

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Pearl Thief** by Elizabeth Wein

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



Eloise Mae Clarkson

The characters are amazing and each one has their own unique back story. I also really like how the theme of romance is featured subtly and isn't too in your face. There is action and adventure.

I loved how this book was so unpredictable even at the very end it had an unexpected twist. It also made a change to read something that wasn't set in modern day but wasn't set hundreds of years ago either. The time period of the 1930s was a really nice in between. The characters are amazing and each one has their own unique back story. I also really like how the theme of romance is featured subtly and isn't too in your face. There is definitely action and adventure as well and the novel has an air of mystery. The way the book ends leaves you with a longing to know what happens to the characters, so hopefully there may be a sequel. I would highly recommend the 'Pearl Thief' if you enjoy books with murder mystery themes.

Ella Hewitt, age 14

A thrilling novel focusing on the world before the war from a young girl's perspective! Amazing! Both boys and girls will enjoy this gripping story! Suitable from 11 years!

This is a thrilling novel suitable for children from the age of 11. Both boys and girls will enjoy this gripping story as you learn about life before the war in Scotland. I would really recommend this book even if you are not very

interested in History as it is breathtaking story of a girl trying to prove everyone else wrong. You learn about history without meaning to! 100% would read again!

Jenny Duffy

With a plucky and complex heroine, this is an enjoyable and atmospheric read.

15 year old Lady Julia Beaufort-Stuart returns to her family's ancestral estate in Scotland, not for a relaxing holiday, but to bid goodbye to her home which is to be sold off. Things take a darker turn when Julie is attacked, and the expert who was cataloguing the Murray Hoard is missing, presumed dead. When she awakes from her coma, Julie cannot remember what happened to her. She begins an investigation with the help of Euan McEwen, the Scots Traveller boy who found her when she was injured, and his standoffish yet fascinating sister Ellen. She sees the prejudices her new friends face, as they try to solve the mystery and piece together what happened by the river...

With a plucky and complex heroine, this is an enjoyable and atmospheric read. Elizabeth Wein has established a reputation as a masterful writer of historical fiction, and she evokes 1930s Scotland vividly in this book – both the landscape and the estate. She also deals with prejudice, class and sexuality in a very nuanced way. While I loved Julie, it took me a long time to get into this book and I didn't enjoy it as much as Wein's other books. However, I would recommend it to fans of richly written historical fiction with memorable characters.

<http://thebookstheartandme.wordpress.com>

Talia Jacobs, age 15

Ultimately this book was not really my thing but parts were still enjoyable. Great for younger readers who love history and mystery.

'The Pearl Thief' by Elizabeth Wein was an interesting novel set in the years before the Second World War, in Scotland, about a young girl defending her friends and trying to solve a mystery. Good for ages 8+ but ultimately, not really my thing. While I enjoyed parts of this book, finding them quite intriguing, I found other parts relatively dull. However, this book was great for younger mystery lovers.

Follow Julie Beaufort-Stuart as her age and character develop and meet the friends from her past and the friends she makes along the way. At times Julie can come across as quite vain and whiny, she eventually develops into a sweet and mature young woman.

The description and language is lovely and detailed, though at times a little tedious.

The plot is relatively slow to start with but in time you uncover surprise after surprise, which improves the book greatly and keeps you reading.

You watch Julie facing the struggle of who to trust and who to love which was one of my favourite parts of the story.

Overall, this was not one of my favourite books but parts of it were still enjoyable. I would recommend this novel to history and mystery lovers who enjoy challenging language. A great book at tackling prejudice, for younger readers.

Olivia Tierney, age 19

Reminiscent of classic mysteries, ‘The Pearl Thief’ is a great quick summer read which will transport you to 1930's Scotland. Wein's novel explores grief, coming-of-age and fighting society stereotypes.

The Pearl Thief follows a young upcoming 16 year old Julie. Part of the nobility, Julie arrives back in Scotland to deal with the aftermath of her grandfather's passing and change that brings. After arriving back early, Julie finds herself bedridden in hospital with no recollection of who attacked her. Rescued by travellers, Julie slowly tries to remember everything that transpired that fateful day, while police investigations continue to search for a missing Dr Housman.

This summer will be closure for Julie, as she says goodbye to things she loves dearly. But it will also be a summer of firsts; first real love, first real friendships and a time in which she will discover more about herself and the world in which she lives in.

A mystery full of intrigue and guessing games with a great story behind it, ‘The Pearl Thief’ is definitely a great way to spend a few hot summer days!

www.oliviaspaperadventures.wordpress.com

Edel Waugh

*The story is set in the 1930's in England and is mostly centred around a wealthy family's estate. The water around the estate is ripe with pearls and there is many keen on stealing them much to the frustration of the family. When Julie, the grandchild from the estate is on her way home for the summer to visit she is met by a terrible accident, when she wakes in hospital she remembers little of any use and has made the most unlikely allies in a traveller family. The story was full of atmosphere, and Julie was a likeable person who stands up for those she sees being treated bad, she has gumption and can be very tongue in cheek. **I really enjoyed the story and the mystery surrounding her accident, this is definitely a book to add to your TBR list!***

Phoebe Allan

*This story weaves as much as the river that the mystery is based around! Set in the 1930's the tale takes you back to a very traditional Scottish estate where a gruesome crime keeps a group of sleuthing youngsters busy all summer! An old fashioned tale that will keep the reader guessing and shows that even people from the most different backgrounds can become the best of friends. **If you dream of long summers, the majestic scene of Scotland and a good old fashioned mystery then this is the book for you!***

Lisa Redmond

*'The Pearl Thief' is Elizabeth Wein's fourth book for young adults. While previous books have featured daring female pilots and WW2 heroines the heroine of 'The Pearl Thief' is Julie; a 1930s Scottish aristocrat back from finishing school to help her mother close up her grandfather's estate for the last time. Grieving for her grandfather and for the summers she used to have Julie meets a family of Scottish Travellers including brother and sister Ellen and Euan whose way of life is also being closed off and who meet disdain, prejudice and opposition at every turn. On top of this Julie and her new friends have mysteries to solve; what happened to visiting academic Dr Housman who has disappeared? Who knocked Julie unconscious? And what has happened to the pearls in her **grandfather's collection. It's not all about the mystery though as there is also romance. The struggles with class, poverty and a changing way of life are all deftly handled. Elizabeth Wein is a powerful and consummate storyteller. Beautifully crafted and unputdownable 'The Pearl Thief' is a wonderful mystery, filled with nostalgia***

and a real homage to the author's adopted home of Scotland, to the Scottish countryside and to a fading way of life. With echoes of I Capture the Castle and Agatha Christie this will be a real hit with fans of Robin Stevens, Brideshead Revisited and Enid Blyton.

Felicity Kerswell, age 14

*This book is very peculiar and even though it had a really good story line unfortunately I could not understand what the characters were saying! This book was okay. **The story was good but with the dialect I struggled to follow the plot.** The story is about a young girl called Julie whose grandfather has just died, and his mansion is being sold to pay her grandfather's medical bills. Later in the book a London archivist goes missing and it is blamed on the McEwen family but Julie knows different and goes to prove their innocence. In the end I had to give up reading this book so did not complete it as the language I had to look up as I didn't understand the dialect that the McEwen's were speaking as it was local slang.*