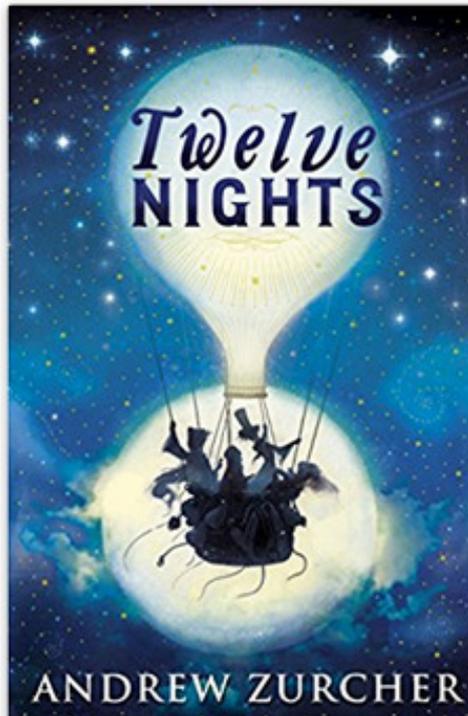




## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Twelve Nights** by Andrew Zurcher

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



**Freddie Barth von Wehrenalp, age 10**

*An amazing, breath-taking story filled with love, hate and passion that makes you wish that it will never finish.*

*On Christmas Eve, Kay's father was working late as usual so Kay, her sister Ell and her Mum go out to collect him. Only then they find there was no Ned More working at the university. The next morning, Kay sets out with Ell to find him with a pair of supposed removers. Driven by love, they search for him, through all kinds of perilous places and against maddened villains.*

*The story is wonderful and almost impossible to describe with words. I found it a delight to read and would recommend it to anybody who likes*

*action and adventure over the age of 9.*

**Charlotte Dunn, age 10**

*Beautiful, powerful storytelling. A magical adventure book about stories, full of figurative language which transports you along with the characters.*

*This is a big, thick book (590 pages), the kind of book you can hold doors open with, but it is as good as it is long!*

*Katherine, who everyone calls Kay, is a young girl who along with her sister Elloise, who everyone calls Ell, start an adventure with 'remover' magical creatures Will and Flip in the hope of finding their missing father. They have*



*twelve days to find him.*

*There are lots of magical creatures with great names like Phantastes, Ghast and Firedrake. I loved these characters and especially the way that lots of them were grumpy or childish. In a way they all complemented each other.*

*The figurative language used to tell the story is brilliant and I really felt as if I was with there alongside the characters but also the words seem to be magical themselves. At times I had to use a dictionary so I would recommend it to 10 years and up but I think most adults will love the book too. I also think the story would make a great film.*

### **Ross O'Gorman, age 11**

*Kay's father has disappeared and she must embark on a twelve night odyssey and travel to many strange places to try and save both him and her sister Ell. Along the way, she learns who she really is.*

*It's Christmas Eve and Kay's father has disappeared. At his workplace it's like he never existed. That night, she is woken by voices outside her window and then they come into her room. The voices belong to wraiths Will and Flip, who get a big surprise when they realise Kay can see them and an even bigger surprise when her sister Ell wakes up and she can see them too. Will and Flip are removers and Kay realises, as they were the ones who removed her father, her only hope of finding him is for herself and her sister to go with them, up into the mountain. On the journey there, she learns about the wraiths and one called Ghast who issues the orders, including the one for her father's removal.*

*Shortly after they arrive, Ell disappears and so begins a twelve night odyssey to save both Ell and their father before their dispersal is completed. Will, Flip and Kay flee the mountain and go in search of the help they need to try and outwit Ghast. There's lots of adventure and so many things for Kay to figure out. There are lots of fascinating characters, but Kay is my favourite because she is so gutsy and keeps going despite the many obstacles she faces and the truths she learns about herself and her family. There were several sub stories, which were interesting, but they did make the central story a bit more difficult to follow. Overall though, **I loved this fantasy adventure, although the ending left me with a lot of unanswered questions, which I hope might be addressed in a sequel.***

### **Issie Ford, age 10**

*It's Christmas Eve, and Kay has just found out that her father has mysteriously vanished. She braves evil wraiths and murderers to find her father in this*



*exciting story, full of twists and turns.*

*Imagine leaving home on Christmas Eve, into the cold, to find your missing dad.*

*Kay didn't know that she would be swept up in another world, losing her sister and having to find both her lost family members in just twelve nights.*

***This book is exciting and dangerous, with a character who will do anything to get her father back, surrounded by friends who may not be who they say they are. I would recommend it to readers who enjoy fantasy and mystery stories, and looking at our world in another way.***

### **Josh Parcell, age 10**

*'Twelve Nights' is a mystical book based on people called wraiths who are controlled by the sergeant called sergeant Ghast. He is a wicked man and will disperse anyone who he dislikes in this instance a young girl named Kays dad she leaves a scruffy note saying that she was going to find her father. She has a train wreck of emotions and clearly finds the whole case very strange **I loved the book and I would suggest it for 8 to 11 years old.***

### **Seren Daly, age 11**

*'Twelve Nights' is a fantastic book about finding your family and never giving up. I couldn't put it down. I loved it.*

*'Twelve Nights' is about a girl called Kay (short for Katherine) and Ell (short for Eloise). One day their dad goes missing and no-one except them and their mum can remember him. Kay and Ell soon set off on an amazing journey through different countries to meet a strange host of people that can help them save their family and the world. **This is a fantastic book with imaginative writing and beautiful ideas. Its laced with betrayal, happiness and longing to be home. This book is filled with magic and strangeness.** I loved how Andrew Zurcher used myths from other legends to create brand new myths that fitted the story. I loved the ideas and ingenuity of the world that was created in my imagination. I love this book and suggest it for 9+ as it is suited to this age group. I love this book and hope others do too.*

### **Ross O'Gorman, age 11**

*Kay's father has disappeared and she must embark on a twelve night odyssey and travel to many strange places to try and save both him and her sister Ell. Along the way, she learns who she really is.*



*It's Christmas Eve and Kay's father has disappeared. At his workplace it's like he never existed. That night, she is woken by voices outside her window and then they come into her room. The voices belong to wraiths Will and Flip, who get a big surprise when they realise Kay can see them and an even bigger surprise when her sister Ell wakes up and she can see them too. Will and Flip are removers and Kay realises, as they were the ones who removed her father, her only hope of finding him is for herself and her sister to go with them, up into the mountain. On the journey there, she learns about the wraiths and one called Ghast who issues the orders, including the one for her father's removal.*

*Shortly after they arrive, Ell disappears and so begins a twelve night odyssey to save both Ell and their father before their dispersal is completed. Will, Flip and Kay flee the mountain and go in search of the help they need to try and outwit Ghast. There's lots of adventure and so many things for Kay to figure out. There are lots of fascinating characters, but Kay is my favourite because she is so gutsy and keeps going despite the many obstacles she faces and the truths she learns about herself and her family. There were several sub stories, which were interesting, but they did make the central story a bit more difficult to follow.*

***Overall though, I loved this fantasy adventure, although the ending left me with a lot of unanswered questions, which I hope might be addressed in a sequel.***

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*There are lots of magical creatures with great names like Phantastes, Ghast and Firedrake. I loved these characters and especially the way that lots of them were grumpy or childish. In a way they all complemented each other.*

*The figurative language used to tell the story is brilliant and I really felt as if I was there alongside the characters but also the words seem to be magical themselves. At times I had to use a dictionary so I would recommend it to 10 years and up but I think most adults will love the book too. I also think the story would make a great film.*



### **Nicki Bansi, age 14 - YLolfa Gcg Library**

*'Twelve nights' is a beautifully written book that is able to send a reader of any age back into their childlike self. **It's the type of book that you'd read at bedtime and that gives you a nice, magical and sort of warm feeling. With an epic storyline full of intrigue and wonder, this gorgeously crafted novel is a must for any book lover!***

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### **Isaac East, age 11**

***'Twelve Nights' by Dr Andrew Zurcher is a fantastic fantasy-filled read. A story about Kay whose dad goes missing. An unexpected visit leads Kay on a chase to search for her dad.***

*'Twelve Nights' by Dr Andrew Zurcher is a fantastic fantasy-filled read. Although it is a little confusing at first, it starts to make sense as the book proceeds. I started this book and instantly liked the mystery of it, making me want to find out the secrets by reading on. I enjoyed this story because it incorporates action, mystery and magic. The book had complex language but it was not incomprehensible; there were parts in this book when I felt totally lost by the plot but I quickly found out what was happening. An odd feature of the book was the front cover as it didn't have the title on it however, as they say, 'never judge a book by its front cover'.*

*'Twelve Night's is about a young girl [Kay] whose dad goes missing. With an unexpected visit on the night, Kay is whirled into a chase over the world through boat, hot air balloon and a plane in search of her dad. With time against her and wavering loyalties, her world is turned upside-down with stories, truths and magic.*

*I would recommend 'Twelve Night's to children aged 11 to 13. This is because the plot is quite hard to follow and is a bit odd at times.*

### **Sue Wilsher**

***A magical story written in lyrical language which needs time to explore and enjoy.***

*Kay and Ell's dad is working late at college- something that is happening more and more often- but when their mother decides to take the children to collect*



him, they are told, not only that he is not there, but that no one of his name has ever worked there. Puzzled and frightened, they return home where later that night, Kay is woken by voices at her window. The voices belong to Will and Flip, who call themselves 'removers', and although Kay should not be able to see them, she can, leading her to embark on a quest to rescue her father.

Written with great attention to detail and a richness of language that makes for a very poetic, lyrical style, this is not a quick read. The plot unfolds slowly, carefully, as Zurcher builds his fantastical world and carries each participant through perils and discoveries to uncover hidden identities and reveal their true destiny.

The story has family at its heart; the longing to keep those she loves together and safe drives Kay to face many fears and strive in her quest to find her father and protect her sister. This love, rooted in the real world, creates a strong contrast to the world of ancient artefacts, magical places and other-worldly creatures in which she finds herself.

**With secrets, betrayal and mystery running through every page, this is a book to savour and lose yourself in.**

### **Punam Shah**

**'Twelve Nights' is an awesome read.** As soon as I saw the cover I couldn't wait to read it: images of mystery and adventure filled my mind. The intriguing hot-air balloon flying high in the sky sparked my imagination further. It didn't let me down and I recommend it to all ages from 11+. I loved it, I hope you do too.

Is a scrawled note the best way to inform your mum of leaving and going to find your dad? Kay's dad is working late, again. Her mum becomes impatient and drags the two girls (Kay and Ell) to their dad's work place. When they get there, the staff comment they have never seen him there before. Kay and Ell are confused and scared. At the dead of night Kay can hear voices when she's not meant to. They claim that they are removers, however they are not human. Wraiths is what they are called. The two girls set out to find their father. Except Ell gets taken away and the cruel leader, Ghast, has given Kay twelve nights to find her poor sister. Will they make it in time?

**A whole new world has been unlocked, one that has amazing fantasies and tales. Unearthly creatures come to life and you explore the world with them.** It is a great book despite taking a long time to read. The characters are heroic, yet stubborn, and have amazing courage that is inspiring. This book has more than lived up to my expectations.



**Esmay, Yr 7 - Thorp Academy**

***'Twelve Nights' is a fun, adventurous book packed with humour and loveable characters. There are lots of twists and turns in the plot and I felt sorry for the two main characters Kay and El when their Father is kidnapped but intrigued as to what would happen. The story definitely kept me reading from chapter to chapter and I thought it was an excellent debut novel. I would like to read more by this author in future because his descriptions and characters were very good. I would recommend this book because most readers will love it!***