

Lovereading Reader reviews of Fire Colour One by Jenny Valentine

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Jenny Duffy

'I think about the dancing, shifting, elusive character of a fire, of the colour it paints, unlike any other colours I will ever find, in a whole lifetime of looking.'

Iris is obsessed with fire: with its flickering colours, its energy, its calming, cleansing power. It is her way of expressing herself and of dealing with her vain, money-grabbing mother and step-father. When her mother Hannah learns that Iris's wealthy father Ernest is dying, they rush to his side enthralled by his fortune and his expensive art collection. But Iris isn't interested in the money, she just wants to get back to Thurston, her best friend who opened her eyes to art and to new ways of looking at the world. She has no time for the father who abandoned her years ago. But gradually she learns that her ideas about Ernest may not be right, but they don't have much time left...

This is an utterly compelling read, about art, family, love and loss. Iris is a strong protagonist - she is deeply flawed, but also intelligent and passionate about art. Thurston is an intriguing character who creates thought-provoking and daring performance art, and Hannah's self-obsession is captured perfectly. 'Fire Colour One' is beautifully written, the imagery is vivid and enthralling (see quote above). As an art lover myself, I found this book particularly enjoyable. The last few chapters of the book were sheer brilliance – I can't wait to re-read this book, and I am delighted that Jenny Valentine is back.



<https://thebookstheartandme.wordpress.com/category/books/>

Sophia Ufton

This is an amazing book! Loved it so much!

Iris's father, Ernest has died and she is at the funeral but she didn't even get to meet him as her dad. The mom wants Ernest's priceless art collection but even though Ernest has gone he has other ideas!

How will he tell Iris what he wanted her to know?

Chloe Mcilroy

This was a really good book that kept me gripped from beginning to end. It featured interesting characters and an original plot which was exciting the whole way through.

Iris is a 16 year old girl who lives with her mum- Hannah-and her mum's boyfriend-Lowell. The plot of the novel is cyclical and the start informs us of some of the most important parts of Iris's life. We are told about her best friend, Thurston, who met her on a train ride. He is an interesting character who enjoys acting spontaneously. Iris thinks her wealthy dad (Ernest) left her when she was young as that was what she has been told by her mum for years. Her mum and Lowell are both obsessed with money and outward appearances. Iris feels like she doesn't belong with them as she can tell that she is an inconvenience to them. Iris enjoys starting fires which annoys her mum due to damage costs. Her family is in need of money and, soon, they find a solution to their problem. Hannah contacts Iris's dad in order to rebuild contacts to gain money from him. She learns he is dying and would like to see Iris before he goes. Iris's mum agrees for a condition- she has to be paid. Ernest obliges. When they arrive at Ernest's home they are welcomed and settle in. Hannah and Lowell are distant and it is obvious that they are waiting for Ernest to pass away. When Ernest dies they will receive his substantial art collection and many millions. Meanwhile, Iris and her dad slowly start to build a relationship with each other and Ernest soon tells Iris the truth. The book finishes with a gripping twist.

You can follow Chloe on Twitter: @Smarties121

Tammy Hall, age 15 - Benfield School

Iris has the most perfectly vile mother and stepfather; they are totally selfish, vain and obsessed with money and image. Iris herself survives in this sterile

home because of her friend Thurston; a boy full of life, energy and spontaneity who shows Iris how to make the most of life. Iris's world changes dramatically when her mother moves them from America back to Britain in order to make sure they inherit all of Iris's father's fortune before he dies. So she not only has left her best friend behind, but also has to face the man who she thinks abandoned her as a small child. She learns lots about love and art. It's a good story the way the plot unfolds and the ending is unexpected but very satisfying.

Edel Waugh

This is the story about a teenager called Iris who's father she has not had contact with her entire life. Iris lives with her mother Hannah and her stepfather. Her real dad Ernest is dying and wants to meet her before he dies and so they all make the trip to see him and the story really begins then. Iris seems like a regular girl until we get glimpses into her past through others eyes, Iris likes to do things that have caused huge harm in the past so that really threw me as I was sympathetic to her character until that point then I wavered. Iris has had a lot to cope with and I think she was expressing her hurt through what she did even though it was the wrong way to go about it. Ernest was a very likeable character and I instantly warmed to him, he had gumption and was smart and I loved that about him as he could see right through his ex. I would recommend this to everyone.

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

Emily Kinder, age 14

This book is brilliant. Like lots of the books that come from Lovereading4kids, it's not something I'd normally read, plus I don't particularly enjoy Jenny Valentine as an author, but I was gripped from the first page. It is unbelievably compelling as well as thought provoking and clever. It addresses problems that are very relevant to everyone, and interesting to read, things which are normally skirted around; death, lies, love. The characters are huge, and are people you love to love, and love to hate, from the despicable and shallow MOTHER to the remarkable and inspiring Thurston. They are what really drives the story; the depth of the characters draw you into the story, and keeps you glued to the page.

The story is about Iris, who is troubled, to say the least. MOTHER is addicted to

spending, her LORIS is addicted to fame, and Iris is addicted to something quite different, not a thing, not a drug, but to burning. Her world is complicated, and difficult, with quite enough to deal with without an absentee father writing from his death bed to ask for one last thing: to see Iris again, before he dies. Leaving behind everything that you know is always hard, whether it means anything to you or not, and it's especially hard when everything you know contains the enigmatic genius that is Thurston Shaw.

This book has endless layers that unravel as the story continues, leaving you guessing until the very end. It's sweet and thought provoking, with an extremely satisfying ending, and I'd recommend it to absolutely anyone.

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