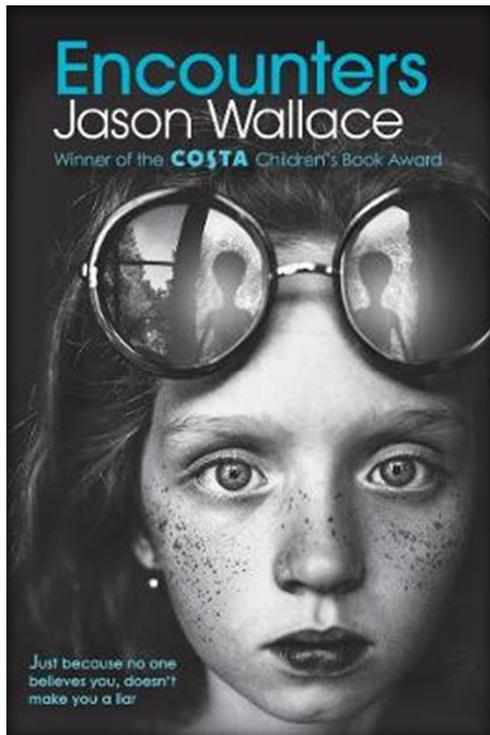


Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Encounters** by Jason Wallace

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



Zac Hall, age 13, West Buckland School

A thrilling story with an incredible background of mischief and sadness.

*A thrilling story about the lives of the characters and what effect the aliens have on the characters. It also explains the problems that some children will face, such as arguing parents and the mourning of dead siblings. **Overall I think this is an amazing book with an incredible background.***

Natalie Hunter, age 15

I definitely loved this book although it was not the sci-fi story I was expecting. It was

*rather symbolic and covers some serious topics and most of the characters are very easy to connect with. Being a lover of sci-fi and fantasy books this actually wasn't at all what I expected... but that didn't stop me from reading it in a single day. **It is possibly one of the most unique books I have ever personally read.***

The story is about a group of characters that are all indirectly linked through the previous UFO sighting at the school. I was quite surprised to find that the story isn't really about the UFO landing at all as I expected it to be but that it was more symbolic than an actual part of the plot. The same story is told six times, each in the perspective of a different character with the story advancing a little bit more every time it is told. You might think that this would get boring quickly but the story is completely different seen through the eyes of another character in another situation and each time small but significantly brilliant

details are revealed. I love how each character has their own very individual voice and we learn bits about their pasts and lives at home alongside with what the other characters see and think of them. The book covers some rather serious topics and sheds some light on the issues of our world.

The story is completely unpredictable and often rather solemn but you really seem to get to know these characters and begin to connect with them. **I would definitely recommend this book and would tell you not to get put off if you're not a fan of sci-fi.**

Grace Spear, age 14

'Encounters' is a brilliant book, packed with almost every emotion. I could never tell what was going to happen next and it always kept me guessing.

Two psychologists, along with their daughter Holly, are going to Zimbabwe to investigate a mysterious alien sighting at a school there. It could just be a prank gone too far, but the creepy thing is, all the children tell the same story, and have drawn almost the same pictures of what they saw. Holly believes there's more to this than meets the eye. Can she uncover what's going on before it's too late? All the children have been effected by the event and the truth must be revealed.

So much goes on in this book I found never predict what would happen next. It was cleverly written because every chapter was about a different child's life. My favourite character was Holly because she really thought outside the box. I loved Chloe and Sixpences relationship, it was really sweet and I could connect well with it. The ending was unexpected but as you read it everything clicks into place. I'd recommend this book to anyone who likes suspense and mysteries.

Sidney Greenslade, age 13

'Encounters' is an emotional and astounding tale about a group of children who say they've seen aliens. Nobody believes them, although that doesn't mean they're lying...

'Encounters' was a **fascinating and beautifully written** story based on the true story of schoolchildren in Africa and an incident which changed everything for them. The teachers were all inside when it happened, and they were all shocked by every child in the playground suddenly running inside during break time, all claiming they had seen aliens land behind the playground. Every child

said the same thing, drew the same picture - and the teachers knew nothing would make fifty-three children all lie like that, so they must have seen something - but what? Gary tells everybody that it can't be true, that he never saw it, and they must be lying. Tendai isn't sure what happened, but he is still afraid. Chloe didn't see anything, but she grows more and more fearful over the weeks. Sixpence doesn't seem affected to everybody else, but something inside him changed. Karl, as the headmaster's son and head boy, feels he should keep everybody calm, but that's hard when you're scared yourself; and Holly, whose parents came all the way to Africa to try and discover what happened, seems to understand everything despite never visiting before. The children are afraid, but what can they do when nobody believes them?

'Encounters' was an emotional rollercoaster for me. It was sad, and scary and exciting, and many other things besides. The characters were very believable and different, but they fitted together really well. I liked the plot, and the surprising twists at the end. An enjoyable book, with characters who you like, dislike, laugh with and cry with. Read this book, and prepare to discover a world you may never have dreamt of before – a world where aliens might truly be real.

Finn, age 13

'Encounters' made me feel all sorts of emotions. It's a good book but kind of hard to read.

This book is emotional and quite hard to read. It took me a while to read it because of this but it was a good book to read.

'Encounters' is a story about aliens visiting a school in Africa and is told in the different voices of some of the children involved. Each of the children also have different troubles in their lives.

Because of the additional stories that the children tell this book definitely isn't for younger kids. There are subjects like murder, death and abuse in this book.

Talia Jacobs, age 15

*'Encounters' is a novel that shows how everyone experiences the same day in entirely different ways. While at first this book was not for me, **I quickly found myself becoming engrossed with the story.***

*'Encounters' by Jason Wallace is **an extremely unique book** that shows you that you should never judge anyone as you never know what's going on in someone's life. While this book appears to focus many on Aliens and is based on a true story which took place in Zimbabwe 1994, there are so many different issues talked and lives you are taken into. I do not recommend this book to anyone under 13 years as some readers may find certain topics distressing.*

In this book, you meet six children/teenagers, each from different backgrounds, each struggling in entirely different ways at home and at school. The novel really teaches you about perspective and it was specifically interesting to see how every person experiences the same day in entirely different ways.

Parts of this book definitely kept me searching for answers, reading faster and faster trying to discover the secret.

The writing was quite interesting but not too challenging and the detailed, layered plot moved the book along at times of the storyline being slow.

At the beginning of the book, I did not think that this book was for me; it took a while until I started becoming engrossed with the story, but eventually I was fully emerged. Before I started this book, I thought it was mainly going to be about alien encounters, but soon I discovered that this was not the case. This book was about the lives of the people affected by it. I loved the split viewpoint and the parallels between characters, as you saw the same two days from six different perspectives. While at first this book may not be for you, I really encourage for you to keep reading.

Neha Saji, age 14

'Encounters' by Jason Wallace is much more than just about school children's sighting of aliens.

I personally did not like 'Encounters' by Jason Wallace. I expected a science fiction book based on school children's sighting on aliens. However, the blurb is quite deceiving as the book was about much more, and more 'real' than expected.

It was narrated in six points of views, all very different but linked together through their sightings of the aliens. The book particularly focuses on the each child's tough lifestyle and burdens. I felt as though, the book's topics and language were quite mature for a teenager; I was quite disturbed. To be honest, I didn't understand the ending, many things were left unfinished which did not

please me.

Parts of the book repeated as each character told their perspective of a conversation or event, so I found it quite boring. The book just dragged on too much for me, but it could be more appealing to adult readers and those who are interested in more 'hard-core' books. I would rate the book 2.5.

Rose Roberts, age 13

Thought provoking, emotional, and really well written, this book was really enjoyable. It's hard to describe how good it was. The different viewpoints knit in really well together.

It makes you think, and despite being set over just a few days, you get an in depth overview of the time due to all of the different perspectives of the children. The age differences between them works really well, as the eldest of the children has more grown up problems - coming out as gay, whilst the youngest has the problem of her parents arguing and her friends blanking her. They each have their own problems, and try to solve them throughout the book. There are parts where someone writes in their section about noticing someone doing something odd, and then you hear the odd person explaining what it was later; there are little questions here and there which eventually get answered forming a really rich plot overall by the end. Reading it again would be very different due to this.

I really enjoyed this, and have recommended it to my dad after he has finished reading his current book. He says that it looked really good. It is written in such a way that it can be enjoyed by about 12 year olds all the way up.

Charlotte, age 16

A creatively written story with an intriguing plot. A great read.

'Encounters' is a very interesting book with a cool writing style. I enjoyed reading about the events of the story from different perspectives and being able to really understand a character's thoughts. The fact that the book is based on a true story is also very fascinating. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for an alternative narrative style or is interested in alien conspiracies.

Edel Waugh

The story is set in 1994 in Zimbabwe where a huge group of children tell the same story about a space ship arriving outside their school at break-time. The

story is told through the eyes of some of these children and the more you read the more you are convinced these children were telling the truth and it seemed to be a very bad omen. The characters are interesting and the plot was original, do we only believe what our eyes see, or do we only believe what we know is possible. **The story is thought provoking and a must read for all fans of UFO'S and unusual things happening to ordinary people.**

Emily Price

I highly recommend this book, it was very intense and always kept the reader engaged. A brilliant read!

Khadijah Ahmed

'Encounters' was a difficult read for me. Five characters tell their version of the story in his or her respective chapters, each with a unique voice and perspective. But with every new chapter, readers are taken back to the beginning, which kept throwing me off. For this reason also, the pace was pretty slow and I felt like I was trudging through the story even though I was reading at my regular speed. On top of that, it's **a pretty dark story with strong language and themes that have the potential to be very upsetting.** And it is somehow less about aliens than I was expecting, even though the "incident" is frequently brought up. So this book definitely isn't for everybody.