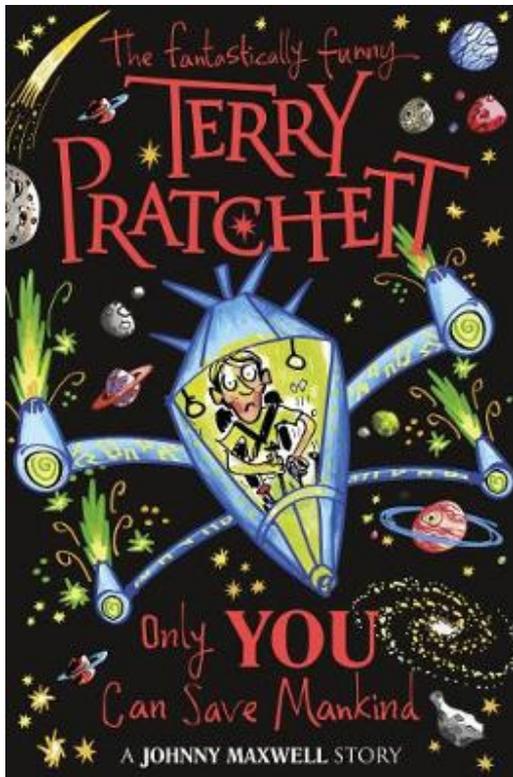


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Only You Can Save Mankind** A Johnny Maxwell Story by Terry Pratchett

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



Emily Golding, age 10 ½

If you don't know who Terry Pratchett is, here's a brief summary of how EPIC he is: he is fabulous, funny and totally WICKED!!! Seriously, you're missing out on a whole lot of funniness!

Awesome! I love Terry Pratchett because he makes sense of nonsense and I love how he makes up strange new people and places, like the ScreeWee. I think that Johnny Maxwell is quite nice and understanding of the Captain. Kirsty, a.k.a Sigourney, is very logical. I loved reading this book, so, if you liked this one, I would recommend read 'The Witch's Vacuum Cleaner', 'Dragons at Crumbling

Castle', 'The Tiffany Aching' series (the first one is 'The Wee Free Men'), and 'Eric'. I KNOW you will enjoy them. If you don't know about Terry Pratchett, then you are missing out on a whole lot of funny!

Ethan Watkin, age 10

I loved 'Only You Can Save Mankind' as it mixes my favourite things, books and video games. This a great comedy action book and my favourite character was Big Mac who is funny. Great book. Loved it!

I really enjoyed reading 'Only You Can Save Mankind' and it was an excellent book.

I thought this because it wasn't slow starting and I quickly got into the story.

The book is fairly unique and tells the tale of a boy stuck in a dream about a video game he plays.

The boy (Johnny) has to save the aliens instead of destroying them.

This the first in a series of books about johnny and I cant wait to read the rest.

This book is suitable for boys and girls from 10-12.

Issie Ford, age 10

It's an exciting book, chock to the brim full of characters who can literally pop out of nowhere.

This book is spacey with crocodile-like aliens trying to flee a galaxy which is inconveniently located inside a computer game. They find out they need help from unlikely hero Johnny Maxwell, a computer game addict, who really only wants to play games.

If you like science fiction books, you'll enjoy this.

Toby Little, age 10

This book first came out in 1992, but in the author's note at the beginning, Terry Pratchett explains that it might be worth bringing it out again, and saying how computer games have changed. The book doesn't read like it's that old. The name of the book is 'Only You Can Save Mankind', and that is also the name of the game Johnny Maxwell plays in the book. In this game, you are a human fighting against the ScreeWee, but then they surrender, and Johnny has to work out how the game is played now. He is inside the game in his dreams...but is he really?

*I found the book sometimes a bit confusing, but I liked the idea of a video game that's actually real. **Since the book was first published, video games have become a lot more realistic, but it would still be cool if you could just jump into one.***

www.fantasticbooksandwheretofindthem.fun

Charlotte Dunn, age 10

A thoughtful, yet funny story which reflects upon modern life for children.

'Only You Can Save Mankind' is a thoughtful, yet hilarious book. It is about a teenage boy named Johnny Maxwell and a computer game. Johnny is busy playing his new game when a message appears on the screen from the aliens saying 'we surrender'. This isn't what Johnny was expecting but after having a think he realizes no-one ever gives the aliens a chance to live and explain themselves. Johnny realizes he has to save the aliens called 'Screewees' by dreaming into the Screewee base and taking them to their home. It is a lot trickier than he expects and has to persuade people not to shoot.

Along with the aliens there is other drama including a war on the news which adds interesting affects to the character, as well as Johnny's parents splitting up and issues with his friends.

This is quite different to most books, and it not often you can say that. You have to pay quite a lot of attention because it will swap from computer to real life to hallucinations to dreams. Only giving you a small clue as to what place you are in.

This book is a first in the 'Johnny Maxwell' Trilogy, and I am inspired to seek out the next. Most boys, in particular, would love this book in so many ways. The age I would recommend would be 9+ because of a small amount of bad language and drama. This book was published a while ago and is being re-published so you could have a look for it in the libraries. Overall this is a thoughtful, interesting, funny story which I would rate an impressive 4/5.

Oliver Lonsdale, age 10

A great book for computer game lovers.

This book is about a boy called Jonny who loves computer games. One day he is shooting the aliens when they say 'we surrender' which obviously surprises Jonny.

I liked this book because I love computer games. It was funny and exciting though I found the pace a bit slow at times.

I liked the character Wobbler the best as he was funny.

Toby Nicholson, age 9

I liked that this book started as a computer game in normal life but then it turned into a real-life adventure. It was a real page turner and I would definitely recommend it.

'Only You Can Save Mankind' by Terry Pratchett is very interesting as it has a boy called Johnny Maxwell who must save some aliens from having their kind obliterated. Johnny is minding his own business enjoying playing his computer game where you have to fly around in a spaceship in game space shooting aliens, but then a message comes from the last remaining alien spaceship: 'we wish to talk'. He starts having dreams which are real and in them he has to shoot down other gamer's spaceships and save the aliens from getting destroyed. As the aliens have surrendered to Johnny but not to anybody else, the gamers are still shooting as they have no idea that the aliens have surrendered, but it's not a game anymore!

I liked this book because it was funny; my favourite part was near the end when Johnny was running around inside the alien's command ship with the captain and Kirsty (or Sigourney as she is known by her game name!). I also liked that it started as a computer game in normal life but then it turned into a real-life adventure. It was a real page turner, as it kept me wanting to know what happened next to Johnny and the aliens. I would definitely recommend it.

Jessica Holmes, age 11

'Only You Can Save Mankind' is a very good book. Johnny Maxwell lives an unusual life helping aliens, but with help from old and new friends, they manage it.

'Only You Can Save Mankind' is a very good book as it brings you more into the story. As a person who is trying to start reading Terry Pratchett, I recommend this one to start on because it is a book that brings you into the creative imaginative mind of the author. As you go through the story, you get closer to the characters, and for me, into the story itself.

The ScreeWee race asked for help and said that they wanted to surrender. This would be okay in a dream, but in real life, it can be quite unsettling. Johnny Maxwell lives an unusual life, helping aliens, but with help from old and new friends, they can manage it.

My favourite character is Kristy (or Sigourney) because in the Trying Times, she makes it obvious that girls can play video games just as well as boys, maybe

even better. My least favourite character is the Gunnery Officer. Overall, I think that it is a very good book, and I can't wait to read the other books in the series, and by the author.

Seren Daly, age 11

This book is exciting and adventurous.

'Only You Can Save Mankind' is a book about a boy called Johnny Maxwell. One day he is playing a video game on his computer when he receives a message from an enemy ship that says "we wish to talk". From that moment on his life changed. He has been issued the title "the chosen one" and now has to lead a troop of screwwee ships across the sky and back to their home. He has to also protect them as they have decided not to fight. This book is really funny and has a great storyline. I loved the idea and I would recommend it to age 8+ as they would probably enjoy this.

Rob Anderson, age 8

A very weird, but funny book.

Johnny is not really a hero. He is an ordinary boy. He likes to play computer games like me. An alien comes out of a game wanting to talk to him. They need his help. It is very weird at times, but funny. It is a bit of a mixture of 'Star Wars' and the 'Jumanji' films. I would recommend it.

Rob's Mum

I suspect quite a bit went over my son's head in terms of this book and its themes. From what I remember it was supposed to be Pratchett's way of commenting on the Gulf War. The joke about 'Sigourney' was obviously missed. Much too young for 'Aliens', as in the film. A bit dated in some respects but not so much as to be irrelevant or spoil the reader's enjoyment of it.

Ethan, age 7

Exciting, funny and out of this world - Lots of fun. Jonny is playing a game called 'Only You Can Save Mankind' and one time he was playing, a message came up from the aliens saying 'We wish to talk'. In a dream Jonny is in a spaceship where he has a big adventure, but in the daytime he still has to go to

school.

This book is really funny, with lots of jokes, and lots of funny spellings (Mummy says this is typically Pratchett!), it's really exciting and you can't wait to find out what happens next.

Another Mummy note - This book has some language in it that would suggest it more suitable for tweens/teens rather than the publisher recommended 9+."

<http://www.petitmoi-bigworld.co.uk>

James, age 11

*I enjoyed the book as it had a good storyline which made me enjoy it. I think that Terry is funny in real life as his book has a good sense of humour. The book hooks you at moments as you think about what will happen next but something else happens. **I think that Terry Pratchett is a good, reliable author as he can mix scary into funny while also including good morals for young children.** I would recommend this book to children from a range of 6-12*

Oscar Smith

*I would recommend this fantastic book to anyone 9+ and would love to read more from this beloved author. **'Only You Can Save Mankind' is a hilarious and gripping novel by well-known author Terry Pratchett.***

*Follow average child Jonny Maxwell as a hit new computer game about blasting aliens into a million pieces turns into a reality, unbeknownst to his unloving parents. **Guaranteed cries of laughter and joy ensue in this must have essential for bookshelves.***

Libby Bridgeman, age 10

This is a good book for kids who like computer games. *The fate of humanity is in Johnny's hands but it couldn't hold my attention and wasn't as funny as it thought it was.*

I really enjoyed the idea of the book but struggled to read it. It's too long, the words aren't always understandable and it's a bit dated. I also found it a bit sexist where they went on about girls not being good at computer games and there was mild swearing. Thanks Lovereading4kids, I tried it but didn't like it.

Lots of people love terry Pratchett's books, this is the first one I have tried and I might try it again in the future.