APPENDICES

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Charlie" is the alias of the adolescent narrator of the novel, who is about to begin his first year of high school. The novel is presented through letters that Charlie writes to an anonymous person about whom he has heard the girls at school talk fondly. Charlie begins his freshman year apprehensive as a result of the death of his only good friend Michael. Michael committed suicide several months before while they were still in middle school. Charlie does not feel that he can lean on his parents or older siblings for support, because they never truly understood him. He also explains that the only relative that he ever felt close to was his Aunt Helen, but she was killed in a car accident on his seventh birthday.

Charlie soon befriends two seniors, Sam and her step-brother Patrick. He soon develops strong feelings for Sam, but believes that he has no chance being with her. The two introduce him to many new experiences and a group of upperclassmen friends. Charlie writes about situations he gets into with his new friends including going to parties, driving through his town's tunnel and feeling "infinite," seeing and performing in Rocky Horror Picture Show, going on his first date, and trying various drugs. After one party where Charlie took LSD, the police find him passed out lying in the snow somewhere. In the hospital talking to the police and his parents, it is shown that Charlie often has visions, showing that he is not mentally well.
Charlie's English teacher, Bill, also plays a significant role in his life. After giving him a 'C' grade on his book report essay, Bill begins giving him books to read outside of class and encourages him to write essays. He then critiques them to help Charlie develop better diction and syntax, which is reflected in his letter writing.

Despite his feelings for Sam, Charlie briefly dates Mary Elizabeth, another girl in their clique. She takes him to their school's Sadie Hawkins and then they go on a couple of dates. At first, Charlie does not mind how one-sided their conversations are. But after Mary Elizabeth buys him a book of poems, he senses a change in pace that he does not like. In a game of Truth or Dare? at a party, Charlie is dared to kiss the prettiest girl in the room. He kisses Sam which officially ends the relationship between him and Mary Elizabeth. Patrick then decides it would be best if Charlie stays away until things calmed down and says he will give Charlie a call once it is okay to come back.

Sam also starts a relationship with a guy named Craig, who is "cut and hunky." Charlie does not like the way he treats her, explaining that if Craig took a good picture of Sam he would think that it was good because of the way he took it, instead of the fact that Sam was in the picture. Following her relationship with Charlie, Mary Elizabeth dates a friend of Craig's named Peter, who Mary Elizabeth says better complements her. Sam and Craig then break up; Charlie finds out from Peter that Craig had been cheating on her with many girls.
In addition, Charlie writes about Patrick's relationship with Brad, the quarterback of the football team, who is secretly gay. One day, Brad's dad catches Patrick and Brad having sex in the basement, and Brad's dad beats Brad up in front of Patrick. Brad comes to school with bruises and completely ignores Patrick. After being tripped by one of Brad's buddies, Patrick decides to confront Brad in front of everyone. As Brad continues to ignore him, Patrick says something out of anger while walking away. Brad then proceeds to yell at Patrick, calling him a "faggot," in front of the whole cafeteria, leading to a physical fight during school lunch. Brad's friends gang up on Patrick and begin to beat him up. Charlie then comes to Patrick's rescue and fights Brad's friends. Two of Brad's friends stand up to stop fighting as they watch Charlie, while the other two lay on the ground severely hurt. Charlie helps Patrick up and warns Brad's friends that if they ever hurt Patrick again, he will blind them.

Another relationship discussed is his older sister's, who is dating a boy named "Ponytail Derek". Charlie witnesses the boy hitting her, which Charlie is especially sensitive to as his Aunt Helen had become "insane" after being abused. The sister first assures Charlie that her boyfriend won't hit her again. She breaks up with him after she announced to him that she was pregnant. The only other person that she tells of her pregnancy is Charlie. He goes with her to get an abortion. Later in the book, she begins dating a boy named Erik.
Charlie grows a lot during the story and learns how to "participate in life" as advised by Bill. As time goes on, he realizes as the end of school approaches that all of his friends and his sister will all be leaving for college. Sam gets accepted off the waiting list into Penn State. Before Sam leaves for the summer, Charlie and Sam begin to have a sexual encounter. However, Charlie stops because he suddenly feels very strange, and he does not know why. After waking up the next day, he realizes that his Aunt Helen had molested him when he was younger. His mind cannot handle this, and he is hospitalized. He is eventually let out of the hospital, and says that he will be okay. When Patrick and Sam take Charlie through the tunnel again, this time with Charlie standing in the truck bed, he learns that he can go on with life without being scared, because he is more than a wallflower. Charlie changes the way he looks at himself through the book, leading to a much more confident person.
Stephen Chbosky (born January 25, 1970) is an American novelist, screenwriter, and film director. Best known for writing the coming of age novel The Perks of Being a Wallflower (1999), as well as for screenwriting and directing the film version of the same book, starring Logan Lerman, Emma Watson, and Ezra Miller. He also wrote the screenplay for the 2005 film Rent, and was co-creator, executive producer, and writer of the CBS television series Jericho, which began airing in 2006.

1. EARLY LIFE

Chbosky was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in the Pittsburgh suburb of Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Lea (née Meyer), a tax preparer, and Fred G. Chbosky, a steel company executive and consultant to CFOs
Chbosky has a sister, Stacy. He was raised Catholic. As a teenager, Chbosky "enjoyed a good blend of the classics, horror, and fantasy. He was heavily influenced by J. D. Salinger's novel The Catcher in the Rye and the writing of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Tennessee Williams. Chbosky graduated from Upper St. Clair High School in 1988, around which time he met Stewart Stern, screenwriter of the 1955 James Dean film Rebel Without a Cause. Stern became Chbosky's "good friend and mentor", and proved a major influence on Chbosky's career.

2. CAREER

In 1992, Chbosky graduated from the University of Southern California's screenwriting program. He wrote, directed, and acted in the 1995 independent film The Four Corners of Nowhere, which got Chbosky his first agent, was accepted by the Sundance Film Festival, and became one of the first films shown on the Sundance Channel.[4] In the late 1990s, Chbosky wrote several unproduced screenplays, including ones titled Audrey Hepburn's Neck and Schoolhouse Rock.

In 1994, Chbosky was working on a "very different type of book" than The Perks of Being a Wallflower when he wrote the line, "I guess that's just one of the perks of being a wallflower. Chbosky recalled that he "wrote that line. And stopped. And realized that somewhere in that [sentence] was the kid I was really trying to find. After several years of gestation, Chbosky began researching and writing The Perks of Being a Wallflower, an epistolary novel that follows the intellectual and emotional
maturation of a teenager who uses the alias Charlie over the course of his freshman year of high school. The book is semi-autobiographical; Chbosky has said that he "relate[s] to Charlie. But my life in high school was in many ways different.

The book, Chbosky's first novel, was published by MTV Books in 1999, and was an immediate popular success with teenage readers; by 2000, the novel was MTV Books' best-selling title and The New York Times noted in 2007 that it had sold more than 700,000 copies and "is passed from adolescent to adolescent like a hot potato". Wallflower also stirred up controversy due to Chbosky's portrayal of teen sexuality and drug use. The book has been banned in several schools and appeared on the American Library Association's 2006 and 2008 lists of the 10 most frequently challenged books.

In 2000, Chbosky edited Pieces, an anthology of short stories. The same year, he worked with director Jon Sherman on a film adaptation of Michael Chabon's novel The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, though the project fell apart by August 2000. Chbosky wrote the screenplay for the 2005 film adaptation of the Broadway rock musical Rent, which received mixed reviews.[16] In late 2005, Chbosky said that he was writing a film adaptation of The Perks of Being a Wallflower.

In the mid-2000s, Chbosky decided, on the advice of his agent, to begin looking for work in television in addition to film. Finding he "enjoyed the people [he met who were working] in television", Chbosky agreed to serve as co-creator,
executive producer, and writer of the CBS serial television drama Jericho, which premiered in September 2006. The series revolves around the inhabitants of the fictional small town of Jericho, Kansas in the aftermath of several nuclear attacks. Chbosky has said the relationship between Jake Green, the main character, and his mother, reflected "me and my mother in a lot of ways". The first season of Jericho received lackluster ratings, and CBS canceled the show in May 2007. A grassroots campaign to revive the series convinced CBS to renew the series for a second season, which premiered on February 12, 2008, before being canceled once more in March 2008.