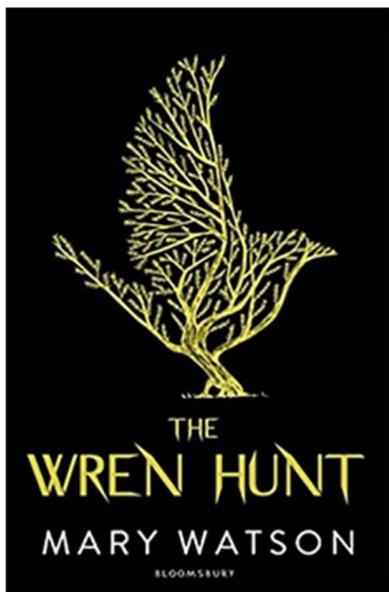


## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Wren Hunt** by Mary Watson

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



**Humaira Kauser, age 19**

*Where do I begin with this book? Before reading it, I thought I felt a 'Hunger Games' vibe- nothing I haven't read before. But I read it anyway and was not what I expected. I flew through this book and it has left me wanting more. **'The Wren Hunt' is such a captivating book; I couldn't put it down until the last word was read.** You know how, sometimes, when you are reading a book and you need to pause, just to take a moment? I had to do this so many times. Totally worth it though.*

**Grace Spear, age 15**

*'The Wren Hunt' was **an extremely mysterious book which when I put it down always left me wanting more.** It tells the story of Wren who to the ordinary eyes is a normal teenager. But every year on St Stephane day she is chased through the forest in a childhood game gone wrong. The boys chasing her are Judges who don't know her true identity. She's an Augurs the Judges enemy. As the tension brews between judges and Augurs, Wren has to go on a mission to spy on the Judges and steel valuable items to restore her family's power for good. However the more time she spends with the Judges, the unsure of herself and her powers she becomes.*

*As you read this book Wren has an amazing energy and determination which you can really feel through the writer's words. I felt emerged into this world as the story is written with a perfect balance between fantasy and reality. I love the relationship between Wren and Tarc as throughout the story they build so much trust in each other, and how they are always there when the other needs them. The small details the author incorporates about each character makes*

*them really real and gives you a good insight into what the author wants to portray. **I could relate to all the characters on some level and would defiantly recommend this book!***

**Katie-Leigh age 13 - Benfield School**

***I enjoyed this book because the characters in it are original and so is the book itself.** Also, I loved the plot in it because it turned the book on its head and made you realise that all the characters aren't as they seem and aren't as innocent.*

*I also like how the book is a fantasy and it allows your imagination to run wild as you are introduced to the characters and the powers they have. In the book, you see two different type of people come together and see how they settle their differences and learn to get along. All in all, I think that this book is one of a kind and everyone should read this great book because many people will enjoy it.*

**Olivia Tierney, age 19**

***Rich in mythology and character depth, 'The Wren Hunt' is a fantastic read with a daring plot and surprising revelations throughout. Mary Watson keeps you on the edge of your seat, hungry for more.***

*The premise of 'The Wren Hunt' was intriguing; two rival magical factions working against each other is always exciting and it did not disappoint. I really loved how original the story. Although slightly predictable at times, it had great depth and strong characters to engage readers in the story. Even the very minor side characters were presented in one light and then reflected in another, ensuring that the reader did not know who to trust and what characters were truly like.*

*Meanwhile, the main characters were explored in great detail which really endeared them to the reader. The world building was also fantastic - the history and the mythology was definitely the best element of the novel and it was a joy to dive in and discover such an interesting new world. Some elements perhaps could have been made clearer and detailed further, however, despite this 'The Wren Hunt' was very enjoyable. Highly recommend.*

**Aimee Sweet, age 16**

***Enigmatic and nothing quite like I have read before, 'The Wren Hunt' is full of action from the very beginning. It is fast paced and I felt***

*myself being drawn in after the first page, which is a sign that it's a good book!*

*Definitely a must for those who love 'The Hunger Games', which I can see has inspired elements of the dystopian world that Mary Watson has created. The writing is fluid and structured brilliantly, with so many twists and turns I wasn't able to predict anything that was going to happen. The immersion of the thriller and love story was spellbinding, as we follow a girl both bound by ancient magic but at the same time, experiencing love which is timeless. The character development, especially with Wren, the protagonist, is impressive, and the style of writing is accessible for all age groups for the most part.*

*The novel is refreshing and brings something completely different to the table, and I think people are going to love it as much as I did.*

### **Faghra Saleem**

***Beautiful, compelling and highly addictive. A book destined to become a bestseller.***

*This book is one I devoured in all but a couple of days. Just the summary had be riveted, giving me enough understand the ingenious plot, but still leaving me reeling, wanting to know more. I haven't read a book this compelling in a long time, and this is definitely one I recommend entirely to anyone, especially those struggling to find a book as original as this one.*

*Let's start with Wren, the main character in the story. She was someone I absolutely loved, her selfless and brave personality making her one of the most likeable characters I've ever had the pleasure of reading about. Her willingness to sacrifice her safety and happiness for her family, is so beautifully. She is a character I can imagine many looking up to, and the author did a magnificent job in portraying those qualities.*

*Ah Tarc. The "'dangerous tattooed stranger'" that became the love interest in this story. I love Tarc. I love all his personality traits (protective, caring, so sweet, funny, need I go on), his undeniable loyalty for those he loves, and the way he was presented overall. To me, he was one of the only decent judges. Well and Cassa.*

*Cassa. How could I forget her? The "'influential judge'" who takes Wren as an intern, where Wren is actually acting as an undercover spy for her Augur family. Cassa is a cunning, sly and a very secretive character, but as the book progresses you start to see a more softer side to her, one she artfully hides. The way Mary Watson develops her characters make me feel as if they are alive, and help me connect to them so much more.*

*Overall, this was an enchanting, powerful read that had me captivated from*

start to finish. A stunning 5/5.

### **Dani, age 26**

***'The Wren Hunt' will ensnare you in its thorns, making you feel both incredibly uncomfortable and utterly be-spelled, until you're spat out at the end a mess but enamoured.***

*Like others, I was initially too confused to really enjoy the beginning. I put the book to the side for a while, not sure what was going on and in need of other books where I felt more in control. However, going back to it, I was quickly sucked in.*

*I read the whole thing with a growing sense of unease, a constant unsettled feeling. Wren felt uneasy and unprepared and uncertain of who and what to trust, especially as time went on, and so did I. And then, when it all came to an end, when I thought I'd figured it all out, everything went topsy-turvy, and I was stunned. That ending – just how it turned everything upside down – deserves an applause.*

*The world-building did become something spectacular. I loved the ties to the old druids, as well as how the different kinds had different types of abilities. I loved the stories passed through generations. This felt new and fresh, as I've never read a story about druids in our time, only seen them mentioned in histories or referred to in historical fantasies.*

*Because I seemingly can't enjoy anything with at least a smidgen of romance (I'm one of those people), I can assure you there is some grade A star-crossed lovers shenanigans going on in this book.*

*Overall, an incredible debut with the prettiest cover, perfect for fans of folklore, Ireland, and eerie settings!*

<http://danireviewsthings.com>

### **Emma Baird, age 15**

*Each year, Wren Silke-an aguar, attempts to evade capture by David and his boys-a group of judges, in a dark version of the traditional St Stephen's Day chase. Should the judges discover Wren's hidden identity as one of their adversaries, the game would take an even darker turn...*

*This year the game mirrors the tension between the two groups which has risen under the pressure of the judges' recent success. The survival of Wren's family*

*falls on her shoulders as she infiltrates the heart of her enemies' society to attempt to secure a future for the aquars, and even resorts to using magic despite its danger.*

***One of the most intriguing aspects of the book for me was seeing relationships forming within this rivalry and in the tough situations which both parties face.*** However, I did find that the merging of the almost supernatural world and real life to be slightly disjointed at times which limited my enjoyment of the story. Despite this, I would recommend this book as the character development made it an engaging read, and I especially think it would appeal to those who are fans of stories based on traditions.