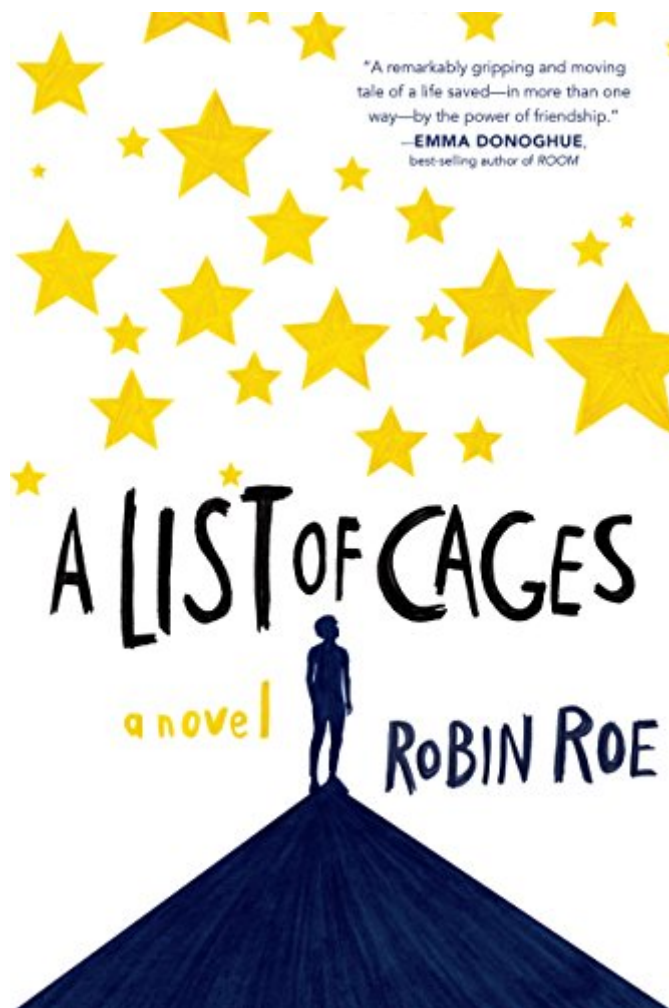


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# A List Of Cages



## Synopsis

FIVE STARRED REVIEWS! #1 BESTSELLER! "I love this book with my whole heart."--Jennifer Niven "Remarkably gripping and moving."--Emma Donoghue "Triumphant."--Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Beautiful and brilliant."--Shelf Awareness (starred review) "Emotional, visceral...heartbreaking...and beautiful."--School Library Journal (starred review) When Adam Blake lands the best elective ever in his senior year, serving as an aide to the school psychologist, he thinks he's got it made. Sure, it means a lot of sitting around, which isn't easy for a guy with ADHD, but he can't complain, since he gets to spend the period texting all his friends. Then the doctor asks him to track down the troubled freshman who keeps dodging her, and Adam discovers that the boy is Julian--the foster brother he hasn't seen in five years. Adam is ecstatic to be reunited. At first, Julian seems like the boy he once knew. He's still kind hearted. He still writes stories and loves picture books meant for little kids. But as they spend more time together, Adam realizes that Julian is keeping secrets, like where he hides during the middle of the day, and what's really going on inside his house. Adam is determined to help him, but his involvement could cost both boys their lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book broke my heart and then pieced it back together again. Part of it is like "Perks of Being A Wallflower," part is like "A Little Life," and Robin Roe wrangles a heartbreaking subject with the dexterity of a master storyteller. A LIST OF CAGES will destroy you and rebuild you and will stay with you long after you're finished reading it. One of my favorite lines is an observation Julian makes, comparing his mean science teacher to Adam's easygoing kindness: "Hate ricochets, but kindness does too." The book left me longing for more Adams in this world.

I most enjoy novels with depth where the characters learn and grow a bit through their experiences. A List of Cages most certainly fits that bill. I found myself thinking about the characters the day after I finished the novel. That's always a sign of a good, satisfying book. I always wonder what magic formula authors use to make readers immediately care about their characters. Robin Roe does a particularly good job of that in this heart-wrenching yet charming novel centered around the friendship between two teen boys who each deal with challenging personality quirks. The "supporting characters" are interesting as well. Watch out for Charlie, he's a sleeper and provides just the right touch of comic relief! I can't help but think what a great sidekick role his character would make for a young actor when this story gets translated to film. There were several lines that were so beautiful, succinct, and full of emotional depth they took my breath away. Among them: "People I love will be watching me. Their eyes like safety nets, I can't fall." Buy this book, read it, and share it with your friends.

This story hooked me from the very first chapters. I've been on a Kasie West spree lately and I actually put one of her books down to read this instead. I just was absolutely transfixed and gobbled up this story as fast as I could. I don't want to say that I enjoyed this story because it is very sad. But there are moments when Julian is happy and surrounded by people that care about him that I was really enjoying those moments for him. There is just so much sadness and pain in his life that it is very hard not to feel happy for him when he gets a good day. The friendship between Adam and Julian was amazing and beautiful. Adam seemed to know what to do/say to bring Julian out of his shell a little bit or get him to admit to things that he wanted to do but wouldn't say out loud. I loved that this was a novel about brotherhood and friendship. That all of the characters in here are so deeply

compassionate and care for one another (with a few notable exceptions). But they made their group of friends seem like a family and I can really connect with that and understand that. Beautiful and touching. 5 stars.

Thanks to NetGalley and Disney-Hyperion for the opportunity to read and review *A List of Cages* by Robin Roe! Julian doesn't feel as though he belongs anywhere, at school or at home where he lives with his uncle. He likes to hide in a small secret room behind the school stage where he can be alone and no one knows where he is. I immediately felt protective of Julian and hated how people assumed that he was stupid and treated him horribly. He's had a tragic past and he's presently living in an unhappy world. Adam knows Julian because his family fostered him for a while after the death of his parents until Julian's Uncle Russell stepped into their lives and took Julian away. Uncle Russell is a force to be reckoned with and has more issues than anyone realizes. This tragic and touching realistic fiction story earns 5 stars!

This book was absolutely fanfreakingtastic. I am feeling kind of speechless as to how this book made me feel. I cried several times while reading it, and I think this is one of the most moving books I have read in quite a while. The trauma that Julian had to deal with just made me sad and mad because nothing was being done about it. Which I completely understand. In the mindset of someone experiencing trauma, they never want to tell anyone, especially the police, because it will get back to the person who is causing the trauma, they will be ticked, and then they will cause even more trauma on this person. But it was so hard to read. Julian was somebody that I just wanted to protect and let him know that there are people that actually care very deeply about him and that what Russell was doing to him was not love. Adam truly cares about him, and Russell tries to put it in his mind that Julian did not care about him in the slightest, and that really ticked me off. Julian is just this little special snowflake that you want to protect from harm for forever, and I just wanted to freaking kill Russell for trying to snuff out that light that was in Julian. I freaking loved Adam, first of all. I loved how much he cared about everyone around him. He was popular, but he wasn't like a jerk. He was actually super nice to every single person, and his energy just lifts people up. And he really, really cared about Julian, even before he knew what was going on. And all he wanted to do was help Julian, and that is exactly what he did. He helped him. Seeing Julian in pain really just put him in pain because he did care about Julian so much. He was like a little brother to Adam, and he wanted to kill Russell, and I was right on board with that. Russell was a character that obviously I despised with every fiber of my being, and I personally wanted to

see him die in a pretty painful way. I hated what he was doing to Julian, I hated why he was doing it, and I freaking hated him because he's an abusive jerkface. He would try to put these ideas in his head that all of his friends weren't really his friends; they just wanted something from him. He tried to get Julian to believe that Adam and his mom really booted Julian out when it was all Russell's fault that Julian had to leave. I just freaking hated this man. The trauma described in this novel just brought tears to my eyes. I just was crying every time something happened to Julian. Like I am seriously about to cry just thinking about what that despicable man did to Julian. The trauma seemed very realistic, which is how I ended up crying because it felt so real and very accurate and I just wanted to murder Russell for pretty much the entirety of the book, and then I wanted to keep young Julian safe and away from harm. This book just made me feel a lot of things. Overall, this was an absolutely fanfreakingtastic debut book and a fantastic book in general. I loved the characters, the really heartbreaking story line, and the beautiful writing. This book was just fantastic, and I know it will stay with me for a long while. Highly, highly recommend you check this one out!

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