

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Hour of the Bees** by Lindsay Eagar



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

Maisie Sadler, age 14

What an amazing book, I couldn't stop reading.

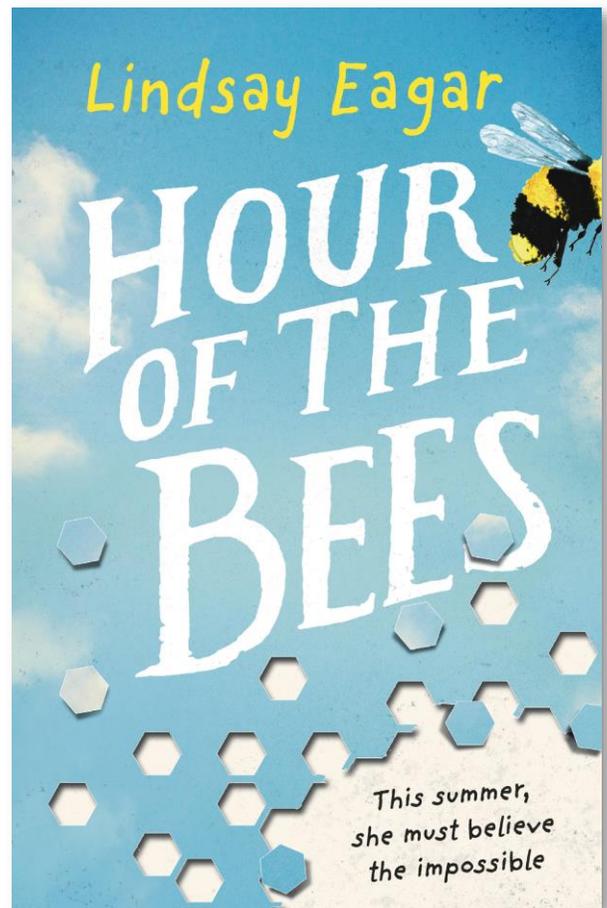
'Hour of the Bees' by Lindsay Eagar is a story about Carolina - Carol - who goes to stay in the New Mexico desert over summer with her grandpa Serge, who she has never met, at their family ranch. Here, Carolina builds a close bond that she doesn't want to leave behind and learns what it means to be true to her roots.

The author has created an amazing, unforgettable story which I know for a fact I will never forget. I would recommend this book to anyone and I hope Lindsay writes another book in the future for me to enjoy.

Sophia Ufton

Amazing story! Blew me away, loved it all.

Carol has gone with her mum, dad and sister to visit their grandpa, who has dementia. Carol avoids her grandpa at first, scared of his ways and how he looks, but then she starts to get interested in his stories about gifts of immortality and about bees. Carol must decide for herself what is possible. What will her grandpa reveal to her next?



Edel Waugh

*When 12-year-old Carol is told she is spending her summer holidays at her grandpa's ranch in the middle of the Mexican desert she is more than a little unhappy with the arrangement. While there the weather is incredibly hot, her grandpa incredibly prickly and there is very little to do except babysit this man she has never met before, as he is sick and whether he likes it or not he will have to leave here. During their time together they begin to form a bond mostly thanks to his love of telling stories about bees and if they came back so would the water that this area badly needed. **Thought-provoking and heartbreaking we learn about Serge's past and how much his home and roots meant to him.***

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

Megan Chambers, age 14

Whatever you are doing right now, stop, and order this book. You will not regret it at all.

I read this book within 48 hours of picking it up; I just couldn't put it down. I love how the two plots link in with each other and everything is so carefully planned out. I really connected with Carolina and loved reading her story. I cannot wait until the book is published, so I can urge everyone I know to buy it and read it straight away.

Traviss Chaytors, age 12

Powerful...

*I really enjoyed the writing in 'Hour of The Bees'. The description of the Mexican desert made me feel as though I was actually there. **Most of all I loved the character of Carol and her relationship with her Grandad Serge. As my Grandma suffered with dementia I could really relate to this book and I'm sure many other readers will be able to as well.***

Emily Passmore, age 14

A lovely book about family relationships, with a great plot and a fantastic ending. I loved it.

When starting the book, I wasn't sure whether or not I would get in to it, but within the first few chapters, I was hooked. Despite never being in the situations happening in the book, I was still able to empathise and connect with the book, as it was relatable and written in a way that allowed everyone to feel as if they

were in Carol's shoes. All the characters felt real and were different, each having their own story to go through. I particularly enjoyed hearing Serge's story as he told it to Carol, and realising what was true and what was not in it. I would recommend this book to many others my age, as I think it is a really good, emotional read.

Mariam Ahmed

'Hour of the Bees' is about a girl called Carol, or "Carol-leeen-a", who has to move back to her Grandad's ranch during the summer holidays. At first she is reluctant to leave her friends and home but during her stay she discovers her grandad's mysterious past and learns to accept and love who she is. **The story is quite slow paced at the beginning but becomes more exciting and suspenseful near the end.**

Grandpa Serge has dementia. Grandpa Serge is the last one left and has a story to tell. DUN DUN DUUUUUN!

Olivia Armstrong, age 12 - Thomas Cowley School

The main character of the book is a 12-year-old girl called Carolina, but her family calls her Carol for short. In the six week summer holidays, while all her friends are going to sleepovers and pool parties at Alberque, a famous adventure park, she went with her mum, dad and her little two year old brother to stay with the Grandad she has never met before in the south Mexican desert.

Her Grandad lives in a run-down ranch, in a desert where there hasn't been rain for hundreds of years. On the first day she meets him, she tries to avoid her unusual grandad who has unknown bumps on his face which look like huge infected spots. He is always getting Carol mixed up with someone called Rosa and telling her not to spit on her roots. **According to Grandad Serge, the bees will bring back the rain.**

Amelie Chatham, age 13

'Hour of the Bees' is a good book for someone who enjoys reading about hidden magic or likes knowing things before they actually happen.

'Hour of the Bees' is about a girl going to stay on her grandfather's ranch in the middle of nowhere whilst her friends play in the pool back home. Carol spends her time listening to her grandfather's wacky stories but all of a sudden those stories become far too real for Carol's liking and soon selling the ranch seems like a not so good idea.

I liked this book a lot because I enjoyed how it is two different stories put together to make one plot.

Alice East, age 11

When Carol and her family travel to the desert to visit her granddad, who has dementia, they are caught up in a magical adventure.

When Carol visits the hot, barren desert strange things happen; bees follow her. A magical adventure unfolds as Carol finds out more about the desert and her grandfather's history. As Carol's grandfather tells stories Carol realizes the importance of the desert and why someone would want to live there.

*I really liked the book because there was a story inside the book which I found quite interesting. The setting was different from most books and so were the characters. **I really liked the fact that this book was really different from other books that I have read.***

This story was magical but some people may find it a bit sad. I would recommend this book to readers age 10-14. I really enjoyed this and I hope others enjoy it too.

Aaliyah Mohammed, age 12 - Dormston Secondary School

I loved this book especially the stories that the grandfather tells. You will not be able to put this incredible book down.

'Hour of the Bees' is about a girl called Carolina. Instead of having a summer holiday she has to go and move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia. Carolina hates it on the sun baked sheep ranch until Sergio, her grandfather begins to create stories about a tree. I personally loved this book, the stories about the tree were my favourite parts. It's a guilty pleasure that I read this book in one night I couldn't put it down. I would highly recommend this book to children over the age of 12.

Maddie - Rodborough School

'The Hour of the Bees' was a fantastic book which I have already recommended to friends. It's unexpected and original tale had me hooked the whole way through and I was left feeling emotional and excited throughout the book.

The mix between tale and reality was confusing but was an interesting way to tell the story. It switched between the different styles randomly and when the time came when they crossed, the whole story made sense and I found that everything did fit together. Without giving too much away, the book tells the tale of a girl who lives an ordinary teenage girl's life but gets caught up in the past of her grandfather whom she has never properly met. The relationship that develops between the two is unexpected and in depth. Everything in the story can be summarised with different theories so it's easy to be left wondering what is reality and what's just part of the fantasy story that unfolds for our protagonist. A must read, amazing book.

Mansi Singh, Year 8

I found myself really lucky to receive an advance copy of 'Hour of the Bees' in exchange for an honest review.

I truly think this book is fantastic it has everything that a book should have: a bit of comedy, fantasy, and also emotive language. I loved the way the author wrote a story-within-the-story, such an excellent idea. Within the first few pages I was also amazed and engaged by the imagery Lindsay uses to describe even the common landscape.

It has an interesting story line too. The novel is quite slow paced at the beginning but becomes more exciting and full of suspense near the end.

It talks about 12-years old Carolina-Carol who spent her summer in New Mexico, with her Grandad (who she'd never met) on his ranch. When Carol meets her grandpa Serge, the feeling between them is luke-warm at best. It was beautiful to watch their relationship develop into something real, meaningful and of great importance to Carol. This novel really made me reconsider the influence a person's "roots" plays in their life. As Carol learns about her "roots" she focuses on her true self and becomes more confident.

This book made me really emotional and I found it really inspiring: I absolutely loved some quotes in the book such as "Do not be afraid to die, and you will not be afraid to live" or "Stories never end, they just have new beginnings".

However, everything has its "improving side". I genuinely liked the novel but I think it could be improved by putting more realistic ideas in, I mean something even 15+ could read.

I highly recommend this book to everyone aged 8 – 14 years and I would rate this book 10 out of 10.

Jessica Lund, age 14

'Hour of the Bees' was a different book to what I usually read. To be honest with you I did not really enjoy it that much. At the start I found it hard to get into and I was not sure what was going on. So basically the main character (Carol) has to go with her family to see her grandpa Serge who has got dementia. He lives in the middle of a desert where there has been no rain for one hundred years but yet there are magic bees flying around which only Carol and Serge can see and hear buzzing around.

*At the start of the book this did not appeal to me but I did give the book a decent chance and I did actually enjoy two things about the book. One was the mini stories that Grandpa Serge told because they were lovely and it was interesting to listen to him talk and all his stories started with 'Once upon a time' and I personally love this. **The other thing I liked about this book was when it talked about how you measure time and how you find your own way to work out how time passes.** Over all if I had to rate this book I would have to give it a 2.5 out of five as it just was not for me.*

Olivia Dally-Fitzsimons, age 13

***A magical story about a young girl and her grandfather. I would definitely recommend you read this.** This is a magical book, **I really loved it.** It is about a girl called Carol. Carol's family go to help her grandfather on his farm because he is suffering from dementia. It is the first time that Carol has met her grandfather and at first she thinks he is a bit grumpy, but he tells wonderful stories and Carol begins to wonder if the stories are fact or fiction. A wonderful book I would definitely recommend you read.*