

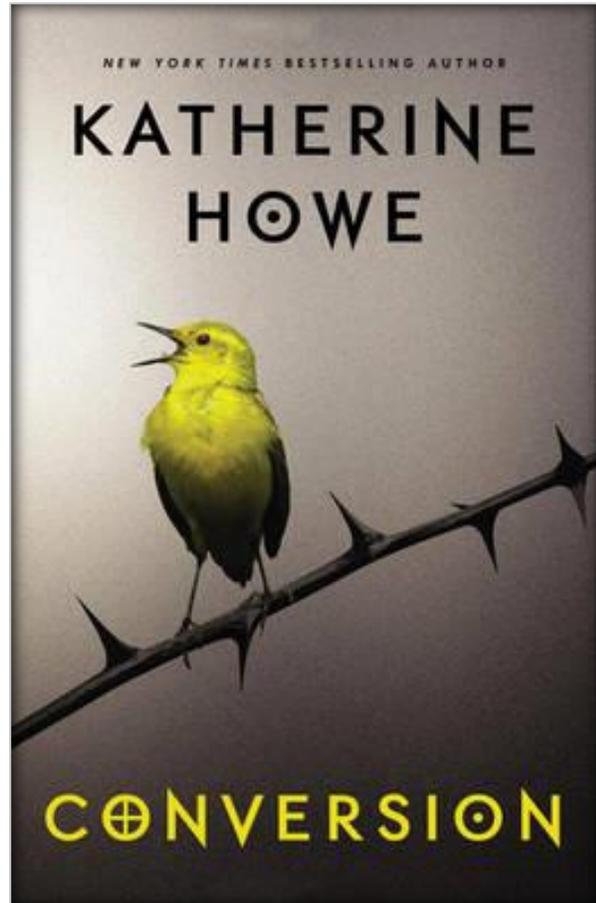
LoveReading Reader reviews of Conversion by Katherine Howe

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Izzy Read, age 14

When girls in their final year of St. Joan's Academy start coming down with symptoms of an unknown illness, as school officials scramble for explanation or something to blame. As more girls fall ill, the world descends on the school, desperate for the latest scoop. But when Colleen figures out that the school is on the site of Salem village she's determined there's something more...

*I thought that 'Conversion' not only perfectly had two ongoing narratives, but captured the crushing, claustrophobic pressure that today's students are under. Colleen's striving in her school work blinded her almost to her friends around her and comprised her in other ways. The mystery 'illness'-eventually called conversion- was cleverly done in a realistic way that set fear and paranoia in to the minds of students and parents alike. I loved the way that you couldn't just predict what was happening, everything was unknown and to be found out. **Overall, I adored 'Conversion' and how terrified and in the dark I felt reading it!** Katherine Howe captured teenage life extremely well and, although I do not expect one I would love a sequel or something similar!*



<http://jumpinmuddypuddles.blogspot.co.uk/>

Destiny Maraj, age 13

'Conversion' was a brilliant book, the opening line had me fixated, it had me wondering and pondering. The plot of the novel was fabulous and all of the varying theories of what the illness was and what the foundation of it was, it was distracted the reader from the real illness, which I found very surprising and unexpected. I enjoyed how the author didn't make the novel all about the 'mystery illness' and how she illustrated the delicate, blooming romance between Colleen and Spencer and the secretive one between Emma and Mr Mitchell. I also love how she incorporated two different tales from two different generations which I thought kept things very fascinating. On the whole I thought it was an amazing book and I delighted in the fact I got to read and review it.

Amrit Bunet, age 16

Katherine Howe, a New York Times bestseller, has created a bizarre and suprising novel based upon hectic lives. Grab this book fast, for a read that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

'Conversion' is one that is based upon senior girls at St. Joans Academy who have their whole lives ahead of them. They are intelligent, insipiring and capable young girls. Yet, their worlds are suddenly flipped upside down when bizarre streaks of symptoms and episodes occur. Is it witchcraft?

My opinion of 'Conversion' flipped many a times. In the beginning, Howe brilliantly executes the book and you're absorbed in within minutes. You're unable to put the book down. Yet, as time progressed near the end, I did find that the pace slowed down. Without giving too much away, I felt the ending could have been presented better.

Apart from this, Howe has delivered a magnificent story line for any reader to get 'stuck in'!!

Amy Laws, age 13

What seems like a standard high school drama turns into something quite different.

I really liked how 'Conversion' took place in two different eras however, I did think that the two were going to be linked at some point but they weren't. This made the story a bit disjointed and at points felt like two separate stories within

the two book but I enjoyed 'Conversion' none the less.

The school setting was very relatable with stereotypical cliques and girls to go in these cliques so it made the story seem very real and as if it could actually happen. I liked the diary style of and the quotes at the start of each part of the book.

Overall, this book was enjoyable but it wasn't my favourite ever. It had both good and bad qualities but I would recommend it if you are looking for a twist on a high school drama novel.

Georgie Rowe, age 17

'Conversion' was an interesting book to read, but simultaneously confusing. Last year I wrote an essay which was, in part, related to cases of mass hysteria exhibited in this story. Therefore when I got the opportunity to read 'Conversion' I was highly interested.

The book started very strongly, with addictive storytelling and alternating chapters between 1706 and 2012 to build suspense. I was extremely invested in Colleen's story, due in part to the realistic way she way written, and interested to see how the author would include both elements of 'The Crucible' and the Salem Witch Trials as described on the blurb.

However I found the last section of the book to be rushed and jarring - despite the protagonist's suspicions, which were at least partially confirmed by another character, the story denies that she was right and she accepts this without complaints. Whilst I know that the author tried to stick with the real events which this book is based on, it happened so suddenly that I had no time to adjust to it all, which was displeasing as a reader.

*Nevertheless, **I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Salem Witch Trials or Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'**, or even in the real life events which this book is based on. Most of this book was highly enjoyable to read and I blazed through it fairly quickly due to its snappy pacing, so it isn't hard to get through. Just be prepared that the author did follow real life events, meaning that the ending isn't particularly satisfying.*

Aimee Sweet, age 13

'St Joan's Academy, an elite private school... has been shaken by a bizarre illness that has doctor scratching their heads... What's causing it? And are your children at risk?'

This book follows the story of Colleen Rowley, a seventeen year old attending high school at St Joan's High. Final's are coming up, and people are trying to get into universities. Every last minute counts towards their future. Teachers are expecting them to handle the pressure, but when they can't everything starts to spiral out of control...

It started with lovely Clara Rutherford, admired by everyone. When she starts twitching uncontrollably in class out of the blue, many have no idea what to do. Doctors are at a loss. When more start experiencing strange coughing fits, hair loss and body vibrations, diagnosis goes out of the wall. Parents are angry. The media is buzzing. School nurses are puzzled. What is the cause for this 'mystery disease'? Is the school telling the truth? And are the weird texts that Colleen has been receiving got to do with anything?

***I really like this intriguing book and how it is written.** It took me a while to finish, longer than a normal book takes, so I'd recommend this as a long read, perhaps on a plane journey. My favourite character is Emma, because there is a lot more to her than you think, and Ms Slater, Colleen's history teacher. Girls would like to read this book most, from around 13 to 17, but adults may like it too because **I thought the writing was interesting and sophisticated.** I would give it a four star, and the publisher is Rock the Boat, and imprint of Oneworld Publications*

<https://thesweetreview.wordpress.com/2015/04/13/conversion-by-katherine-howe/>

Edel Waugh

***If you have previously seen and enjoyed the film "The Crucible " or read the book then you will really enjoy this book .** The story is based around an all girls school where one day a serious sickness seems to effect one of the girls , this is not the end , it quickly spreads and no one knows what's causing it or how to stop it . The story is told in two ways , in the past in Salem at the time of the witch trials and in modern day at the school. The narrator in the present is a girl called Colleen , her and her friends are scared about what's going on at their school and wondering which of them could be next. At the end*

of the book the author touches on a real story that occurred in America that was the inspiration behind this story, it was fascinating and made this even more enjoyable ,the author also mentions at the back of the book that she was related to some of the women that were accused of being witches at the time of the Salem trials.

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Sophia Ufton

Wow, what can i say..... This book was amazing and completely gripping! I shall look for more by this author!

Colleen Rowley was in class with her fellow pupils and she was talking to a friend when a not popular but also not hated girl Clara Rutherford, walks in with her two followers. She sits down and the class resumes, with the teacher asking Colleen to share what she was talking about during lesson, when Colleen notices one of the girls staring and when she follows her gaze its at Clara who as started twichting and fitting, people ask if she will be ok, if she as any medical problems but what they don't know is things are only going to get worse and a secret that someone as been hiding could jeopardise everyone's furture. What will happen next?

Amanda Gray

I enjoyed jumping between times but I thought the 2 stories would eventually come together, yet in the end, they read like two separate stories. I still love Howe but this book missed the mark for me..

This is more of a 3.5 star read. I really enjoyed jumping between times but I thought that the 2 stories would eventually come together. However, in the end, they read like two separate stories. The build up was very intense but the final conclusion was very lacking. The author tries to explain the correlation between the two narratives but I still didn't see the likeness. This had so much potential for a 5 star but the ending was just bad. I still love this author but this book missed the mark for me.

<http://nellieandco.blogspot.co.uk/>