

## Lovereadng Reader reviews of Thirteen Chairs by Dave Shelton

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadng members.

**Jake Fletcher, age 13 -**

<http://www.jakesbooks.wordpress.com>

*“A Curious Book for Curious People”.* That was the phrase in the blurb that made me want to read this book. I’m certainly curious about the world but could this book meet my expectations? Jack, the main character, breaks into a house rumoured to be haunted; he comes face to face with 12 people, each sitting on a chair. There is one chair free. Jack sits on it and the stories begin.

*‘Thirteen Chairs’ has thirteen short stories in it. Each story aims to be scarier than the last. However, the scariest part of each story is how normal each of the characters appears to be and the ordinariness of each situation. I started to think the stories could happen to me. Each story sends shivers down your spine, as you imagine yourself in the same situations. Imagine a simple every day event, such as being in a Taxi or writing a story, but in this book, the author takes these every day events to another terrifying level.*

*Unlike many books I read, there isn’t much action. Most of the horror is implicit. As we read, we realize what is happening, and it starts to scare us. **Dave Shelton has written this book so well that he can just suggest something and we start to feel fear form in our imaginations.** This book has a story within a story within another terrifying story.*

*It is a curious book.*



*Especially for this curious person.*

### **Khadijah Ahmed**

***I really liked this book! It was so easy to get into it - and not get out of it!***

*It's basically a collection of eerie stories told within a story.*

*They're all short and punchy, and each one is told with a unique voice: some sombre and business-like; some darkly humorous and others just plain funny. What I especially appreciated was that they didn't all follow the same routine. Every story in 'Thirteen Chairs' has bags of individuality.*

*I might just stress that these are not really point horror or even scary stories. They're disturbing and weird, and some'll make you cringe, but don't expect to die of fright or you'll be disappointed.*

***Overall a fantastic story. Definitely reread material.***

### **Sophia Ufton**

***Amazing book! Can read this over and over again.***

*This is the story of a boy named Jack who goes to a house with a flickering light. What he finds inside blows him away. Read and find out!!*

### **Jessamyn Doore, age 16**

***A book of short stories, or is it?***

***The title alone should be enough to make you want to read this book. A collection of mysterious 'urban myth' style stories with a ghostly theme.***

*This book was a surprise in a good way. Usually I steer clear of short stories as I hate the rather abrupt way they seem to finish. However, this is a clever book of creepy short stories told by a room of mysterious storytellers linked by a narrative throughout.*

*I found the book an easy and compelling read as I wanted to know more about Jack, the main character, and what story he was going to tell.*

*I highly recommend this book as something different to what you normally might read.*

**Phoebe Allan, age 14**

*'Thirteen Chairs' is a very mysterious book, full of curiosity for curious people. Full of short scary stories, 'Thirteen Chairs' is perfect for older children that are starting to venture into the world of 'horror' stories. This book certainly grasps the reader with a feeling of suspense and darkness from the first page. Each individual story is as full mystery as the one before and each is told by a just as mysterious character. **Dave Shelton definitely creates a creepy atmosphere for older children. Thumbs up!***

**Imogen Fisher, age 14**

*Thirteen Chairs in my opinion is a bloodchilling book, it has lots of great, creepy, and in some cases very weird stories in it. I would definitely recommend it to people who don't scare easily, I found it terrifying! I liked the way it was separate stories with dialogue in between overall, this is a really good book, and I liked reading it even though I don't usually read horror stories.*

**Aimee Sweet, age 13**

*'I am dead, but not gone.'*

*One day every year a group of mysterious people meet in an empty house. There are thirteen chairs. Twelve occupy them. But when Jack comes in things become very weird. Jack doesn't believe in ghosts. Of course ghosts don't exist. But why are all these people meeting up to tell ghost stories? Why do they all believe in them?*

*Jack is a curious boy- but if he wants to find out what all of this really means he has to delve deeper in the stories. He has to believe in the ghost stories being told. He has to believe in ghosts.*

*I haven't read a good ghost story in forever, but this has really made my curiosity grow much bigger. **All thirteen ghost stories captured the true feeling of being scared without using something very clichéd.** For example, my absolute favourite one is a story called 'Unputdownable', which is about a man who finds a sudden interest in writing but everything goes way too far and out of control. **I love the way Shelton narrates in the certain characters voice, which gives the stories a beautiful tone, drawing me in deeper.** It gives a personality to every story, which some authors struggle with but Shelton makes it seem so easy.*

*Another thing that is absolutely amazing with this book is that Shelton somehow creates a story within all the stories- this is the only book I have read that connects all the ghost stories together.*

*To be honest, I have no more words to say. I just love it so much I am speechless.*

*The age range is for girls and boys from the age 12+/. The reason why I have set the age to twelve or more is because it made me realise what death means, and how we can cope with it, and how if we chase death, death will chase us. And I think this is something that comes in the older years of childhood.*

*The publisher is David Fickling Books. I give this book a five star. You have done your job right, Dave Shelton*

### **Emer O'Brien, age 13**

*'Thirteen Chairs' by Dave Shelton is, at its most basic, a collection of thirteen scary stories told within a larger, haunted-house-style story.*

*Shelton manages to inject admirable variety into thirteen different tales told by thirteen different characters. He never loses sight of the overall narrative, despite the individual stories being told in vastly differing tones. However, the sheer number of tales is the book's downfall.*

*With thirteen places to occupy, one can understand the temptation to have one or two substandard stories to make up the numbers, as it were. In this book it is particularly disappointing, because the majority of the stories are well written, exciting and genuinely creepy. One feels that perhaps with a little more time invested in each story, the book could have reached a consistent standard that matched the promise of the title.*

*The ending had the potential to be better than it turned out to be. It felt ever so slightly rushed, an average finish to a book that actually deserved a much grander finale.*

*For all that, **the book was enjoyable, delivering chills when it was supposed to and managing to provide thirteen unique stories.** The risk is for a story such as this is to be somewhat fractured, but it managed to create and keep to a consistent pace.*

*Recommended to both boys and girls, and anyone who enjoys feeling the hairs on the back of their neck stand up.*

**Rose Heathcote, age 15**

***I really enjoyed this book, one of the best books I have read this year. If you enjoy ghost stories you won't be disappointed, be warned if you are easily spooked this isn't a book for you.***

*Jack the main character is on the landing of a house where he is drawn into a room with 13 seats and 13 candles which are all lit, 12 of the seats are occupied and Jack is drawn in to sit down on the last remaining seat (you will need to read the book to find out why he was there in the first place). Each person tells their own scary story and yes they are scary so this book is not for the younger reader. Each story is different and the book keeps you gripped from the very beginning, not wanting to put the book down until you have heard everybody's stories of which are brilliant in their own right, the anticipation on what's Jack story will be keeps you on the edge of your seat. I would give this book 5 stars \*\*\*\*\* , I will definitely be recommending it to my family and friends.*