

# A taste into the holidays

By Zarina Cabrera '25

As the Christmas season approaches many of the festive products are being displayed once again. If you are interested in a candy that will suit your holiday cravings you should give candy canes a try! A common purchase during this time is candy, many people turn to candy canes as they are one of the most popular sweets during Christmas time.

During the holiday season candy canes are a customary buy because of their delicious and refreshing taste. Candy canes can have a variety of flavors and colors that are fun for kids and all of those who wish to enjoy a fun, merry treat. The traditional candy cane taste consists of a fresh peppermint flavor that is delightful to the taste buds. The taste is followed by a soothing scent of mint that emits a relaxing and warm feeling.

If you are interested in buying these candies they can be found in many different locations. They are sold in grocery type stores, such as Kroger, but they can also be found at places such as Walmart, Target, and Big Lots. And, if you don't feel like going out you can even buy them online from Amazon!

Any place you choose can be a relatively close and inexpensive visit. The average price to buy a candy cane ranges from \$2-\$5 and they tend to be sold in a pack, giving the buyer multiple candies in a single trip!

Candy canes are a great alternative if you aren't a big fan of chocolate.

Chocolate is another highly sold candy during the holiday time, but many people seek something not as sweet, candy canes have a balance of sweet and savory without one overpowering the other. Chocolate is also known to make a bigger mess with children because they tend to melt faster.

I rate this candy a 9/10 because, though the candy is tasty and uniquely shaped, the texture of it can offset a person's desire to try and eat one. It has an interesting consistency that can be difficult to bite and chew. Candy canes don't typically create a mess, but if you have them for an extended period they can become unsatisfying due to the sticky residue they produce.

It's a delicate candy that is quite brittle and could potentially be messy however, with simple caution the candy can be enjoyed.



Picture credit to <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/>



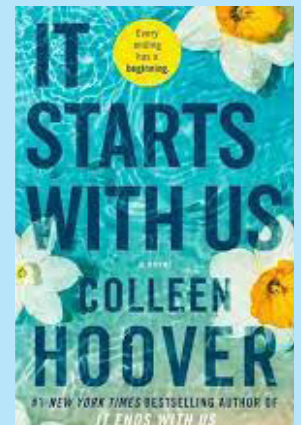
# Colleen Hoover steals the hearts of readers in new sequel

Reviewed by: Abbey Otte

Whether you are a big romance book reader or getting out of your reader slump, you will absolutely fall in love with “It Starts With Us”. This book is the sequel to “It Ends With Us” written by Colleen Hoover. “It Ends With Us” was released in August of 2016 and didn’t reach significant popularity until it went viral on TikTok. If you know anything about books, TikTok created a whole new genre of books called BookTok. You can’t even walk into a Barnes and Noble without having a huge sign and stacks of books labeled BookTok.

Colleen Hoover is a flawless author, especially in her tragic romance books that you just can’t put down. Each book will make you get emotionally attached to each character and question if you have found your new favorite book. She has single-handedly sold over 20 million books and wrote 24 unique stories. “It Starts With Us” is her most recent book released in October 2022 and stole the hearts of 800,000 readers.

The first book follows two characters, Atlas and Lily, in changing perspectives. The book explains Atlas and Lily’s journey during childhood years through letters that Lily wrote while it follows Lily and Atlas as grown adults. Lily and Atlas have been in love with each other since high school but had to hide their relationship from Lily’s parents. Lily lived with an abusive father, while Atlas dealt with constant homelessness. Older Lily falls in love and marries a dreamy doctor named Ryle but he deals with anger issues and abuses Lily. This brings back her childhood trauma and she later bumps into Atlas who helps her leave Ryle while pregnant with Ryle’s child.



The second book finally gives readers the happy ending that Lily and Atlas deserve. It picks up from the last book where Lily reconnects with Atlas after she leaves Ryle. Lily and Ryle finally have a good co-parenting plan and harmony with each other. When Atlas asks Lily on a date she immediately excerpts. The only problem is the more they get serious, the more it upsets Ryle. Lily has to find a way to be with the love of her life, while keeping peace with the most hated person in her life.

I believe “It Starts With Us” would be the perfect feel good gift or winter break read. As someone who reads books with barely any time in their day, this book will make you want to take it with you everywhere you go. I would rate this book a 8/10 for many reasons. This book just makes you feel so happy and the visually appealing cover will look great on any shelf or book collection. The characters are very relatable and loveable that it makes you feel as if they were a part of your life. The only downside to this book is the fact that the book is almost a little too much of a feel good and doesn’t have any bad situations. I find this a minor detail because you always need a good feel good book once in a while. Overall this book is another great hit by Colleen Hoover that will make you smile from ear to ear. To find more information, you can visit <https://www.colleenhoover.com/>

**Kaylee Simon**

# **STARBUCKS HOLIDAY DRINKS RETURN**

Photo Courtesy: Starbucks

If you're looking for a festive holiday drink, then the Starbucks Peppermint Mocha Frappuccino is a favorable option. It has been back for the holiday season since November 3. This latte is made with milk, espresso, peppermint syrup, mocha sauce, it has whipped cream and chocolate curls on top.

Starbucks is the largest coffeehouse chain in the world. It was founded in 1971 in Pike Place Market in Seattle, WA. The name Starbucks was inspired by the novel "Moby-Dick". In 1982 Howard Schultz joined the company, he took a trip to Milan and brought back inspiration for coffee. Soon after that it expanded to the East Coast, West Coast, Midwest, and Canada. The first overseas store opened in 1996 in Japan. Now they welcome millions of customers every week.

Even though it's winter and frappuccinos are cold drinks, it is still my drink of choice whenever I go to Starbucks. Although if cold drinks aren't your style they also have a warm peppermint mocha. I rate this drink a five out of five. It is chocolaty with just the right amount of coffee for me, it is a holiday staple that I look forward to every year. Even though it is a bit on the costly side with prices from \$5.25 to \$6.25, the phenomenal taste makes up for it.



There are many Starbucks all around Delaware, Powell, and Lewis Center so they are most people's way to school or work. Most of the Starbucks are open from 6am to 8pm but they vary depending on location. Most of the stores offer a dine-in, drive-through, and mobile order pick-up, but it all depends on the store. My experiences at Starbucks have been five out of five. I not only go there to get food and drinks but also study with my friends. The staff are welcoming and friendly. For more information, visit <https://www.starbucks.com/>.

# REESES PEANUT BUTTER CUP REVIEW

BY: TAYLOR M. LEWIS

MILK CHOCOLATE AND SOFT PEANUT BUTTER, A DUO THAT'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY BUT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE, WITHIN NEARLY 100 YEARS OF EXISTENT, REESES BEING MADE IN THE LATE 1920'S A MOUTHWATERING TREAT WAS BORN NOT ONLY ARE THEY HISTORIC BUT THEY PLAYED ROLES IN MANY CHILDHOODS INCLUDING MINE, FROM BEING A PEAK FAVORITE CANDY AT 5 YEARS OLD TO ITS DOWNFALL WHEN A LITTLE TOO MANY AWOKE AN ICK , THE TASTE IS QUITE LITERALLY UNFORGETTABLE.



WITHIN REESE'S VERSATILITY MANY COLLABS WERE MADE WITH THE CHOCOLATE BRAND SUCH AS KAWS, TRAVIS SCOTT, LIL YACHTY AND MORE; FUN FACT, DID YOU KNOW THAT FAMOUS RAPPER LIL YACHTY'S FAVORITE CEREAL IS REESE'S CEREAL, COLLATING WITH THE BRAND HAD MEANT A LOT TO HIM DUE TO HIM ALWAYS ENJOYING THE CEREAL AND CANDY TO THE POINT OF HIM EVEN MAKING A SONG ABOUT THE BRAND LEADING TO HIS COLLAB!

REESE'S EXPANSION BECAME VERY VERSATILE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS FROM JUMBO CUPS, BEING INFUSED WITH POTATO CHIPS AND BEING TURNED INTO A WELL KNOWN CEREAL CREATED IN 1994 BUT PEAKING IN THE EARLY 2000'S TO EVEN NOW BEING SOLD INFUSED WITH THE CEREAL TODAY. REESE'S HAVE NEVER HAD COMPETITION AS IT HAS BLOWN SALES YEARLY ALONGSIDE ITS COLLABORATION WITH HERSHEY, JOINED IN 1956 REESES AND HERSHEY HAS ROSE TO THE TOP FIVE OF THE CANDY PYRAMID AND CONTINUED THEIR STREAK OF NOT ONLY BEING ONE OF THE MOST SOLD CHOCOLATES IN AMERICA BUT AS WELL BEING KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS BEING AMERICAS CHOCOLATE BAR STANDARD ALONGSIDE HERSHEY. REESE'S CAN BE SOLD IN ANY STORE BY YOU RANGING FROM GAS STATIONS, DOLLAR STORES, SHOPPING CENTERS EVEN WITH THEIR PARTNER BUSINESSES AMUSEMENT PARK, HERSHEY LAND.

# BUFFALO WILD WINGS

By: Ryan Laws



Buffalo Wild Wings is currently one of the most popular restaurants in America. As sports fans come in to dine every week to watch their favorite team while eating wings. Although many people love this restaurant, it still has its flaws. To start off with the pros, the wings is what makes this restaurant so special. No matter how much prices have gone up with chicken wing prices, people are still willing to pay the price to eat them. There are also plenty of options to choose from when ordering wings. As the sauces go from sweet barbecue to blazing sauce. If you are not in the mood for wings, don't worry, as the menu also includes burgers, wraps, sandwiches, and many sides and appetizers as well. The experience overall in person is great. Some cons with BW3 would be the takeout. Majority of the complaints about this restaurant are from the takeout because it can be unpredictable. Sometimes when you order food online or on the phone, the website or person will say 30-35 minutes before the order is ready. However, when people go to pick up the food, it turns out that your food is not ready, as many other people who also ordered take out haven't gotten their order yet either, meaning you are just standing there waiting for your food. There have also been multiple complaints about how people's orders have been messed up while doing take out. So, when you go to eat your food, you realize that the order is mixed up with someone else's. One other complaint is the lack of workers at times. Sometimes when people are wanting to eat at Buffalo Wild Wings, the workers would have to warn customers stating that it'll be a long wait due to workers not showing up on time or just simply not wanting to work. This would then, make some customers really upset and leave a poor review. I personally have had both of these cons happen to me. On a few occasions, I have ordered takeout and my order was wrong or it was missing items. I have also been advised of long wait times due to lack of employees. Other than those two major problems, Buffalo Wild Wings is a great choice to go and watch sports while eating really good food. I would rate Buffalo Wild Wings an overall 8.5 out of 10.

# Could this product melt your heart?

By Audrie Prince '25

A wax warmer is an alternative to a candle, they come in different designs, and there are tons of different scented wax melts you can get. A wax warmer is much easier to use than having to light a wick in a candle because in most cases, you can just flip it on. After all the wax is melted in a candle and you can no longer use it, you throw it out. With a wax warmer, you throw out the wax when it loses its fragrance. Once you invest in a wax warmer, you will save a lot more money than when you buy candles.

Wax melts are beneficial in many different ways. They are not harmful to your health nor release any harmful chemicals when melted, and they cause no lung agitation or respiratory issues. Wax warmers are much safer to use than a candle because there is no naked flame, eliminating any hazards. Wax melts do not contain any harmful chemicals that can hurt you when ingested, so they are safe for animals or younger children.

Although wax warmers are amazing, they can have some downsides. Sometimes, wax warmers can be hard to clean because the wax can stick to the area it is sitting in. Since the wax is being melted by a light bulb and not a flame, the light bulb can go out, and it can be hard to replace it. Although wax warmers can burn for longer, the wax can lose its fragrance more quickly than being burned by a flame. If the wax warmer is not placed in a safe area, it can be knocked over and spilled.

I have a wax warmer in my room that looks like a vintage radio. I got it for \$12.99 at Tractor Supply Co., and it came with wax melts with the scent Mulled Cider. You can find them really anywhere with prices ranging from ten dollars to \$30. Wax melts you can get anywhere you can find a wax warmer, and they usually have four to six pieces. They can range from two dollars to eight dollars, depending on the brand.

I give this product a five out of five.



Photo Credit, Amazon

# Stop by for a bite at Deep Lagoon Seafood and Oyster House

By: Taylor Martin

Looking for a restaurant to take the whole family to on vacation? Try out Deep Lagoon in Florida! Not only do they have delicious seafood and oysters, but they also have kid friendly meals for the family. You won't only have great food and service but the views are breathtaking.



Photo Credit, DeepLagoon.com

The business is family owned by the Phelans family. They not only have this successful business but they also have restaurants such as Pinchers and Texas's Tony's Rib and brew house. Deep Lagoon not only has a location in Osprey but in 3 other locations as well. So if you are in Naples, Fort Myers, or on Marcos Island check out this exquisite restaurant.



Photo Credit, DeepLagoon.com

This year me and my family went to the Osprey location in Florida for my birthday and now it will be an annual thing. One thing I vividly remember about this restaurant was the amazing servers and staff members. Our waiter made us feel very welcomed and was very polite, but also had a sarcastic light hearted side to him. And for that I give the service and staff a 10/10, they made me want to come back just as much as the amazing food. Another thing that made me want to come back was the outstanding views. This location sat right over the water and had such an amazing sunset. I would recommend coming for dinner to see the beautiful sunsets over Casey keys waters.



Photo Credit, OpenTable.com



Photo Credit, Facebook.com

Now even though the food may have taken a little while to come out in the end it was all worth it. We ordered the crab rangoons as a starter and they were the most tasteful and delectable crab rangoons I had ever had. They had blue crab, the most creamy cream cheese and fresh green onions inside the very light and fluffy dumpling exterior. My mom loves her rangoons and when she had these, her eyes lit up with happiness. I would rate them a 9/10 because they were delicious but you should definitely order more than one plate of them for a big group like we had.

For my main course I got the shrimp alfredo. The creamy, thick alfredo made the whole dish. It was served with a generous amount of linguini pasta underneath. I would rate the pasta a 10/10 because it had just the right amount of flavor and the texture was just right for my liking.

If you are looking for a kid friendly option I would recommend the cheeseburger. My brother loves his cheeseburgers and after eating this he said that he would rate it a 10/10 for the flavor and how amazing the burger was cooked.

Now if you have a sweet tooth I would recommend the key lime pie. The creamy, light and rich key lime flavor sold me right away, not to mention also how light and fluffy the crust was as well. I would rate it a 10/10, the best key lime pie I had ever had! Also another perk is if it is your birthday you get a free slice!

Deep Lagoons hours are 11 a.m-10 p.m everyday, with happy hour 2-5 p.m. everyday as well. I would rate the restraurant as a whole a 10/10, it doesn't get much better than this fantastic restraurant. So does this make you want to get a reservation for your next family trip? If so you can contact Deep Lagoons by contacting this number, (239)-689-5474, or you can go to their website and set a reservation there. You can also see the full menu on there with pictures of their amazing views. You can fill out a job application on their website as well.



# Allure nail studio is just the place to go

By: Kaleigh Lockard '26

If you are someone who loves having their nails done, Allure nails salon is just the place to go! They do great with acrylics, gel, and regular polish and do nail tips too, plus their talented employees can often do very intricate nail art designs.



Allure nails has a location in Lewis Center, Ohio founded in 2014 by Tracy and Kevin. They have over 150 colors of gel polish and over 200 bottles of regular polish to choose from.

The service at Allure nails is high quality and the attention to detail always amazing. It can become quite costly and time consuming though. Once you get into nail art, colors and lengths the price begins to add up quickly and may be out of budget for some people and if you're planning on doing something a little more intricate then you'll have to be sure to set aside some extra time out of your day.

When looking at Allure nail Studio compared to others in the area such as Bellas Nails and Spa you can see how much pride they take in their work. They spend more time making sure everything is right and you're getting your money's worth when coming. Allure nails is able to do intricate nail art and designs, knows more about what they're doing when it comes to acrylics, and provides a healthier way for acrylic and polish removal.

I would give Allure nail studio four and half out of five stars for their attention to detail and great customer service. More information can be found at <https://allurenaillewiscenter.com>

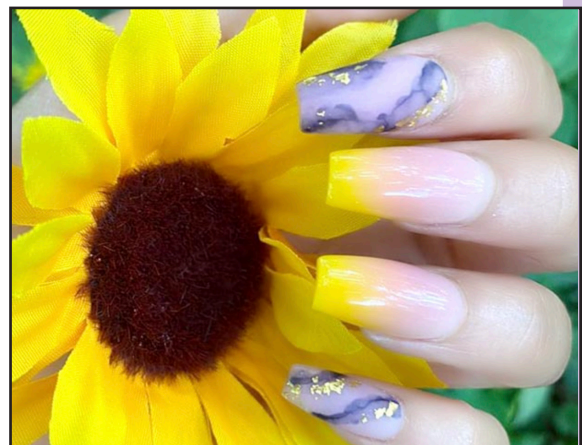


Photo credit, Allure nails lweis center

# Stay cozy this season

Reviewed by, Bailey Terry '25

Shopping for gifts this holiday season can be a task, and it doesn't make it any easier with the price-tags on items. However, a great option for any of your family and friends is a weighted blanket.

The Weighted Idea, an affordable weighted blanket comes in a variety of sizes and colors. From its cooling technology to the different weight options to fit any age, it is the perfect gift.

This weighted blanket, only found on Amazon, is an easy purchase for my online shoppers. The weight range is between thirteen and thirty pounds making it accommodating for anybody according to the weight rule; a weighted blanket should be about twelve percent of your body weight.



Photo, amazon.com

A common problem with weighted blankets is they can be hot, but not this one. One of my favorite aspects about this product is that it comes with cooling technology. Its design is created to have pockets of glass beads and areas with good airflow. So you can feel comfortable and cool.

“The pressure of weighted blankets puts your autonomic nervous system into “rest” mode, reducing some of the symptoms of anxiety, such as a quickened heart rate or breathing... This can provide an overall sense of calm.” Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania Medicine said. They took a look at the effects of weighted blankets on anxiety.

A downside to this product, and almost any weighted blanket is that if you are a tosser-and-turner the blanket will pull down the covers and mess up the bed sheets.

This product best compares to some more expensive options, however it is made with polyester instead of cotton. That is something to consider before purchasing. I would rate this product four and a half out of five stars for its unique colors, and the incredible sleep it gave me.

For more information on the effect of weighted blankets on anxiety, visit [www.pennmedicine.org](http://www.pennmedicine.org).

# The best holiday drink that refreshes your tastebuds

By Alivia Cook 26'  
**Winter Spiced Cranberry Sprite Review**

During the holiday season, everyone wants to relax from all the stress of cleaning, cooking, and shopping for friends and family. Winter Spiced Cranberry Sprite is the perfect balance of traditional holiday flavors that come together in a delightful and refreshing soda. Flavors such as the traditional Lemon-Lime Sprite with the added twist of Sprite Cranberry come together to create an absolutely delicious soda. This fizzy confection is the perfect twist on a well-known drink. For all ages, this is a perfect beverage to add to the table for Christmas Eve Dinner, A refreshment to enjoy after opening gifts with family and friends, celebrating the New Year, or just enjoying a truly unique taste unlike any other soda on the market. I always look forward to enjoying this during the holiday season, it puts me in the Christmas spirit and reminds me of years when I was younger. I would give winter spiced cranberry sprite a 10 out of 10 because of its unique flavor and its nostalgic qualities. Winter Spice Cranberry Sprite can be found at any common store such as Walmart, Kroger, Meijer, or Amazon. This is is a limited edition flavor and comes out on October 22, For more information about Winter Spiced Cranberry Sprite, the Official Sprite website is a great place to check out and it is very easy to use. Due to Winter Spiced Cranberry being a limited edition flavor, it stays on shelves while supplies last. So run to your local store and grab a two-liter bottle, a 12-pack, or just a 20-ounce bottle and take a sip and experience all that this delicious drink has to offer this holiday season.



**Sprite website for more information:**  
<https://www.sprite.com/holiday>

# AERIE VS LULULEMON LEGGINGS

BY MADY DOBO 26'

Everyone loves a good pair of leggings. Aerie and Lululemon are the top two brands to get leggings from. I personally own both pairs and love both! The price of the Aerie Real Me high waisted leggings is \$44.95 and Lululemon's Align leggings are priced at \$98. The Lululemon leggings feel very soft and have buttery fabric that feels like a cloud and has a very supportive high waistband. These leggings also come in various different colors and lengths. The Aerie leggings have a soft fabric with a more nylon and athletic feel, and has a high waisted band, with light support. These leggings come in five different colors and have one size for length. When purchasing both pairs of leggings the staff at Aerie and Lululemon are always very friendly and offer much help when trying to find an exact pair of leggings. I prefer the Lululemon leggings more because of their more supportive feel and versatile style that can support you during any activity or even just at school. Even though they are at a much higher price point they will last you a very long time.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Lululemon Athletica can be found in the Polaris mall and Easton shopping mall. Aerie is also located at the Polaris mall, Easton shopping mall, and the Tanger Outlets.

	Lululemon	Aerie
Category	 Photo credit: Lululemon Athletica	 Photo credit: Aerie
Comfort	5/5, very soft and comfortable and not to tight.	5/5, material feels very soft and has a light and airy feel.
Supportive	4/5, has good support unless your are doing a really high impact activity.	2/5, very light support that will fall down really easily.
Wear	5/5, I have had a pair for 4 years and none have rips or holes.	4/5, my first pair had a tiny hole but haven't had one rip since.
Fit	5/5, really fits well on anyone and has multiple lengths for different heights.	4/5, fit well don't have many length options though.
Final results	19/20	15.5/20

With any questions or concerns here are links to both websites.

Lululemon  
<https://shop.lululemon.com/>



Aerie  
<https://www.ae.com/us/en/c/aerie/cat4840006>

