

Lovereadng Reader reviews of Tape by Steven Camden

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadng members.

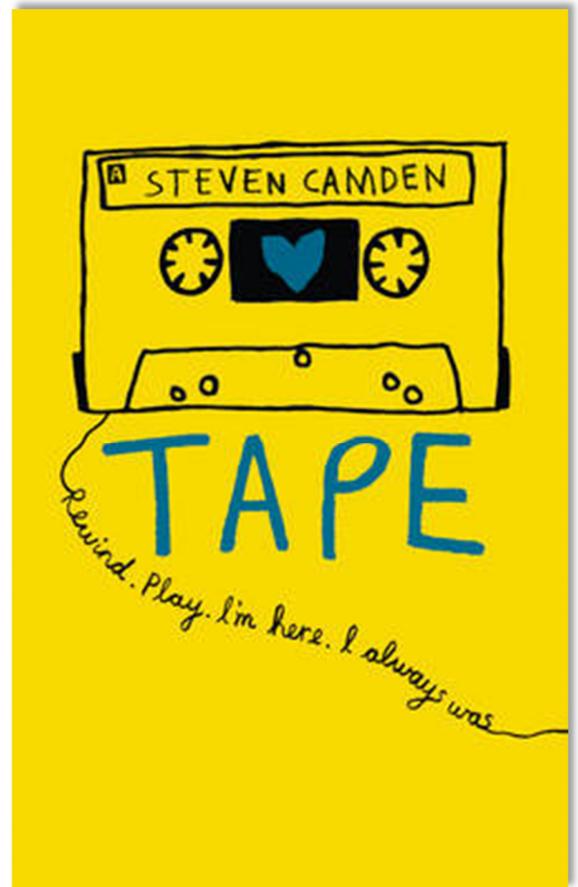
Juliana Christianson, age 14

'Tape' is the first book that Steve Camden has written. It is about a young boy-Ryan who records a diary on a tape in 1993 where he talks about losing his mother and the new girl in the neighbourhood, who he falls for.

The other story running alongside is about Ameliah - who after mourning the loss of her parents starts to go through their belongings and incidentally finds a boom box, with which she begins to record her feelings on.

I did not realise at first how closely the characters are linked and how relatable the situations can be! Ryan goes through the process of accepting a new family, whereas Ameliah learns how to fit back into society and move on with her life.

*I loved this book, especially the different themes it covers: death in the family, divorce, re-marriage, moving away etc. Also, **I would 100% recommend it to other people my age! Steve Camden is so talented and I cannot wait for his next book!***



Aimee Sweet, age 13

"Hello? Is it on? Yeah, I can see the light. It's on. I'm starting again. It's recording."

It is 1993, and Ryan lives with his step-mum and Dad, along with Nathan, his step-brother. His Mum has died. Ryan's life is starting to crumble away, like

autumn leaves in winter, so he decides to tape record to his Mum. He won't allow anyone to see it. Just him and Mum. If she was even there. At school, he sees a new girl with an Irish accent. There is something vaguely familiar about her. Still he presses on with his recorded diary, talking to his Mum when things get worse. His Mum should be the audience, but isn't.

It is 2003, and Ameliah picks up an old tape recorder with bulky buttons. She listens, and hears a boy's voice speaking. But it isn't just any random boy she is hearing. It's Ryan. And Ryan isn't any random old boy. Not to Ameliah.

An outstanding book that has so many genres and stories twisted into one blinding story it is amazing. The characters are great and the plot is a hundred plots wound up. I think Steven Camden is an author who will write many more books to come, as 'Tape' is so good. It is quite easy to read so I would give the age range as 11+ and the publisher is Harper Collins. This is **definitely a 5 star. Outstanding.**

Josh Hall, age 13

A really good book with a brilliant cover. Well worth a read.

Tape is about two people, a boy called Ryan and a girl named Ameliah. They each live in different times, 1993 and 2013, and Ameliah, finds a tape, when she moves in with her grandmother, with a boy's voice on it, that seems to be speaking to her!

Ameliah hears Ryan mention a girl called Evie, this intrigues her. Also, who is the strange man, called Joe, who claims to be a friend of her father's; is that even his name?

Read and find out!

The storyline was really good and I enjoyed it from start to finish. Only disappointment for me was that there was a bit too much bad language. The cover is brilliant too!

Rosa Boran, age 13

Really good book. Really enjoyed it although there were some things I didn't. Can't wait to see what else Steven has in store for us.

I was really interested to read 'Tape' as it wasn't really like something I had read before. I liked the whole idea of it and I was enjoying it so much it was finished in a day. I have to say though the character Ameliah annoyed me. It

just seemed like she was getting mad for no reason, asking too many questions and poking her nose into other people's lives. She also seemed to be a bit of a loner and difficult even with her best friend. I thought that she could have been more laid back and not so tense and seemingly standing a bit away from the world. After all that though, I did enjoy it and I liked the ending too. I would love to read more books from Steven Camden.

Hannah Glenton, age 17

Initially 'Tape' confused me, but when I understood it I realised what a clever piece of writing it is.

I enjoyed this novel, particularly towards the end when I was waiting for the last bits of the jigsaw to fall into place.

The story has two narrators- Ameliah and Ryan, and at first the reader doesn't think that they're connected, although it seems likely that their paths will cross in some way or another. How the characters crossed was unexpected for me until about two thirds of the way through the book. The main plot twist (in the form of character 'Joe') was also surprising, although in retrospect it was hinted at earlier on in the novel.

'Tape' is an innocent and heart-felt novel that really captures and explores the emotions of the two protagonists, and the way that their two stories are woven together is intriguing and leaves you guessing right up until the end. There are a few loose ends that aren't tied up at the end, but as the main plots are all finished nicely that didn't affect the quality of the ending.

Definitely a recommendable read for those who like intrigue, family mysteries and a little bit of romance!

Delilah Acworth, age 13

'Tape' was a beautiful mystery. It was a constant guessing game and I adored it. The shock, the delight, the understanding, they all made up a fantastic tale. I highly recommend this to anyone who breathes.

Alice Horncastle aged 13

With both parents dead, Amelia lives with her loveable Nan and plenty of friends-but secretly she feels a deep sadness that she does not quite fit in.

Ryan has a broken family-and a stepbrother he wishes does not exist, and he too feels a wave of emotions for his mum, but also a new love for a girl he spots on a sunny day in the park.

'Tape' is an incredible journey of two children bound by fate for their lives to cross, in the most unlikely of places. Through a tape recorder!

*'Tape' engaged me right through to the end, a record I didn't want to stop playing. **You wouldn't know that 'Tape' is Steven Camden's first novel - it is an incredibly moving narrative that is down to earth at the same time and very funny in parts!***

I would recommend this book to readers aged 12 and up, as its layout and word choices would appeal to all teens.

James Smith, age 15

This book is a must-read. I really enjoyed it, the atmosphere is just incredible. It is hard to believe that this is Camden's first novel

I found this book incredible. The story of Ryan and Ameliah and their connection is kept secret until near the end. One of my favourite things is the licence to make the character look how you want them to, at first I was sceptical about the fragmented nature (e.g. Ameliah and Ryan's story in the same chapter) but this proved to make up the fabric of the book making it gripping until the end.

I was a bit disappointed that we were not enlightened as to what this "evil step brother smile" is (as some people may not have evil stepbrothers or stepbrothers at all), I like the way the author made a connection between the reader and the characters because I cannot read books when I have no feelings for the character.

My only real criticism of the book is the random moment when Ryan and Ameliah start talking to each other through the tape. It seemed to detract from the book and felt completely unnecessary.

Over all a great book.

This is a must read for all.

Ayesha Afghan

*'Tape' by Steven Camden is a really unusual book with lots of twists to it. It's about Ameliah, a girl who finds a tape with a boy's voice on it and he seems to be speaking to her. They seem to be connected somehow and **this book is a love story packed with thrills, time travel and action.** I really enjoyed this book and I'm sure many others will enjoy this book as well.*

Jade Craddock

Having read the blurb, I'd really been looking forward to this interesting debut novel, but I must admit I found 'Tape' quite difficult to get into and a bit slow-going in the first half. I'd expected more interaction between the two characters – Ryan in 1993 and Ameliah in 2013 – via the tape but there's not really much in this way. However, when the pieces of the puzzle began to emerge and fit into place, the story began to take off for me.

*I would say though that perhaps the blurb doesn't offer the best synopsis for this book, although how to begin to explain it! It's highly original and intriguing but love story I'm not sure it is, more a story about growing up, connecting with your family and with the past. The 1990s references were great and it's amazing to contrast the lives of the two characters and to see how different life was a mere 20 years ago. **This was an exciting debut that points at much more to come from this author.***

Madi Campbell, age 13

'Tape' was a very mysterious read which kept you wanting more. A slightly slow beginning, however it started to unfold later on in the novel. Two worlds linked together; absolutely amazing!

This book is a modern mystery tale of two lives connected through tapes. At the end of each chapter I couldn't stop reading as I wanted to unravel the next part of the story. Nearing the end I had some doubts on the plot, but the last couple of chapters told me everything I needed to know. A good read for many ages and a novel worth a curious audience.

James Smart, age 13

'Tape' is a book about a girl called Amelia and her dad Ryan. In the summer holidays Amelia decides to clear out the spare room in her grans house, as she

looks around she finds a tape. On the tape it's just static and muffled voices. Later she discovers that she can talk to her dead dad when he was her age. Amelia's dad is having his own problem; his stepbrother is giving him grief and the girl of his dreams is going to move away.

Steve Camden's 'Tape' is a slow paced book with a unique story line jumping from character to character. I am a great lover of action stories, but I found this book interesting but not enough action to keep me hooked.

Lola Bridgeman, age 16

'Tape' is a perfect love story and will keep you guessing until the very end and will linger in your mind long after you put it down.

'Tape' is well written and its nonlinear plot line will keep you on your toes. It deals with several key issues and allows you to get lost in Ameliah and Malik's world. Its innocent and beautiful, a really cleverly written novel that I would never cease to recommend.

Cerys Wilson, age 14

'Tape' shows it is better to let your emotions out, share your feelings and thoughts by whatever means, as to bottle them in can mean years of regrets.

Normally I am fairly clear I either like or dislike a book, with 'Tape' I am not sure. The outline of the book as presented by Lovereading sparked my interest, looked like a good concept, unique. From the offset I felt the book skipped from the two main characters, too quickly, you just got into a particular narrative with say Ryan and it moved to Ameliah. I never felt that I really got to know and understand the characters, there was no real depth. I never fully understood what had happened to each of the respective parents, both had lost mothers' at a young age and in turn Ameliah lost her father, who in a sense had been reunited with him through this tape, yet you never properly understood what Ameliah learnt from the tape about her father and mother. My biggest disappointment was I really didn't feel that the "Tape" was used to its full potential and for me it did not feature heavily enough. I expected the narrative of the book, to be lead from what was heard on the tape but this wasn't the case. I really feel that this book was a missed opportunity it could have been very good, the concept was there, but unfortunately the final book did not quite deliver.