

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Night Owls by Jenn Bennett

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

**Humaira Kauser, age 17**

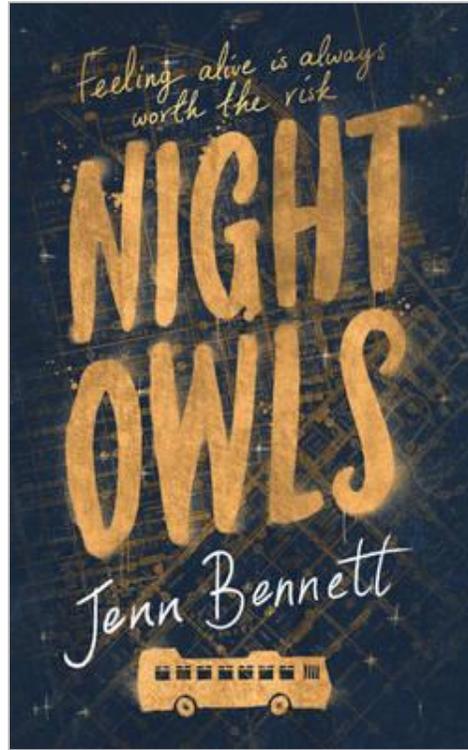
***This book as easily become one of my favourite books and that doesn't happen very often.***

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*I absolutely adore this books. I have so much love for it. I finished Night Owls within a day; I could not put it down for the life of me, even though I had so much to do- the pages just kept on turning and I had to get to the end of it.*

*I love all the characters, especially Jack (actually I love him a lot- why can't fictional people be real?)*

*Funnily enough the book reminded me a bit of All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven even though they are so different. Anyone who are fans of Rainbow Rowell or John Green, Night Owls is the book for you. Or if you just want to get your hands on the next hottest YA novel because trust me, this book is going to be a popular one.*



**Alex McCalla, age 15**

***Night Owls by Jenn Bennett really touched my heart. Instead of being a book about a happy and successful family, it was the opposite. One thing about this book, is it has the most amazing twists.***

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book, is it has the most amazing twists. The book in a whole made me feel like I was lucky to have the things I do, as some people like Bex have to really work hard to get what they want in life. I liked how Bex and Jack met in this story. My favourite character in this book would have to be Heath or Jack. I really liked Heath, because even if you didn't get to meet him a lot in the story, he was still someone you could easily get attached to. I also really liked Jack's character as I feel he brought a really mysterious feel, but also a romantic feel to the book. This has to be one of the best books I have read in such a long time and will be willing to read over and over again. I will be looking forward to more books that she writes. I really recommend this book to people who like romantic/mystery/drama, as you have all three in one.

**Amelia White, age 15**

***Secrets sometimes make a person but once you unlock them you unlock that persons true personality and sometimes why they are the way they are.***

*We all meet new people every day, walk past them, we don't know who they are and what secrets they hold but sometimes just that one time we talk to them, get to know them and find out who they truly are and what secrets they hold, that's what happens to Bex, she meets Jack and boy does he have a lot of secrets he's hiding, some even hidden in plain sight.*

*I have to say this is one of my new favourite books, Bex and Jack are two amazing characters their personality and art is amazing, if Bex was a real character I would love to see her art work. Some people may find her work a bit gruesome and gory yet what I imagine she does is extraordinary. The book has a brilliant storyline, it dives straight in and sets the scene really clearly.*

**Kezia Deakin, age 15**

***This book has gifted me with so many quotes for either inspiration or an assured laugh whenever I am feeling down! It is a very original, funny and astounding read.***

*Bennett tells the tale of one San Francisco summer for Beatrix: her determination to draw anatomical paintings, her fortuitous encounter with Jack...and everything that comes after.*

*Bennett manages to weave multitudes of different themes into this novel in a way that doesn't feel at all forced. Buddhism, family issues, and characters of all*

social classes come into play in "Night Owls" leaving you feeling more enlightened (much like Buddha himself!) and informed on different things. In the same way as writers like John Green incorporate weird quirks and hobbies for their characters into their books, Bennett's protagonist adores drawing anatomical paintings: a concept which I thought belonged in the days of Leonardo da Vinci. However, through the character of Beatrix, my mind was widened to embrace the very ongoing idea of drawing cadavers and scientific art in general.

Despite Beatrix being virtually friendless at the start of the novel, her easy repartee with the wide variety of characters and her quick wittedness makes many a reader fall in love with her. As well as this, throughout the novel, things both good and bad are revealed about several characters exposing the very true fact that no-one is perfect and just maybe encouraging readers to see things in real life less superficially and not to be so quick to judge.

This book has gifted me with so many quotes for either inspiration or an assured laugh whenever I am feeling down! I would definitely recommend this book - a very original, funny and astounding read which is bound to make you laugh, cry and probably do both at once!

### **Jade, age 14**

***An unusual story that will linger in your mind for a long time.***

*This was such an unusual story and as there was such a lot of rain today I snuggled up and read the whole book at once.*

*Story set on night bus in San Francisco, Beatrix meets Jack a graffiti artist and riding about the town and he has a profound effect on Beatrix.*

*There is a different side to Jack and what about his life is he concealing? What is the truth?*

*The ending leaves the reader moved and the story lingers on.*

*Readers you will have to wait till September for this to be published but is worth the wait, Jenn Bennett tells a good tale, writes well and the reader will be looking out for more of her novels.*

### **Millie, age 17**

***'Night Owls' is a short, sweet romance novel. I found it the perfect read for curling up in a chair and losing yourself on a rainy day.***

*'Night Owls' is a refreshing change to the consistency of modern day romantic novels. The relationship between the two main characters is relatable, yet the plot is anything but dull.*

*However, I never once found the story line to be unbelievable. In many books I read nowadays, the protagonist has a special quality that distances him/her from the reader, but in 'Night Owls' the characters were realistic in a way that I could understand their emotions and their reactions. I found myself smiling throughout the novel because I could empathise with the situations. Despite of this there is action and wild scenes that get your heart racing and Bennett has managed to fit romance and adventure together perfectly.*

*I don't usually read romantic novels but this was a surprisingly refreshing change to the books I usually read and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is looking for a light, sweet read.*

### **Hannah Ward**

***I found this a really engrossing read and it I read it in one sitting as it is only 294 pages long.***

*I would like to say a thank you to lovreading who kindly sent me an advanced copy of this book. The story is about two young adults called Beatrix's and Jack, who are both artists that live in San Francisco. Beatrix's is into drawing pictures of bodies, so that side really interested me as I have studied forensic science. The story is all about first love, reading your dreams which I think many young adults will be able to relate to. I think the message it wants to put out to the reader is that you need to find yourself and who you are and want to be in the future.*

### **Natalie, age 18**

***A beautiful love story.***

*Beatrice "Bex" is a young teenager and aspiring artist who draws pictures of bodies. She draws highly accurate black and white pictures of dissections and organs. She is trying to win a scholarship to a medical school by trying to get a internship at the same hospital her mother works at. Her mother being against her future choice of career, Bex sneaks out one night to the hospital while her mother is working. On her way back home, she meets Jack on the Night Owl, San Francisco's night bus. Jack is mysterious and handsome.*

*Jack is also an artist but a graffiti artist. He spray paints large golden words all around town earning himself the nickname of Golden Apple artist. There is a meaning behind Jack's actions that we will discover as the story develops.*

*Night Owls is the story of first love. Although Jack and Bex come from different backgrounds, they have similar interests such as art but they both have problems like any teenager of their age has. Together, they will help each other out to grow into young adults.*

*Night Owls by Jenn Bennett is a beautiful story. It is a fast pacing well written page-turner. It is original and funny. The main themes are art, love and family but the book also touches on a difficult subject such as mental health.*

### **Chloe McIlroy**

***This is a brilliant book with a unique, yet relatable, storyline which hooks the reader from beginning to end.***

*Beatrix (Bex) is a very talented artist who specialises in anatomical and scientific drawings and paintings. She lives with her mum and brother; her dad left their family to marry again. When Bex's train isn't available to take her home late at night, she is forced to use the 'owl. 'The owl is a bus which runs at night time; however, Beatrix is forbidden to use an owl by her mum due to the dangers it presents. Whilst waiting for the owl to arrive she is introduced to a mysterious boy by a homeless friend. She talks to the boy and soon finds out his name is Jack. When Jack stands up, spray paint with a golden tip falls out of his bag. She recognises him as being the notorious graffiti artist who is famous for defacing public property. He tracks her down to meet with her again, and over time they become friends. When she brings him home for dinner, her mother realises he is the mayor's son. They spend more time together and eventually Bex offers to help him with spray painting-to be the 'getaway girl. 'At first, he is reluctant to get her in trouble but she accompanies him to a train station where he spray paints an escalator. In the end they are chased but manage to escape being caught. Soon, Jack reveals his family's dark past to Beatrix. She learns about his schizophrenic sister, Jillian, who his dad has hidden away. With Jillian's permission, Jack helps Beatrix to paint Jillie as she needs to win a scholarship from an art competition to get to college. The painting makes Jack's dad rethink how he treats Jillian and a change in attitude brings Bex and Jack closer than ever. The book highlights relevant themes and shows issues in an interesting and relatable way.*

## **Sarah Smith**

### ***A love story that overcomes diversity and misconceptions.***

*When I first started to read the book I was unsure what to expect as the title gave no clue and there were one or two typical teenage cliches, but the more I read the more I got pulled in. By the end of the book I was in love with it and was googling other books by the author. I now understand that Jenn Bennett has previously published but this is her first step into the young adult category and its a great first book. The two main characters, xxx and xxx, have so much going on in their lives and come from completely different backgrounds with xxx living in the dining room of the family apartment and xxx in the poolhouse as he no longer lived living in the main house. The way Jenn Bennett tackles the issue of mental health is great, although there is not too much detail to make you turn off.*

*The story is a true love story between two teenagers who clearly see something better in each other, by the end of the novel I was left with a warm glow from a well written book.*

## **Emma Hughes**

### ***A fantastic book- I recommend it!***

*As this book tells you the story of Bex and Jack, it reels you in further and further, until you lose all sense of time. It is an exciting novel, with new developments around every corner, making it very difficult to put down. Be prepared to be reading this wonderful story late into the night, as you discover the many mysteries of Jack's life, and begin to love the growing daredevil within Bex.*

## **Louise Allan**

***I was sad when I had finished this book as I enjoyed reading it so much. I would definitely recommend Night Owls and I hope that Jenn Bennett continues the story of Bex and Jack in a sequel. A definite thumbs up!***

*Night Owls is one of those books that draws you in by the second page. The story is brilliantly written with a great mix of suspense, friendships, love and family drama. Bennett also shows a real understanding of the trials and tribulations of being a teenager, and the feelings of the two main characters Bex*

*and Jack are immediately identifiable with. The story is beautifully written and tackles some gritty issues such as schizophrenia and divorce with sensitivity and understanding.*

**Jenny Duffy, age 22**

***This is an engaging and memorable read, with nuanced characters and well-developed relationships. Night Owls is Jenn Bennett's first YA novel, I hope there are more to come!***

*“Feeling alive is always worth the risk.”*

*A chance meeting on the Owl – San Francisco’s night bus – brings Beatrix and Jack together. Beatrix always wears her hair in braids and wants to be a medical illustrator. Jack is an exuberant character who is secretly a notorious graffiti artist who sprays words in golden paint around the city. They have an electric connection, but even as they get to know each other better it is clear that Jack is hiding a dark secret. Will Bex find out Jack’s story? And will she be able to help him?*

*Initially I found the characters lacked credibility – they were a bit too quirky – but as the book progressed I warmed to them. While Bex and Jack aren’t your average teens, they are likeable and relatable. Their slow-burning romance is handled brilliantly, and the book deals very positively with sex. Bennett also handles mental health issues in a very sensitive and informative manner, creating a character who is more than her problems. She explores how a mental illness can affect not only the person, but those around them. As well as the strong protagonists, other characters – particularly Bex’s family – are well drawn and interesting. The book explores creativity – what art is, what we try to express and why. This is an engaging and memorable read, with nuanced characters and well-developed relationships. Night Owls is Jenn Bennett's first YA novel, I hope there are more to come!*

**Laura Delve**

***An absolutely beautiful love story that will stay with you long after you have finished reading.***

*Oh my, this story was actually beautiful! I have never fallen quite so in love with a story as the way I have with Night Owls. I really do not think I am going to be able to find the right words to do this incredible novel justice.*

*This is an absolutely stunning love story. The main characters Beatrix and Jack have such amazing chemistry. I actually want what they have, there is such depth to their relationship and what they feel for each other is almost palpable. Jack has got to be the most perfect male character I have come across in fiction. He has taken the top spot in the ultimate book boyfriend stakes. You would not have thought that you could blend together two people with such opposing ends of the spectrum of art, Jack and his emotionally felt graphite and Beatrix and her amazing talent for anatomical art would come together in a story and for it to work.*

*I was just so impressed with everything about Night Owls, from the dialogue to the characters to the whole storyline.*

*It is more than safe to say that Night Owls is not only one of my favourite Young Adult reads this year, but also but of my overall reading favourites. I might even go as far as saying that think I loved this a little bit more than Eleanor and Park!*

*Night Owls is definitely a story that I won't be forgetting in a hurry.*

### **Charnell Vevers**

*Thank you for the opportunity to read and review this book, I loved it. It was a 5/5 read for me.*

*Night Owls is a truly incredible book and one that completely blew me away, and surprised me in the best way. The book revolves around Bex, our main character, and Jack, the guy she meets randomly one night on a night bus. As they come to get to know one another over the course of the book, they help each other through tough times and come to really care for one another. This book was filled with fantastical, diverse characters that I could not get enough of. I fell in love with them all and never wanted the book to end, because I wanted to learn everything I could about all of them. It has LGBT and mental health themes and deals with both brilliantly. It contains fantastic sibling relationships, where the siblings love and support each other. It's also a wonderful YA read that promotes a more open, positive and healthy attitude towards sex, which is really important in YA reads. The art in this book is something that fascinated me too, with both our characters being very artistic. Becca wants to be an anatomical artist, something I found absolutely fascinating to read about, whilst Jack leaves graffiti across the city. Their slow build romance was what truly captured my attention and had me turning the page. Their love feels real and I love how it developed over the course of the*

*novel. This is a stunning, moving and beautifully written contemporary YA novel and I would recommend it to anyone and everyone. Thank you so much for the chance to review.*

Charnell loved the book so much that she asked the author, Jenn Bennett, for an interview on her blog. You can read the interview, as well as Charnell's full reviews of the book, here:

<http://reviewsfromabookworm.blogspot.co.uk/2015/08/night-owls-jenn-bennett-review-giveaway.html>

You can follow Charnell on Twitter: @reviewbookworm