In the time of the butterflies: By Julia Alverez

The book I read, In the Time of the Butterflies, is about a family that consists of a mother, father, and 4 daughters. The book goes through all the girls’ lives as they grow up. Who their friends are, who they fall in love with, the choices they make, and all this leads to the path they end their life on. This book starts out in Dede’s point of view, one of the sisters. She is now an old lady being interviewed about her past…and what her sisters did that got them killed. It shifts point of view to Minerva, one of the sisters, in her teen years. It all starts when Minerva is at school and she meets a girl who’s family was murdered by El Jefe, the ruler of their home country. Minerva is then influenced by her and is sucked into the operation to overthrow El Jefe. The rest of the book goes through all their lives (the sisters’ Patria, Dede, Minerva, and Mate), and how every decision and action they make is a possible step towards their death. Not only do they complicate El Jefe’s life…they complicate their own as well.

This book definitely shows how strong the bond of sisterhood can be. That’s one thing I liked about it. It showed the true meaning of love. I didn’t however like that three of the sisters were willing to leave their families (all THEIR little children included) over a stupid conspiracy. It makes me aggravated that they would risk leaving their children motherless in the world just so they could prove something. I understand fighting for what you think is right…but when does that include putting your families’ lives at risk as well? On a scale of 1-10 I would rate this book a 6. It was much too long, aggravating, and it droned on at a few parts and I just wanted to quit reading it. This book contains some romance and action-filled parts, so if that is something that interests you then you might like this book. The parts in the book that bored me were the political parts, and the parts where it stated the persons point but kept droning on and on. So if you don’t like things like that then this book wouldn’t interest you AT ALL. Plus it is a long read with small print. I have read WAY longer books, but I think it was because this book wasn’t so interesting it seemed much longer. If you enjoy reading about family bonds and the strength to keep going after a struggle, then I recommend this book to you. It definitely discussed how you need strength and determination to fight for you dreams, and how having someone you love by your side definitely helps through the tough times. If you know me, or my friends, and agree with what we read, then you probably wouldn’t like this book, because I wouldn’t tell any of my good friends to read this. This book appeals more to girls then guys, so if you are a girl who enjoys politics, history, a little romance, and reading about the bond of love, then this book would be good for you.