

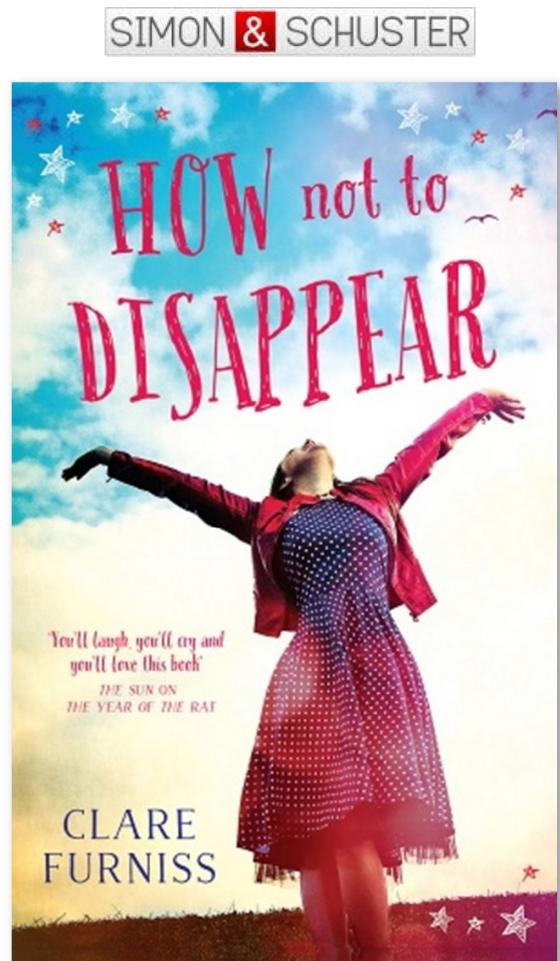
Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **How not to Disappear** by Clare Furniss

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

Lauren Coffman, age 15

*Set in modern London, Harriet is in her teens, and pregnant. With her mum stressed about her forthcoming marriage, and taking the family, minus Harriet, on a holiday, her best friend Kat being stuck in Scotland with her new possessive girlfriend, and her other best friend Reuben being the father of her unborn child, Harriet's summer is not going well, until she gets a call about an unknown great-aunt with Alzheimer's, and after one horrible meeting, decides to take her on a road-trip, to remember and pass on her deepest secrets before they are forgotten forever. **An immense journey of self-discovery, this book deals spectacularly with the themes of finding yourself, of forgetting, and of everything you were afraid of being forgotten, because 'without our memories, we are nobody'.** It has excitement, love, mystery and a real sense of family and belonging. A great read that I would recommend.*



Edel Waugh

*This is the remarkable story about a 16 year old girl called Hattie and a relative she knew nothing about called Gloria. One day Hattie answers the phone to a woman saying she is a friend of Gloria's and that Gloria is not well and could do with some visitors. Hattie is the only one in her family intrigued by this woman so off she goes to meet her only to be very surprised! Gloria is not your typical elderly lady, she is a bit of a rebel who is fond of drinking too much and not one to mince her words! Through a revelation by Hattie, these two find they have more in common than either thought possible and this forms a bond between them which leads them on a road trip and answers to many questions about the past and future. **I highly recommend this amazing book. Truly wonderful!***

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk/2015/12/how-not-to-disappear-by-clare-furniss.html>

Emma Hughes

I really enjoyed this book- it was refreshingly different from most of the books I have read. I will definitely keep my eye out for any books to come by Clare Furniss.

Louisa Cunliffe, age 18

This is a beautiful book that had me laughing at one sentence and sobbing at the next. The story follows Hattie, a pregnant teenager, and Gloria, her estranged aunt who is suffering from dementia. Scared of the idea of her memories becoming lost forever, Gloria and Hattie embark on a road trip, visiting the most significant locations of Gloria's past. Along the way Hattie learns of the trials and tribulations of Gloria's past and she realises they have more in common than she first thought. This book explores the importance of memories in making a person who they are, it shows us that the events in our lives, the choices we make and the people we love shape who we become. It also opens up the questions: are you still you if can no longer remember who you are? If you can't remember do you and your past just disappear? Not only does this make you think as a reader but the idea is made even more powerful and relevant by the increasing prevalence of dementia in today's society. For many people now and in the future the fear of losing memories is going to become a reality for themselves or their loved ones.

*As a teenage girl reading this book I also took away the importance of not settling for okay when looking for love, and the idea that sometimes you to let go of someone or something in order to find something even better. **'How Not to Disappear'** is a book filled with important themes and ideas that are intertwined in a beautifully crafted story, with realistically flawed yet lovable characters. **If you want a book that will make you laugh, cry and think then this is a must read.***

Lucy Smith

A book that captures the relationships across generations and amidst the modern family....i.e. there is no normal. An easy read.

This book was an easy, light read from start to finish, requiring little effort to follow the plot which was nice and relaxing. I enjoyed discovering and watching the relationships unfold across generations and was particularly drawn to the main characters Hattie and Gloria, intrigued by their own journeys as well as the one they embarked on together throughout. Although at times I felt the overall story lacked substance, I grew to want to know more and the subtle twists kept me captivated.