Olivia Arnold, age 12

This book is one to remember! Exploring many different and deep concepts and emotions, 'The Way Back Home' shows the importance of family, friendship and trust.

When a care home looms in the shadows of Granny’s future, Zoe will do everything to make sure she stays where she is, but Zoe’s parents decide that everything would be easier with Granny in a home.

Zoe’s cousin, Madi, is the popular girl, who the family believe is someone that would never harm a fly, or so they think. Madi has a hidden side, nasty and spiteful, which Zoe has seen but her parents do not believe exists.

Realising that now is the time to break free of their miserable lives, Zoe and Granny’s escape is a visit to her long-lost-uncle but it will bring out some difficult truths along the way. Finding out that Granny’s Alzheimer’s makes her difficult to care for, made their trip even harder but Zoe’s relationship with her Granny is a special one.

Stratton tells a beautifully heart-breaking tale of love and hate, where forgiveness is found through a long journey of time and distance. Zoe doesn’t shy away from a lot of her problems (except Madi) facing them head on and perhaps not always thinking her solutions through all of the time.

I absolutely loved this book and it often made me think about a lot of problems I
haven’t had to face and how brave Zoe is when she handles all of her challenges.

Rebekah Marsh, age 14

‘The Way Back Home’ enticed me more and more with each page, as I read on, I found myself unable to stop. The tale of Zoe Bird and her Alzheimer’s ridden Granny was truly amazing.

The novella followed Zoe Bird and her Alzheimer’s ridden Granny on their emotionally hard path to family stability. Stratton is an incredibly talented author who expressed such a sensitive topic in a way that I could truly connect with the characters within the story.

Olivia Dally-Fitzsimons, age 13

This book is one of my favorite books and one of the best books I have read in a long time.

This book, The Way Back Home, captivated me, I read it from start to end in one sitting as I did not want to put it down and could not. This book is about a girl, Zoe and her Grandma, going to find her Uncle Teddy. There are some bumps and changes along the way.

Ella, age 13 - Rodborough School

‘The Way Back Home’ was an interesting and different book to what I have read before. Inside the pages lies a vivid story, about a girl trying to protect herself and her granny. From what, she does not really know.

I like the style of the book, a mysterious adventure story but I sometimes found the background and plot a little hard to understand and in some places slightly confusing. The main ideas behind the story are intriguing and make you want to read on, whilst keeping you interested the whole way through. The Way Back Home is a tragic and emotional story that grips you.

I think that ‘The Way Back Home’ is suitable for ages 12+ and mainly for girls.

I don’t particularly take to this story much, as the plot and characters do not really stick with or last that long. However, I think readers wanting drama, adventures and mystery would like this book a lot.
Edel Waugh

This is the story about a young girl called Zoe who has a really strong bond with her grandmother. Zoe’s granny has Alzheimer’s and the worse it is getting the more Zoe is struggling to cope with the idea of her granny’s future. Under huge amounts of stress she undertakes a road trip with her granny in a bid to find her uncle who she believes will help save the day. This was such a touching story, anyone who has ever loved a grandparent will feel empathy for Zoe and the predicament she finds herself in, especially as her granny is her one true friend. My heart went out to Zoe, going through so much anguish and yet trying to make the best possible life for her sick grandmother and going above and beyond what a lot of kids would be willing to do. Zoe is an inspiring girl with a big heart and an even bigger set of values that are commendable. Loved her! Go read this immediately!

Neha Saji

'The Way Back Home' is a funny book that I would recommend to teenagers of the early years.

To be quite honest at the start, I didn’t know whether ‘The Way Back Home’ would be my kind of book, however after reading it in one night I can say it is. It’s easy to read and entertaining. Allan Stratton perfectly portrays the rebellious mind of a typical teenager in their early years. The starting events were pretty predictable with cliché characters, but as the story went on more twists and plots were introduced (this is where I found most of the comical element to be). It does not only make us laugh but also feel sad and sympathetic too. The book is very 21st century and a great time pass.