

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Last Summer of Us by Maggie Harcourt

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Shannon McCluskey, age 13

St. Colm's High School

'The Last Summer Of Us' is a book that you will never forget as it is so interesting and exciting.

The story is about three young friends named Limpet, Jared and Steffan.

When they set out on a road trip to visit Steffan's Mum's grave, Jared and Limpet think that this is just a regular road trip only to find out that Steffan is going to America with his Dad.

Will they ever be the same again? Will they find out all about the hidden secrets? And will they ever see Steffan again?

I thought this was a brilliant story. Read it to find out what happens to the three friends.

I would recommend it for readers age 13+



Edel Waugh

This is the story of three friends called Jared , Limpet and Steffan. The story begins with the funeral of Limpet's mother. From that point we quickly learn about the family background of Jared and Steffan and what claustrophobic grief feels like. These three friends go on a little road trip after the funeral while Limpets family are trying to cope with their grief. We quickly see that the friendship that these three have, is at times what is holding them together when things in their personal lives could easily pull them down and leave them

beyond repair. We can't choose our family but as we can choose our friends these two guys and a girl picked wisely , they make a great trio. We learn as we go on that each of the three friends have very real troubles and even though it has nothing to do with them directly other things out of their control could tear them apart. Reading this felt very raw at times, the sheer depth that grief can bring you to felt very real. **The needling of the closeness of friendship during tough times when only friends can understand what you are going through was believable and the entire story was written so well I often had a lump in my throat.** Throughout the story we never learn the real name of Limpet until the very end. I recommend this to anyone who has ever lost someone.

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

Lauren Coffman, age 15

*Limpet, Steffan and Jared are on a road trip. A few days away to forget about their lives and problems. But the places they visit, and the journey itself, crammed in a car for hours and camping in tents leads to secrets being told, arguments being had and personalities being revealed, including something about Steffan that may change things forever. This book teaches a lot about not only friendship, but grief, family, love, secrets and many more things. They are all at a very difficult point in their lives so for many people they are all easy to relate to in a different, like the three of them relate to each other in different ways. It is **an exciting, sad and captivating book that I would definitely recommend.***

Nickey Hawryszczuk

This is the story of three teenage friends who have all had grief in their young lives. It was a really heartwarming story set over one summer. A well written late teens/young adult story.

Three friends set off on a road trip in a rusty old car for their last summer together. How do they all feel about each other? Are they all friends or is there more? This road trip is the time to find out. They discover things about each other during the time spent travelling. I felt the characters grew up throughout the book; especially the girl (Limpet)! The boys (Steffan and Jared) were also great characters and I think Limpet was lucky to have them as her 2 best friends. Even though this is a YA book, I thoroughly enjoyed reading it (and I'm

in my forties)!

Stacie Ball

A great debut book about grief and the power of a good friendship.

As you can probably tell from the summary, this short book is based around three best friends, Limpet, Steffan and Jared. The story starts off with a funeral for Limpet's mother and instead of staying home with her dad who doesn't seem to be coping well, she and the boys decide to go on a road trip to clear their heads. During the road trip secrets are revealed and friendships are tested, but the three have a bond that in the end makes it over any obstacle.

As far as characters go in the story, I think the three were very well developed with heaps of back story and I loved how strong the friendship was. We have Limpet, who is not only dealing with the death of her mother but the gossip surrounding it, but despite all of this she is still holding her head up high, laughing and trying her best not to fall apart. Then we have Jared, someone who doesn't say much but everyone seems to have something bad to say about. Lastly we have Steffan, a carefree and loveable boy who is hiding a secret of his own, his life is about to change and because of this so are the very foundations of the friendship they all share. Basically the three characters are very different, with all their own stories to tell but seem to find comfort in each other and I think it's lovely.

*The book was **beautifully written and such an easy read, while I was reading I found myself completely caught up in everything that was going on.** It was a really good debut, one that would have slipped me by had it not been for the opportunity to review it and I am not only very thankful for the chance, but I'm looking forward to future books from Maggie Harcourt.*

Amy Laws, age 13

A really good book about everything from friendship to grief that I would definitely recommend.

I quite enjoyed this book, it wasn't the best book ever but it was enjoyable none the less. I liked the way that there were playlists in the book and the songs related to how the main character, Limpet, is feeling at that time, along with reminders in her phone telling you important details that have happened and summarising the previous chapters into a few bullet points for the reader to take forward in the book- I really liked this touch. 'The Last Summer of Us' is a

story of loss, regret and friendship cleverly disguised as a summer road trip filled with adventures and memories. Harcourt hints at the character's pasts without explaining in detail which leaves a part of the story up to the reader.

Sarah Murray, age 16

A road trip filled with friendships, loss and a few laughs along the way. This new voice in young adult literature is not one you will soon forget.

I loved this book so much and with great playlists and real, relatable characters what's not to love? As is the case with many road trip novels the characters use their travels in order to come to terms with some major events in their lives. The growth of the characters feels so honest and you get the sense that this could have really happened.

The only fault I can find in this book is with the synopsis- it is not a romance. Do not go into this book expecting some heart-wrenching romance because you will be disappointed. This book is a beautifully written funny coming of age novel that is quite frankly far better than I thought it would be.

This is an inspiring story that is well worth a read. 5 out of 5 stars.

www.thelesserspottedsrmurray.tumblr.com

Amanda Gray

Each character in this book has a depressing back story which we learn more about throughout their road trip. I did like each of the characters, but sadly, my high hopes were a little too high..

*I was excited to read **The Last Summer of Us** - when Sarah Churchill featured it on her Youtube channel, she mentioned it was a debut set in North Wales and was written by a Welsh author. I had high hopes and expected a familiar setting and witty dialogue that I would instantly feel at home with, but for the most part this didn't happen. Each character in this book has a depressing back story which we learn more about throughout their road trip. I did like each of the characters but they were at points in their lives that made me not enjoy their thoughts, every situation turned into a reflection rather than just enjoying the moment. Sadly, I really didn't like the ending and it was left open a little too much..*

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

