

Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Radio Silence** by Alice Oseman

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

Kyra, age 17

I was spellbound by 'Radio Silence'. It is one of those books that will make you realise how magical reading is. To breathe in the thoughts, the workings of the mind, of another. Utterly spectacular.

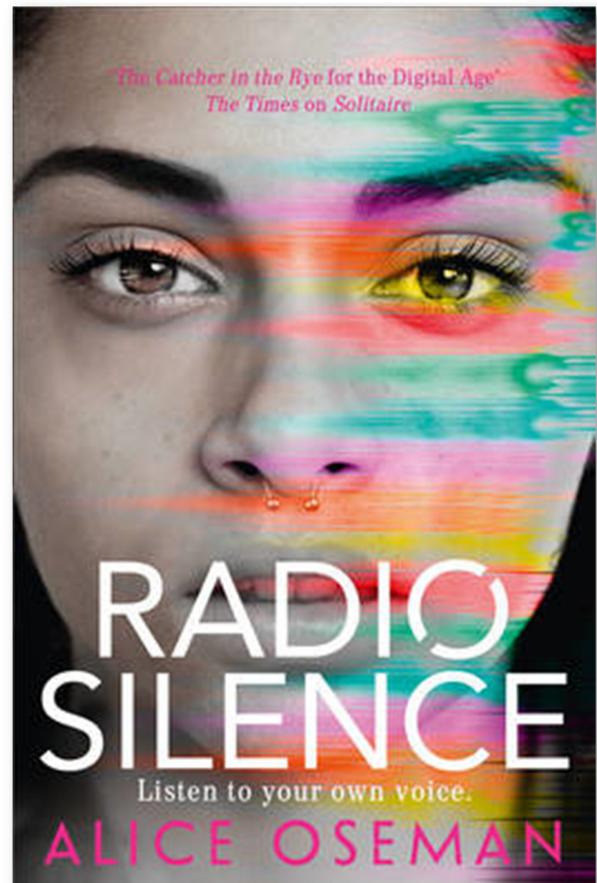
'Radio Silence' is a profound, evocative read that emphasizes the importance of staying true to yourself, of being the creator of your own destiny...of allowing yourself the freedom to exist as only you can: as you. The sensational sentiments that echoed through this book combined with riveting writing, a beautiful friendship and a phenomenal main character, 'Radio Silence' is a book that will resonate with everyone. It's a stellar read that you'll fall completely in love with.

<http://www.blogofabookaholic.blogspot.co.uk/>

Edel Waugh

This is one of those books that you know right from the beginning is going to be awesome. The main character is called Frances, she lives next to Carys and Aled. They are all preparing to go to college and the worry and stress of preparing to get into college and sit exams is high. Throughout this process

HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks



some have more support than others. I actually hated Aled and Carys mother, she was despicable, her behaviour and history with her kids was awful and my heart went out to them.

Sexuality, friendship , family and education and mental health and abuse are some of the subjects covered in this thoughtfully written book .

Reading this book, the importance of friendship became very clear, how it can hold you up when you are sinking from stress and abuse.

Radio silence was a podcast that Aled created to escape his life and reach out to others, especially those he most loved without doing it directly. This world he created on social media was an escape for him when his life was terrible, it was fun and used his exceptional creativity to the max that can't be measured by exam results .

This book had it all ... inspiring broken characters , real life struggles that most people can empathise with and a memorable story . Loved this!

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/02/radio-silence-by-alice-oseman-review.html?m=1>

Izzy Read, age 15

Direct, Intriguing and a perfect example of platonic love with diverse and unassuming characters that seem as if they are living- ‘Radio Silence’ is for someone who wants a change from the norm.

Frances whole life is studying, to pass her exams, so she can get into Cambridge or Oxford University, her lifelong dream. When Aled comes along, her school persona starts to break down but when their fragile trust is broken, Frances is caught between who she was and who she wants to be...

Frances is obsessed with a YouTube podcast called Universe City (I was upset when I found out it wasn't real), and this is her struggle of finding herself alongside Universe City. Direct, Intriguing and a perfect example of platonic love with diverse and unassuming characters that seem as if they are living- ‘Radio Silence’ is for someone who wants a change from the norm. If you only take one thing away from this novel, let it be that you are not the only one questioning yourself and your aspirations.

www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com

Humaira Kauser, age 17

I don't really know what to say about this book other than EVERYONE needs to read this book.

*It's hard for me to explain in words how good this book is. I could use a lot of words like original, witty, complex, and evocative to describe it- the list goes on and on but very simply READ THIS BOOK because **it is one of the best books I have read.***

I felt such a big connection with Frances even though she's so different compared to me but then she's like me in so many ways. I love that she's incredibly witty and enormously sarcastic- something I pride myself with too!

Also I know you're not supposed to judge a book by it's cover, but holy-moly, that is one gorgeous front cover.

You can follow Humaira on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/

Laura, age 17

Loved it!!

This book was amazing, I can't recommend it enough! *The writing was really good and the characters were really easy to engage with. The book has such a good message in it as well and I think a lot of people will be able to relate to it. I will definitely be looking out for more books by Alice Oseman if 'Radio Silence' is anything to go by, I really enjoyed reading it.*

Emma Hughes

I liked this book, as the plot has more than the average teenage novel, and I found the characters relatable. I definitely recommend it.

Rose Heathcote, age 16

This was such a good book! I love how it had such modern themes such as LGBT+ relationships. I recommend it to anyone my age who likes a good read.

This book was a real page-turner, it was so well written in the way I felt

emotions towards the characters and their situations. It was lovely to see guy and guy relationships rather than the typical boy girl relationships. The fact that the author had wrote parts of the script in the book really showed the emotions that the main character was feeling and how they changed and affected the radio show. I would definitely give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Lauren Coffman, age 16

Nobody knows Francis, not really. To everyone at school she is 'Head Girl Francis', who doesn't come out because she has to study, can't talk because she has to study, and is all ready for Cambridge, even though she hasn't got in yet. It seems as if nothing will get in her way. Then she meets Aled, and finally starts to come out of her shell, at least to him anyway. As they struggle through the tests of teenage life and the reality of putting yourself out there on the internet, both Aled and Francis must fight to keep their friendship strong, and when their trust is broken, while Aled must come to terms with who he is, Francis must face the truth and deal with not just her future, but also her past, and why Carys really disappeared.

*It is refreshing to read a book in which the two main characters are not romantically involved, which 'Radio Silence' most definitely does, rather focusing on the equally real and interesting trials and tribulations of friendship, and a beautiful one at that. Saying this, the book also does not disappoint on the romance side of things, with plenty of that too, just not as the main plot line, which it definitely makes clear very early on. Having read Oseman's debut novel, Solitaire, and loving it, it is clear she has a knack for writing new and interesting concepts that definitely stand out among other novels. This book definitely did not disappoint on that front, or any in fact, putting it up there with my favourites in at least the past year. It is thought-provoking, thrilling, sad, hear-warming and adventurous all in one, with a character and plot line for everyone, and it is extremely real, accurately detailing the struggles of teenage life in our digital age, and what it is like to feel 'different'. **'Radio Silence' was a real page turner, and I would go so far as to say it was addictive. I would highly recommend it to anyone, I guarantee you will relate.***

Melanie Chadwick

Frances is a model student, always gets As in everything, studies hard and is expecting to get in to Cambridge. Until she really gets to know Aled, who's been

living over the road from her all her life, she has only really had superficial friends. Through her friendship with Aled, the creator of the podcast that she's obsessed with, she starts to re-evaluate her life and things start to change. Aled is a sensitive character who, like Frances, conforms to what is expected of him at school and with his controlling mother. He struggles to try and hold things together when the conflict between what is demanded of him and what he actually wants to do with his life becomes greater and greater. Events escalate when Aled's secrets get out and Frances decides to find out just what happened when Aled's sister Carys disappeared.

*I liked the way the book shows school Frances and the real Francis as very different, and similarly the public and private Aled are also very different; I think a lot of people will recognise this. **It's all about being true to yourself.***

Zara Kazi, age 17

It was a good read.

This book was a really good read that I could just not put down. The plot was simple yet original. Some of the characters are relatable but I loved them all, they were all so unique and lovable. Though it did take some time to read, it was not a let down and I'm thoroughly glad I read it. Recommend to everyone!

Chloe Shortall, age 19

I haven't read a book that kept me this captivated in a long time. I would definitely recommend this book to teen readers, as well as young adult readers.

Frances is a top student who's all set to go to a top university. Her life is nothing but studying and homework. But underneath, Frances just wants to be a normal, fandom-loving teenager. She would never admit this to anyone, but she is obsessed with a podcast called UniverCity, and draws fanart whenever she's not studying. What she isn't prepared for is when she finds out that she knows the elusive Creator of the podcast.

This novel is ideal for young adults. It is full of references that most teens will understand. The characters are believable and relatable, making teen readers engage with them. The novel deals with real issues, like what to do when you realize you don't know what to do with your life, and how to cope when you fall out with friends.

I loved this book. I enjoyed it much more than her previous book, which was the author's first. I haven't read a book that kept me this captivated in a long time. I would definitely recommend this book to teen readers, as well as young adult readers.

www.booksandbutterbeer.wordpress.com

Bronwyn Tucker, Year 11 - Great Torrington School

'Radio Silence' was an extremely entertaining book. It shows the true side of teenagers life. With the stresses with school, boys/girls and generally just the pressures of life. It sends you in a whorl-wind of emotions.

Jenny Duffy, age 23

Frances Janvier is known at school as the smart girl – she is head girl, she wants to go to Cambridge, she studies constantly. However, she has a secret passion for a podcast called Universe City and creates brilliant fan art based around its world. When she is invited to work on the episodes, and meets the mysterious show creator, her life changes completely. With Aled, she can finally be Real Frances and the two form a close friendship unlike anything Frances has experienced before. But both Frances and Aled have insecurities and secrets, and things soon become complicated...

'Radio Silence' is a gripping read, with plenty of secrets and mystery. Oseman skilfully weaves Facebook chats and podcast transcripts into the narrative, in a way that works. ***Her book is also commendable for the diversity of the characters, but this is done without defining any character by their race or sexuality.*** We see a range of different queer experiences, which is certainly important. At one point Aled says that people are tired of the typical boy/girl romances and one of my favourite things about Radio Silence is that there is no central romance plot. This is a book about friendship and about being yourself. It's a book about creating, having courage and learning that it is okay to stray from the accepted path.

<http://thebookstheartandme.wordpress.com>