Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Lauren Gater-Morey, Great Torrington
School Year 8

Into that forest was a really powerful book.
It’s written at a dynamic, yet measured pace.

I truly loved this book and I fell in love with
Hannah & Becky, the girls who fought for
survival. And not only do they survive; they
find a home, a family, a life.

Louis Nowra has created a book that you can
lose yourself in, you feel like you’re living with
the tigers, eating with the tigers, being taken
away from the tigers.

I congratulate Nowra at his ability to become
Hannah, Nowra may have written this book
but Hannah is this book. I love the book and
would recommend it to everyone, a 5 star
book.

Charlotte Daw (age 9)

I really enjoyed the story of Into That Forest. I loved the way the characters behaved, to
each other and to the tigers, and even though I struggled quite a bit with some of the
language it didn’t take anything away from the plot.

I would definitely recommend the book but probably to people a little bit older than me.

James Newbery (age 10)

Into the forest, well what can I say about that book? Well, firstly you’ll never find
something quite like it. The story sets off in Australia with our heroine looking back on
her memories. When Hannah was 5, something tragic happened. I won’t spoil it but it is
really heart breaking. From then on, Hannah and her best friend Becky encounter two
tigers, who later on they name them as Dave and Corinna.

Becky and Hannah live with these two tigers for many years, and it seems like Becky and
Hannah start becoming a tiger. Not physically but their behaviour and their speech has
Vicky Newbery ..... cont

turned into something beast-like. With the tigers, our two heroines go on many
adventures, from the sea to Mr Carson’s farm and all the way to a boarding school. Our
characters eat new types of food, and some are quite revolting. But overall this tale is
extremely tragic. Many of our characters are written off, and as I said I won’t spoil it. By
the end of this book, you will have an emotion that you would have never of felt before.
The power of this book makes the words flicker at the back of your head. This book won’t
fade from your mind any time soon.

In one word, this book is simply amazing. Tragic, mysterious, and a piece of treasure all
at the same time.. In the beginning of this book the author said he wanted the reader to
feel this book is enchanting and mysterious, and something with the sense of reality to it.
He has certainly accomplished it. This book is one of the most gripping books I’ve
ever read, you just don’t want to put it down.

Emma Thurston - Age 15

From the very first page, Hannah’s strange language reveals the effects of her
experiences through the challenges of life and death in the remote wilds of Tasmania. As
soon as she came face to face the loss of her parents I was fighting for her, from here on I
could certainly not put the book down. Such a fantastic, interesting read - I felt this
extraordinary subject was written in a deeply personal way.

From beginning to end I was on a journey with the tigers, I became protective towards
the family, more so than Hannah’s human family, and I found I learnt a great deal about
animal behaviour. One aspect that I found so intriguing was the description of the sounds
of the forest at night- I too was hearing those sounds.

This book gives you an incredible understanding of this part of the world through the
unique voice of Hannah. It is hard to believe that the beautiful Tasmanian tigers no
longer exist.
Hannah Blundell aged 10 (Little Sutton CofE Primary School)

When you’re picking a book you have to be intrigued by the synopsis and once I’d read the synopsis for ‘Into that Forest’, I couldn’t say no to reading this book. ‘Into That Forest’, which I highly recommend to others, is breathtaking and it steals your emotions. I could read this book over and over again and not get bored. Picking out my favourite part is too hard as it’s all very eventful. This book is one of those stories that stays with you forever.

Joseph Cattrell aged 10 (Little Sutton CofE Primary School)

‘Into That Forest’ is a book about two girls, two tigers and two different worlds that collide to make a new world. The author transports you into the lives of the two girls Hannah and Becky, who are rescued by tigers and leads you through the adventures and emotions of the girls’ experiences of the wild Tasmanian bush.

I was gripped from the first page to the very last page and found it easy to imagine all the events as I read through the book. Some of the events in the girls’ lives are accidental and others of the characters’ own making; this kept me guessing what would happen next at every twist and turn. I would highly recommend this book to all confident readers aged 10+.

Amy Clare aged 11 (Little Sutton CofE Primary School)

Utterly breathtaking! I am so pleased that Louis Nowra has created this miraculous piece of writing that will surely thrill everybody who reads it. A story that will swish emotions from side to side: creating sadness, warm and laughter.

The characters feel extremely real: you feel like you know Hannah and are experiencing her emotions first hand. I would definitely put this book on the MUST READ pile for both adults and confident readers aged 10+.
Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of
Into That Forest by Louis Nowra

Amy Clare cont’ .......

I would recommend this book any day of the week to children aged 12+ (or very confident readers 10+) who like emotional, action packed stories.

This book is packed with high impact sentences which transport the reader into the sights and sounds of the Tasmanian bush and leaves you staring in the faces of the characters.

Natalie Black aged 10 (Little Sutton CofE Primary School)

Hannah and her parents go on a picnic with new friend Becky, a violent storm leaves the girls stranded without the guidance of adults. Cold and wet, the girls wait for help but nobody comes, except for wild tigers. They take the girls in and bring them up as their own; Hannah starts to act like a tiger but Becky tries her best to remain human. When the tigers have a litter of their own the girls are left wondering if there is still a place for them in the tigers’ lair. After 4 years the girls return to human life but adjusting isn’t easy and a joyful reunion turns into a dramatic tragedy. This is definitely a 5 star book.

Cara Addleman Age 10 St. Bonaventure's Primary School, Bristol

Two girls, Hannah and Becky, get lost during an extreme rapid in the river. Then, they spot a tiger, which Hannah decides to follow; Becky, with little other choice, has to agree.

What I liked:

- How the story is told in first person: it makes the mental transformation for Becky and Hannah from human to tiger more natural and believable
- The beautiful illustrations
- The adventurous but emotional way it is told
- The journey the girls go through and how they change.

What I disliked:

- It seemed that Becky could never settle; she was always sad about where she was.

Recommendations:

I would recommend this book to ages 11+. I think adults would enjoy it too; it’s not a typical animal story at all.

My favourite part of the book:

- When Hannah, Becky and the tigers are down on the beach, eating ambergris, seals and mussels. At that moment they all seem truly happy about everything.

4/5 - an amazing book!
Ciara Marsh, aged 10

Amazingly Addictive 5* Into that forest is a very interesting book.

In the book Hannah O’Brien, 76, tells her story of when she was young. Two girls (Hannah and Becky) get lost on a river bank when a tiger, called Corinna rescues them. The girls then meet her mate, Dave, and become part of the tiger’s lives. They stay there for four years until Becky’s father rescues them......

Hannah made a good main character as I could understand what she was going through throughout the book. Becky, her best friend and companion throughout the book, is an easy character to get to grips to and her emotions were easy to emphasise with as at the beginning she is more cautious, like most young girls, unlike Hannah who is a bit wilder.

The story is fun to read as you can learn about the life of the tigers as well as the girls. The end of the book is sad but exciting as so much happens. At some parts it was a bit gory, but apart from that I loved the book.

A little bit of humour would of been the icing on the cake as I think Hannah (as the narrator, not the character) was the type of character that would tell a joke once in a while.

I would recommend this book as it is a read that you cannot put down. This is because you do not want to leave the characters without finding out what happens, as you are so attached to them.

I would give Into that forest 5 stars for its amazing plot and character choice.
Maria Murray Age 12 School St Colm’s High School

“Into That Forest” is the first book for young adults from Australian Playright Louis Nowra

The book begins with two girls and their relationship with two tigers over a four year period. The girls, Hannah and Becky are stranded in the wild after a boating accident. Two Tasmanian tigers take Becky and Hannah in as their cubs; and they go hunting together, sleep together and do everything together. An elderly Hannah reflects back on their time together and the life they had to adjust to afterwards.

The book is written in an unusual style, but I understood the story as if it happened to me. Hannah talked in an odd way, a bit like my granny. I thought that maybe throughout the book her language would have improved, but it didn’t. This wasn’t a problem though once you got used to it.

The author seems to have done a lot of research on the habits of the now extinct Tasmanian Tigers in the wild, and the story, and how they interact with the girls is believable.

While reading “Into That Forest” I experienced happiness, sadness and laughter. I would deeply recommend this book to teenagers or people who love animals. I thought the book was very hard to put down as it was very intriguing to see what happened next.

Annie McCullagh age 12. St. Colm’s High School, Draperstown

This is my first time reading one of Louis Nowra’s books and it’s one of the best books I have ever read.

I really enjoyed the story because it is so different from anything I had previously read. The strange way the elderly Hannah narrates the story took a bit of getting used to, but as you read you feel as if someone is beside you telling you the story.

The story is about two girls, Becky and Hannah who are just normal girls. They go for a picnic with Hannah’s father but their boat capsizes and the girls are stranded in the wilderness. Two Tasmanian tigers ‘adopt’ the girls, to the dismay of Becky, who is terrified of them. Hannah is braver and realises that the tigers are helping them. As the story enfolds we see the girls trusting the tigers more and more.

My favourite part of the book is when the tigers teach the girls how to hunt. This made me wonder how I would cope alone in the wilderness.
Annie McCullagh ... Con’t

Hannah was my favourite character, although towards the end Becky, who is scared and shy, starts to become more determined and brave. I found myself getting very tense and actually scared towards the end of the story, but in a good way. I really enjoyed the book and I would definitely recommend it to all my friends, both boys and girls. I just loved Into That Forest. This is a MUST READ!!!!!!!!!!

Emma Thurston - Age 15

From the very first page, Hannah’s strange language reveals the effects of her experiences through the challenges of life and death in the remote wilds of Tasmania. As soon as she came face to face the loss of her parents I was fighting for her, from here on I could certainly not put the book down. Such a fantastic, interesting read - I felt this extraordinary subject was written in a deeply personal way. From beginning to end I was on a journey with the tigers, I became protective towards the family, more so than Hannah’s human family, and I found I learnt a great deal about animal behaviour. One aspect that I found so intriguing was the description of the sounds of the forest at night- I too was hearing those sounds.

This book gives you an incredible understanding of this part of the world through the unique voice of Hannah. It is hard to believe that the beautiful Tasmanian tigers no longer exist.