



BOOK REVIEW OF LET IT SNOW

WRITTEN BY JOHN GREEN, LAUREN MYRACLE, And MAUREEN

JOHNSON

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For S-1 Degree in Literature

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Ruth Lydia Sitorus

13020111140131

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2015

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's who expect for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, April 2015

Ruth Lydia Sitorus

MOTTO And DEDICATION

Ujilah segala sesuatu dan peganglah yang baik.

(1 Tesalonika 5:21).

Apa saja yang kamu minta dalam doa dengan penuh kepercayaan, kamu akan menerimanya.

(Matius 21:22)

Bersyukur dan selalu berdoa ya, Kak.

(Mama)

This final project dedicated to my One and Only, Jesus Christ and my beloved parents

APPROVAL

Approved by

Advisor,

Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197507111999031002

VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata 1 Thesis Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University
on June 2015

Chair Person

Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 197212231998022001

Second Member

Prof. Dr. Nurdien H Kistanto, M.A
NIP. 197212231998022001

First Member

Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 197407252008011013

Third Member

Dr. IM Hendrarti, M.A.
NIP. 19530728198012201

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise to Lord who has given strength, health, patience, inspiration and great spirit so this final project on “*Book Review of Let It Snow Written by John Green, Lauren Myracle, and Maureen Johnson* “ came to a completion. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the completion of this research report.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum, as the writer advisor, who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advices and suggestion, without which it is doubtful that this final project came into completion.

The writer’s deepest thank also goes to the following:

1. Dr. Rediyanto M. Noor, M.Hum, as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University
2. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum, as the Head of English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University
3. All lecturers of English Department.
4. The writer’s dad and mom who always guide her, protect her and loving her.
She is blessed to have both of them in her life. Thank you for everything☺
5. The writer’s siblings, Daniel Baginda Oloan Sitorus, Novita Grace Sitorus and Wahyu Sitorus for being such an amazing brother and sister
6. The writer’s special one: Boni Hutasoit who always believe in her

7. The writer's Bou: Bou Shinta, who always support her
8. The writer's super best friend, Novieta Sinaga and Sandra Glaudia
9. The writer's friends in English Department 2011, Hestiana Larasati, Novindya, Yussi, Zahro
10. The writer's bestfriend: Mitra Siahaan, Yolanda Panjaitan, Natanael Togatorop, Batara Manurung, Lydia Sitinjak, Rani Tambunsaribu, Naomi Hutabarat, Andrian Simangunsong, Karolina Siahaan, Carles Sitohang, Pungu Simatupang, Yohana Silaban, Eveline Siburian, Surung Silalahi for the silly things that happened everyday
11. Humber HKBP Kertanegara, Evilola Pardede, Lukmen Sinaga, Hendra Tamba, Widya Simangunsong, Terry Butar-Butar for being her family, she is truly love all of them.
12. Sekolah Minggu HKBP Kertanegara for the joy and happiness
13. The writer's *abang and kakak*, Rima Napitupulu, Rinaldi Siahaan, Daud Aruan, Deborah Aritonang, Yohanna Purba, Meitisa Simanjuntak for the advices
14. The writer's *adik*, Inggri Pakpahan, Heru Hasibuan, Lidia Simanjuntak, Rose Samosir, Radot Marpaung, Kennedy Silalahi, Dessy Silitonga, Bryan Nainggolan, Indah Nababan
15. Pengurus SAHABAT dan BAHAGIA
16. The writer's great team, Taipei Model United Nation 2014, for the unforgettable experiences
17. The writer's family in Semarang: Sonakmalela. Thank you for being so kind.

18. The writer's house mate, Chaida, Aulia, and Fany Situmeang

The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfect. Therefore, she will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the readers.

Semarang, April 2015

Ruth Lydia Sitorus

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE.....	i
PRONONCEMENT.....	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	iii
APPROVAL.....	iv
VALIDATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER II SHORT BIOGRAPHY.....	2
CHAPTER II SUMMARY OF `THE BOOK.....	4
CHAPTER III REVIEW OF THE BOOK.....	8
III.1 The Strength of the book	
III.2 The Weakness of The Book	
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION.....	14
REFERENCE.....	15
APPENDICES.....	16

ABSTRAK

Novel adalah salah satu bentuk karya sastra yang digunakan seseorang untuk menuangkan ekspresi dan pikirannya. Dalam Tugas Akhir ini, penulis memilih novel *Let It Snow* sebagai bahan kajian yang digunakan karena *Let It Snow* ditulis oleh kolaborasi tiga penulis cerita romantis populer saat ini yaitu John Green, Lauren Myrtle, dan Maureen Johnson. Novel ini terdiri atas tiga cerita berbeda yang berhubungan satu dengan yang lain. Novel ini menceritakan tentang tiga cerita cinta saat badai salju menyerang Gracetown dan semua tokohnya mengalami pengalaman cinta yang berbeda di malam Natal. Penulis akan menulis review serta memaparkan kelebihan dan kekurangannya. Alasan penulis memilih novel ini karena novel ini merupakan perpaduan yang manis dari tiga novelis besar yang menuangkan emosi cinta mereka dalam satu karya sastra dengan gaya dan penyampaian yang berbeda.

I. Introduction

Literary works exist because it expresses events, thoughts, and human feeling that get someone interested. It can be found that the element of the human feeling are described appropriately and applied into literary works and one of them may be realized into novel. One of the most widely discussed themes in the novel is love. Almost all people in this world must have ever dreamed about love and they have their own way to describe the feeling itself in the novel. According to Nurgiyantoro (2009:68), theme is a meaning existing in a story. Theme is a general and basic idea in a literary work, theme becomes the basic development for the whole story. *Let It Snow* is a unique novel because it consists of three separates stories from three authors that linked to one to another. The stories are *Jubilee Express*, *A Cheertastic Christmas Miracle*, and *The Patron Saint of Pigs*. *Let It Snow* describes a story about love in Gracetown on Christmas Eve. Even the authors choose the same theme and setting of time, they pour the energy of love into different ways in each story. *Let It Snow* is interesting to be reviewed because in this novel one can feel the different atmosphere of love described by each author.

The writer is trying to analyze the strength and weakness of the novel based on how the author delivered each story in this novel.

This book review is aimed at giving a brief summary about *Let It Snow* and to present the strength and weakness of *Let It Snow*. The strength and weakness of each story in this novel are very interesting to be reviewed and as a consideration of the reader in determining whether they should read this novel or not.

II. Short Biography of Maureen Johnson, John Green, and Lauren Myracle

II.1.1 Maureen Johnson

Maureen Johnson is a writer who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Maureen graduated from the University of Delaware, home of the Fighting Blue Hens as a writing major. She spent most of her time working on shows then she moved to New York to study theatrical dramaturgy and writing at Columbia University School of the Arts. Based on her official website in www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com/, in May of 2004, Maureen released her first novel, *The Key to the Golden Firebird* then it was followed by *The Bermudez Triangle* and *13 Little Blue Envelopes* in 2005, *Devilish* in 2006, and *Girl at Sea* in 2007. Johnson currently lives in New York and often travels between that city and London. When Johnson is not writing she raises funds for charities to aid victims of natural disasters through organizations such as the American Red Cross.

II.1.2 John Green

John Green is a popular name in the American young adult fiction because of his famous literary works. He is also a YouTube video-blogger, or "vlogger", with his brother and their Youtube channel named Vlogbrothers. It has over 1.880.000 subscribers as of March 2014. John Michael Green was born on August 24, 1977 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In his official website, johngreenbooks.com/bio-contact/, he mentioned that he received his early education from Lake Highland Preparatory School and Indian Springs School, then he earned double graduation degrees in English and Religious Studies from Kenyon College. He worked as a student

chaplain after graduation in a children's hospital. His initial aim was to become an Episcopal priest. However, the time he spent among children with terminal-illness stimulated him to become a writer. He won the 2006 Printz Award for his debut novel, *Looking For Alaska* and this novel inspired by his experiences at Indian Springs, fictionalized as Culver Creek Preparatory High School. His most recent novel, *The Fault In Our Stars*, becomes the number one The New York Times Best Seller List in 2012. Now, Green lives in Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife, Sarah Urist Green, who works as the Curator of Contemporary Art at Indianapolis Museum of Art, whom he married on May 21, 2006 with their children Hendry and Alice.

II.1.3 Lauren Myracle

Lauren Myracle is the author of numerous young adult novels. She was born in 1969. She grew up in Atlanta, Georgia where she attended Trinity School and The Westminster School. In her website, www.paperbackswap.com/Lauren-Myracle/author, it is mentioned that Lauren Myracle held an MA in English from Colorado State University and an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College. She has written many novels, including the famous IM books, *ttyl*, *tfn*, and *l8r*, *g8r*. Her first novel, *Kissing Kate*, was selected as one of ALA's "Best Books for Young Adults" for the year 2004. It was named by Booklist as one of the "Top Ten Youth Romances" of the year, as well as one of the "Top Ten Books by New Writers." Her middle-grade novel, *Eleven*, came out 2004, followed by its YA sequels (*Twelve*, *Thirteen*, *Thirteen Plus One*). She worked for some time as a middle-school teacher in Gwinnett County, Georgia and participated in the JET Program in Japan.

III. Summary of The Book

III. 1.1 The Jubilee Express

The story starts on the night before Christmas when Jubilee Dougal has a plan to go to Noah's house. Noah is her boyfriend and Jubilee is invited to attend Noah's family annual Christmas Eve. The Price Family Annual Smorgasbord is a big deal in their personal history because last year -Juli-, Jubilee's nickname, she thought that Jubilee was not a name because she was named after Flobie Santa Village building #4, Jubilee Hall, had been already invited by Noah to come to his house. Everything turns out wrong when Jubilee's parents have been taken into custody because they are so obsessed that they are mistaken for mob in Flobie showroom. Jubilee is sent to Florida to stay with her grandparents because her lawyer Sam is unable to get them out of county jail when she is supposed to go to Noah's house for the annual Christmas Eve. When Jubilee was trying to explain to Noah how things turned out to her, Noah seemed uninterested. It is Christmas and she knows Noah will be busy. While on the train ride to her grandparents' place, the train gets stuck in Gracetown, which becomes the setting of the whole stories, then they announce that the train cannot move again until tomorrow morning. Jubilee heads over to a Waffle House, and she meets a whole host of people including Jeb, who is trying to contact his girlfriend back home but is unable to find cell phone service, 14 cheerleaders and a Korean manager of the Waffle House, Keun. Jubilee gets annoyed when the train is stuck in a large snowstorm on Christmas Eve, she is trying to call Noah but there is no answer and Noah has not contacted her at all that night. Jubilee meets Stuart and he invited her to come to his house to celebrate Christmas together with his family. Jubilee

stayed in Stuart's house for days, fun with Stuart and his family too. She discovered that Stuart's brokenhearted by a cheerleader name Chloe whom he loves so much yet betrayed him and went with another man. Back to Jubilee and Noah's relationship, Jubilee realized that Noah was not the perfect boyfriend because he didn't show any concerns and finally she broke up with him.

III.1.2 A Cheertastic Christmas Miracle

The second story is Cheertastic Christmas Miracle by John Green. It began when Tobin must stay alone without his family on Christmas Eve because his family got stucked in Boston for three days attending Doctor's conference. He decided to spend the night of Christmas by watching moviewith his best friend, JP and Duke. On that Christmas Eve, his friends Don-Keun called them to come to Waffle House to celebrate Christmas Eve because there were 14 cheerleaders stayed there all night but Tobin, JP and Duke had to come before Timmy and Tomm Reston who were also invited by Don Keun's friends first since therewas only one room at Waffle House. The problem began when Tobin and friends found some difficulties to drive through a snowstorm and it seemed impossible to arrive safely and swiftly at Waffle House. They were trying really hard to go to Waffle House. During the trip, they almost got killed since the heavy snowstorm impeded their way and made too much snow on both sides of their car and they couldn't run anywhere. As they arrived at Waffle House, the room was full of beautiful cheerleaders and Tobin attempted to make a conversation with one of them since he saw that Billy Talos, talking with Duke. He flirted with the cheerleader and laughedtogether. Duke also felt jealous, she walked

out and made a confession to Tobin. She says that she loves Tobin and she hated when Tobin is talking to some girl like he never talked to her. In the end, Tobin also confessed his love to Duke and he said that he did a conversation with the cheerleader only to get Duke's attention.

III.3 The Patron Saint of Pigs

It is Christmas and Addie broke up with his boyfriend, Jeb. She is cold, and alone and probably lumpish. She missed Jeb so much because she made a wrong mistake. She broke up with Jeb because he couldn't give her a necklace for their sixth month anniversary and she regretted her decision. She had written Jeb a pathetic e-mail asking him to meet her at Starbucks so they could talk but Jeb never showed up and didn't replay her message. Addie was waiting for Jeb Starbucks for nearly two hours and Jeb didn't come and didn't call. She went to Fantastic Sam's, a barbershop and told the stylist to lop her hair off and dye what was left of it into pink color. Addie called Tegan and Dorrie, her best friend to come to her house but they pointed that she was being self centered and that Jeb had not given her everything he could. Addie cursed herself and she had not enjoyed the Cherries Jubilee last night because she was not sure that she believed in the joy and magic of Christmas anymore. Addie was in denial about her friend statement, and to prove them wrong she volunteered to get Tegan's pig at the pet shop but she wasn't lucky because the pig was already sold to another. The pig was sold to Mayzie and Addie asked Mayzie to give her the pig and finally Addie came to Starbucks with the pig in her hands. Addie was working at Starbucks when she saw two couples Tobin and Duke and Stuart and Jubilee, then

she began to miss Jeb. Christina, the manager of Starbucks called Addie and Tobin, Anggi was hearing that and approached Addie that they saw Jeb at Waffle House earlier and Jubilee told that she and Jeb were together in a trip an got stuck in a Gracetown because of the snowstorm and she explained that Jeb really wanted to meet her but there was no signal at that time. Addie felt sorry and he didn't want to hear the explanation because she already knew it from Jubilee. She kissed Jeb and asked him to start their relationship over again.

IV. Review of The Book

IV.1.1 The Strength of *The Jubilee Express*

Maureen Johnson writes the story in great details. She describes where the events took place and the character involved in details. Therefore, the readers find it easy to figure out the places and the characters in this book.

“I have never, ever been so happy to see a house. It was entirely outlined by a faint greenish glow, interspersed with tiny dots of red. The back door was unlocked. It was a simply house. With a yard in front of the house, with warmth, and a residual smell of cooked turkey and cookies and tree” (Johnson:59)

The characterization of this story is clearly illustrated so that we can imagine the appearance clearly. For example, the description of Jubilee Dougal, it can be seen in the sentences below:

“I have a little black bob. I wear glasses half the time, and contacts the other half. I’m sixteen, I sing choir, I attend Mathletes event. I play field hockey, which lacks the undulating-baby-oiled grace that is the stripper’s stock-in-trade” (Johnson:4)

In this novel Johnson also tells the reader that loving each other is a must thing to do in a relationship. In the last chapter, Jubilee realized that Noah was not a good boyfriend when Stuart talked to Jubilee about Noah:

“Yeah, well if I had a girlfriend, and her parents had been arrested on Christmas Eve, and she had to take a long train ride through a storm... I’d have my phone in my hand all night. And I would answer it. On the first ring. Every time. I’d be calling her to check on her” (Johnson:98)

IV.1.2 The Strength of A *Cherrtastic Christmas Miracle*

The language used by the author applies slang and black English in a daily conversation, it makes this story fresh and different from other stories in this novel. For example, the author choose the words “dig” “ gotta” “ex” “hangout” “dunno” “chill out” in her story. This is also shown by the following quotation...”What’ll ya have? And the guy says, “**Whaddya** got? And the bartender says, “I **dunno** what I got.” (Green:124)

This story also talks about another theme when the author added a value and intrigue of friendship, it makes some strong points in this story because it is not just a relationship between two people like the other stories. In the beginning of the story, John Green described the warmth relationship of Tobin and his friends. “...And why don’t you come over to my house for Christmas?” JP asked” (Green: 125). The strong friendship is also shown in this sentence “...being in a bad mood with your friends beats being in a bad mood without them” (Green:212). Friendship value in this story appears when Tobin feels confused about how to spend night on Christmas Eve without family because his family has to attend doctor conferences in Boston. Then, one of his friends, named JP asked him to celebrate Christmas together with his family.

IV.1.3 The Strength of The Patron Saint of Pigs

There are many moral (love) lessons that the reader can get after reading this story. The first is sacrifice. Sacrifice is doing everything for the beloved ones. Sacrifice can happen in a family, friend, or beloved. In the *The Patron Saint of Pigs*

Jeb has done sacrifice. Jeb sacrifices for Addie to get Addie on Christmas Eve with him and rebuild their relationship but he got stuck in Waffle House. Jeb spent a night in a snow storm searching for the telephone to make a call with Addie and made sure that he would come soon. "...And I tried to use the Waffle House phone, but the manager was like, 'Sorry, no can do. Crisis mode.'" (Myracle: 351). It teaches us that someone has to struggle for getting and sacrificing what she/he wants.

The author gives a lesson to the reader about relationship by showing that we need to think twice before making a decision. In this story, Addie break up with Jeb just because a silly reason, Jeb can't give her what she wants in their six month anniversary. Addie becomes so sad because she loves Jeb so much, Jeb is a part of her life but she could not control herself to think twice and accepted the reason from Jeb. "...I lop my hair off and dye what was left of it pink. I was brokenhearted, self-loathing, plucked pink chicken." (Myracle: 218). Based on the quotation, Addie's personality changes because she regretted that she ended her relationship with Jeb. This situation help the reader to take a lesson from the events that have been occurred and to keep control the emotion in every circumstances.

Myracle also provides her story with wise wording "...Any sentence that combined "I love you" and "but" could not be good" (Myracle: 324). Myracle wants to show us that love should be linked one to another without any doubt.

IV.2 The Weaknesses of *Let It Snow*

After reading this novel, the writer found a lot of strong points contained in this story. But it is not fair only to discuss the strong points without seeing the weaknesses

IV.2.1 The Weaknesses of *Jubilee Express*

Too many characters are things that make this story confusing for the reader. Jubilee has 27 characters, there are Jubilee Express, Noah, Stuart, Jeb, Sam, Chloe, Rachel, Debby, Tinfoil Guy, Jubilee's mom and dad, Jubilee's grandparents, and 14 cheerleaders. There are only three characters who become the main characters and dominated the story from the beginning until the end of the story. The other characters are the additional elements building the entire story of *Jubilee Express*. Thus, a lot of additional characters in this story confuses the readers. Here, the reader has to pointed their attention only to the main character because the author does not explaining about the character descriptively. The additional character in this story only has a little conversation and do not give impact to the plot of the story. This make the reader can easily forget them because there are no tendencies as expressed in speech and action. For example, the conversation between Jubilee and Rachel (Noah's sister) which happened only once in a whole story. "...Who are you? She said exactly. "I am Rachel!" (Johnson:75)

The next weakness is that there is no dialogue of Jubilee's parents in this story. Her parents are only narrated by the narrator. It feels like there is no big correlation between the problems happened with Jubilee's parents and Jubilee on that Christmas Eve. The one who gives information about her parents only her family's lawyer, Sam. "They have been taken into custody," he said. "They're in jail." (Johnson:11). The conversation of Jubilee and her parents should appear since the problem is Jubilee must go to Florida and absent to attend Noah's party because of

her parents was sent to jail. The writer should add the conversation to support the story so the reader will understand better about the author's purpose.

IV.2.2 The Weakness of Cheerrtastic Christmas Miracle

There are two weaknesses that the writer found in Green's story. The settings of the story are unclearly described because there are many locations in this story. The story starts to be confusing when Tobin and his friends are trying really hard to get to the Waffle House driving car because the author almost repeated the situation and the setting in the same way. They found so many obstacles to get a Waffle House like the storm made it almost impossible, their car got stuck and the bumper was broke. "Carla, get your fat gas-guzzling ass to the top of the hill!" (Green: 148). "...I kicked Carla's bumper, as the snow fell wet onto my face." (Johnson: 174)

IV.2.3 The Weaknesses of *The Patron Saint of Pigs*

The first weaknesses of this story can be seen by the single character who experienced a broken hearted in which she decided to adopt pigs and after that the story is become flat. The author only shows that Addie broke up with her boyfriend, she regretted and decided to cut her hair. As a result, the readers will feel reluctant to continue reading the story until the end.

The next weakness is the author did not mention the characterization of Addie character descriptively. Main character makes the story interesting since it becomes the most important character in a story. The author just expresses that Addie is a desperate young girl in her Mom speech. This is the words from Addie's mother because she saw that Addie was crying all night "...well, sweetie, you've cried yourself to sleep almost every night."

Myracle also misses some points in the story. The readers expect to see the *Saint of Pigs* is, but the author does not elaborate the story. The title is too sophisticated because the ending of this story is too flat and did not represent the title itself.

V. Conclusion

This is an interesting novel written by three authors. According to wikipediaa.com, this novel is one of bestseller books which wins many awards and become New York Time Bestseller. The additional sentences on the top of the cover also give advantage for the novel.

There are many strengths and weaknesses of this novel. Each story provides the different atmosphere based on its author. The writer believes that the novel background is writing descriptively in each story so the reader could easily imagine the portrait of the snowstorm. The three authors also present the reader a lesson of love by adding a quotation to communicate the message of love. They tell the reader that love is not only looking for whom you will spend your life with but also about grabbing a chance to pursue our dreams which will not appear twice. This novel also has some weaknesses. In the story *Cheerrtastic Christmas Miracle*, the reader get bored because it becomes confusing in the middle of the story. In the story *The Patron Saint of Pigs* the author did not explain the characterization of each character descriptively. The writer gives the 1st rank towards *The Jubilee Express* by Maureen Johnson.

Overall, this novel is a good story and could be a recommendation for the readers because it has an amazing story provide by each authors.

REFERENCES

Green, John. Myracle, Lauren. Johnson, Maureen. 2008. *Let It Snow*. USA: Penguin Books

Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. 2009. *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University

https://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/sites/default/files/popular_american_slang_words_and_phrases.pdf

www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com/

<https://www.johngreenbooks.com/bio-contact.com>

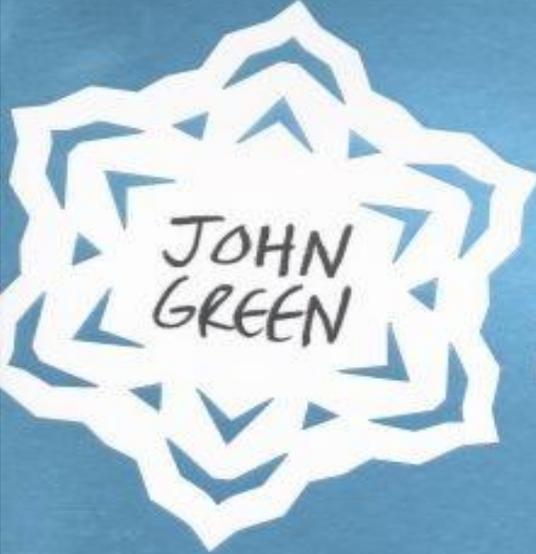
www.paperbackswap.com/Lauren-Myracle/author

APPENDICES



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

LET IT SNOW

A large, intricate white snowflake graphic with a complex, multi-layered geometric pattern. The author's name is centered within the snowflake.

JOHN
GREEN

A large, intricate white snowflake graphic with a complex, multi-layered geometric pattern. The author's name is centered within the snowflake.

MAUREEN
JOHNSON

A large, intricate white snowflake graphic with a complex, multi-layered geometric pattern. The author's name is centered within the snowflake.

LAUREN
MYRACLE

THREE
HOLIDAY
ROMANCES

