

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender by Leslye Walton

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Emer O'Brien, age 16

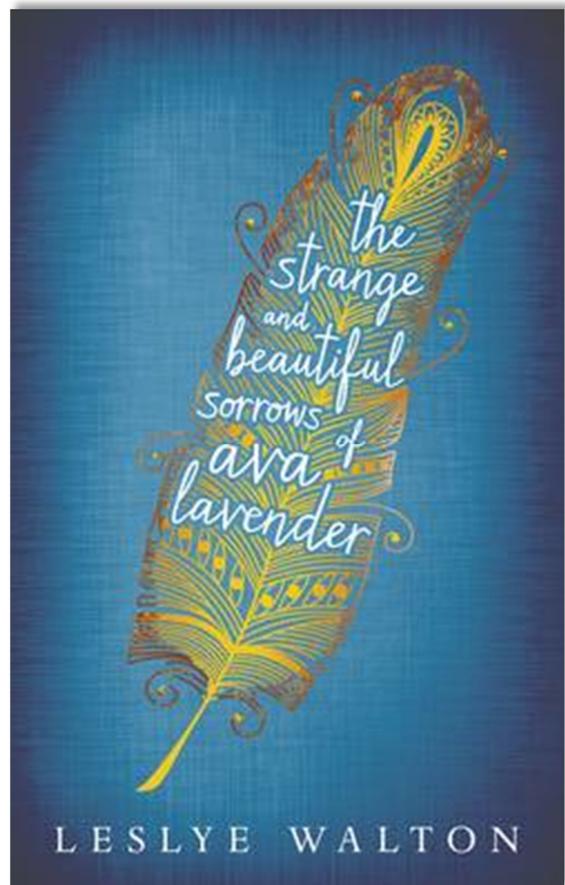
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'The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender', by Leslye Walton tells the story of a girl born with the wings of a bird. She has been hidden all her life but chooses now to step out.

*The title of this book is ever so slightly misleading. It is actually a book chronicling the adventures of both Ava Lavender and her ancestors. **This book contains brilliantly written, beautiful stories all collected together like a book of pressed flowers, albeit slightly macabre ones.** But it isn't solely about the title character.*

First off, I enjoyed this book immensely. The wonderful cast of characters manages to be both colourful and dark at the same time. When one reads the back of this book, it is expected that a sentimental love-story will be found, and indeed this book is romantic at its very heart, but it is also slightly more sinister than anticipated.

*While the ending leaves a little to be desired, **this book is gorgeously written, surprisingly thrilling and overall an exciting and mesmerizing read.***



Alice Horncastle, age 14

'The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender' really hooked me to another world, where anything can happen! The hugely complicated plot unfolded in such a simple yet attention grabbing way, fab!

You can follow Alice's blog at www.11horncastlea.wordpress.com

Millie Windeler, age 15

This book is exceedingly well written and an immaculately thought out story. I love the eccentricity of the Lavender family that contrasts beautifully with the normality of the emotions felt by each and every character. It is one of those tales where you can grow up with the characters, watch them blossom, and live their lives along side them. It is a must have book for when you are looking for something a bit different, and it is one that I would definately read again.

Ciara McIlvenna, age 16

A haunting yet beautiful tale of both the darkest desires and selfless sacrifices that love can cause us to make. A divine masterpiece. Walton has captured human emotion so purely in this novel.

The plot was well paced and reached a marvellous climax. The use of language was vivid and romantic which boded well with the underlying themes of the novel. The darker undertones complemented the plot and added to the raw human emotion that the novel captured. The characters were colourful and real, and easy to sympathise with. A throughly beautiful and enjoyable book.

Isobel Read, age 13

Ava lavender is girl born with wings. People debate on whether she is a bird or an angel. But really, she's just a girl.

*Ava lavender's family have never been lucky in love. Her grandmothers siblings died because of it, her grandmothers betrufved betrayed her and her mother's love left her. For Ava, a girl born with wings of a bird on her shoulder blades, she is only starting to understand this legacy. **The characters are now etched on my heart as this story went from climax to climax , making me cry many times along the way.** Enchantingly, the characters*

were unpredictable, original and either amazing or evil but mostly they were somewhere in between the two. I really hope this book does well because I love it!

Aimee Sweet, age 13

“To many, I was myth incarnate, the embodiment of a most superb legend, a fairy tale. Some considered me a monster, a mutation. To my great misfortune, I was once mistake for an angel. To my mother, I was everything. To my father, nothing at all. To my grandmother, I was a daily reminder of loves long lost. But I knew the truth- deep down, I always did. I was just a girl.”

Ava Lavender is a girl with a most mysterious background. Living in Pinnacle Lane, Ava always knew something was different about her family; not just that her twin was a mute, her Mum was lost in her own fantasies, and her elegant grandmother often seemed to want to be left alone, but the looks and thoughts clearly shown in their neighbours faces. The Lavender family were accepted a long time ago, but Ava (and I'm sure the whole family) saw every single face and knew people thought they were weird. And Ava has got to be the weirdest of them all: she was born with brown wings.

I knew this book was going to be good as soon as I turned the first page. What I love the most is the cleverness of Leslye's writing; the way that the person goes from third to first. I also find her writing very beautiful and the events show very believable, but also very strange at the same time. For instance, events that actually happen, like the First World War, are included, and mostly everything fits in with the time period; but at the same time events that occur are often out of this world, like when great-grandmother dies, and her spirit changes into the form of blue ashes. I also find that the change of main characters but the same person narrating the story is very effective and makes it more unique to any other book I've read. The plot and characters are amazing. Another main advantage is that you don't know how good this book is until you read it yourself.

I give this book, without any hesitation, a five star.

Rose Heathcote, age 14

This book failed to grip me from the beginning but once in I started to enjoy the story but it was difficult to follow in parts.

This book overall was difficult to read because the writing style was quite

confusing. Ava makes an appearance about halfway through the book and then you start to get some understanding of the story. There is not enough detail in places to be able to visualise settings. Although at times I enjoyed this book it is not one I would recommend because of the above reasons. (its not an easy read).