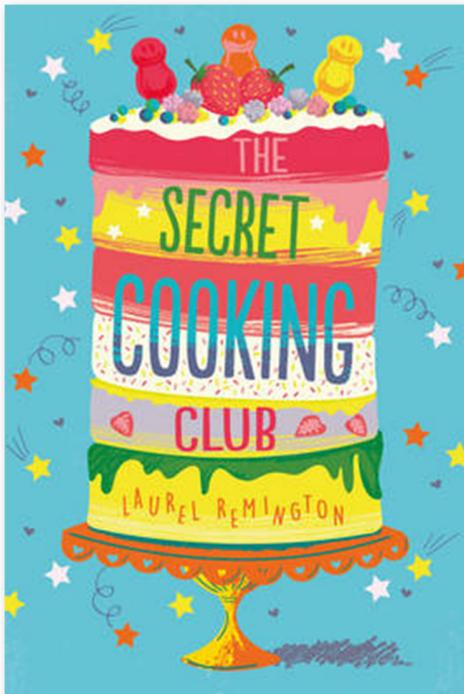


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Secret Cooking Club** by Laurel Remington



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



Adiella Norridge

I loved this book and there are only three words to describe it - family, friends and fun. A brilliant read!

Scarlett is the victim of her famous mum's blog and it's ruining her life: losing her her friends, she's being picked on by bullies and not letting her do a single thing without her mum writing about it (and not in a good way!). So when Scarlett finds an abandoned kitchen next door she is delighted to finally be out of the spotlight and starts to bake the most delicious of dishes. Through baking, Scarlett's confidence finally starts to show and through more people finding out, she

makes the Secret Cooking Club. But there is trouble to come and secrets to find. Can Scarlett keep her confidence to save her family, friendship and the Cooking Club?

I loved this book and there are only four words to describe it - family, friends, food and fun. It was really detailed which meant my mouth would water at some points! I really enjoyed all the twists and turns and the feelings that Laurel Remington created towards the characters. I hated Mr Kruffs and Scarlett's mum (at some points), I loved dear old Mrs Simpson and felt for Scarlett.

I feel that The Secret Cooking Club is mainly suited to girls aged 9+ but I wouldn't stop anyone else from reading it. This book made me laugh, lick me lips and even brought me to tears. An amazing read and I would definitely recommend this book.

Emily Pitfield, age 11

An 'unputdownable' touching story about family, friendship and food which I really enjoyed.

The secret cooking club is a touching and heart-warming story about family, friendship and food. I couldn't put it down once I had started reading and absolutely loved Scarlett's character. This is a great read which I would highly recommend to anyone looking for a fabulous story about friendship. I would love to read more by this author in the future.

Hannah Minton, age 10

A heart-warming yet modern tale which I loved - I didn't want it to end.

The Secret Cooking Club is a heart-warming yet modern tale of how one accident and one book can change many lives. The lessons learnt from this book are to try new things, persevere, help, don't be shy (if you like something someone else probably will too) and to stick by your beliefs. Scarlet is a child who is completely embarrassed every week by her mother. She starts up a club when she enters her neighbour's glamorous kitchen. Although she has never cooked before, she soon finds she loves the scrumptious world of cooking. However, starting a cooking club is not easy. Aside from her personal mother daughter issues, Scarlet realises she has to correct her recent wrong doings. I loved this book because it is realistic and is good example to others. The author paints a really good picture that made me feel like I was actually part of the story. I didn't want the book to end.

Lauren Randall, age 8

Highly recommended dramatic story for 8 to 10 year olds.

This story is about Rosemary Simpson and her secret cooking club. I really liked it when Scarlett met Violet and she finally made some friends. This story ends with mixed emotions but has something for everyone.

Rose spear, age 11

*Scarlet is the star of her mum's blog and she absolutely hates it, but when she finds an empty kitchen next door she starts to bake. As more people find out and Scarlet's confidence grows the secret cooking club is formed. But can the club stay undercover and what is the secret ingredient to cake, family and friendship. **I love this book because it is full of suspense and you don't want to put it down.** My favourite character is Violet because she is always very nice and she is good at breaking awkward silences. I think this is a good book and I really enjoyed it.*

Isaac East, age 10

10 out of 10 for Laurel Remington! She has written an amazing book about cooking, friendships and life.

The Secret Cooking Club is about 4 girls start cooking in secret with a lovely lady called Miss Simmonds. They all learn to cook in a wonderful tale of friendship and food. In the book there is fun, comedy and a hint of mystery.

The main character of this book is Scarlett who wonders over to her neighbours (Miss Simmonds) house and starts to love cooking. She then teams up with 3 other girls and they form the secret cooking club that leaves out free samples in the lunch hall.

I tried baking the recipes and they were delicious. I would recommend them to you all! This book inspired me to cook lots of sweet treats for my friends at school and family.

Read this book if you are keen on cooking and friendship.

Aimee, age 11

The Secret Cooking Club is an amazing book for all readers to enjoy.

Scarlett - a twelve-year-old who just wants some peace in her life. Easy, right? Wrong! It's hard enough to stay out of the shadows, but when your mum is a worldwide blogging sensation, which happens to recount the behind the scenes action of Scarlett's partly embarrassing life, things get a lot harder. When the online world goes from bad to worse, Scarlett discovers an unused kitchen, hidden next door... Soon Scarlett - and a new friend - uncover their passion for baking, and form the Secret Cooking Club. Could baking hold the key to friends family, and obviously good food? Read and find out!

I recommend this book to anyone who read and enjoyed: The Baking Life of Amelie Day, or Dork Diaries. I rate this book 9/10, because I wish there was more!

Sue

*Having a mother who has created a popular blog might sound great, but for twelve-year old Scarlett being the star of this and having every embarrassing moment of her life open to scrutiny has not been fun. She has withdrawn from all activities and social life in an attempt to stay out of the spotlight. However, when Scarlett visits the house next door and discovers a beautiful, handwritten recipe book in an amazing kitchen, her life changes and 'The Secret Cooking Club' is formed. **This is a delightful book that is touching, funny, sad and uplifting in turns.** It explores how easily misunderstandings take place and how actions can be misinterpreted. It looks at relationships- between friends, in families, in communities and between generations. It considers identity and coming to know yourself- and others- that little bit better. It values love and loss, and yet it does all this in the most readable, enjoyable way. The story never preaches; there are no massive 'issues' to be resolved. Scarlett is a very 'real' child – she gets things wrong, she makes mistakes- but she has a good heart and is very likeable. The book is full of convincing characters, which contributes to the real success of the story as a whole. This is a perfect book for UKS2 children. I consumed it in one sitting and will be cooking cinnamon scones as soon as the holiday starts!*

<http://www.northsomersetteachersbookaward.com/> Twitter: @Scoobiesue2

Rosie Watch

*Like the recipe book the story is based upon, the book is full of variety and flavours. **It so cleverly incorporates so many topics and anxieties experienced by young teenagers and I know the girls in my classes will love it.** As an adult it is still a very good read and a great mixture of happiness and sadness. I loved the character Rosemary Simpson, with her hard edge and big heart. The characters were so real and Scarlett's endless embarrassments are both amusing, but typical of the worries of her age. With a 12 year old myself I can so relate to her annoyance at not having a phone and her humiliation at literally having her dirty laundry aired in public. It was all so believable. I loved the way all the plots and storylines came to a conclusion like a successful recipe. The vivid descriptions of the recipes themselves were*

very tempting and perhaps an outlet for an additional book?

Mila Humphryes, age 9

A fun, lip smacking page turner of a book about cake, friendship, boys and embarrassing mums. You can almost taste Laurel Remington's words!

This book is about a girl without hobbies. Her neighbour had an accident and had to go to hospital. The girl broke into the house after hearing some mysterious noises. She found a black cat, it was calling for food. She fed the cat in the kitchen and found an old cook book on a stand and decided to look in it. When she went to school the next day there was a new girl at school. They decided to make a secret cooking club...

The main character is called Scarlett. She is very shy and lonely but all that changes once she makes her discovery.

My favourite character is Violet, because she is mischievous and cheeky. My favourite part is when Violet comes into the neighbour's house with her aunt and finds Scarlett cooking by herself and decided to join in.

I also like how the girls talk about Nick Farr and the way they describe his dreamy hazel eyes!

This book makes my mouth water because of all the delicious foods and ingredients that are described.

I really enjoyed reading this book because I love cooking different types of food and it reminded me of a friend I have, who cooks alone.

I think girls aged 9 -13 who like food would enjoy this book.

Beth de Lotbiniere, age 10

I would recommend this book to anyone wants to find the secret ingredient to..... FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY and COOKING!

I really enjoyed this book because although it's about cooking it shows forgiveness, friendship and love as well! I thought that Scarlett was very caring and loving to Mrs Simpson because she got loads of people all over the world to have a sponsored cook, so she could pay for a carer. It was really nice how her friends kept it totally secret from Scarlett's mum! Violet and Scarlett were both generous to Mrs Simpson because they brought her flap-jacks when she was in

hospital.

Scarlett Coffman, age 8

*Ever since I saw the front cover of this book I knew that I would be attached to it and especially as the main character shares my name. I think that it will go far with readers with a sweet tooth and who love cooking. I think that children aged 10+ would enjoy it best as at the end it is quite sad. Three phrases to describe this book: **Heart touching, Inspiring, Exciting...** Why I love this book: First of all it had short, snappy and exiting chapters. It made me feel involved with the book. I could relate to some of the story. **It was VERY addictive. Since reading this amazing book, I have decided it is my favourite book that I have read and I am looking forward to reading it again and seeing.***

Poppy Milburn

***Every week, on Friday at exactly 8:00am, the next update of the blog goes live for all the world to see. But who is the star of that? Only shy Scarlett, the blogger's daughter.** Every week she puts up with the bullying, the teasing and the fake smiles from her so called friends because of what her mum writes about her in the blog. But, one day it all changes the minute a new girl walks into the classroom. Before they even knew it, the secret cooking club is formed...*

Alexander Butler, age 12

***A story about relationships, friends and cooking. A great easy read.** Scarlett's Mum writes a blog which is very successful, however her main topic is Scarlett and it's ruining her life. She's lost friends and is being teased by the other kids in her school.*

One day she ventures next door to check on Mrs Simpson and her cat, and finds her huge kitchen and a special cooking book. She thinks she can actually do something fun with no one knowing or writing about it.

Scarlett's confidence grows as she cooks and bakes dishes in secret and when a few people do find out what she's doing, she creates the "Secret Cooking Club".

As with every tale, nothing goes smoothly and according to plan, but despite the up's and down's this is a good heart-warming story.

It's not my normal choice of book but I want to be a baker when I'm older, so I was quite interested in it (that and the fact that my mum writes about me and my siblings on her blog too), but I would say that this book would be more suited to girls aged 9+.

Niamh Harkes, age 10

Very interesting and a lot of fun to read.** 'The Secret Cooking Club' is a book based on a young girl with many problems. I can relate to the young girl because her mum embarrasses her quite a lot. Because I love reading if I saw this in the shop I would definitely pick it up. I feel this is aimed at kids round 8-15 due to some language any younger ages may struggle to read but overall I definitely recommend this to children with a love for reading. This a book that is very easy going and a lot of language many people could benefit from. **I loved it.

Farah, age 10

*The main character Scarlet in 'The Secret Cooking Club' is a polite person and can make delicious food. I liked that she can make amazing food with her friend Violet and nobody knowing. **I really liked the book, it was great.***