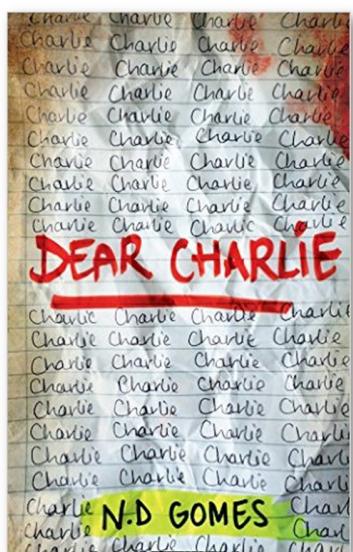


Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of **Dear Charlie** by N. D. Gomes

Below are the complete reviews, written by the Lovereading4kids members.



Izzy Read, age 15

Dear Charlie is a brother's journey of grief, stigma and forgiveness, as both a victim and a bystander. We need more stories from other perspectives, ones we didn't even think about, to show us that in the initial victims aren't the only ones to suffer in a crime. It was a story fuelled by emotion and grief and the will to fit in. The only fault I couldn't look past in this story was the use of American school language, when it is set in Britain. Sounds silly, I know, but it broke my concentration at times.

fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com

Jodi Coffman, age 14

Sam is coming to terms with the shooting at his school that killed 15 people including his brother. But instead of mourning with the rest of the school, he is shunned by everyone, because it was his brother who committed the shooting. When he starts at a new school, hoping for a fresh start he meets Izzy who changes his life in many ways. Life at home is tough, but maybe Izzy can be the one to make things better. As the vote against guns draws closer, can Sam begin to have a normal life again? I really enjoyed this book written from the point of view of the shooter's brother. This made it really different and interesting. I really recommend this book to young adults and teenagers who like contemporary fiction books.

Humaira, age 18

I am over the moon that I read it because Dear Charlie made me feel something

*that I haven't ever felt with a book before I was reluctant to read this book. I had had it sitting on my shelf for a while before I picked it up. I even read other books before, just to put it off. **I usually wouldn't even buy this type of book- I'd be intrigued by it, read the blurb, think it sounded good and put it back.** BUT I am over the moon that I read it because Dear Charlie made me feel something that I haven't ever felt with a book before. It made me cry. I just wanted to protect Sam throughout the book. Honestly just pick up this book and read it!*

https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/?hl=en

Kyra, age 17

Dear Charlie is a heart-rending, thought-provoking and eye-opening read that tackles a devastating, controversial subject in a beautifully honest manner.

Dear Charlie is a poignant, emotional read that deals with a horrific situation and despite it being an uncomfortable read due to the aforementioned desolate circumstances of which it discusses, I definitely recommend it. With a lovable main character, evocative writing and a challenging subject matter, Dear Charlie is a tearjerker that I believe is worth reading.

<http://www.blogofabookaholic.blogspot.co.uk/>

Bethan, age 15

*This book looks at the impacts of school shootings in an interesting and different way. It shows the impact on the family of the shooter and investigates what life is like those affected. **This is an interesting and captivating book** it never actually tells the entire story of what happens on the day of the shooting but instead focusses on after the shoot which is **different to any young adult books out there.***

Rose Heathcote, age 17

I really enjoyed reading this book. It deals with the aftermath of a shooting that happens within a school. It focuses on the life of the murderer's brother and the problems he faces after the event. The story made me immerse myself into the main character Sam who narrates the story. You see a different perspective to what we read in the news when such a devastating event happens. It explains

*how the family of the murderer (Charlie) copes when they realise they hardly knew their son and how Sam his young brother has to change people's opinions of him as they judge him based on his brother's actions. Sam is a normal 16 year old boy who realises he had no idea who his big brother really was. I will recommend this book to my friends as I found it very interesting and informative it gripped me from the begining. I would give it 4/5 stars ****.*

Emily Kinder, age 15

An emotionally tense and elegantly written story about family tragedy, centred around the brother of a school shooter. I didn't expect to love this book as much as I did.

It didn't seem like the sort of thing I was really into - reading tends to be escapism for me, but I was gripped by Dear Charlie. It painted a picture of life that felt real and full, but was still vivid, an exaggeration of what teenagers know to be accurate. Sam's world was actually what I liked most about this book. The authenticity behind each character was excellent, and the overarching development of Sam himself (the main character) was executed well. The general concept, while not being overly ground-breaking - a teen left traumatised after a family tragedy - sparks a plot that is readable and affecting, and I enjoyed the book very much. If you want a book to emotionally involve you, and make you feel for the characters I would definitely recommend this.

Zara Kazi, age 18

A very powerful novel that is relevant to current events that are happening in the world. Dear Charlie is a must-read.

Gomes has written a great novel on a taboo subject of school shootings. What intrigued me the most about this novel was that it was in the viewpoint of the shooter's younger brother, Sam, rather than the shooter himself. It followed Sam's story in coping with the aftermath of the shooting. Gomes does well in exemplifying the emotional journey that their family go on, the loss they are forced to endure and the constant pressure on the family through the media's negative portrayal of the rest of the family members. It shows the harsh reality of the family's lives after an event of this magnitude occurs. Even though Charlie is no longer in the picture, he still has complete control over his family's lives.

Reading this book, I have to say that I was fully immersed into the storyline and empathised with Sam's struggles. Ultimately it was a great read and I would recommend it to everyone.

Destiny, age 14

'Dear Charlie' was a very interesting, fascinating read. I really enjoyed how the novel focused on Sam's life and how he had to deal with the consequences of Charlies' actions instead of basing it all about Charlie. I loved this novel.

Farah Alam

This book deals with a very serious topic of school shootings and puts light of those related to the shooter and their lives. Sam's journey through the events that follow the shooting and having to pick up the pieces and evolve as a person was really interesting and really great to read.