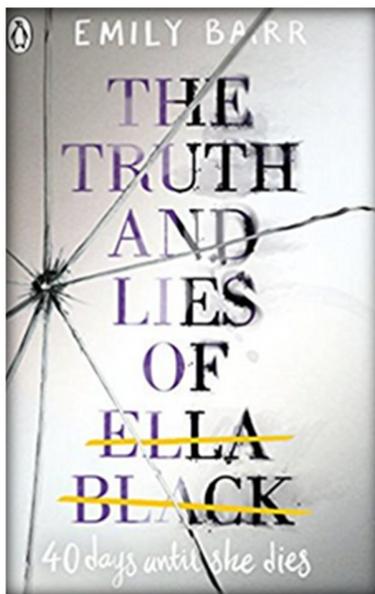




Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of **The Truth and Lies of Ella Black** by Emily Barr

Below are the complete reviews, written by the Lovereading4kids members.



Humaira Kauser, age 19

It was a pleasure to read 'The Truth and Lies of Ella Black', just as it was to read 'The One Memory of Flora Banks'.

***I love Emily Barr's distinct writing style and I cannot wait to read whatever she writes!** I'm definitely a fan of her and her books.*

The story itself had me gripped and kept me thinking. My sister, who hardly ever read complimented the cover and said it looks like an interesting read which it certainly was. So the cover is a bonus to such a good read and I hope a lot more people recognise Emily Barr's novels!

Izzy Read, age 17

When Ella suddenly gets taken to Brazil by her parents, who tell her nothing, she is determined to figure out why...

*This is a whirlwind of uncovering deceit and finding yourself amongst the chaos. There is love, adventure, mystery, drama, something for everyone to get their teeth into! **It is packed to the brim with emotion, it captured my heart from beginning to end.***

You can follow Izzy on Twitter: @izzysaround

Aimee Sweet, age 16

So when I got back home and found this gem of a book waiting on my bed in all

its glory, I got very very excited. Anything by Emily Barr is a delight to read, particularly after I read 'The One Memory of Flora Banks' and completely fell in love with it. Barr's most recent novel follows a 17 year old girl of the name of Ella Black, who thinks she has her life together. She might not have many friends but her two closest are lovely and kind, and her mum might be protective but she has all that she needs in the world. Inside, there is a part of her that wants to scream and tear and destroy, but for seventeen years she has hidden this away from everyone. So to the people around her, Ella is shy but nice in general, and on the inside she is Bella, dark, dangerous and extremely unpredictable. At first, I didn't enjoy reading this as much as Barr's other novels, just because it seemed similar to the other protagonists in her books, but I chose to stick it out and I'm glad I did. **The plot is intriguing and immersive, with extraordinary character development that makes the impossible events that occur seem realistic. This is the first book that I have ever read that grew on me after each turn of the page, and by the end I just couldn't put it down.** Who knew that many feelings could be cramped into three hundred pages? Thoroughly recommend.

Kate Y8 Thorp Academy

I thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The Truth and Lies of Ella Black' because it was very fast paced and gripping. My favourite character has to be Jasmine because she was prepared to give a stranger a home without knowing anything about her. Also, she is probably the nicest person in the book. I love when Ella begins to discover her past and all of the secrets about her parents. **Emily Barr is a brilliant author and I cannot wait to read more of her books.** I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy dark, mysterious, suspenseful books and it kept me reading until the very end. I would give this book a rating of 4.5/5. It was an amazing read.

Alice East, age 13

Ella Black is an average seventeen-year-old, but she has a big secret, a secret to dark to share. Then, mysteriously, her parents take her to Brazil, telling Ella Black nothing. This book was very fast-paced and exiting as the mystery of Ella Black unravels in Brazil.

This book was very good because it had a few quite unexpected twists as well as being exciting. This book had an interesting setting - being in Rio, Brazil - which was very different to what I thought Brazil was like.

'The Truth and Lies of Ella Black' is a very different sort of book from ones I have read because of the interesting setting and plot. The plot was brilliantly thought out, however the book started to get a bit slower towards the end. It had a good ending although I think the end could have been a bit more fast paced.

I would recommend this book to 10-12 year-olds or anyone around that age who likes books that have slight twists in or mysterious books. This was a great read and I would give 8/10.

Abbie Bavister, age 15

Gripping story line although far-fetched at times, highlighted the good and bad in people. Good imagery and sense of adventure. I enjoyed this book.

The book started off with suspense "40 days until she dies" and made me want to read on and find out what happened. I found the alter ego interesting. I did find the book gripping although far-fetched but definitely wanted to keep reading. I liked the part of the story where she was in Brazil as it made me feel it was possible to have adventures and see the world.

Erin Huxley, age 12

*This is a slow read but it really picks up at the end. Full of confusion and mystery you want to know what happens next and why she has gone to Rio. This book is quite slow at the beginning and requires you to have to go and read it as it is not one of the books that you can't stop reading. This book though, at **the end is rather interesting and I am hoping for a second** on as I want to know about the mum and what Jo/Ella/Bella is going to do next.*

Amelia White, age 18

We all think we've grown up being surrounded by the truth, but finding out that's not so can be a real game changer. This novel explores that challenge in a fantastic way!! The element of this book that really grabbed my attention was Bella but personally I can connect with Ella as I'm of a similar age and if I found out something as big as that, I would be shocked and probably have a similar reaction of wanting to find out the truth. I've read Emily Barr's previous novel and really enjoyed it. I would say that this one is just as good, the

storyline was really creative and I never wanted to put the book down! It was full of twists and turns that really kept me drawn to the book.

Lola Bridgeman, age 20

Ella Black is a wonderful and heartbreaking story of family, identity and belonging. Twisty and mature it is better for older readers.

I really enjoyed reading 'Ella Black', Emily Barr has a brilliant way of telling a story without losing the focus of the protagonist.

She catches the way a teenager speaks and feels without being patronising and talks a bout mental health issues very well. definitely aimed at the older Y.A reader who needs the emotional maturity to understand the story.

Recommended reading!