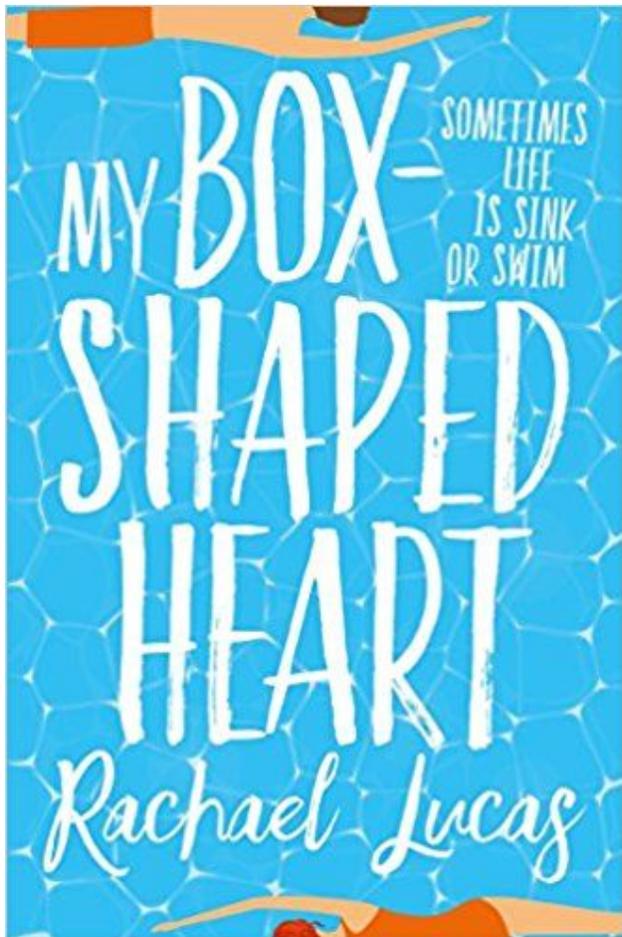


## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **My Box-Shaped Heart** Written by Rachael Lucas

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



**Linda Brown, adult**

*As always Rachel Lucas writes in a style that is easy to read and engages the reader from the very first page. Making it suitable for 14+ confident and less confident readers. It has 255 well written pages that has lovely characters and an intriguing storyline.*

*This short but heart warming story focuses on the consequences for teenagers on the subjects of domestic abuse and depression. Holly's mom hoards almost anything, her home is packed full of boxes of items that her mom will not let go. As a result of this Holly keeps herself to herself at school as she doesn't want anyone to find out about her mom. Ed, has just moved into town, we find out as the story progresses that previous to this he came from a wealthy home where he had everything, but his*

*mom is a victim of domestic abuse and they have been placed in a safe house. Ed avoids making friends as he scared his dad will find them. These two mixed up teenagers meet at the local swimming pool where Holly works and Ed goes to swim which helps him escape the trauma of an abusive parent. The romance that develops between them is slow and gentle with some of the awkwardness of a first time romance.*

*On top of all of this, one of Holly's friends has gained the confidence to admit that she is gay. The storyline doesn't go into great depth about these issues, the reader gets just enough information to be able to empathise or perhaps for some readers to relate to the main characters. At the back of the book there is a detailed section providing information on Mind and women's refuge etc, which I think is a thoughtful touch in a book that tackles issues like this. Cressida I found to be another important character as she represents stability for Holly. She also helps Holly's mom clear out the rubbish. Along with her help and with each bag that leaves the house it seems that Holly's mum gets brighter and finally decides that it's time to seek medical help for her condition.*

**Millie James, age 13**

***Holly feels she is never really going to fit in at school because she has the wrong clothes and seems a bit weird because she is always busy worrying about her mum.***

*Holly's life starts to change when she swims into a boy she's never met before at the pool. Ed could be the boy that she's been hoping for, he's definitely cute and interested in her. Cressie takes her mother in hand and things starts to improve, but can things really get better for Holly? Her wicked ex-step-sister (who hangs around with all the bitchy girls at school) comes to stay for the holidays while Holly's ex-step-dad is on holiday with the woman he dumped her mother for. Then Ed starts acting secretive about his own Dad and Holly sees him hugging another girl in the city centre. Also she seems to have got two new friends Allie and Rio, though she does worry that she's a spare wheel when they're together.*

*It's a story about falling in love and different relationships and finding your own self.*

**Edel Waugh**

***This was an inspiring and uplifting read about domestic violence, the importance of family and friends and happily ever afters. Loved it!***

*This is the delightful story of a teenager called Holly and one summer of her life where everything changes.*

*Holly lives in an overwhelming amount of clutter with a mother who is struggling with depression and a multitude of other issues, Holly is essentially the adult in the family and struggling to live her own life and she is way down the list of her responsibilities of which there are plenty so when she is offered a job doing the one thing in the world she loves she jumps at the chance and it's about to change her life.*

*This was an inspiring and uplifting read about domestic violence, the importance of family and friends and happily ever afters. Loved it!*  
[http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2018/05/my-box-shaped-heart-by-rachael-lucas.html?  
m=1](http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2018/05/my-box-shaped-heart-by-rachael-lucas.html?m=1)

**Anastasia Abdian, age 13**

**My Box-Shaped Heart is a great read. It is about a girl named Holly. She meets a boy named Ed and with both of their lives in difficult places, they comfort each other. I would recommend this book.**

*My Box-Shaped Heart is a fantastic book about a girl named Holly who meets a boy named Ed. They both meet by chance at the swimming pool Holly works at. Both have their own problems that led them there and they manage to seek comfort from each other. It is wonderfully written and I highly recommend this book.*

**Felicity Kerswell, age 15**

***This book was unique, I could not put it down and I enjoyed every minute of it. I would of never picked up this book in a store but I am happy I could read it!***

*This book was amazing, it was emotional and I liked holly. The progress between the main two characters was unique. Holly is so different to her schoolmates and loves to swim until she bumps into Ed in the pool and something fabulous come out of it. I would recommend this book!*

**Melanie Chadwick, age 17**

***It's a story about navigating different relationships and finding your own self and making a place for yourself in the world.***

*Holly feels she is never really going to fit in at school because she has the wrong clothes and seems a bit weird because she is always busy worrying about her mum. She's ashamed of her house which is dirty and full of stuff because her mum suffers from depression and shops online for things they don't need despite having no money for food or bills. Her one escape from her life is in the pool where she is a trainee swimming instructor for Cressie.*

*Holly's life starts to change when she swims into a boy she's never met before at the pool. Ed could be the knight in shining armour that she's been hoping for, he's definitely cute and interested in her. Cressie takes her mother in hand and things starts to improve, but can things really get better for Holly? Her wicked ex-step-sister (who hangs around with all the bitchy girls at school) comes to stay for the holidays while Holly's ex-step-dad is on holiday with the woman he dumped her mother for. Then Ed starts acting secretive about his own Dad and Holly sees him hugging another girl in the city centre. Meanwhile she seems to have acquired two new friends Allie and Rio, though she does worry that she's a spare wheel when they're together.*

*It's a story about navigating different relationships and finding your own self and making a place for yourself in the world.*

**Rebekah Marsh, age 15**

***My Box Shaped Heart is simply wonderful. I felt as if I had experienced everything that Holly had, with all her issues being explored in an immaculate way.***

*This book is truly amazing - it is so well written that I had tears in my eyes on numerous occasions. It explored so many different emotions that it is impossible not to love this book.*

**Humaira Kauser, age 20**

***Holly and Ed. Ed and Holly. Oh how they are my favourite characters.***

*My box shaped heart is definitely my favourite book that Rachel Lucas has written. I loved the writing. I loved the setting and the characters. I loved the friendship that was explored and how the characters had to deal with things. Great book and read!*

**Erin Huxley, age 13**

***This book showed that, although life may seem perfect that it isn't always. It was written so that you would feel as though you had the same emotions and were going on the same journey with them.***

*This book showed that, although life may seem perfect that it isn't always. It had many true aspects of life including abuse and depression. It was written so that you would feel all of their emotions and it had an amazing atmosphere. Some of it was unexpected but overall it was a lovely and interesting love story filled with adventure.*

**Trinity Sadler, age 14**

***I absolutely loved this book the characters were great and the story line really moved me.***

*I absolutely loved this book I loved the development of the characters and the mood and tone of the book this is a wonderful story which brings great meaning to the book. I especially loved the symbolising tied in with the house it really made me think about the real meaning behind the mothers mood. A great book with fab characters and an amazing storyline.*

**Charlotte Cassidy, age 13**

***A wonderful book that you could easily relate to real life. I loved it, and couldn't put it down.***

*My box-shaped heart is a wonderful unique book that I couldn't put down once I had picked it up. It is about two different people, whose lives unexpectedly collide, and become inseparably intertwined. Holly is living with her Mom in Scotland, helping out at the local swimming pool when she meets Ed, a swimmer there. When Holly finds herself in unexpected circumstances, she finds herself growing closer to Ed. As they slowly become closer, they learn more about each other, and the difficulties that they have to face. This is an amazing book that shows the importance of family and friends, and that you could relate to real life, and easily connect with the characters. It also acknowledges real life issues that are a problem today, such as domestic abuse in the home. My favorite character is Holly, as you can empathise with her, and she seems like she could actually be a real person. Overall, I really enjoyed this book, and would recommend it to people aged 11+ who like romance books.*

**Amelia, age 18**

***Everyone has different methods of withdrawing from reality, swimming is how Ed and Holly connected. They want to escape reality for different reasons but swim for the same reason...to be free.***

*What I enjoyed most about this book was the swimming element. I am a keen swimmer myself and could relate a lot to the characters especially Holly. I often go swimming to train as well as to gain a bit of freedom and withdraw myself from the outsider world. I would have quite liked the chapters to alternate between characters to get the different point of views from both Holly and Ed. Overall I really enjoyed the book, the storyline is gripping and I loved watching the romance blossom between Ed and Holly.*