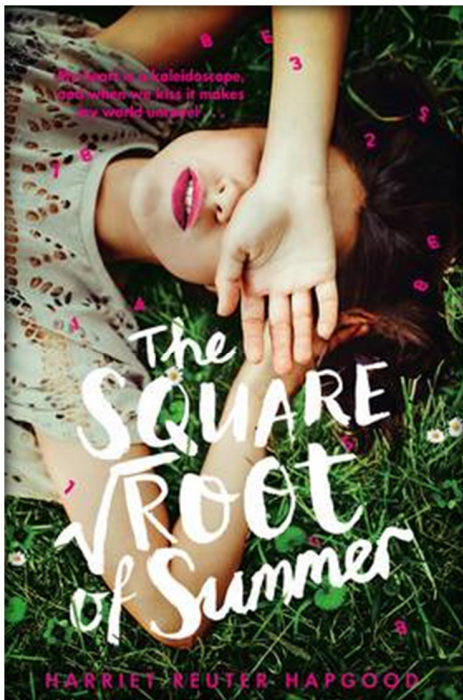


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Square Root of Summer** by Harriet Reuter Hapgood



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



Kezia Deakin, age 15

Unique in its combination of genres, this book is a refreshing read dotted with many little intricacies which make it ever more original.

When Gottie's beloved Grandfather Grey dies it leaves her heartbroken. A summer later, and everyone is moving on but her. Then her former best friend Tom comes home, and she finds herself trying to tie up loose ends: rekindling former friendships, trying to forget her ex, and (just the slight problem of) trying to figure out a mathematical theory to explain why she keeps on phasing out of the present and into the past, and why her friends around her seem to remember things

in the past that she just can't.

The storyline switches back and forth between not only last summer and the present summer but also between alternate dimensions and different trails of the past that could have been. Although the urge to reach a conclusion about why Gottie keeps on flicking between different realities did goad me into finishing this book, the lovable main characters, like Gottie with her peculiar antics, Tom with his romantic nature, and Ned with his hipsteresque behaviour also provided a good incentive.

This book is honestly like nothing I have ever read: it dips a foot into the genre of Sci-Fi but the rest of the body remains firmly rooted in the genres of romance, coming of age, and grief. Unique in this combination, the book is a refreshing read dotted with many little intricacies which make it ever more original. For example, because of the depiction of Gottie's father as a sweet German man,

dashes of German phrases and culture line the book, which add a twist to a story set in an otherwise stereotypical English village.

Susie Holm, age 15

‘The Square Root of Summer’ is an engrossing and beautifully written story. The quirky writing style conveys emotion and moves the story along, while staying entertaining.

‘The Square Root of Summer’ by Harriet Reuter Hapgood was an utterly beautiful read. With its twists and its wonderful writing, I’m happy to say that it’s a book that pretty much anyone can read and enjoy.

Compared to all the gripping fantasy/dystopia being published more frequently with their horrifyingly detailed back stories and maps, ‘The Square Root of Summer’ is much softer to read and is cosy. It’s an easy read, but it’s also extremely educational, teaching me things that I find interesting in a way that is interesting. I wish I could write a book like this as it is planned so beautifully and everything fits and you fall in love with all of the characters.

The usage of sibilance, alliteration and repetition makes the literature beautiful to read which contrasts with what is actually being said, when in the book there is a section being described which isn’t very pleasant.

The beautiful techniques and the harsh writing creates juxtaposition as the language feels and sounds pretty even when it’s gruesome. The naturalistic feel of the novel contrasts with the non-naturalistic physics explained throughout.

The characters were all easy to care for, characters that you can relate to in one way or another. When I asked myself who my favourite character was, I couldn’t answer. They were simply all my favourite characters.

<https://www.youtube.com/90sComplex>

Zara Kazi, age 17

‘The Square Root of Summer’ is a lovely physics time travel love story!

This book was beautifully written and followed Gottie’s struggles in dealing with grief due to the loss of her granddad, Grey along with the return of her childhood best friend, Thomas. I adored all of the characters in this book and the setting but at times the physics aspect of the book and the time travel often became confusing and I found myself zoning out. Nevertheless, it was a good

read and I would recommend it to everyone!

Edel Waugh

*When Gottie's grandad dies and the love of her life lets her down at the same time then moves away without telling her it all becomes a little too much for her and she immersed herself in the only thing that makes sense to her, physics and space. It felt like whenever Gottie became overwhelmed with her life it sucked her through a worm hole in time to a time she was happier. I felt really sorry for Gottie, it felt like she was barely keeping her head above water and that too much bad stuff happened to someone so young and she was struggling to find ways to cope and understand. **It was an interesting book that any fan of math, physics and space would be interested in.***

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/03/the-square-root-of-summer-by-harriet.html?m=1>

Izzy Read, age 15

Gottie had her heartbroken twice last summer: first when her grandfather died, second when her first love, Jason, decided to cut ties. With summer approaching again, Thomas her former neighbour/best friend suddenly returns from the other side of the Atlantic and she keeps reliving memories from last summer, like blips in time...

*I will say; 'The Square Root of Summer' was very confusing at times. I think that it tried to tackle too many problems, and then not covering them completely. I would have liked more focus of the new romance and on her feelings towards her Grandfathers (Grey) death, as these were easily the most interesting of all. I say all this but I did fall in love with the setting: a Norfolk village by the sea, right in the middle of nowhere and her family owns a book barn... sounds like something I dream about! It may not have been a favourite but it was **an engaging contemporary take on grief, heartbreak and new beginnings, twisted with physics equations; this is enough to inspire anyone to enjoy science and nostalgia.***

www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com

Humaira Kauser, age 17

A coming of age story of a summer's haze that captivates you from

the very first page.

I liked this book. But I didn't love it. Don't get me wrong, it was beautifully convicted but I didn't connect with it like I normally do with most books I read. Maybe it's just me but that was how I felt about it.

I adored the setting and I adored Gottie and I adored Thomas.

Throughout the book, Hapgood uses lots of German words without explaining what they meant which was slightly annoying but I tried to imagine it if the books was a film- they wouldn't explain what a word meant if that's how a character spoke. My advice is have Google Translate at hand when you read this for the words you are unsure of!

Follow Humaira on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie_/

Lauren Coffman, age 16

It is the start of summer, and Gottie is alone and confused, still reeling from last summer, two heartbreaks in the space of a few weeks. Her grandfather died and she got together, then broke up with her first love, tearing her world apart. To top it all off she finds out that this summer, after five years away, her former neighbour, former best friend, and almost boyfriend Thomas is coming back, and living in her house. As he returns and her feelings begin to emerge once again, she tries to ignore it, and him too, burying herself in physics, and a time travel project set to challenge her. But as she struggles through friendships, loss and relationships she starts to find wormholes, blips in time back to last summer, and what she least wants to remember, let alone live through again.

This book deals with very fascinating topics, merging relationships and the modern world with what is essentially time travel, whilst the whole way through explaining, using The Gottie H. Oppenheimer principle, how time travel could genuinely happen. The flashbacks are interesting and fill in gaps from the past in Gottie and Thomas' relationship, as well relationships between Gottie and her father, grandfather, ex-best friend and ex-boyfriend (the best friend of her brother). However overall it is just too complicated. The time travel and wormhole principles are hard to follow, even when concentrating intently throughout, and the book jumps back and forth too much, trying to focus on too many things, with too many relationships at the forefront and needing attention at the same time. Though Thomas and Gottie's relationship is sweet, it is nothing new or groundbreaking, though it does give a breath of fresh air to an otherwise overcomplicated book. Though this book tries to merge two

different and interesting topics, it doesn't really work, and reading it, for me at least, became more like a chore to try and understand it, though it is an interesting concept, especially if you like physics and time travel while still wanting a modern contemporary book, not a sci-fi plot.

Sophie, age 21

'The Square Root of Summer' was a wonderful debut. The amount of research that must have gone into this book is unreal, and the writing style was fantastic to read.

In this book, Gottie deals with the loss of her grandfather, Grey, and the heartbreak after her first boyfriend, and love, abandons her at the same time. A year later, she is coming to terms with her loss, and is noticing strange things happening every now and then. She is having mini episodes where she sees the past as if it is the present, and when she comes to, it's as if nothing has happened. She begins to investigate the instances, and uses her knowledge of maths and science to work out if it is being caused by some sort of rip in the space-time continuum. The episodes become more frequent when her old friend Thomas returns from Canada, and she thinks that everything has some connection to their last meeting, and the time capsule they buried in the backyard. As Thomas and Gottie get closer, she begins to realise that the flashback might just be not so bad, and could finally give her the closure she needs to move forward.

The maths and science in the book were a bit confusing at times, as were the flashbacks, but it was quite easy to wrap your head around what was happening. The author must have done a lot of research to have the technical aspects flow so smoothly, and I found it a wonderful debut, with a fantastic writing style.

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

Follow Sophie on Twitter: @xsophiehoughton