

LoveReading Reader reviews of Department 19 by Will Hill

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

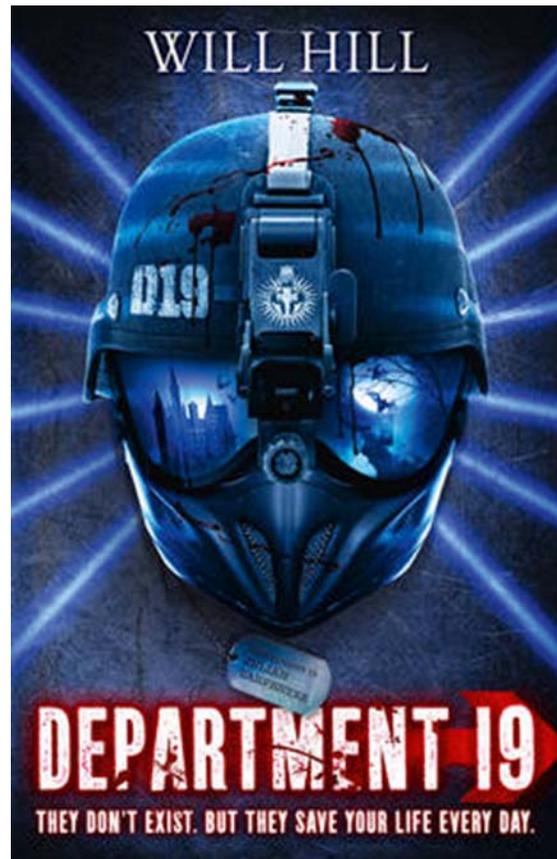
Hollie Compton

*A book containing blood, mystery and death. **A book that I didn't want to put down. I love the characters within the story and their relationships between each other.***

The twists only add to the mystery and the hidden facts of the story, making the reader speculate and then find out by reading on.

Only to find that they were completely wrong and that someone else had committed the act or something else had happened.

A book that will be loved by many teenagers and young adults alike.



Emily Setchell, age 13

Department 19 is all about a young boy who witnesses his father being murdered, and never knows why. He then ends up part of the blacklight - a group of people who slay vampires- as he tries to get his mum back. He meets a variety of characters along the way, including: Frankenstein and vampires.

I found the book really interesting, with a variety of characters and opinions. I liked the plot, and the way the book was set up - with chapters from hundreds of years ago and tens of years ago, showing the connections between the families. I liked how Jamie was detached from his mum, and how her disappearance

showed him how much he loved and needed her. The variety of emotions felt in this book made it even harder to put down, wondering whether Larissa was betraying them and would Jamie ever get his mum back. It was interesting to see how what his father had done tainted everyone's view on Jamie, and how sometimes what other people do can affect you to. I found the ending quite sad, and all the questions at the back of your mind were answered, with either the answer you wanted or not.

I really enjoyed this book and am definitely going to read the rest of the books in the series!

Jack Graham

I really enjoyed this book because of the paranormal twist. Department 19 kills vampires all over the world. Count Dracula was killed by Department 19. His remains were stored in a secret bunker in Russia. But now the vampires have found a way to get in to the bunker and reincarnate Count Dracula. Also, Jamie Carpenter has been brought into Department 19 2 years after his father was killed for betraying the organisation. His mother had been taken by Alexandru, 1 of the 3 oldest, most powerful vampires in the world. Jamie does extremely well in training and soon finds himself confronting Alexandru...

The main characters are Jamie Carpenter, Frankenstein, Terry, Tom Morris, Alexandru and Larissa. Jamie Carpenter is the hero of the story but is sidetracked by personal emotions. Frankenstein appears evil, like in the original book, but is actually kind. Terry appears mean but is actually a good man. Tom Morris appears kind. Alexandru is evil, one of the 3 first vampires created by Count Dracula. Larissa is a vampire that appears evil but is good. She is the most complicated character.

Overall this book is an excellent read. I would read the next books or any others by Will Hill and recommend this to anyone 11+ because it has so many good techniques and a great storyline but contains murder. Will Hill is comparable to Rowling, Horowitz or Riordan in his deliverance of the story and ideas.

Emer O'Brien, age 13

*Will Hill's Department 19 is about vampires, but don't let that turn you off. These vampires most definitely do not sparkle. They howl, they feast, they scavenge and they occasionally go squish. When Jamie Carpenter's mother is kidnapped, he is thrown headlong into the world of Department 19, a top secret branch of the military that is solely responsible for the extermination of dangerous vampires. Those who have read the classic Dracula will appreciate the tribute paid to it in this book. This has far more blood 'n' guts in it than Bram Stoker ever intended, however. **It is really, really gory, and readers who don't enjoy detailed descriptions of dismembered body parts shouldn't go within a hundred yards of this book.***

This book is new and original, and there's always something happening in every chapter, but despite this, I just found it difficult to get into. The plot was slightly difficult to follow, and sometimes it was an effort to keep reading. A couple of times I had to go back and read a few pages again to get the full picture. There was a lot of potential for an exciting thrill ride, but I just didn't feel it fit that description. The author's take on vampires (savage beasts) is refreshingly old fashioned, and for those of you who are a little tired of angst, tortured souls, this may just be the book for you. Probably better for boys than girls, pardon the stereotype, but definitely not for the squeamish.

Carla McGuigan, age 13

*This is my first time reading a book by Will Hill. **You've heard of the novels: Dracula and the novel: Frankenstein. Well in this novel both are brought to life, together.** In this novel Jamie finds himself pulled into the world his father used to fight against: creatures of the night, who want him and his mother dead. When Jamie's mother is kidnapped by them, Jamie tries to go after her but before he can go after her he needs training to fight the creatures and that's where Department 19 comes in. But can he save her in time before it's too late and who can he really trust? I really enjoyed this novel and I would recommend it to boys and girls if you are into this type of novel.*

Safiyah Afghan

*Department 19 is an action packed book about Jamie, a boy with an uncertain past and a dangerous future. His mother has been stolen by vampires and he is going to get her back. And that's when he finds out about Department 19. **Full***

of thrills, danger, action and romance Department 19 is an exciting book that will hold most readers captivated. With exciting action scenes and quieter, deeper moments this book will entice all kinds of readers. Jamie is well put across, making readers fall in love with him and experience the journey with him. Hill has created a masterpiece that will enthrall readers from the first chapter.

Claudia Woolgar

If you love adventure, gore, computer games, vampires, love and big guns, this is the book for you! Set in the mysterious underworld of a hidden government department, *Department 19* is the story of the battle to rid the world of vampires. At its heart is Jamie Carpenter, a normal kid who is thrown into being a teenage hero as he seeks to save his mother from a clutch of evil vampires. The story is not your average vampire tale of blood and guts - although it has plenty of both, and some quite disgustingly detailed descriptions of wounds and massacres. It is a tale of love - love of parents, protection of faithful friends, and burgeoning love between two young people - and of bravery replacing the usual round of school lessons and homework. And it is also a tale of an underworld populated by historical myths and legends (some painted here with a liberal twist on the historical truth), and policed by brave men (and fewer women) working for a seriously undercover government department. Taught with action, and fast paced throughout, the world portrayed here is dark and one in which prowess with guns and mechanised stakes wins praise and respect. Bravery is also key, along with a healthy dose of teenage defiance and determination. The book suffers somewhat from an overly cinematographic style, with dense and heavily detailed descriptions of hangars, lifts and institutional corridors apparently begging for a film or computer game contract. But Jamie is a strong hero, he is principled and gutsy, and his relationship with his family's protector, Frankenstein, a touching cornerstone throughout the book.

There is limited space given to female characters in the book, either in Department 19 itself or in the vampire world it seeks to eliminate, but Larissa, and most especially Kate, hold the promise of more in later books in the series. Not for the squeamish, Department 19 is a cracking tale of good and evil. It allows for the gray in between, and for pride and loyalty to be valued alongside military achievement. But it is a dark world. Those in search of humour should perhaps steer clear of British Governmental departments!

