic child to a sophisticated young woman who can't move for all the invitations flying at her. Or so she hopes.

In reality this is a good journey story as Sarah comes to learn about what really matters in life, and who cares for her properly.

Re-reading this book as an adult, and knowing what I know now, it struck me that Sarah has some Asperger qualities. Similar to Don Tillman in *The Rosie Project*, she doesn't always understand what people mean and the effect that her words have, but we can see things only from her unreliable narrator perspective.

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## **Kristine says**

I enjoyed this book and suspect that in part it was because I could really identify with some of the quirks of the 'heroine' Sarah. I liked the way that Klein explored the challenges Sarah faces as a teenager dealing with the 'ideal' image of home and family and her own 'less than ideal' life spent between boarding school, eccentric aunts and a 'busy' father. The key to the story is in Sarah's evolving understanding of the adults in her life and the way that she chooses to interpret their behaviours and actions. The book is both funny and sad, but ultimately a satisfying read.

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## **Lucy says**

'The Listmaker' follows the story of a young girl growing up in Australia and having to choose between two lives. One, going to a rich boarding school and (at some point) living in a apartment with her father and her new step-mother. Or, choice two is living in a small town with her two elderly Great-Aunts.

I found this book very enjoyable. It interested me for the eight hours I was waiting for my plane, and I truly did enjoy it.

It is mostly a character study. Sarah Radcliffe begins the book as a spoilt, whiney, teacher's pet. Throughout the book she mellows and that is really nice to read. She was a fairly good narrator and I did like how each chapter started with a list.

I really liked how well thought out and multi-dimensional the characters were. I liked the Aunts and Corrie's characters best.

Sometimes, however, I found Sarah to be too annoying and sometimes I did hate her a bit. I just wished the plot hadn't dragged as much or I would've hated her less.

The writing was very easily accessible, it was pleasantly written and a quick read and it made me want to pick up another Robin Klein!

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