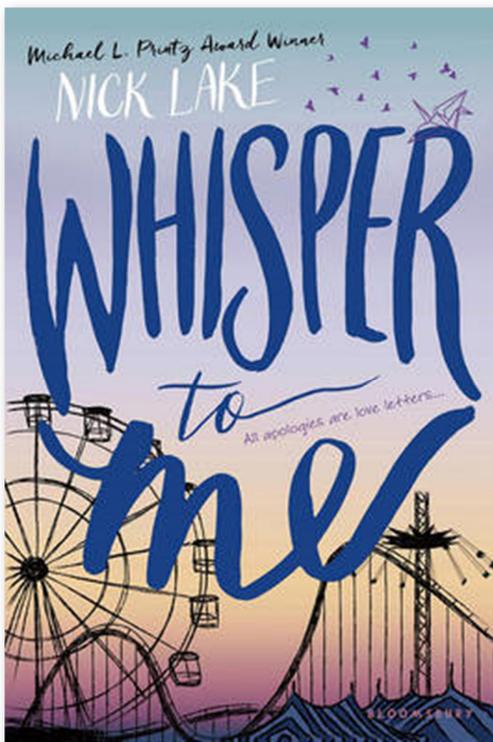


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Whisper to Me** By Nick Lake



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



Amy Laws, age 14

Emotional and gripping, I struggled to put 'Whisper To Me' down. It was stunning from the very first page.

'Whisper To Me' was a passionate and compelling novel that followed the story of Cass and how she coped with several traumatic experiences and schizophrenia. The story was heart-breaking at some points and so enjoyable at others. Nick Lake has managed to create such a realistic and down to earth story that captured my heart and imagination from the very first page. The subject of schizophrenia and other mental health issues was tackled to delicately and effectively and that makes this book stand

out from the crowd. I absolutely soared through the pages and therefore would recommend it to the majority of YA fans, particularly fans of Jennifer Niven's 'All The Bright Places.' Definitely a book to put on your reading list.

Ella Grabsky, age 16

This book had me gripped from the start. The novel dealt with a somewhat taboo subject in such a perfect way that I think this book is definitely one teenagers should be encouraged to read.

Another aspect of the book I really enjoyed was that Cassie isn't portrayed as a beautiful girl with boys falling for her wherever she goes. Sadly a plot that

features quite a lot in young adult books these days. Even though it is Cassie herself that is telling the reader how she looks, the fact she is described as slightly alternative shows the reader you don't have to be a stunning girl with flowing hair to be a heroine in books.

I thought the use of the 'Voice' was excellent as it really added another layer to the story and made it exciting and almost mysterious. The way the author kept hinting at worse things to come throughout the novel kept me engaged and wanting to read on.

The only thing I was not so keen on was the way the boy was never described very well. It was a bit frustrating as I couldn't picture him as well as I would have liked to and the lack of detail surrounding him made it hard to connect with him as a character. Therefore, it was hard to empathise as the reader knew nothing about him and thus I felt quite disconnected from him, and eventually the entire relationship. However, overall I thought this was a great read and thoroughly recommend it to slightly older teens, only because of the subject matter.

Humaira Kauser, age 18

Incredible. Hauntingly beautiful. A one of a kind masterpiece by the one and only Nick Lake.

I've never heard of Nick Lake let alone read any of his works and I don't understand how I have not come across anything. His writing is utterly captivating and beautiful.

I loved how it starts off with talking directly to the intended reader. I liked the character developments. Some parts scared me and kept me awake thinking.

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

Lucie Harrison, age 13

'Whisper to Me' was so gripping and unexpected that I could not put it down. I loved this book because the characters were so mysterious and hard to figure out while the plot had many surprising twists. It also really helps to understand how people suffer from mental health problems. I would recommend this book to older girls.

I loved 'Whisper to Me': it had a very gripping plot and characters that were hard to understand. I would recommend this book to older girls.

Rebekah Marsh, age 13

This insightful novel opened my eyes towards hearing voices in a way that I found it both informative and incredibly enjoyable!

Cassandra's relationship with "herself" and those around her was truly inspiring, despite what people did or how they valued themselves, she didn't judge them on their insecurities but on their true personality. Previously, I believed that I wouldn't enjoy reading 'Whisper To Me' as it centred around an issue; however, I couldn't have been more wrong because I thoroughly enjoyed it and would happily read it again. I would seriously recommend this book to anyone!

Maisie Caitlin Sadler, age 14

'Whisper To Me' is an unforgettably powerful and beautiful read about dark times and mental illness - a story which needed to be written.

I love the book I was completely hooked by the story which drew me in on the very first page! 'Whisper To Me' is a love letter explaining everything about Cassie's life, why she hears voices, why her dad is like he is, why she lost her love, and I think in writing it this way Nick has not only given us a story to read but to live as well. It gives a powerful insight in to the life of a girl who suffers from mental illness and is a book that needs to be read!

Maddy Faulkner, age 14

I love this book. I love how the story is told in small flashbacks and really short chapters- making this an easy-ish read without being boring. I was gripped from page 1!!

I love how the main character, Cass/Cassie, is portrayed, as a clever but restricted girl. I like how "the voice" is shown on the page and how author, Nick Lake, shows how torturous having a mental illness can be. I also really enjoy how the boy Cass falls for is referred to as "you" which shows how the whole book (this is revealed throughout the book) is written as a letter to him. Overall

I really liked this book and would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves a gripping book. I am looking forwards to reading more books by Nick Lake!

Jessica Anderson, age 13

'Whisper To Me' is an amazing, eye-opening book that was so gripping I read it in one go. I like the way it is written, as it is one long email, meaning that there are no chapters as such. I preferred it like this because it makes the story continue without any breaks in it which makes it more gripping. It has very interesting and contrasting characters that are very believable and the plot is very tense and has lots of twists in it. This book is really good because it covers lots of different styles and topics, such murder mystery, depression and schizophrenia, prostitution and true love, and I found that it has introduced me to other genres that I would not usually read.

Cassandra's mother is dead and her father does not seem to care about her – indeed he spends more time with his pet bugs and insects than he does with her, and he is now a workaholic. He is an ex-SEAL and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder which leads to him getting extremely angry with Cassie.

In Cassie's small town there is a 'Houdini killer' that goes around killing prostitutes (this is not as inappropriate as it sounds!). When Cassie becomes good friends with Paris, only to have her kidnapped with only a number plate to go by, is it impossible late to save her? And can the boy that delivers fairground soft toys help her? Will she find Paris, and true love, along the way? Or can she only have one?

Overall, I absolutely loved this novel. I read it in one sitting – it is now one of my favourite books!

Phoebe Doherty-Ozobiane, age 14

Thrilling and different, 'Whisper To Me' is completely unlike any other book I've read. It was incredibly difficult for me to put down and left me feeling like part of me was missing, but I was simultaneously complete. If you're looking for something that is unbelievable but completely real, then this is the book for you. Five out of five stars.

There are so many things that make this book amazing and one of them is the way it is written by Cassie (our main character) as an email to the boy whose

heart she broke. You, as the reader, are included in this fantastic adventure of how grief affects people and the terribly important but un-talked about subject of mental illness, and it feels like Cassie is speaking directly to you, like you're living the story, not being told. At every turn of the page I got more and more immersed with this book, not only because of the way it was written and what it was written about, but the characters as well. Cassie, oh Cassie! At times I wanted to hug her and hold her tight, but at others I wanted to slap her and ask her what the hell she's doing! She makes stupid mistakes and reacts so drastically to what's happening, but that is what makes her more than just a 2D person made of printed words on paper. She is a real person who grieves and loves and struggles with something that lots of people don't have to deal with in life but need to be aware of.

Cassie has friends who know about her condition and still treat her like a normal person. Paris is so important to Cassie because she is one of the only people who doesn't treat her like a freak or an invalid. Her dad though isn't as supportive and I felt that he didn't show his love and need to protect her in the right way, though I understood why he had to keep her safe.

Overall I think that Nick Lake has done a brilliant job of portraying a girl with mental health issues as someone who is strong and capable of the same things that everyone else is capable of. This book is so powerful and heart-wrenching and the whole way through, I just wanted to get Cassie to stop blaming herself. To just tell her mysterious boy about her condition instead of hiding it. To be happy. I never wanted 'Whisper To Me' to end, but unfortunately it did and although it is probably unlikely, I would love for there to be a sequel to it, just so I can live this story a little while longer. It has to be one of the best books I've read this year and for a very long time to come.

Jodi Coffman, age 14

Cassie hears a voice, a mean voice. She's heard it ever since she found a foot on the beach. This voice makes her do things she doesn't want to do and threatens her every time she questions it. The book is a letter written to the boy she was saying sorry for what she did and explaining it. The story unravels and little by little we find out how the voice came to be and what Cassie did. **This book was fantastic and I couldn't put it down. It had me on the edge of my seat from start to finish. Truly gripping.**

Kezia Deakin, age 16

What is so marvellous about novels is that when you read a mystery, you never know if the novel will take a sudden turn into the impossible and supernatural. The pool of possibilities accordingly spreads so far that the reader is reliant on the author alone for an explanation.

After Cassie sees a dead foot she starts hearing voices. But the root of these voices is unknown: is it one girl's unravelling mental health? Is it a vengeful ghost making her last play for justice? Or is it something more sinister?

Cassie writes to a former lover, recounting the actions that led her to hurt him so much, starting with finding the dead foot. Lake is a weaver of suspense and makes good use of the fact that Cassie is telling this tale in retrospect. As Cassie writes about her younger self, she drops elusive comments into the novel which build up a sense of dread and intrigue.

Throughout the novel, Cassie tries to find out who the "Houdini Killer" is in the misguided hope that it will quench "The Voice". A voice so frightening that it had me transfixed: I read this book in almost one sitting, but not for the usual cliché reasons. I sought to find the reason that the Voice plagued Cassie as it seemed so real, I almost needed reassurance that it would not hurt me.

Cassie is a very likeable protagonist whose witty comments and even wittier newfound friends ensure that although this novel is very much a thriller, it is not all doom and gloom! I generally shy away from books with frightening themes, but this novel showed me just how ironically pleasurable to read books that scare the life out of you can be!

Aimee Sweet, age 14

I was very excited when I received this book from Lovereading, as I have read a lot of his books, like 'There Will Be Lies' and 'In Darkness'. 'In Darkness' is one of my favourite books and 'There Will Be Lies' was also really good, so of course I was expecting great things from this book.

And let me tell you, 'Whisper to Me' DEFINITELY lived up to my expectations.

The book is actually in the form of a love letter, from Cassie to a certain 'you', whom we don't find out about until a bit later on. I was immediately gripped because of the unique format - it made me want to know more about Cassie and what happened for her to 'hear voices' and 'miss you'.

As the novel progressed and Cassie revealed bit by bit about the past, I fell more and more in love with her as a character and the other protagonists. I think a lot of people can relate to Cassie, or maybe learn from her. She is extremely wise and I found myself storing what she said in my head for future quotes. I especially liked when she said, 'We can't keep anyone safe... so we just have to cling onto people when we can'.

Cassie and the other characters in this book, especially Paris and Julie, were very well developed. I almost feel like they could be real people, because they have flaws just like everyone else. They're all a bit broken in some way, and I like that. I hate when books have very cliché and perfect characters because it affects the person reading them. By having a book with people who aren't okay but fight through their problems, gives the reader hope.

I would give 'Whisper to Me' 5 stars except for a few teeny things holding me back. Firstly, the title. I feel like it does relate to a lot of aspects of Cassie and can be seen as quite clever if you look at it through that perspective. But, I also feel like it could be improved upon. Secondly, the cover and the blurb. The cover, in my opinion, lets the book down a bit. Of course it looks pretty, but it doesn't relate to the book at all. 'Whisper to Me' contains a lot of gritty issues and I think that needs to be seen in the cover. To me when I picked it up, I thought it would be a YA romance. But 'Whisper to Me' is so much more than 'the most screwed-up love letter ever', which is why I'm not giving it a five star. Instead, I think a four should do it!

'Whisper to Me' was fast paced and heart-racing - I never quite knew what was going to happen next. Although a long read, I became almost attached to the characters, and I must admit, a bit emotional towards the end. A book I won't forget for a long time.

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