

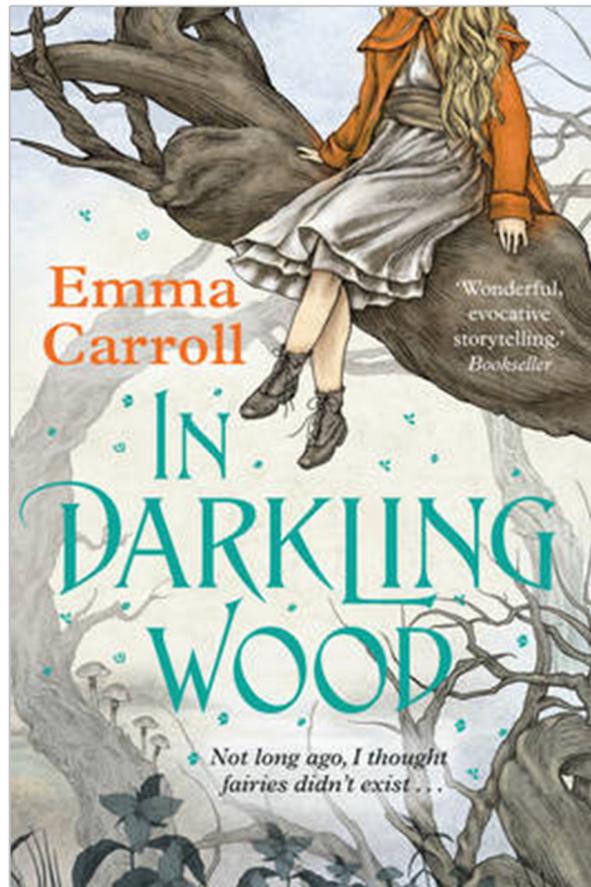
LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of In Darkling Wood by Emma Carroll

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Hannah Minton, age 9

In Darkling Wood is a great book that I thoroughly enjoyed.

In Darkling Wood is a great book that features the danger and safety of the world around us. One of my favourite parts of the story is the ending which isn't too obvious. The author does not once stop with the action, and creates mysteries and the characters are brilliant. Something I have never come across before is having two main characters who might/might not know each other which I thought was super. The characters in this book have strong personalities that change regularly. Although the author switches between the two characters, it is always clear what is going on and not confusing at all. Despite being a fiction book, it has lots of facts in it. I would honestly recommend this book. It does get a bit sad in places, but do continue to the end because you will thoroughly enjoy it.



Isaac Phelan, age 11

This thrilling novel is certain to excite many children who believe in magic. Packed with adventure, it will be a brilliant boredom buster.

Alice doesn't believe in fairies. However, faced with the potential death of a

loved one, it seems she has no choice...

I read this book to my 8 year old sister and she loved this book because it was very exciting. Her favourite character was Flo because she was a ghost and popped up a lot in the story. Her favourite part was when she found out that Max had a crush on Alice and she also liked Theo's birthday. She liked these parts because they were very interesting and a bit romantic.

My favourite character was Borage as he was a loveable, hilarious companion to Alice. He gets in the way at every corner. My favourite part was when Alice found out that Flo was a ghost after looking at the letters and understanding the truth. It was particularly tense which I liked. I would put this book towards anyone who can read, it's perfect for nearly all ages! If you like fantasy and magic, this is the book for you.

Judith Smith, age 9 3/4

This is honestly one of the best books I have ever read. My friend Amy asked if she could borrow the book after I had finished it. She said it looked creepy.

It was absolutely INCREDIBLE I loved it so much I would definitely recommend it to anyone who loves books about mystery and sadness. It is about a girl called Alice Campbell and her brother Theo who needs a heart transplant and Alice needs to go with her grandma Nell and her dog Borage. Nell owns a place called Darkling wood and wants to cut it down but there are fairies in Darkling wood and it is up to Alice to save it.

Lucy Keaveny, age 9

Not a typical book about fairies. A great read that was hard to put down.

The book begins with Theo, Alice's brother getting a call to say there is a heart for him. After the first chapter I was completely hooked.

Then Alice gets sent to stay with a Grandma she doesn't know. That is when the real adventure begins. She discovers she has a gift, a gift that means she can see fairies!

I loved this book, it wasn't like a typical fairy book. Instead you really got to know Alice and how she was feeling about everything in her life.

Mairi Bauer, age 11

The saddest start to a book ever.....it's not about fairies.

I thought the blurb made the book look like something I would like to read because I like books about fairies. However, when I started to read this book it was a bit sad and scary. I didn't like the bit when Alice's little brother Theo goes to the hospital because it was too sad. I didn't really want to read the rest of the book.

Sam Harper, age 11

The unravelling of this mystery was thrilling and well worth reading. This is Emma Carroll's best book yet.

I have now read all 3 of Emma Carroll's books and I think that In Darkling Wood is her best yet. It's about Alice, a teenager whose parents are divorced and whose dad has a new life, and family, in Devon. Her younger brother, Theo, needs a heart transplant and when a donor is suddenly found and Theo goes into hospital, Alice is sent to stay with her grandmother, Nell, in Darkling Wood Cottage. Alice has never met Nell and doesn't know much about her. She seems sad and her house is old fashioned and full of secrets. Nell wants to chop down Darkling Wood as the tree roots are damaging her house and, although the villagers want the wood preserved, stubborn Nell won't listen. As Alice spends more time in the wood she realises that it is a magical place which may hold secrets from the past. She meets a mysterious girl, Flo, who appears to be from 1918 and who warns Alice that if Nell destroys the wood then the fairies it contains will come after her for their revenge. Alice needs to believe in the fairies to protect the wood and the secrets it contains but will she be able to save it? Why is Nell so sad and how is this all linked to Alice's father?

I really enjoyed this book but I didn't like the long introduction and felt it would have been more interesting if there was more excitement early on in the story. Emma Carroll's books tend to be slow at first but become really gripping once they pick up speed. The unravelling of this mystery was certainly thrilling and well worth reading.

Year 5 Book Group – Baring Primary School

This is the best book we have read in a long time. We'll definitely be exploring the other books this author has written.

In Darkling Wood is a very skillfully crafted novel. The reader is totally drawn in to the two storylines which run alongside each other.

It is an absorbing tale of two girls, Alice and Flo, who lived almost 100 years apart with the magical Darkling Wood and the fact that they are both worried about their brothers being the most obvious features common to both stories.

As you read on, you come across other things the two girls have in common and finally discover how their two families are linked.

Erica

The book is a very good book. I couldn't take my eyes of it. When I was reading the book, I just knew it would be good since the day I saw the front cover.

It is sooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo good it would be impossible to find a complaint anywhere in the world. I think Emma Carroll is such a good writer and there is no doubt about that! I don't have a favorite bit in this book it is all and every bit of it is so good! This book taught me that fairies are also bad, but only if you are naughty to them. They are mainly good otherwise.

Isabel, age 8

I really enjoyed reading this book it was brilliant!

I loved the story about Alice and her brother Theo who wanted to save Darkling Wood.

I really enjoyed reading the notes written to Alfred and the fairy magic.

I cannot wait to read the rest of Emma Carroll's books.

Maya Watson, age 9

I really, really enjoyed this book and took my time reading it because it was so good although this was actually difficult because I wanted to read onto the next chapter every time I finished one! My dad even read it too and he's 45!

The main character is called Alice. Her brother Theo is very ill in hospital so she has to go and stay with her nana who she hardly knows at Darkling Cottage beside Darkling Wood.