



Helping you choose the best books for children

Love reading 4kids Reader reviews of **The Otherlife** by Julia Gray



Below are the complete reviews, written by the Love reading 4kids members.



Grace Spear, age 13

The Other Life is a mysterious, magical world full of dangers and excitement that can be discovered with each turn of a page. Ben was introduced to it by his old tutor Jason. He showed him the Norse Gods and taught him how to speak Norse. Ben meets Hobie (a wealthy bully studying for a scholarship in Bens class) who will stop at nothing to be a part of the Other Life. Three years later Ben reconnects to the Other Life, but not in a way he ever would have planned!

I loved reading this book because it had a gripping story line and made you want to know what was going to happen next. It was cleverly written, flitting from Ben's life to Hobie's,

and I could really picture the characters in my mind, as though they'd jumped off the page. There were some chapters that were tense and some that were mysterious, and I'd defiantly recommend it to young adults and above. I really enjoyed reading it!

Sophia

This was an amazing story. The whole story blew me away!! Awesome!!

Ben as just started at the competitive Cottesmore House School for the most

privileged boys. Ben's a very troubled boy and he's befriended by Hobie the wealthy class bully. Hobie is drawn to Ben because he can see the Otherlife, a violent mythic place, where Gods and monsters roam. What will Ben do when years later he finds his beloved tutor dead? Is Hobie to blame?

Felicity Kerswell, age 13

This story is amazing! I was laughing and crying at the same time. I would definitely recommend this book it was wonderful in every way!

I loved this book! The book had lots of interesting characters. It has it all from heavy metal bands to gods and giants. The two main characters were completely different from each other, one is head-strong and wealthy, the other is skinny and quiet but they are still friends. The way the author wrote this book made you feel like the emotions of the characters were your own and you just want to read more and more.

When you read it a second time you understand more of the jokes and you start to create a picture with the information you missed the first time. There are two different perspectives, one was a diary about 3-4 years ago and the other is in first person and is based in the present time. Sometimes I got confused as I forgot whether the chapter was past or present but it was definitely worth reading. This is a book I would definitely recommend.

Destiny Maraj, age 14

'The Other Life' was a dark mysterious novel. I loved it! *I thought the storyline was so original. I really liked how two different people were talking throughout the book and how the author portrayed the two main characters living in different lifestyles but both characters so dangerous in their own way!*

Emily Price

'The Otherlife' was a very suspicious and very intriguing novel *written by Julia Gray. Main character (Ben) has a dark secret and can see the otherlife involving Norse Gods. His friend Hobie envies this and tries to figure out what it's all about. I like how there are two separate stories running alongside eachother- with Ben's in present day and Hobie's in 2008. Overall, I recommend this book to 13-16 yr olds.*

Adam Goodman, age 13

An exciting book with an unusual yet clever style of writing. It is action-packed and kept me gripped and engaged throughout.

'The Otherlife' is a cleverly written book, engaging me from start to finish. It is about a boy named Ben who can see the Otherlife, which is a bit like a parallel universe consisting of colours representing the Norse Gods. Ben befriends Hobie, who is intrigued by the Otherlife and wants to, just like Ben, look into the Otherlife and have a wolf tattoo on his hip. Despite Ben's divorced parents and poor life compared to Hobie's rich life, they become best friends. However, when Ben is told that his favourite tutor, Jason, died several years ago when he was at Hobie's country house, he sets out to find out what caused his unexpected death.

I liked both the style of writing and storyline itself. There are chapters but they are different to all other books – half the book is written by Ben and it is in the present whereas the other half is written by Hobie in the past; they are excerpts from his diary. These are alternate. This is clever as it gives clues so as to what events will unfold. At one point of the book, near the end, I didn't quite understand what was taking place however I soon found out, much to my disbelief, it was the sad ending of the book. I would highly recommend this book as the tension constantly builds up and the end is action-packed yet sad at the same time. It was a great read which kept me gripped throughout.