

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of *We Are All Made Of Molecules* by Susin Nielsen

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Ella Hollingshead, age 13

'We Are All Made Of Molecules' is a fantastic read that should appeal to most, full of love and humour. I couldn't put this book down!

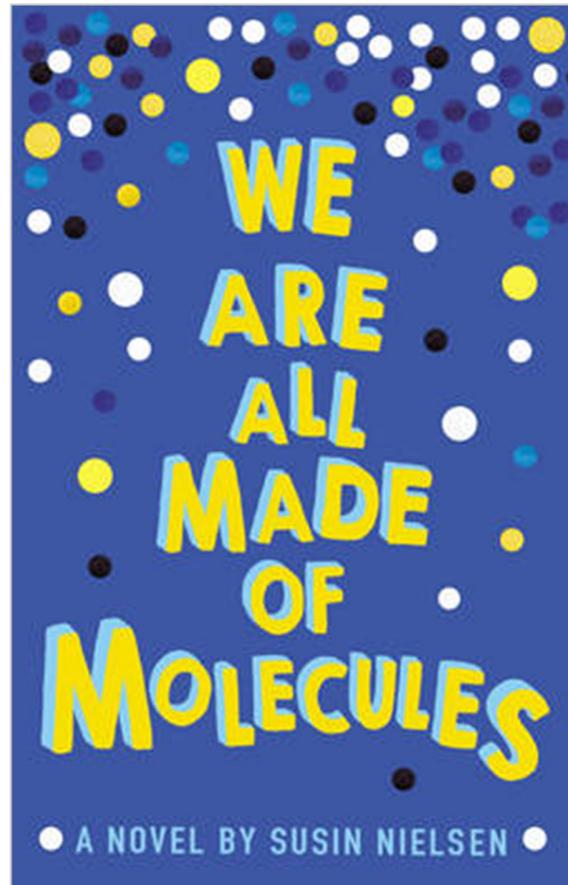
'We Are All Made Of Molecules' is a great read filled with humour and love which switches 'points of view' between two very different people - Ashley and Stewart. Stewart is geeky and gifted and doesn't see things the same way as most other people and when his mum dies, he becomes a bit depressed. Ashley is popular and doesn't trust any of her friends especially not about the real reason her dad moved out.

When Stewart and his dad move into Ashley and her mum's new house, Ashley dislikes Stewart and some of the decor he and his dad brought into their house. But when the school's 'bad boy' comes into the story, it gets a whole load more mixed up.

I would definitely recommend this to fans of John Green books, it was really good and easy to read.

Susanna, age 12

'We Are All Made of Molecules' is an amazing book. Although slightly mature, this has fantastic plot lines. I loved this book, it's really engaging, I just couldn't put it down!



'We Are All Made of Molecules' is an amazing book. Although slightly mature, this has fantastic plot lines. It is told by Ashley, the popular girl on the highest rung of the social ladder, and Stewart, the nerdy boy whose dad has moved in with Ashley's mum. The chapters alternate between the two of them, which I really like, because the story is told from two different perspectives, meaning you start to understand the story in different ways.

Ashley is not happy about Stewart and Leonard moving in. Her dad recently came out and moved out, and she still hasn't quite got used to that. When Stewart moves to her school, and has a similar timetable to her, things seem to be getting worse. However, when she starts to get the attention of Jared, every girl's dream boy, Ashley feels like things might be getting back to normal. Unfortunately, Ashley and Jared both have very different ideas for dates, and Ashley starts to wonder if maybe she's going to end up in a lot of trouble.

I loved this book, it's really engaging, I just couldn't put it down!

Edel Waugh - www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com

This is the touching and funny story about a young boy called Stewart who moves with his dad into his dad's girlfriends house. This is made more uncomfortable than it needs to because of his dad's girlfriends daughter Ashley who pretty much hates anyone that is not in her close personal friendship circle. Stewart is younger than Ashley but extremely gifted and very witty. He is a little charmer who if I met in real life I would want to be friends with. These four people now have to co exist in one house even though Ashley hates every minute of it and is determined to be difficult. Stewart's entire life changes when he moves in, that includes a new school and new friends and with that comes it's own complications. Just being yourself is brave when everyone else wants you to act just like them and Stewart is this awesome person who does not pretend to be someone he is not, and it makes this an inspiring uplifting read. I recommend this to everyone!

Jade Craddock

In any other circumstance Stewart and Ashley would occupy completely separate worlds – Stewart, brainy and quirky and Ashley beautiful and popular – but with Stewart's dad and Ashley's mom getting together, all four of them are suddenly brought together under one roof. Not to mention Ashley's father, Phil, who lives in a house in the back garden! So Susan Nielsen lays the

foundation for her incredible novel 'We Are All Made Of Molecules'. **And from the first page to the last, the novel triumphs.** A book of dichotomies, it nevertheless finds a perfect balance – between characters, moods and styles – and excels especially in offsetting the poignant, touching moments – of which there are many, all beautifully handled – with bright, sparky humour. Indeed, **it's a really emotive book that succeeds equally in its melancholic and comic threads.** Stewart and Ashley are wholly authentic characters and Nielsen has captured astutely their very different personalities and tendencies. Everything about this book works and combines for an exceptional read. How I hadn't heard of Susan Nielsen before I'm not sure, but she's now firmly on my radar and will be top of my list of YA recommendations with this superb novel.

Maddy Faulkner

Meet Stewart. He's geeky, gifted and sees things a bit differently to most people. His mum has died and he misses her all the more now he and Dad have moved in with Ashley and her mum. Meet Ashley. She's popular, cool and sees things very differently to her new family. Her dad has come out and moved out - but not far enough. And now she has to live with a freakazoid step-brother. Stewart can't quite fit in at his new school, and Ashley can't quite get used to her totally awkward home, which is now filled with some rather questionable décor. And things are about to get a whole lot more mixed up when these two very different people attract the attention of school hunk Jared...

I love this book, I have read and re-read this so many times and it never gets boring. It is a really lovely, comforting book and when I read it I felt like I had known the characters all my life. The way the author portrays the characters you can really empathise with them. It is written incredibly and the plot is not clichéd, which often puts me off a story. I am really looking forward to reading more books from this author and I am sure I will love them as much as I loved this book.

Amelia White, age 15

Molecules make up most of us! An amazing book would recommend to teen readers.

This is an amazing heartwarming book by Nielsen, it shows a boy and a girl learning how to be brother and sister after a big change in their lives. Stewart and his Dad move in with his Dad's new girlfriend Caroline and he daughter Ashley. Stuarts okay with it and Ashley the opposite, she hates him until she finds out Jared the handsome boy in her year talks to Stuart.

This book takes quite a while to get started so you need to read quite a bit into it before the story gets started. I did enjoy this book, it's funny and is just like how brothers and sisters act! Sibling rivalry that works out in the end.

Thora, age 13 – www.teerosiebooks.blogspot.com

This book was happy, funny, sad, tear-jerking and thought provoking. I enjoyed the way it dealt with important issues in a light-hearted style.

*** Spoiler Alert ** This book provoked many emotions. For example, when I was in Starbucks reading this book, I had to suppress my anger (all directed at Jared the homophobe might I add) or people would stare at me. The same goes for being on the tube when you want to laugh, but realise you'd have the whole carriage eyeing you suspiciously if you did. I felt rather superior holding my 'uncorrected proof' copy of this book, and as I travelled up the escalator I'd look at people from over the page and smirk. But enough about that.*

Stuart

*Stuart was not my favourite character, honestly. He acted like he was much younger than eighth grade - I would have thought that he was about ten. That's really all I can say, but I would have preferred him to seem thirteen. Also, there could have been more signals of him being 'Clever' - Slipping these 'Oh, I'm so clever' lines (Schrödinger's cat being a great example) into the paragraph is veering into John Green territory (*SHUDDER*).*

Ashley

I like Ashley, but Nielsen has gone over the top with making her get words wrong. ENOUGH ALREADY! We understand she's not as clever as Stuart, but this is un-needed emphasis. Argh, I wanted to tear my hair out. But then again, I'd get some weird looks from people trying to enjoy their coffee.

Jared

Jared is the villain I've hated most in YA. That homophobe.

In conclusion, I quite liked this book as it was funny and made me feel something (books rarely do that) so I'll give it three, which is high praise from me. I didn't enjoy the way Stuart was written though, which was a downside as he made up half the narration.

Jodi Coffman, age 13

*I really enjoyed this book and couldn't put it down. I recommend it to all teenagers who like romance stories with a twist. Stewart is a huge geek, his mum has just died and him and his dad are moving in with a new family. Ashley's dad has come out, and Stewart and his dad are moving in. She doesn't mind Stewart's dad but she really doesn't like Stewart. All she wants is for her old dad to come back and for it to go back to how it was before. Ashley really likes Jared, the school jock, and Stewart has some interesting encounters with him too. But when things go wrong, this is what brings them together. **This was a great book and really different to normal books. It was really good to read something different for a change and it was definitely worth it. It was brilliant!***

Amanda Gray – www.beautifulbookishbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk/

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There were some generally, wonderful features and important messages in this book, messages that were explored so freely, that of being born gay, of abuse and of death that, given how diverse the young adult sector is trying to be, you don't see all that often, and that's wonderful. Stewart was without a doubt my favourite part of 'We Are All Made Of Molecules', with grief and personal struggle of losing his Mum was honest and truthful, his relationship with his Father was also explored and nicely written about, as was his friendship with Phil, and the school friends he made. He was a really sweet, really oblivious character who I think learn a lot throughout the novel, about people, about life, about his and other people's actions and the consequences that follow them. He was an easily relatable character, even when his science side overruled him, or when his clever ideas were a little too clever, and he made this novel for me.

Sophia Ufton

Amazing story, wonderfully written, loved the book.

Stewart is 13 and he's smart, he's always wanted a sister and when he was 10 his mom assumed she was pregnant, but she had cancer and died 1 and a half years later. Stewart misses her a lot. He's recently found out that they are moving, him and his Dad to another place because the Dad has fallen in love. Stewart is 89.9% happy because he is finally going to get a sister.

Ashley is 14 and has just found out that she is getting a 13 year old half-brother

(hopefully) and a step dad, as Stewart and his Dad are moving in with their cat, but she's not happy about it. She found out her real Dad is gay but tells everyone they spilt up from fighting a lot.

What will happen? Will they all be able to finally get along? Or will it go wrong? Read the book and find out.

Natalie Hunter

I loved this book. It was hilarious and the characters were adorable and believable. The plot was great and I loved all the little plot twists.

I will be recommending this book to all of my friends. Even the ones that don't read much and would recommend this to anyone else.