Lovereading Reader reviews of
Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Alice D’Angelo

*C J Flood weaves an intricate basket carrying the soul of the story, in a thought provoking yet natural way, bringing up subjects that are so often avoided.*

*I felt so at one with Iris that her love was my love, and her fears were my fears. As I read I was captured into the heart of the countryside to experience all the terrible and wonderful things that happen that summer.*

*It began when Iris’s mother left, and the travellers come to set up camp in a paddock of the farm Iris lives at. Her dad plans to evict them, but Iris forms a close relationship with Trick, one of the travellers.*

*All the frustration and hurt builds up to arguments, and feuds, and fights, until everything gets out of control. From the start, we are left with the question; who is in the coffin?*

Safiyah (15)

*The book, an Infinite Sky is a heart-warming and heart-breaking tale of a young girl whose family has been changed and torn apart after the departure of her mother. When a family of gypsies set up camp on her father’s farm her whole world is turned even more upside down.*

*This book tells the complex and intricate tale of a girl who goes through loss, pain, love and teenage life. It is un-put-down-able and thrilling book, perfect for readers who enjoy a good plot and interesting characters. The girl of the story, Iris, is so well put across that you can’t help but fall in love with her. The story explores difficult times and trials that a family and person can be put through when they lose something precious. Even though the story is told through the eyes of Iris, you can see the trials of her other family members and her friend, Trick.*

*This book is perfect for readers who enjoy an interesting and strong plot, with diverse characters and a well told tale. Try not to read this book to fast, but savour it and enjoy this compelling tale; a box of tissues may be needed when reaching the end of this beautiful story. However, this is not a book for people who enjoy a good long read; as I easily devoured it in a weekend.*
Lovereading Reader reviews of
Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood

Chloe Sheehan

This book is a heart-wrenching novel it has many twists and turns and leaves you hungry for more. The beginning has a brilliant introduction, the middle also. I love that Iris and her brother are so close and that she supports and helps him no matter what. The description in the book is lovely, it makes you feel like your part of the story.

This book is brilliant, and C.J Flood has a bright career ahead of her.

Heather Cranmer

The (Mis)Adventures of a Twenty-Something Year Old Girl [http://themisadventuresofatwentysomething.blogspot.co.uk]

When I first heard of Infinite Sky by C.J. Flood, I knew it was a book that I was going to have to read as soon as possible. Firstly, because I have a thing for Irish travellers. I find them fascinating. Secondly, it sounded like a really good read. I must say that I fell in love with this story.

Infinite Sky is a coming of age story told by thirteen year old Iris. Iris’ mother has left her, her brother, and her dad behind so she can go to traveling. Iris’ brother, Sam, takes this extremely hard and starts to become a moody, violent person. To top it off, travellers, or gypsies as Iris's dad and brother call them, have moved into their field. Sam and Iris’ dad are enraged about this, but Iris is intrigued especially when she catches a glimpse of fourteen year old Trick. Day by day, Trick and Iris spend time together and just talking about life. Irish begins to fall in love with Trick. However, Sam and Iris' dad aren't going to make it easy for the two love birds to spend time together. Due to prejudices, someone close to Iris ends up dead.

I love the title of this book. Infinite Sky sounds so innocent and makes me think of a world of possibilities. For a middle grade/young adult book, I don't think the title could’ve been any better.

I do like the cover of Infinite Sky. It has a sort of classic look about it. It looks like it’d be a happy book, but after reading the synopsis, we know it’s not all full of sunshine and rainbows, or in this case, cornfields and birds. I really do hope the author sticks to this cover as I think adding or taking anything away from it would ruin it.

The world building/setting of Infinite Sky was done very well. The story mostly takes place in a cornfield and around it. C.J. Flood makes the world of Infinite Sky come alive with her writing. I was able to clearly picture every bit of the story in my mind quite easily.
Heather Cranmer con't...

Pacing wise, the story starts out just a bit slow but quickly, the pacing picks up, and the story is very easy to follow. It’s not too fast and not too slow, but stays at a steady pace throughout. Sometimes I did feel as if the chapters ended rather abruptly though.

The dialogue/wording in this story is beautiful. C.J. Flood has a fine gift when it comes to her writing. I was really happy that Irish spoke like a thirteen year old girl as well as the other characters speaking like their age instead of sounding older. I loved how the dialogue between Trick and Iris didn’t come across as being forced. It sounded just like two young teens having a conversation.

The characters felt very real to me. Iris speaks and acts like a thirteen year old girl. She has a somewhat innocent quality about her that is quite subtle in the book but still apparent. Trick is more street-wise and cares a lot about Iris. Sam is a chav (someone who dresses a certain way and is usually just a menace to society), but there is back story about why he became one that is quite heart wrenching.

The ending of the story is quite an emotional one, and C.J. Flood does a fantastic job in her writing to pull at the reader’s heart strings. I felt like crying after reading how Iris is feeling.

Over all, Infinite Sky is a sweet coming of age story that is beautifully written and tugs at your heartstrings. This is one of those books that is destined and should be a classic. I’d recommend this book to everyone aged 12+ as it’s a really little gem of a book.

Infinite Sky by C.J. Flood gets a 4.5 out of 5 from me.

Izzy Read

Wow. A mixture of love and family with a harsh kick of reality. It really is an outstanding read, hooking you into the pages, only to let go when you’re finished reading. It made me cry at the end with the sadness Iris, or “eye” as her family calls her, goes through. It reminds me a little of Romeo and Juliet, Iris and Trick, as both of their family’s hate each other but they still are friends, much like in in Romeo and Juliet. It was sensational; I very much hope that C. J. Flood writes more books as good as this one.
Lovereading Reader reviews of
Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood

Eloise Greenberry
From the first page you are captured and need to read on, it starts with a funeral – but whose? Haven’t you always dreamed of a summer that will change your life forever? Well Iris’s is definitely one you should experience, because it focuses on the importance of family, growing up, first love, and even the traveller community. The things that happen in this book are so unexpected and you feel your heart speeding along with the characters.

This book is beautiful; it took me in and didn’t let me go until the end. I was laughing, smiling, frowning, and at the end I cried so much because the detail is so vivid that I felt as if I was there experiencing this storyline along with Iris.

I can truthfully say that I haven’t read a book as good as this in a while and I am sure it will be a while before I read a book as good as this again. It is utterly magnificent.

Emily Gleave
Infinite sky is all about a young teenager called Iris, or ‘Eye’, and her life. Her mum left to travel around the world, leaving her and her older brother Sam just with their dad. Soon after her departure, travellers arrive on their farm, and she meets a boy called Trick. It then continues with her life, with her feelings about Trick, her dad, her brother, her mum, and her best friend Matty.

I found the book really interesting, and quite hard to put down. I loved the ending, about how she tried to think about how she could still love Trick after what happened, but also how the ending linked back to the middle of the book, where Iris found out about Sam getting into fights, which made Sam’s attack link backwards into the book. I found it easy to remember who the characters were, and could understand most of their emotions. I loved Sam’s death, and how worried Trick’s mother was when she found out what had happened, because it showed the other side to the story: not the victim’s family, but the attackers family. I generally really enjoyed it, but would have liked to have found out about Punky and ‘black beanie boy’ because it would have added another element to the book.

Ayesha Afghan
Infinite sky is a truly magnificent book that is filled with love, anger and adventure! It tells a story of Iris, a 13 year old girl who becomes friends with a gypsy boy, Trick, whose family sets up camp near Iris’ house. Little does she know that from then on, her life changes forever.
Ayesha Afghan .... Con’t

Not only does iris have to cope with a mum that has left the family, but her brother soon 'goes off the rails' and starts hanging out with a gang. This book weaves a tale of love, loss, and teenage reality.

The book is aimed at teens but be careful because whoever reads it, will feel the pain iris feels, understand what its like to lose someone they love and this book will also make you want to cry. The book was really hard for me to put down and it made me want to know what happens next.

An author who can make that happen, like C.J.Flood, has a very long career ahead of her. It is a heart-breaking book, but it is filled with joy at the same time. I enjoyed every part of Infinite Sky and I am definitely looking forward to C.J.Flood’s books that are yet to come.

Katy Poulter (12)

Iris is living on a farm with her dad and her brother. Their mother has left to go travelling but still calls every week. Three months after she left, some gypsies set up camp in their paddock and from that point on, their lives begin to change.

The book begins with the funeral of someone close to Iris that she loved; killed at the hands of someone she loves. It is of a boy, not yet sixteen whose identity is unknown, so who is it; Sam, Iris’ tearaway brother who went off the rails after their mother left and is prejudiced against gypsies, or Trick, the former bare-knuckles fighter and gypsy who Iris fell hopelessly in love with? Which one is laying stone cold in the coffin, being taken behind the red curtains, who everyone knows shouldn’t have died yet or in this way?

This book isn’t one that I would usually pick but I enjoyed it so much that I found it hard to put down, resulting in many late nights and tired mornings. Towards the end, ‘Infinite Sky’ achieved the incredibly difficult feat of making me cry twice showing how well it is written, as to make someone cry, it has to convey feelings, get across the seriousness of the moment and describe what is happening in a way that makes you empathise with the characters and their situation which is brilliantly done in this book.

I’d definitely recommend ‘Infinite Sky’ to anyone needing a good book.
Lovereading Reader reviews of Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood

**Tanyth Haywood**

“Thirteen year old Iris becomes consumed with the day to day life of a family of travellers who move into the paddock opposite her house. Limited by his stereotypical view of the travellers, her father is determined to have them evicted.

The seemingly uncomplicated life-style of the travellers, provide Iris with the escape she desperately needs, when her world is falling apart.

She is faced with the harsh reality of her mother deserting the family. She must watch helplessly as Sam, her brother, makes unsavoury friends and is consumed with destructive anger and dangerous behaviour. In many ways, her father has also deserted her, as he battles to cope with the break-up of his marriage.

Iris befriends Trick, one of the travellers, and amidst all the other strong emotions, feels love for the first time. Trick also has a complicated relationship with his father and Iris soon learns, that his world is not as idyllic as it first seemed. When Iris and Trick are together, they have a protective bubble around themselves. They are separate from the chaos and reality of their lives and they know peace for short moments.

One is thrust straight into the raw pain, anger, frustration and confusion of a family in deep crisis.

This is a novel that keeps your pulse rate racing. Without a doubt, one is kept on edge, as this vulnerable family deals with one crisis after the other. One sees glimpses of the love and warmth that bonds them.

Ironically, the loss of a life helps this family refocus and begin to touch on issues in their relationships. You will feel the anger, the pain, and the confusion of this family.....and you will cry for them.”

**Fabbiha Choudhury**

Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood is a powerful tale of the friendship and love shared by the daughter of a farmer Iris Dancy and the Irish traveller Trick, whose family has moved in outside the farm. Iris must deal with a mother who is no longer around, a broken-down father, a rebellious older brother and all her problems as a teenage girl, particularly ones concerning her best friend who seems to be growing apart, and her confused feelings for Trick. When Dad decides the Irish travellers are no good, Iris must make a decision: stay away from Trick or disobey her father.

Flood’s genius idea to start the novel at the funeral of an important character, though we do not know who the character is until the very end, will keep teenagers everywhere hooked to witness a truly beautiful tale of friendship, loyalty, betrayal and mostly love.
Lovereading Reader reviews of
Infinite Sky by C. J. Flood

Fabbiha Choudhury … Con’t

It also highlights the prejudice of society towards Irish travellers, and how looking past these prejudices can unlock a beautiful friendship. The unpretentious, yet honest writing style makes it the perfect read for any teenager, its eloquence and beauty hard to believe for a debut novel. This novel gives audiences everywhere a unique, yet powerful voice of the trials and tribulations of being a teenage girl, all seen through the eyes of Iris. The natural world surrounding the farm plays an important part in the setting of the novel, portraying the beauty, the innocence and the pain of first love.

This unconventional love story - so different from the many love stories written for teenagers - will have young adults everywhere dreaming of the love shared between two unlikely people and will keep you hooked right to the painfully shattering end.