

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **How Hard Can Love Be?** by Holly Bourne



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

**Susie Holm, Age 15**

***A powerful, feminist read which will have you laughing out loud as tears slowly fall down your face. Absolutely brilliant.***

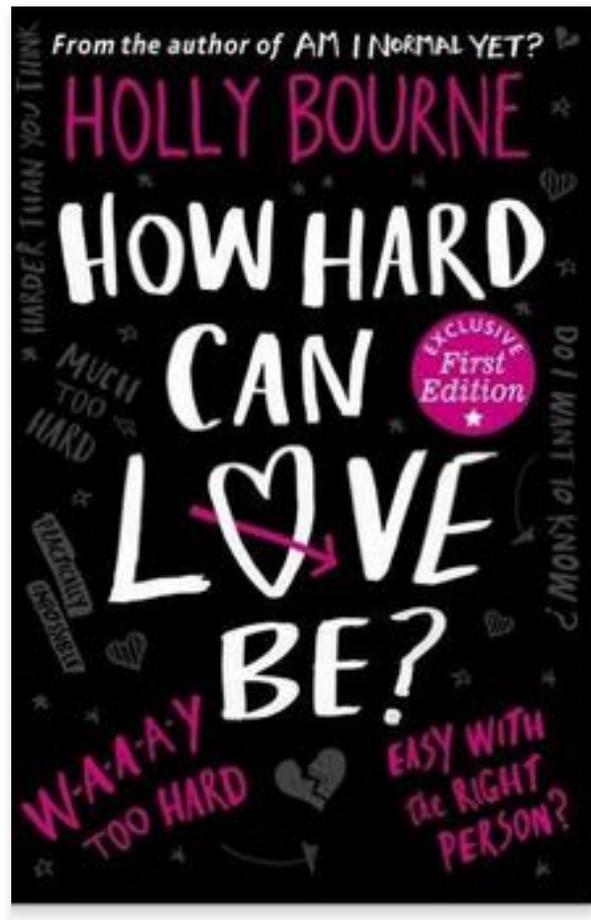
*This book is phenomenal. In all honesty, I expected it to be phenomenal because all of Holly Bourne's books are, but she definitely doesn't disappoint.*

*'How Hard Can Love Be?' Is a beautifully written story that makes you cry and makes you laugh and makes you feel possibly every emotion. Holly Bourne isn't a teenager, but she might as well be from the way that she writes, as it's exactly the way that some teenagers think and that's an amazing thing to be able to do when you're an author.*

*Amber was brilliant. She's a sarcastic, British legend, and there wasn't a moment I didn't want to either hug her or strangle her. Some of the things she said, I felt obliged to read out to my mother as I found them so utterly humorous.*

*Kyle was such a hard character to read. He was unpredictable and whenever you expected him to do one thing, he would just do the complete opposite.*

*The storyline caught me by surprise, always leading you one way but it actually being the other. Holly Bourne changes your view on life and how people live it,*



*and how wrong things can actually be when you don't know, and books that change your opinions on anything are books that you won't forget.*

**Tani Johnson**

**Great Torrington School**

*The book's cover and title are very bright, bold and intriguing. **As soon as I picked this book up I was instantly hooked!** I understood that it was a book about romance but as the story progressed I thought it had quite mature themes in it. The descriptive language and feelings were very clear and I began to feel for the main character and really like her a lot. This is definitely a book I would re-read and would recommend it to friends. **I enjoyed it so much, that I couldn't put it down!** On the last page I really liked the cliff hanger, although I found it frustrating too! I really hope there is another book.*

**Imogen Breaks, age 13**

***What could possibly go wrong with; meeting your mother you haven't seen in years, who ditched you for America and an emotional reunion when neither of you can deal with emotions?***

*'How Hard Can Love Be?' is a sequel to 'Am I Normal Yet?' and is a story about three girls, a special kind of 'spinster' friendship and American boy problems. When Amber was younger her mum left her for America and bum chin Kevin, leaving Amber behind like a lost teddy. However two years on Amber decides to reunite with her mother and spent six weeks of her holidays in America; helping her mum and stepdad run a kids' camp. Although when she gets there it is as if her mum has had a personality transplant. That Amber doesn't like. Not one bit. Even camp is a nightmare, stupid American girls with their American accents asking her 'Have you met the Queen?' and 'Do you live in Buckingham Palace?' To make matters worse even when she finds the cutest boy on camp he's suddenly whisked away from her; leaving her all alone.*

*Armed with her sketch pad, her laptop (for urgent spinster meetings) and plenty of alcohol what could possibly go wrong?*

*I absolutely loved this book, it did exactly what a book should; make you feel a different emotion with every page. It really transported me. I loved every second but I strongly recommend you read 'Am I Normal Yet?' before, it makes it 100 times more enjoyable! I would rate this book 10/10 and recommend it to 13+*

**Daisy Holt**

**Benfield School**

***This is the next part of the trilogy which started with 'Am I Normal Yet?' Each book tells the story of one of the three girls of the 'The Spinster Club' and this time it's Amber's turn.***

*She spends the summer in America working on a kids' summer camp so that she can finally spend time with her mother who she's not seen for two years. It doesn't turn out to be the amazing emotional reunion that she's been dreaming about, and Amber gets increasingly angry with her mother throughout the book. The trip is not a total disaster however, because of the lovely all-American nice guy prom king, Kyle. With support from her UK Spinster Club friends via Skype, she finds her way through the minefield of stormy feelings that threaten to overwhelm her.*

**Izzy Read, age 15**

***For starters, Holly Bourne is one of my most favourite authors out there- she writes brutally honest, funny and relatable novels that capture what being a teenager is like.***

*When Amber flies to America to spend the summer with her mum, after two years apart, she doesn't expect to spend it helping snotty children at a summer camp. This wasn't quite the way she'd dreamed it to be... Ambers story is, described by Holly Bourne as, a story of about love in all it weird painful forms. I love that finally an author can write while remembering their own teen years without repeating clichés that have been done over and over again. Read 'How Hard Can Love Be?' if you are getting over a breakup, having a hard time with friends, or maybe going through an amazing period of your life. No matter what, this book will take you in and make you a part of its world. I can't wait for the 3rd book, because the other two have simply blown me away.*

[www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com](http://www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com)

**Humaira Kauser, age 17**

***This books melts me. It's so funny and sweet. Absolutely loved it! Holly Bourne truly is the Queen of YA!***

*To be honest I wasn't too excited to read 'How Hard Can Love Be?' but that was before I delved into Amber's world. I have never read anything by Holly Bourne and I can't believe I've gone on this long without reading any of her work.*

*'How Hard Can Love Be?' is 460 pages and seems like a really thick book. It physically is, but I flew through that book. It didn't take me long to read at all. I especially loved how each chapter began with "Illustrations to come. Situations that are destined to fail:" (the chapter beginnings took up a whole page so that's probably why the book comes across as really big, don't let that put you off!)*

*This book is really cute. Adorably cute. It is also laugh-out-loud funny. It's hilarious. What I love so much that this book also has depth and has a serious side.*

*I can't wait to carry on the Spinster trilogy!*

### **Megan Chambers, age 14**

***This book was absolutely amazing! I could not put it down. I loved how it showed the story of The Spinster Club from Amber's point of view.***

*I loved the first book, now I love the second one too. Holly Bourne is such a talented author, and I love her ideas in her books. I really like the way she puts across real life problems in a no nonsense way, without taking all the bad bits out. This book is definitely one of my favourite that I have ever read so far.*

### **Farah Alam**

***This book is a very easy read, filled with a great love story, and great character development. Really enjoyed this book and really interested in reading more by Holly Bourne.***

### **Destiny Maraj, age 14**

***From the very first page I fell in love with this novel. It was funny, full of drama and at times it was an emotional rollercoaster. I loved how the author captured the very essence of being a teenage girl from liking boys, arguing with parents and competing with other girls. Overall I adored reading 'How hard can love be?'***

### **Edel Waugh**

*This is the story about a teenager called Amber who is about to spend her summer holidays with her mother in America who she has not seen in two years. Leaving England for the summer is bittersweet leaving her friends but adventure and excitement are what's making her so excited! Amber goes there*

to help her mother and partner out but she also goes with a lot of mental baggage that has been lingering around since her mother left her two years ago with her dad, stepmother and annoying stepbrother. The story was a simmering pot ready to explode from the beginning and this is one girl who is was in despite need of parental love and a need to find acceptance with the way her life and past was . **I could not put this book down, I wanted to hug Amber so often as her pain practically bled off the page.** This makes an unforgettable read!

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2015/12/how-hard-can-love-be-by-holly-bourne.html?m=1>

### **Jodi Coffman, age 14**

I loved 'Am I normal yet?' and was extremely excited when I received the next book, but regardless of whether you have read the first book, 'How Hard Can Love Be?' is a great read. Lottie, Amber and Evie are three teenage girls and each book focuses on one of their stories. In the first book they form a group where they talk about all their thoughts about life. This is carried on throughout the next book ('How Hard Can Love Be?') where the story focuses on Amber's trouble with boys. She goes to America for the whole summer to stay with her Mum who she hasn't seen in a long time. But when she gets there, she realises her mum has moved on without her. Amber has to stay the whole summer helping at a summer camp for a mum who doesn't care. You wouldn't blame her for getting into a bit of trouble, would you? **This book was extremely funny, heartwarming and very relatable.** I recommend this book to any teenagers who want a relatable, great book.

### **Alex McCalla, age 16**

Definitely the type of book for hardcore readers! **Love this book. Such an amazing author producing an amazing book.** 'How Hard Can Love Be?' is a very large book that's for sure! I did find it hard to get through this in a short amount of time so I would definitely say it is for the people who really like big, thick books. As one of these people, I think the book was great and had a great story line.

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