

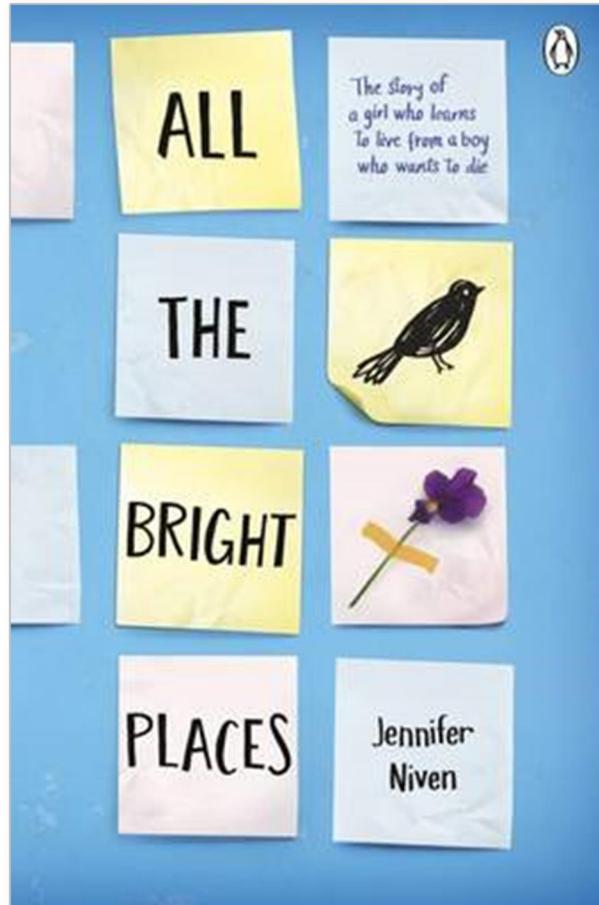
LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Emily Passmore, age 13

Initially, I didn't think I'd like this book that much, but it grew on me! It was funny, interesting and emotional. Brilliant!

When I received the book, I wasn't entirely sure I was going to like it. However, when I started it, I was immediately interested. The main characters - Finch and Violet - were both well-developed and believable, and I soon loved both of them. The plot was absorbing and by the end, I was in pieces. This is definitely a book that I would recommend to friends and family, and to anyone who likes to read, really!



Ruby Woods, age 17

Niven has created a dark, yet hopelessly light world which you will never want to leave.

*Creating a world with words is hard to do, making sure the reader stays there is even harder. Niven has created a dark, yet hopelessly light world which you will never want to leave. A world which leaves you craving every word to add to the bright picture already formed. The true emotion comes through on every page and when the book ends, we are all Violet. **A wonderful book, I will never forget.***

Chloe Shortall, age 18 - booksandbutterbeer.wordpress.com

'All The Bright Places' is an emotional and honest novel about teenagers who do their best to save each other from the problems in their lives.

Theodore Finch constantly considers killing himself but is always put off by small things. Violet Markey counts down until graduation, trying to get over the death of her sister. The two meet on the ledge of a bell tower at school, where they save each other. When they pair up for a project, they learn more than information about their state.

I really enjoyed this novel. The characters were original and unpredictable, even background characters are not always as they seem. I loved the manner in which the relationship between Finch and Violet grew.

This novel is perfect for lovers of John Green and Rainbow Rowell.

Louisa Cunliffe, age 17 - twitter @LouisaCunliffe

One of the most beautiful yet gut wrenching books I have ever had the pleasure of reading. *It tells the story of two teenagers, Violet and Finch.*

Violet, is wracked with guilt having survived a car accident that killed her sister. Finch, troubled by his dark days is obsessed with ways to kill himself. When they meet on the ledge of a bell tower their lives are irrevocably and drastically changed. When they pair up on a school project to explore their state of Indiana they end up exploring friendship, love and life instead. Finch shows Violet how to live in and love the now and Violet helps Finch to stay out of the dark.

Beneath the story and the characters lies a deep and truthful message about the reality of mental illness. They are diseases, and even though they can't be seen physically it makes them no less harmful, no more self inflicted and by no means less real than other diseases and that they should be treated as equal.

*The story, the message and the characters make this a true beauty of a book. **It will have a place in my heart and on my bookshelf for many years to come.***

Amanda Gray - www.beautifulbookishbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk

'All The Bright Places' sees a young boy who is drawn to the idea of death, teach a girl how to live, and no matter what he teaches the lesson loud and proud,

though not always in an expected way. Finch is... a tough character, in fact, to me, this is much less a story about Violet and how she grows and comes to terms with the loss of her sister, and more about Finch and his story, his, battle against an issue that can label you – ‘All The Bright Places’ covers that aspect of labels, both physically, emotionally and mentally, in the form of health issues, on confidence, and in personality. **Finch is, a beautiful character, he's a character that will stay with me a very long time** - his power, his passion, his appreciation for the little things in life, it's wonderful to read and it's heartbreaking to experience, watching Finch's character change, to read about him cornering his life, the hardships he went through, the life he had and had no choice to live, the features he suffered from, and of being trapped in yourself, he was what made this book. Finch's story was definitely the most difficult part about this book personally, but Niven's powerful writing highlights just how much one person can change so many lives, can affect so many people, it made Finch shine, and while I did love Violet's story, which was just as important, there was no character I loved more than Finch.

Eloise Mae Clarkson

This book is about a girl whose sister has died in a car accident and a boy whose parents have divorced. **The characters were good and were portrayed very well.** They were described well and showed their emotions. I also like how the story changed from each person's perspective. The book wasn't my cup of tea though. But I am sure that loads of other people will love it. **I got a little bit bored because I like more action I suppose but it wasn't my type of book.**

Lauren Coffman, age 15

Two people, very different stories, very different lives. One is Violet Markey, once popular, once happy, until her sister's death changes her completely. The other is Theo Finch, a boy with a few close friends, on probation at school, the kind of person you would think would be comfortable with himself, but he is in fact the opposite. When these two meet on the edge of the school bell tower their worlds collide, and everything changes. Suddenly they are working on a school project together, and as Finch helps Violet, and Violet tries to help Finch, they fall in love.

This book has fast become a favourite of mine, and I stayed up into the early hours reading it, not wanting to put it down. I love Theo and Violet's

relationship, and Jennifer Niven really made me feel a part of it. **This book was exciting, happy, funny, thrilling and sad all in one and I would recommend it very highly.**

Rose Heathcote

An incredible read although slow to start. A story about life and death and a roller coaster of emotions from feeling happy, sad and then very tearful. At times comical and then dramatic and serious.

It took me a while to read this book because it was a slow start, however, after picking it up and then putting it down a number of times I put my mind to reading it and I am so glad I did. The story is about the blossoming relationship between Theodore Finch and Violet Markey two very unlikely teenagers who are brought together by common thoughts, fears, depression, sadness and suicide. Theodore Finch feels comfortable with Violet and can be himself, weird and funny and Violet with Finch can start living for the moment. The story re-tells their time together and how they share their love of the outdoor. It touches on their sexual relationship but not graphic and it's appropriate to the story. Theodore battles with his dark thoughts and doesn't want this to affect Violet which in the end brings a lot of sadness. **I have already started to read this book again and I will recommend it to my friends and family. 5 stars + *******

Edel Waugh <http://edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

The story was written very well, the writing about mental illness and the way it touched these teens lives felt raw and very real .These characters are unforgettable and the story is touching and heart breaking. I would recommend reading this with a large box of tissues.

This is the story about two teenagers, Theodore and Violet, they go to the same school but did not have much to do with each other until one day they both find themselves in the same place about to commit suicide. I instantly liked both these characters in different ways, Theodores part of the story was more of a mystery, he is a bit of a reluctant hero and I would have wanted him as a friend when I was at school. He is badass with a heart of gold. My heart went out to Violet as she is struggling deep down with a tragedy that happened in her life fairly recently and you really empathise with her and what she is going

through. I just wanted to hug her.

Amy Laws, age 13

I found this book funny, sad and engaging but most of all, thought-provoking. I would recommend this book without any hesitation.

Firstly, I loved the characters in the book. Both Violet and Finch are really relatable and I found it really easy to empathize with them which made the book really engaging. The story provoked a roller coaster of emotions and really pulled on my heart strings. I loved the style of writing and how the author kept changing whose prospective she was writing from.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and definitely would recommend it to fans of John Green.

Jenny Duffy, age 21

This is an honest and beautifully written book, and the characters feel very real.

Violet is counting down the days until graduation. Finch is counting the days he can stay 'Awake', out of the deep depression that leaves him helpless. Violet is popular, Finch is seen as a freak. They meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school. They talk each other down, and thus begins an unlikely friendship that slowly develops into something more.

Both Violet and Finch are strong, believable characters. Violet is depressed following the death of her sister Eleanor in a car accident the year before. With Finch's help she learns to stop fearing the world around her. Finch is a more complex character, eccentric and unpredictable. He is bipolar, but the novel resists labels. As Finch says 'They explain people away as illnesses'. Both Finch and Violet are troubled, but there is much more to them than their problems. Finch reinvents himself as a myriad of different characters and is a talented musician, Violet is a writer who ran a popular website with her sister.

The novel's title is a reference to Dr Seuss' The Places You'll Go and Niven references a number of books, Virginia Woolf's Waves. This is an honest and beautifully written book, and the characters feel very real. It is an emotional read which is both moving and uplifting. It is a book about noticing the good in everything around you, all the bright places there waiting to be discovered. A book that I will certainly be reading again and again.

J Craddock

A novel that's sure to be one of the successes of 2015 but carries a very important message.

Jennifer Niven's debut YA novel is sure to be one of the successes of 2015 and it deserves that success not only for its captivating storytelling and its beautiful characters but for its brave and credible portrait of teenage mental health issues, suicide and its aftermath. Niven doesn't shy away from the terrible realities of teen suicide or opt out by making this an all's well that ends well sort of novel. Instead she shows the incredible highs and colossal lows and in doing so she underlines the fact that teenage mental health isn't, nor should it be, a subject that can be glammed up, given fairy-tale treatment and a happy-ever-after. It is a serious and difficult matter that needs attention, and in Finch Niven captures the tragic reality – a boy that readers along with Violet can see is wonderful special and talented, who deserves to be happy, safe and loved, yet cannot himself hold on to this. Niven's novel is a truly provocative and significant one; one that reminds us to look out for others, to show empathy and understanding towards mental health and to make it possible for sufferers to get the help they need to prevent beautiful lives being cut short.