

## LoveReading Reader reviews of A Little In Love by Susan Fletcher

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

**Alice Horncastle, age 14**

***I think I am more than a little in love with this book! The characters were brilliant and the storyline was very romantic and the plot well developed and engaging. I would recommend this book to all!***

*I found 'A Little in Love' easy to get into due to the short chapters that always introduced something new. I really felt Eponine's heartbreak and grief and was surprised and saddened at how the story ended. However as a romantic tragedy, the book was brilliant and I got through it very quickly! I would recommend this book to anyone but mainly 11-15 year olds and anyone who enjoyed 'Les Misérables'!*



**Nathalie, age 17**

*'A Little in Love' is a story based on Les Misérables by Victor Hugo. The author Susan E Fletcher bases her story on Eponine Thénardier who was a secondary character in Hugo's book. We follow the life of Eponine and her siblings from their life's at the Inn in Montfermeil to the streets of Paris. The Thenardier family are a family of thieves, liars and cheats. The parents bring up their children in a life of crime and they steal from their customers at the Inn, which will later have consequences. When Cosette arrives at this Inn, the Thenardier treat her like the servant, while using money that her mother sends regularly for her to buy food and clothes for themselves.*

*A stranger eventually arrives at the Inn and takes Cosette to Paris. In the*

meantime, Mr Thenardiers actions means that he has to leave the Inn and Montfermeil following a crime he committed. He ends up by taking his family on the run for several years before arriving in Paris. Eponine eventually crosses paths with Cosette. She feels bad with the way she treated Cosette in the past and wants to make amends. 'A little in Love' is **a beautiful story about love and redemption.**

**Amelia White, age 14**

***I love this book! I thought it was amazing. I love how with each page you would learn more about Eponine and what her life is like.***

*This is a story about Eponine a girl who lives her life having to steal from people so her family can live. Her family is known for stealing but Eponine doesn't want to steal, she is always trying to prove herself. But when the family arrives in Paris Eponine meets her true love Marius. I really enjoyed reading this book. I know it is partly to do with the French revolution and can be connected to the characters in Les Misérables. I love how Fletcher writes it from Eponine's different ages because it helps you understand how hard it is for her at different ages and how as she gets older the harder it gets. As well you learn what it was like for the people living in the revolution and how people were respected. It is quite sad, you may hate Eponine for stealing but you learn to think she is actually a person trying to be loved for who she is. If you enjoy books in a historical setting you will enjoy this book.*

**Ella Grabsky, age 14**

***I decided to read 'A Little in Love' because I am a huge 'Les Misérables' fan. However, I have to say I was a bit disappointed.***

*In my opinion the story was poorly written and made me quite frustrated. 'Les Misérables' by Victor Hugo is such a ground-breaker of a novel that anyone attempting to write anything similar will have a huge task ahead of them. Sadly, in my opinion, Susan E. Fletcher was not able to write a story that could walk hand-in-hand with 'Les Misérables'. Many of the characters from the original story were portrayed in different lights in this book. Marius for instance comes across as quite a boring character in 'A little in love' whereas in the original and in the musical he seems much more of an interesting character. I also thought the way the author slipped in the occasional lyric from the musical was not a good idea. It was almost as if Fletcher couldn't decide*

*whether she wanted to base her story on the book or the musical. This could make it very confusing as there were many parts of the book that, if it was based on the musical, were incorrect. Even so, I did find that 'A little in love' was a quick read that, if not taken too seriously, could be enjoyable. Perhaps it would have been a better read had I not been such a 'Les Misérables' fan but even so, I felt the book moved on too quickly without the reader having enough time to fully appreciate what had just happened. For example, six years pass in about a paragraph which I don't think is a good way to grab the reader's attention.*

### **Elizabeth Arnold**

*'A Little in Love' pulls a unique perspective on Victor Hugo's phenomenon, Les Misérables. Narrating the life of Éponine Thénardier, the story provides the backdrop of the French Revolution, and focuses on the Thénardier family's importance to the Les Misérables story.*

*Susan E. Fletcher writes with a very human voice. We are not inclined to like Éponine, yet we do feel sorry for her. She longs for a better life; one beyond the need to steal to live, and beyond cruelty being the first port of call. Éponine is presented as a conflicted, ambivalent young woman who is more than just a product of her upbringing. She is torn between the love she holds for Marius, the friendship with Cosette that could have been, and a somewhat forced loyalty to her family.*

*Overall, 'A Little in Love' is **very well written, and provides a much more complex and in depth insight into the Thénardier family.** The family themselves are seen as a kind of comic relief in the musical, but Susan E. Fletcher sheds a light on them -- a desperate father, an selfish but loving mother, a spiteful daughter, a neglected son, and a daughter forced to grow up before she is ready.*

### **Ines Davies, age 13**

*'A Little in Love' was a big surprise, I wasn't expecting such a twist in the story. It expands Les Misérables in the eyes of Eponine. It tells the story of Eponine's life.*

*What I really liked was how the book ended at the same point in time that it started.*

*The parents of Eponine are the most shocking characters. They only care for money by stealing. They get Eponine stealing from a very young age so at first*

*she believes it is the right way to live. As Eponine gets older she realizes that the only reason they're ever nice to her is because she can steal for them.*

*One time, their Dad gets caught so they run away. After many years in hiding they go to Paris, the city of Eponine's dreams. It is not how she thought it would be. Poverty is all around and they find themselves cheating and stealing to stay alive again. After getting caught and put into prison Eponine decides that she is going to change her ways. From then on she does good deeds and doesn't mind being in poverty as long as she is not stealing anymore.*

*Cosette is the girl who was the family slave when they were younger. They all treated her very badly. When Eponine finds her in Paris she is very guilt ridden. She unites Cosette her 'soulmate', even though it breaks her heart.*

***It is a very touching story of love, heartbreak, friendship, forgiveness and family.***

#### **Phoebe Allan, age 14**

*'A Little In Love' is one of the most beautiful books I have ever read. I have grown up with the musical Les Miserables and Eponine has always been my favourite character, so learning about her past was something incredible. Fletcher has such talent, making this book one that you don't want to put down, let alone end! 'A Little In Love' shows the development of Eponine as a person from the tiny age of four to a woman with a strong mind at the age of sixteen. With love, family, heartbreak and hope, this is a book that has been put at the top of my recommended list. Thumbs up!*

#### **Danielle Shepherd, age 17**

***This book is amazing, I would recommend it to anyone, it definitely left me wanting more. It was a shame that it ended at all! 5 out of 5 stars.***

*This book had me hooked from the very first line; unlike many of my friends I have not read or watched Les Miserables. This book is the back-story of Eponine, one of the main characters in Les Mis, and how she became the person she is. Wow! Was all I could think each time I was turning the page, I wanted to read it all in one. It was the first book since 'Divergent' that made me "hungry" for more and wondering what was going to happen next. As you can probably guess I finished this book in two days, due to the fact I had to sleep, but I wanted to read it again right after I finished it. Each chapter had me wanting more; the*

characters were so in depth and each person I became attached to. You really felt what Eponine was feeling and her true intentions throughout the book. I just didn't want it to end! I wanted more. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone.

**Rosie Cousins, age 14**

'A Little In Love' is Eponine's take on Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* and I have to say my expectations were high when I first heard of this book. I also have to say that this book did not let me down. **The clever and cunning plot was gripping** and hearing familiar faces added into the book's reality. **I would describe this book as spectacular** and I wish to read this book again yet I have already lent it to one of my friends and I can't wait to hear what they thought because I felt that this book was one of my favourites this year!

**Nia Jones, age 16**

**A brilliant, heartwrenching addition to 'Les Miserables'.**

As a lover of *Les Miserable's*, at first I wasn't sure if I would like 'A Little In Love', worrying that it wouldn't fit with the original story. However, after reading it I am glad to say that I thoroughly enjoyed seeing this classic tale from a different perspective. Eponine's story is exciting and heart wrenching, with such a seedy, interesting life comes a great read. Susan Fletcher was able to capture Eponine and her feelings very effectively, allowing her story to intertwine with 'Les Miserable's' very well. Although, I know the original 'Les Miserables' story very well, I also think that 'A Little In Love' can be easily understood with knowing very little about it, as it does not rely on the readers knowledge of Victor Hugo's epic tale. I would highly recommend 'A Little In Love' to everyone.

**Frida Spanberger**

**The courage to lead the life you want to and feel is right no matter what the personal consequences.**

Eponine is a *Thenardier* by name but only by name. Her good nature makes her different from her wicked, greedy and self-obsessed parents and her sister. Her role in the family is to steal. Almost as soon as she's able to walk she's sent out to steal to contribute to the family income. She realises that what she's doing is

*wrong but knows no other ways and is desperate for her mother's approval and love which she only gets when she brings back valuable items.*

*One day a girl, Cosette, comes to stay with them. Her father has died and her mother can't look after her as she needs to work so she pays the Thenardiers to keep her with them. The Thenardier's promise to look after her well, but don't keep their word. They pocket the money and let her wear rags, eat only scraps, work hard and sleep on the floor under the stairs. Eponine likes Cosette and feels sorry for her. I think she feels ashamed of how her family is treating her and she tries to be nice and a sort of friendship develops between them.*

*Cosette is collected after a few years by a man sent by her mother to take her away to a better life. Eponine watches sadly how she goes and wishes there was a way for her to escape to a better existence as well. She can however not see a way out and her families circumstances change drastically forcing them to flee, and finally brings them to Paris. It is here years later that Eponine meets Marius. Meeting him and falling in love gives her the strength to finally, after a few 'false turns' change her life. Marius also brings her back to meeting Cosette again. Eponine now has a choice of doing what is right even though it breaks her heart.*

***A lovely, bittersweet and emotional story.***

**Megan Abbott, age 16**

***Beautiful story, a must read!***

*After watching the film of 'Les Misérables, I was really curious about the relationship between Eponine and Cosette. This book answers all my questions while staying to the original story by Victor Hugo. This book follows Eponine's journey; gives an insight to some her feelings and why she did some of her actions.*

*I have never read the original book as I found it hard to follow. However, 'A little in Love' by Susan E. Fletcher is a joy to read. This book is also good in the fact that if you have never watched the film/ musical or read the original, you could still read this as a stand alone book.*

*I would highly recommend reading it and would definitely read it again.*