

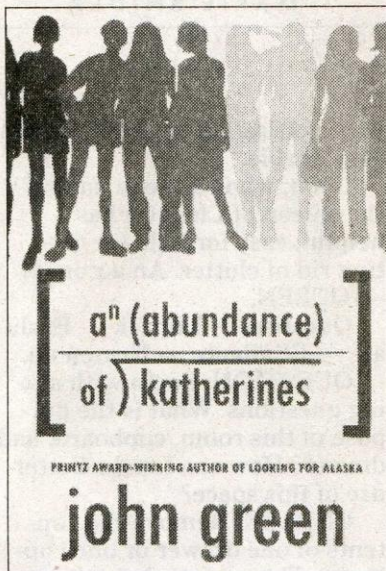
# GREAT BOOK FOR YOUNG AND NOT-SO-YOUNG ADULTS

**"AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES,"**  
by John Green, Dutton Books, 2006,  
\$16.99.

BY KATE WISE  
*Special to The Gazette*

Do not be scared away by the math. Notwithstanding that a large part of "An Abundance of Katherines," by John Green, concerns the main character and his quest to graph romantic relationships, the heart of the story will appeal to anyone who has ever been in a romantic relationship, or watched friends in romantic relationships. Although this book is marketed at young adults, it should not be passed over lightly by adults.

Colin Singleton, a washed up, socially awkward child prodigy fond of anagrams, has just graduated from high school. He has also just been dumped, for the nineteenth time, by a girl named Katherine. To bring him out of his depression, Colin's best friend Hassan convinces Colin to take a road trip. In an effort to see the final resting place of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the pair end up in Gutshot, Tennessee. While there, Colin has an eureka moment and decides to write a mathematical theorem – the Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability — explaining his own past relationships with Katherines, and



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## ON THE SHELF

predicting who will be dumper and who will be the dumpee in any relationship. His quest for significance as an emerging adult takes both comic and tragic twists and turns, and gives the reader the chance to meet many of the colorful characters of Gutshot along the way.

Although this book is aimed at young adults ages 15-19, many adults will find the themes just as familiar, and the book an overall interesting read. The style of writing is eclectic and a bit ran-

dom at times, but always amusing. What drives the book are the funny, down-to-earth, honest characters. It was not until the book ended that I realized I had just read an excellent piece of fiction. I found myself missing the characters for days after I had finished the book. One needs to read the book more than once to fully appreciate all aspects of the character development and evolution of story.

This is John Green's sophomore publication, his first being the Printz award winning book "Looking for Alaska." Green's third book, scheduled to be released October 16, 2008, will be titled Paper Towns. John Green is one author to keep your eye on, made all the easier by his online presence. You can find out more about his books at the Web site [www.sparksflyup.com](http://www.sparksflyup.com), where Green maintains a weblog, as well as additional information about his two books; rather like extra features on a DVD. Green, along with his brother Hank Green, also has a hand in the online Nerdfighters phenomenon. In 2007, the brothers started a project to communicate for a year only through online videos, viewable on YouTube. This project has evolved into a Web site, [www.nerdfighters.com](http://www.nerdfighters.com), and a corresponding social networking medium.