

LoveReading Reader reviews of Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Chloe Shortall, age 18

'Apple and Rain' is a fantastic, heartbreaking story about unconditional love and the strength of a young girl willing to do whatever it takes to keep her family together.

'Apple and Rain' is a heartwarming novel from the author of the Carnegie shortlisted book, 'The Weight of Water'. I really enjoyed this novel.

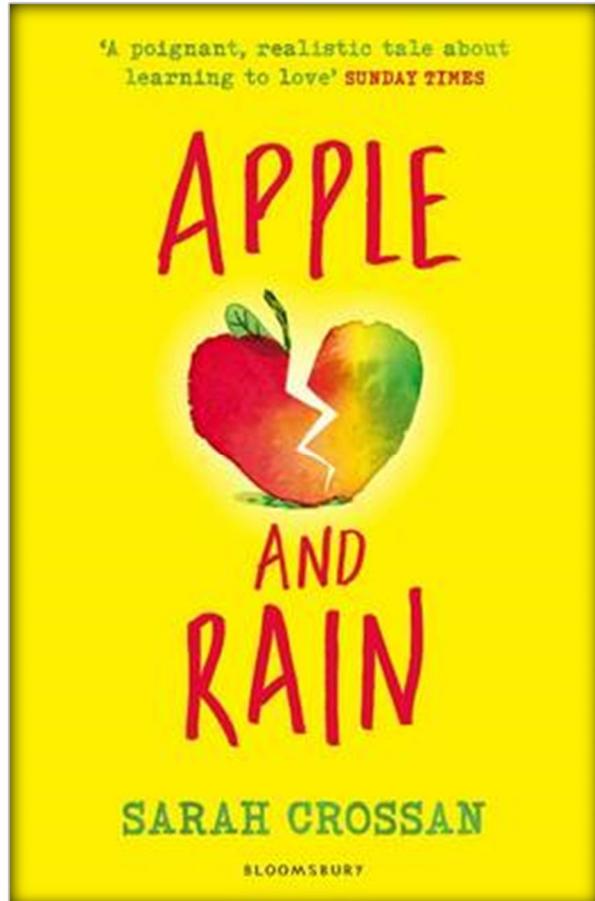
In this novel many relationships are explored. Relationships involving parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and boys all have a place in this novel.

I especially loved the relationship between Apple and Rain. I enjoyed reading about how the relationship grew throughout the novel.

I really liked the character of Apple, because she has a clear and honest heart, even though she makes small mistakes. I loved how she matured throughout the book, and learned who and what really mattered to her.

'Apple and Rain' is a fantastic, heartbreaking story about unconditional love and the strength of a young girl willing to do whatever it takes to keep her family together. I definitely would recommend this book.

www.booksandbutterbeer.wordpress.com



Poppy, age 15

I thought that 'Apple and Rain' was very good and extremely hard to put down! I thought that it had a good moral, storyline and plot. A good read that I would recommend.

Sometimes you don't know how much you love something until it's gone, but sometimes if something's gone and you don't know how much you love it then you make something up and when it's there you believe that lie, but the truth always comes out eventually, and though the truth is sometimes hard a lie is so much harder, because at least the truth is real. and that is something that Apple has to find out for herself.

Ellen Faulkner, age 13

'Apple and Rain' is a beautifully narrated story about friends and family. Anyone with half a heart should definitely read this lyrical story.

'Apple and Rain' is a lovely story about who your real family is. Apple reminds me of myself as a bit of a social outcast. When her mother returns, she is ecstatic. But all is not as it seems.

I love 'Apple and Rain' as it is a compassionate story. It made me cry at one point and I would recommend it to anyone who loves family.

www.ellevianbookreviews.blogspot.com

Destiny Maraj, age 13

*'Apple and Rain' was a sad, dramatic, touching, surprising novel! I really loved reading this book! I found it very sad when Apple's mum left to become a famous actress and the description of that particular scene was very dramatic, gripping, tense and exaggerated! It was my favourite part of the book! I found the plot surprising and I thought it was rather clever! **This novel was absolutely amazing and was written by a fantastic author!***

Safiyah Davenport

*'Apple and Rain' is a heart warming and heart wrenching tale of love and loss and family life. Told through the eyes of 15 year old Apple, this book evokes both laughs and tears in the reader. **Inspiring and beautifully crafted this***

book really tugs at the heart strings. Perhaps a lighter read for older readers, but still thought provoking and deep. An all round good book that's a good addition to the Christmas wish list.

Edel Waugh

*This is a book about a young girl called Apple who lives with her grandmother in England. Apple's mother abandoned her years previously to pursue a glamorous stage life in America. Apple misses her mum dearly and thinks her life would be 100% better if only her mother would come back and she did not have to live with her fussy, strict grandmother any longer. Her friendship with her best friend is on the rocks too and life seems very uncertain right now. Be careful what you wish for because sometimes wishes can turn to nightmares very quickly and sometimes it's better to have dreams than the cold face of reality. Apple is a brave young girl who is trying to be there for everyone, her life is often terrible but she is an optimistic soul really and extremely kind despite the odds against her. **This is a story to pull at the heart strings with a young heroine in the centre of the story that shows amazing strength.***

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Mariam Ahmed

'Apple and Rain' has a very stomach-twisting-moderately- intense atmosphere about it. Apple's family life is very interesting and relatable. The things she does, says and how she feels are really understandable – but annoying. I would have not been on her side had it not been for the input of the other characters such as Apple's Nana, father and friends. This I liked. A lot, I liked.

Even if you don't happen to love every nook and cranny of Apple's personality there are still lots of ways in which the book is enjoyable. The way it is written makes it easy and interesting to read. Everything is straight to the point, no beating around the bushes will you find here. Deep topics and problems are tackled but from Apple's point of view which added a sense of wholesomeness to the book. Apple also doesn't seem 30 years beyond her age, her character is very realistic.

Overall I'd say 'Apple and Rain' is rather sweet and sour – a combo that works very well.

Charlotte, age 13

It took me less than twelve hours to finish 'Apple and Rain' - it was one of those books that I just had to read secretly under my duvet.

It took me five weeks to finish a book as long as this, but it took me less than twelve hours to finish 'Apple and Rain' because it was such a gripping book. I have to admit that it took a bit of perseverance to get through the middle, but totally worth it! At points the story was sad but it also made me laugh, and I never, ever laugh when I'm reading. I would recommend this book to thirteen year olds and above, because it deals with some quite mature topics.

Elle Cogan, age 11

When she turns up out of the blue, Apple finally has the mother she's been dreaming of. But her mother has secrets, and her Gran isn't so sure about her.

*Apple has always remembered the Christmas that her mother left her, when she was just 3 and for 11 years, she lives with almost no contact from her mum. When she suddenly turns up, Apple's ecstatic, but her Gran isn't so sure that her mum can be trusted after leaving her daughter. Not only is everything changing at home, but Apple is losing her best friend to the school's popular and mean girl. **I loved this book, and was hooked within the first few words.** It's a book that a lot of people could relate to, whether it's losing your best friend or being reunited with someone you haven't seen for a long time. I would recommend this book to girls between the ages 10-12.*

Jade Craddock

'Apple and Rain' is a bittersweet, poignant tale about a child's desire for parental love and approval, about imperfect families and growing up. Ever since Apple's mother walked out on her when she was a toddler, she's hoped that one day her mother will return for her. In the meantime, she's been living with her grandmother, and now thirteen, she's beginning to feel hemmed in by her grandmother's rules and protectiveness. When her ebullient, spirited mother returns, Apple's wishes seem to be coming true. But knowing and living with her mother isn't everything she's imagined it will be. And she'd never factored in Rain. There's elements of all sorts in this novel: friendships, bullies, school life, poetry, first love, family, neglect and mental health and Crossan does a good job of exploring the various aspects of life for Rain. However, with so much going

on it's not possible to give everything the attention it deserves. Apple's relationship with her father especially felt underdeveloped, certainly given the focus on family life. Nevertheless, **this is a brave novel, that takes off the rose-tinted spectacles to look at family life and portray the sombre side of the coin.**

Lauren Coffman, age 14

'Apple and Rain' is about Apple, a girl who has lived with her overprotective Grandmother ever since her mum left 11 years ago, and Rain, Apple's mothers daughter who is unknown to Apple, until her mum suddenly appears back in her life and she decides to live with her again. However, after Apple's mum begs for forgiveness and promises to be the good mum she never was, it all goes wrong once again, leaving Apple playing mum and feeling very lost, but Rain, though very young, having even worse a time. Could they be, with help from a few others, what each other needs?

*Though I have read a fair few books about parents that treat their children badly, leaving them having to play parents, this one was very different. It felt more truthful and real, and dealt with many hard aspects of life that people really do have to deal with in many different circumstances, even ones that it is thought problems do not occur in. While reading 'Apple and Rain', **I was fully engrossed in the story, feeling a part of it all, and experiencing the emotions just through the words on the page. I really connected with this book and would recommend this very highly.***

Ella Day, age 11

*I really liked this book. It is an emotional story about a girl called Apple and her relationship with her Grandma and mother who she has not seen for a few years. **The way it is written draws you into the story and I like how the author uses vivid imagery to set the scene.***

I would recommend this book to 11-14 year olds.

Aimee Sweet

'It was quiet again.

No shouting.

And no thunder either.

“Mummy,” I whispered.

“Mummy’s gone, pet,” Nana said. She climbed the stairs, opened the gate at the top and lifted me into her arms. She was shaking. Her eyes were wet. “It’s you and me now. You and me, OK?” ’

Apple’s Mum left her when she was little. No goodbye parties. She just left. There, then gone. Apple grew up with her Nan, but always wanted the perfect mother figure in her mind. She was doing well in school, with her best friend Pilar on side, no one bothering her that much. Until she wished for her mum to come back. Then everything went out of control.

If you like Jacqueline Wilson, then you’d love this book. Not only is it gripping and fast paced, the novel has a deeper meaning behind it too. *I love Apple, the main character, and I also like Del, her friend. The book deals with all sorts of problems which is why I like it so much. Friendship problems, bullying, love, family- you name it- they’re featured in this book. This is also the first book I felt satisfied with after finishing. It just rounds off everything neatly.*

The age range is around 11+ and mostly for girls. The publisher is Bloomsbury and I give it a five star.

<https://thesweetreview.wordpress.com>

Stacie Ball

A beautiful story focused solely around family. Apple is one character you won’t forget in a hurry.

Apple has lived with her nan ever since her mother ran away to America eleven years ago to be an actress. Apple has never thought that her mum wouldn’t return and when her mum returns out of the blue Apple feels like she’s got everything she ever wanted, her mum is fun and free where her nan is strict and follows the rules, her mum is more like a friend. For a while things seem to be going smoothly, Apple is happy and very optimistic about life with mum, but things slowly go downhill and cracks start to appear everywhere, she’s never around and when she is she’s relies on Apple to be the adult given her far more responsibility than she can handle at such a young age.

Though all the characters were well written and perfectly developed, none in the book compare to Apple. She is just a girl who is begging for attention from her parents. Apple’s life crumbles around her, she’s lying to the school or turning up to school slightly hungover, forgetting about the important people and dealing

with the other person in her mothers life. It is beyond impossible to feel anything by empathy towards her as she never seems to get a break. She's funny, she's selfless despite no one ever putting her first and she's honest.

Yes this book is about a tough subject and centres round a girl who is going through a really hard time, but I wouldn't say that it's a sad book. I didn't know what to expect when I started 'Apple and Rain', but it was just as beautifully written as I could have hoped.

<http://beautifulbookishbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk/>

Immy Fisher

The book Apple and Rain was even better than I expected it to be.

The book isn't overly complicated, and the story flows smoothly, making it easy to read. I found the main character, Apple, easy to empathise with and all the characters were realistic and understandable. I really liked this book.

Alex McAulay, age 11

I could not stop reading this book, it is amazing!

This book, Apple and Rain, by Sarah Crossan, is really good. It starts off with Apple thinking about when her mother left her and she remembers how it was Christmas eve and it was stormy and her gran and her mum were having an argument and her mum just walked out of the door.

Apple lives on with her best friend Pilar, and then a girl called Donna, the most popular girl in their class, becomes Pilar's best friend. At the same time, Apple meets a boy called Del in her Nan's garden who ends up going to school with her, where their new English teacher gets them to study poems.

Then one day, someone comes back, with someone else that has a slight obsession with dolls. Who is it?

Michael, age 14

A very moving story.

This is the third Sarah Crossan book I have read and this one is just as good as the others.

Sarah Crossan tell the story of Apple really well. Apple's mum left her to live

with her Gran on Christmas Eve. Every time Apple tries to understand why her Gran won't tell her.

Then her mum comes back into her life when she is thirteen. This leads to Apple having to make some significant choices in her life.