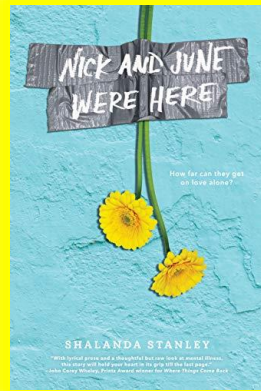


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction



Nick and June Were Here.
Stanley, Shalanda (author).
Feb. 2019. 304p. Knopf, \$17.99
([9780399556586](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780399556586)). Grades 8-11.
[REVIEW](#). First published
January 1, 2019 (*Booklist*).

Nick and June mean everything to each other, and they've created perfection inside an abandoned barn in their small community. Nick loves to paint, and June dreams of a future that includes

college. But outside the barn, their lives are far from ideal. Nick's family life is in shambles and he's following his father's criminal footsteps in the carjacking biz. Meanwhile, June confesses to hearing voices, which have grown louder and more frequent. During her hospitalization, June is diagnosed with schizophrenia, and Nick is busted for pinching one car too many. In a bold move, they secretly head for Nick's uncle's off-the-grid house in the mountains. In this stirring, emotional story, June's schizophrenia creeps up on her, impacting her life long before it has a name. The characters' desperate need for everything to be all right anchors the narrative, becoming painfully clear when the simple word *okay* instantly changes everything. Give this to readers who want a story where loyalty is everything and mental illness is treated with unwavering love.

— *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Nick and June Were Here*

- *The Weight of Zero*
- *All the Bright Places*
- *The Movie Version*
- *Girl in Pieces*