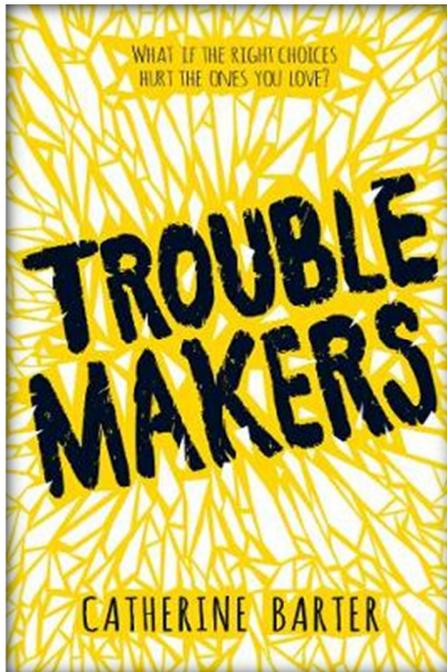


Helping you choose the best books for children



LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Troublemakers** by Catherine Barter

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



Rose Heathcote, age 18

A great book for teens and young adults. I couldn't put it down as so many things were happening, I just wanted to know more!

This book was written so interestingly that I couldn't put it down! What was so intriguing about it was the lots of little events that happened throughout, with conclusions that weren't what you may have been expecting. The book had important topics that are so relevant to today, including gay parents, strikes and politics. I really enjoyed this book, great for anyone, especially

*teenagers and young adults, 5 ******

Rebekah Marsh, age 14

Instantly falling in love with each and every character, I was more and more hooked into the thrilling storyline with each and every page.

*Usually, political novellas are not to my liking; however, 'Troublemakers' had me hooked right from the first word. It's fast paced storyline includes politics, the twisted and hectic life of a teenager, and a series of bomb attack all in one perfectly put together picture. **Simply amazing.***

Felicity Kerswell, age 14

This book made me smile and scream but I love it, the writer has a way of making you want more after giving tiny bit of information.

I love this book! There were a few slower bits but overall it was amazing. The writer kept surprising me with unexpected twists throughout the story. The book is about a young girl called Alena, who is going through hard times as her brother is fighting with his boyfriend, someone is bombing supermarkets and Alena mother's past is coming to light. I would totally recommended this book to anyone who likes mystery.

Alysa Morris, age 15

Barter has a real talent for writing. I loved 'Troublemakers' (it has become one of favourite books). The characters in this book were excellent and had very relatable attitudes toward the modern world!

I was interested in the idea of this book when I read the synopsis, and I fell in love with the story when I read it!

Being a similar age to the main character helped me to relate to a lot of the emotions which Alena felt, and this helped me to connect with her way of thinking. Although I am not in the same situation that she was in, with the constant fear of one of the frequently placed bombs exploding, Barter's writing style really helped me to understand what she was going through and the emotions which Alena would have felt.

I think Barter is a brilliant author with a fresh way of writing which I really enjoyed reading. I look forward to seeing any previous books!

Amy Laws, age 16

This book was so unique and refreshing- I thoroughly enjoyed it.

*I had heard many good things about this book and I'm happy to say that I was certainly not disappointed. In fact, **I enjoyed this book so much that I raced through the pages as I was so hooked by the story. The protagonist was so relatable and I loved her voice.** I loved that the book had elements of mystery as well as tackling politics. Overall, I would thoroughly recommend and I can't wait to see what Catherine Barter releases next.*

Imogen Breaks, age 14

This novel is about a girl's fight against politics. I found it a bit difficult to get into but if you persevere then I'm sure that it would be a really good read.

*This novel is about a girl's fight against politics and what will happen when young people try to have their say. I found it a bit difficult to get into but if you persevere then I'm sure that it would be a really good read, however it just didn't appeal to me. **It would most suit someone interested in politics and who wants to see it from another angle or perhaps someone who enjoys novels that have a lot of different layers to it.***

Linda Brown

A wonderful new and exciting addition to the YA market cannot wait to read her next novel.

*What a wonderful debut novel by Catherine Barter. **'Troublemakers' is one of those books that is completely different to all the others on the shelves at the moment and it makes a refreshing change.** The book deals with death, politics, finding your own identity and terrorism.*

'Troublemakers' is set in London, Alena is a fifteen year old girl who is struggling to come to terms with losing her mother when she was a child and her brother Danny - who is her legal guardian- refusing to tell her anything about her.

Alena has grown up with her brother Danny and his partner Nick in London, which is now being threatened by a bomber who is leaving devices in supermarket. 'Troublemakers' is such a thought provoking story considering our current political climate, where things feel like they are moving more to the extremes than ever before as people are losing hope in what seems to be an increasingly broken system.

I really enjoyed the mystery element of the book as Alena digs into her mother's past hoping to find some connections so that she can find out something about her. During this time she comes across some information that she feels is unjust and makes the impulsive decision to make this known to others without thinking about the consequences.

I highly recommend this exciting and wonderful addition to the Young Adult market and look forward to reading other books by this new author. I would recommend the novel to 13+ readers but only due to the political issues in the book and perhaps the fearful element of the terrorism as this may upset

younger readers. As stated before some young readers would identify with this book due to our current political climate.

Edel Waugh

*Meet Alena, a fifteen year old girl living with her brother Danny and his partner Nick. Alena's mother died when she was a three and Danny has raised her since she was pretty much a baby. I felt for Alena, she did not have a conventional upbringing with a mum and a dad and I think it did her no harm until her teenage years when she started to ask questions about how her mother died and her mother's lifestyle and choices she made, she is made even more curious about it all when her brother is adamant in not wanting to tell her anything. I loved Danny's character, not many brothers would do what he did and do it as well as he did, instilling good sense and morals into a much younger sister who is trying to find her roots and hold on to every bit of family she has. **This is an awesome book for anyone who knows that being from a "normal family" is all in how you look at it.***

Humaira Kauser, age 19

I'm so happy that 'Trouble Makers' is now on my list of favourite books that Andersen Press have been publishing lately.

Lately Andersen Press have been publishing some of my favourite novels ('Optimists Die First' by Susin Nielsen, 'The Serpent King' and 'Goodbye Days' both by Jeff Zentner) and I'm so happy that 'Trouble Makers' is now on that list.

I will say it had to pick it up and start it a few times because I was in a bit of a reading slump but all was good. I liked the writing style and the perspective of Alena. The characters were well developed and I was really interested in the side characters and their development.

Sidney Greenslade, age 13

'Troublemakers' is an exciting tale about Alena, a girl who is determined to find out how her mother really died, while a series of bombs are placed around London, putting everyone at risk.

'Troublemakers' is a gripping and surprising story about 15 year-old Alena. Alena can't remember her mother who died when Alena was very little. She lives with her grown up brother Danny and his boyfriend Nick. Danny

won't talk about their mum, but Alena's never missed her. What has she had that she can miss? That is until she finds a postcard with a picture of her mother and some other women protesting against nuclear weapons. Suddenly Alena has to know more. She wants to know who her mother really was. There's a name on the postcard - Lynn Wallace – and she discovers that Lynn was her mother's best friend. Alena is desperate to meet Lynn, but she isn't allowed. Arguments break out, and Danny goes to work for a politician who Nick hates. While things begin to crumble to dust at home several bombs are placed in apparently random supermarkets all over London, inspiring fear all around the city and Alena begins to work on the first of a series of rebellious acts to find out about her mother which must soon result in real trouble.

'Troublemakers' was a very good book, which I really enjoyed. I found it a little slow at the start and it took a while for me to really get into it, but once I did I finished the second half in less than a day! Some of the characters were very likeable, especially Alena's best friend Teagan. She has a funny, fiery personality and I loved how independent and determined she was.

'Troublemakers' was an enjoyable book to read, with an exciting plot, strong characters and many surprising twists.