



2008

Jellicoe Road

Ben Crowder

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Crowder, Ben (2008) "Jellicoe Road," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 29 : Iss. 5 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol29/iss5/13>

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Marchetta, Melina. *Jellicoe Road*. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN 9780061431845. \$18.89. 419 p.

Reviewer: Ben Crowder

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: New Zealand--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Reading *Jellicoe Road* is like swimming through a dream. This haunting tale tells the story of Taylor Markham, a New Zealand teenager abandoned by her mother at Jellicoe School. Territory wars dominate the atmosphere between the three factions: Cadets, Townies, and Jellicoe School. While things don't escalate to all-out mayhem, an unmistakable feeling of danger breathes through the book until the very end. On top of the rivalries, a serial killer is on the loose, a mysterious brigadier keeps showing up, and Hannah, Taylor's house mother, goes missing. While reading the manuscript Hannah has been working on, Taylor discovers that Hannah is her aunt. Through her new relative, Taylor eventually finds her mother.

Jellicoe Road gets off to a slow start, but before long the plot threads begin intertwining. These events carry the breathless reader toward a cohesive and ultimately satisfying ending as Taylor finds the family she didn't know she had.

Volume 29, no. 5 (May/June 2009)