



Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Beetle Boy** By M.G. Leonard

Chicken
House

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 10

'Beetle Boy' is about a boy called Darkus who's Dad disappears in mysterious circumstance. Darkus then discovers he can talk to beetles and sets off to find his Dad with the help of insects.

What a fantastic story. The mystery of a disappearing Dad, a boy who can communicate with beetles and a very weird "villain" who is extremely creepy! Darkus, which is a really cool name, discovers a beetle which he really isn't afraid of. He then finds out that he can communicate with the insect. They set off in search of Darkus's missing Dad. This all leads to a very exciting adventure. A brilliant book which has taught me a great deal about beetles which I didn't know. Do you know what an Entomologist is? I didn't until I read this! I would give this book 10 out of 10 and think it would appeal to mainly boys but some girls would like it too (if they are not scared of beetles)!



Brodie Greenslade, age 10

An exciting story about a lonely boy, a giant beetle and a huge mystery. A gripping read.

'Beetle Boy' is a funny and mysterious story about a boy named Darkus and an unusual friend.

Darkus is very unhappy – his mother has died and his father is missing so he is handed over into the care of his Uncle Max, an archaeologist. Darkus is just beginning to settle at his new school and has even made some friends when one day something very odd happens. Out of the leg of his disgusting neighbour's trousers a gigantic beetle emerges and seems to want something from Darkus. But how can a boy communicate with a beetle? And what does this giant insect have to do with his Dad's old colleague Lucretia Cutter and her love for beetle jewellery?

'Beetle Boy' was a very gripping book – I couldn't put it down! The characters and places were very well described and the plot was both funny and exciting. I love exciting stories and I also love beetles so this was the perfect kind of book for me. I highly recommend this book.

Daniel Harrison, age 9

Even if you're not keen on beetles, you will still love this book. When Darkus' dad disappears he goes to live with his exotic uncle Max. This is when the adventure begins . . .

the house next door has been infested with strange beetles. They are super intelligent beetles as they understand Darkus. I got really excited especially when Darkus goes off to find his dad in Lucretia Cutters house. She is the baddie who wants to kill all the beetles so she can have their powers.

Darkus is helped throughout the story by his friends Virginia, Bertolt as well as his pet beetle Baxter. I couldn't put down this thrilling book. I hope there's a sequel!

Emily Lonsdale, age 10

Really unusual book with a mixture of insect and mystery.

This book is about a boy who meets a Beetle who seems to be able to understand him. It's also about his missing Dad and the mystery behind it. I thought the author was very clever writing two story lines which were cleverly woven into one book. I liked it because it had a good plot and a good mystery and it surprised me a bit because of this. I especially liked the hideout they made in the neighbours.

It was a bit long though so I think that might put some readers off or encourage them to give up half way through.

Alexander Bisland, age 10

This book is about a boy called Darkus. Darkus' mum has died and his Dad has mysteriously disappeared. In his amazing quest to find his dad, he discovers a beetle! It comes out of his evil new neighbour's pocket. The beetle tries to communicate with Darkus and becomes his best friend.

But how can a boy be friends with a beetle?

How long can he keep his beetle a secret from his new carer, his Uncle Max?

What does he do when a strange lady called Lucretia Cutter comes and starts plotting something with his next door neighbour?

This great book ends on a cliff hanger and I would like to read a sequel.

This book intrigued me and I was always on the edge of my seat, determined to read on!

I give it 10/10!

Sam Harper, age 11

A mysteriously disappearing dad, oversized beetles which can 'talk' to humans and the sinister Lucretia Cutter. This amazing adventure drew me in from page one.

When Darkus' dad mysteriously disappears from a locked room, he is left parentless and is sent to an orphanage until his Uncle Max returns. Max is an archaeologist who has just led an expedition in Egypt. He temporarily postpones his travels to look after Darkus and help him find his father. Together with Darkus' new friends from school, they set out to solve the puzzle of his dad's disappearance but his messy and argumentative neighbours don't help one bit. In fact they even try to kidnap Darkus and he is only saved by the timely intervention of his newfound pet beetle, Baxter. Darkus soon discovers that Baxter is no ordinary beetle, nor are any of the other millions of beetles in their neighbours flat. Actually they are all lab escapees from Lucretia Cutter's take on the Fabre Project. This means that the beetles are much larger than normal, they can think for themselves and are able to understand and even 'talk' to humans. But what do these strange, oversized insects have to do with his dad? Will Darkus ever see him again? Who, or what, is Lucretia Cutter and how can her daughter possibly help?

'Beetle Boy' is an amazing adventure that drew me in from page one. I really liked the characters of both the people and the beetles. They helped to make my

*favourite scenes, which include the furniture forest, with its base camp and traps, and the grand finale, vividly come alive. **A truly captivating story with great illustrations to add to the entire picture that it creates in your mind's eye. Brilliant!***

Cora Willans, age 9

Brilliant Book!

I think 'Beetle Boy' is an adventure story as there is a villain and a hero in it. My favourite character is Baxter because he is such an amazing beetle I would love for him to be my friend. I would give this book 9/10 as I really enjoyed it. I would recommend this book to 8-11 year olds.

Liam's Wilson, age 11

A hilarious, thrilling adventure.

'Beetle Boy' is a brilliant book. It's about a boy called Darkus whose dad goes missing and he finds a mysterious beetle who he names Baxter. Darkus tries to find his dad, and he thinks the beetles have something to do with his dad's disappearance.

This is a very funny mystery with an unusual twist. I like the beetles on the edges of the pages.

I'm giving it 9 out 10.

