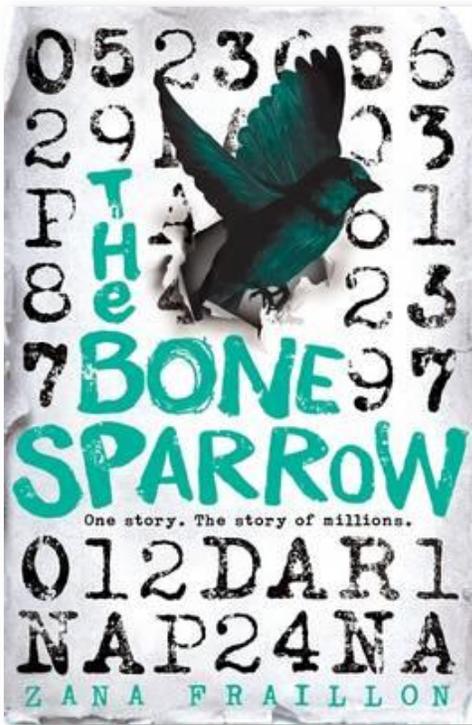


Helping you choose the best books for children

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Bone Sparrow** by Zana Fraillon



Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



**Sophie Bridges, age 13**

*I think 'The Bone Sparrow' By Zana Fraillon is a really adventurous and exiting book. In my opinion it is quite an unpredictable book. Although the if I was the change one thing it would be the front cover. If it was on a shelf in a shop it wouldn't grab my attention. The cover doesn't reflect the quality of the book.*

**Anastasia Abdian, age 11**

*'The Bone Sparrow' is a very emotional book. It will allow you to know more about how refugees are treated and how they live in the detention camps. It is an amazing*

*book. Subhi has lived in the detention camp all his life. But when he meets Jimmie a girl from the 'outside', everything starts to change. He no longer has his best friend Eli and the men in Alpha go on hunger strikes, will everything be alright? What will happen to Subhi and will his and Jimmie's friendship last?*

**Eloise Mae Clarkson, age 14**

*This book is about a boy (Subhi) who lives in a refugee detention centre and it highlights his daily struggles. This story is an interesting blend of fact with fiction.*

*Subhi) has known no other home else as he was the first person to be born in the detention centre. He lives with his mother and sister in a family tent. You get to*

*see his relationship with someone from the outside. I loved how the book shows his relationships with the people surrounding him and the way he acts around different people. I love how the author blends fact with fiction in a different way. The characters are portrayed brilliantly and have their own unique qualities about them. I enjoyed this book. I would love to read more about his future and what happens next.*

### **Imogen Breaks, age 13**

***'The Bone Sparrow' is a story of two children's journey to freedom, but first they have to survive. This novel is quite a difficult read as the refugees face many horrors but it's worth reading.***

*'The Bone Sparrow' is a story of Subhi's journey to freedom. Subhi is a refugee and was born in an immigration detention centre. All he ever wanted was to be free but when he meets Jimmie his life changes. Jimmie is from The Outside, where there is education and food that isn't weeks out of date. Subhi and Jimmie both need to find their own freedoms, but not until each of them has been braver than ever before. This novel is quite a difficult read as the refugees have to face many horrors but it is worth reading. I would definitely recommend this book to 12+ readers because it gives you an accurate insight to what the refugees are going through with just a little more imagination.*

### **Hannah, age 15**

***This is a great book for 11 to 12 year olds, it is very captivating and gets very fast paced at major moments. The reader will be taken on a journey inside a refugee camp and their struggles in one.***

### **Ella O'Gorman, age 11**

***'Bone Sparrow' is a wonderful, thought-provoking and sad book. It tells the story of Subhi, his mother and sister, who are Rohingya refugees and are living indefinitely in a detention centre.***

*Subhi was born in the centre and its brutality, deprivation and rigid structures is all he has ever experienced. He does not know what it is like to be free and live outside the centre's fences, like other children. The Night Sea from his mother's stories comes every night in his dreams and gives him hope. He does make some friends in the centre, including Eli, but the friendship that really changes his life*

*is the bond he forms with a girl called Jimmie, who lives outside the centre and who wanders in one night. She wears a sparrow carved from bone around her neck, which her mother had said was for luck and protection. Jimmie starts to visit Subhi regularly and brings with her a book of stories that belonged to her mother before she died. Jimmie cannot read but Subhi is delighted to have something new to read and reads the book to her. I loved when Jimmie brought Subhi hot chocolate and Subhi's joy when he tasted it for the first time ever. There are lots of twists and turns and surprises in the story and Subhi ends up having to save Jimmie. After a riot in the centre, there is hope that things will change for the better. I hope this book will raise awareness of the conditions in refugee camps and I would definitely recommend it.*

**Amy Laws, age 14**

***Inspiring, eye-opening and emotional- I was hooked by this novel from the very first line.***

*The Bone Sparrow follows the story of Subhi, a refugee and his journey as he makes friends with those both inside and outside of the detention centre. This novel really opened my eyes to the harsh realities of refugees. I feel like the personal side of the refugee crisis is often overlooked by the media so this story was a refreshing and different perspective to the stories of millions of people who are currently classified as refugees. Subhi was very easy to empathise with and therefore I become emotionally invested in both the story and the characters.*

*This book opened my eyes to the power of hope and courage. It also made me realise the bravery that the refugees must possess to leave everything behind.*

*I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this book to anyone who is interested or concerned by the refugee crisis. Overall, this book was a heart wrenching and emotional read.*

**Isaac Phelan, age 12**

***A deeply moving novel that expresses a refugee child's desire to thrive.***

*Subhi born into a refugee camp; the first of his kind. He has never seen the sea and longs for the return of his father. Eli, Queeny and his mother are his only links to what life is like in the outside world. His doomed life is destined to never improve; but then Jimmie, an outsider sneaks inside and Subhi's life changes*

*forever...*

*I love this book because it is written in great detail and gives us a small insight into the life of a typical refugee.*

*I would put this book towards children of 11 and older.*

**Edward bailey, age 11**

***Breathtaking!***

*The most heartfelt instalment I have ever read!*

**Daniel Mann, age 12**

***The Bone Sparrow is an inspirational book about a young naïve boy, Subhi. This book may be fiction but it holds a truth to real life and one of its bigger problems. If you read this be ready to cry.***

*The Bone Sparrow is an inspirational book about a young naïve boy named Subhi. The story follows Subhi as he finds out the truth about where he is and why he is there. This story has many plot twists and it shows the truth behind what is happening in the real world even though it is fiction. The book has a deep meaning and when naïve Subhi finds out the truth and realises what mistakes he has made, later in the book you will cry as I did. Everyone should read this book, whether to read a good story or to find a deeper meaning you should read it.*

**Jodi Coffman, age 14**

*Subhi is a refugee who has spent his whole life in an immigration detention centre with his mother and sister. He waits for his father hoping that some day he will come and rescue them. What keeps him going is his friend Eli and the treasures he gets from his night sea. One day he meets Jimmie from the other side of the wires. She tells him stories and he becomes eager for more stories and tales about the outside world. When some of the refugees start protesting Subhi must find his freedom. And Jimmie too. **This book was really captivating and had me hanging on every word.** The story was written beautifully and it was so interesting. I recommend this book to teenagers and young adults who want a book that relates very strongly to the world right now.*

**Adam Goodman, age 13**

***Whilst it was hard to get into, I really enjoyed it afterwards and found it extremely exciting.***

*Bone Sparrow is an exciting book, which I enjoyed on the whole. It is about a boy named Subhi, born into an immigration detention centre. Whilst there, his life is dull, rational and limited, as he is only allowed in a certain area of the centre and only receives minute portions of unidentifiable 'food'. He lives in a tent with his mum and sister, Queeny. A unique ability that he shares with his mum, he believes in a 'night ocean' and finds that objects, such as rubber ducks, talk to him. One day, he befriends someone called Jimmie, who is a young girl from the outside world who knows the centre's fences' weak spot. Together, they form a friendship, where they secretly meet up by signalling with torches. All is well until one day, Jimmie feels very sick and neither her dad nor her brother is home...*

*I originally wasn't drawn to Bone Sparrow. It didn't quite appeal to me, and it had a slow start. That being said, I eventually got into it a few chapters in and I could not put it down after that. It was extremely exciting and the plot cleverly unfolded. However, it had an unusual style which I didn't particularly like. Also, Subhi being in a detention centre his whole life made it a bit repetitive. Despite this and it being the sort of genre I am not normally interested in, I would still recommend it as I really enjoyed it once I had got into it.*

**Dylan Sweet**

*'The Bone Sparrow' is a very emotional book that tells the story of two young children. Subhi is in an Australian detention camp – it is all he has ever known. With his friend Queeny and his loved ma, one day he meets a little girl called Billie who manages to climb underneath a hole in the fence. This leads to a great friendship. With jackets and guards on the prowl, they had to be braver than ever before, for what will come. Freedom is still very far away. It is a very serious book which relates to realistic events. **I rate this four stars and due to violent scenes, for readers aged 11 and up. It is an original book and I've not read one like it.** I hope you enjoy reading.*

**Destiny Maraj, age, 14**

*I found this novel difficult to get into at the beginning but as I got further along the storyline I fell hard for this book. It was devastating and enlightening all at once. **It is definitely a book for today, addressing the global issue of refugees and displaced people. I really enjoyed this novel.***