

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of  
**The Bell Between Worlds** by Ian Johnstone  
Part of the 'Mirror Chronicles' Series

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

**Lucy Minton, age 9**

***'The Mirror Chronicles: The Bell Between worlds' is an exciting thriller which will have you on the edge of your seat.***

*This book is about Syllas Tate who is an ordinary boy, or so he thinks. Join him as he travels to "The Other" as it is known. It is another world parallel to ours, in which he must find his glimmer and stop the evil Thoth thus saving the Suhl. He makes friends for life with a cheeky girl named Simia who joins him on his journey of danger.*

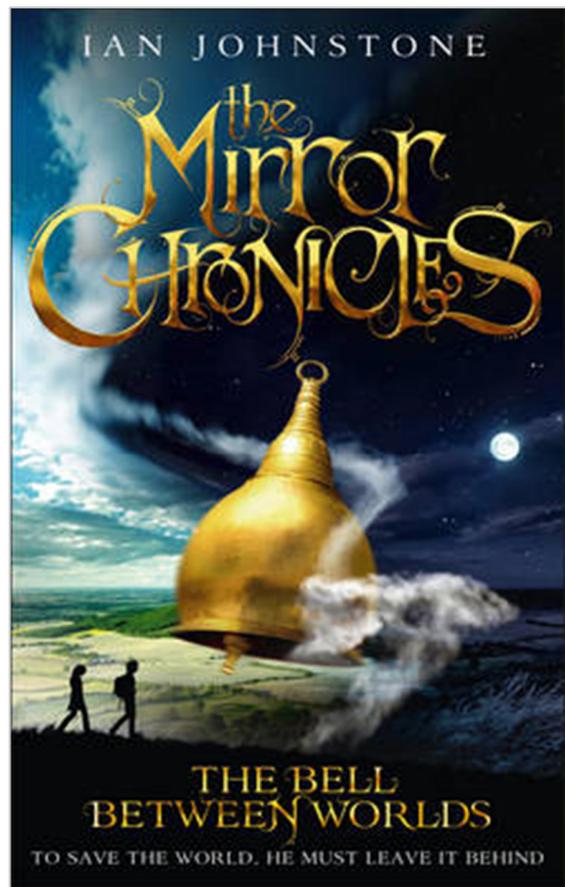
*I think this book was particularly good because it included lots of strange words which made this new world seem even more mysterious.*

*It was also good because there were lots of different threads to the story – lots of different things happening at different times. I really liked the ending because it was a refreshing end to a book.*

*This book may take a little while to get into, but if you persevere, you will find that your effort is rewarded.*

**Sam Harper, age 9**

*Syllas Tate's life seems normal enough but it is about to change forever, starting*



*with the discovery that his dead mother is, in fact, alive! As Sylas journeys to find his mother and the truth behind her disappearance, he is drawn ever closer to a mysterious ringing bell and into an even bigger mystery. He encounters many strange people on his journey, like Mr Zhi, the owner of the Shop of Things, and a fearsome hound which chases him until he enters the world beyond the bell. His mother seems to be known in this strange and magical world but will Sylas be able to track her down before it's too late? He meets a girl called Simia and others who help him but not all of the creatures he encounters are friendly. He must evade the Ghorhund, which are twice the size of the hound he met in the 'real' world, the terrifying Ghor, half man, half hound creatures and their evil master. There is more at stake than he could ever have imagined.*

*His exciting journey is full of danger and mystery and the author makes you feel like you are beside Sylas every step of the way. **'The Bell Between Worlds' is a magical adventure and you won't want it to end. I can't wait to find out what happens in the next in the series.***

**Niki Keep, age 11**

*Sylas has been living with his uncle since his mum died and he's not happy about it. Then **One day** when he was **on an errand for his slaving uncle Sylas saw someone lurking in the old shop that was always empty... a voice enticed him in and his strange but wonderful journey began.***

*I would strongly recommend this book but it may take you a while to get into it.*

**Ewan Young, age 10**

***I literally could not put this book down, it was EPIC! Full of magic and adventure.***

*I LOVE this book! I could not put it down and cannot wait for the next book to find out what happens next. The story is about a boy who lives with his uncle after his mother's death, who is suddenly transported to a parallel world full of magic. With the help of his new friends, Sylas discovers some new skills and has many adventures that he would never have dreamed of in his old life. I really felt I was in 'the Other' as I read the story because the author describes it so well. This book is full of magic, mystery and adventure; I hope I don't have to wait too long for book two.*

## **Jack Graham**

*I really enjoyed this book because of the different idea. There are two worlds occupying the same space. Nobody can see into the other world and there is only one conventional way of travelling between them: The Bell. One world has magic; the other has science. One world is aware of the other, the other world isn't. There is violence in one world that could destroy the other; violence that is getting progressively worse. The resistance is crumbling and if Sylas Tate can't stop the fighting and find his other self, all will be lost... for both worlds.*

*The main characters are Sylas, Simia, Espen, Ash and Paiscion. Sylas who has a good grasp of the nature magic, Essenfayle, is the only person who can save the two worlds. Simia is a young excitable girl who doesn't want to miss out on adventures. Espen is a tricky character and you can never tell where his loyalties lie until the very end; however sure you feel. Ash is a young magician who is skilled in Kimiyya and Essenfayle. Paiscion is an old Magruman (leader) with a high level of control of Essenfayle.*

**Overall this book is an excellent read. I would read any other books by Ian Johnstone as well as the rest of the series and recommend this to anyone 11+ because it has so many good ideas and a great storyline but contains murder and violence. Ian Johnstone is comparable to Rowling, Horowitz or Riordan in his deliverance of the story and ideas.**

## **Emma Baird, age 10**

*Sylas Tate lives with his Uncle. He is a lonely child but he is perfectly fine alone, well until he meets Mr Zhi... In this book Sylas discovers a creepy magical shop owned by the mysterious Mr Zhi. Mr Zhi gives Sylas a book, the Samorak: an ancient, very important book full of strange coded messages.*

*After Sylas has received the book he starts to feel that part of him is missing so he sets off on a quest through the mirror; then he discovers that he has to unite two worlds if he wants to be whole again. **This is a spellbinding book, I really like it because there are so many things going on at once and that makes it such an exciting book.** I also like this book because the writing got me so absorbed in it, I could barely put it down! I love the characters in this book because each one is so unique and wonderful.*

## **Jeanette S, age 9**

*Sylas Tate aged 12, lives with his uncle and believes his mum is dead. His uncle*

sends him to take the post but he meets a strange man on the way who shows him odd objects. Suddenly, strange things start to happen.

***I enjoyed this gripping page turner because of its magical creatures and objects. Both boys and girls would enjoy this book.***

### **Shannon Slipper**

*Sylas Tate was living in his world with his uncle, Tobias Tate, in his world in Gabblety Row, until the bell rings.*

*No-one can hear it other than him. As he draws nearer to the bell, he meets Espen on the bridge on the way. He has a wounded knee from being chased by a big dog type thing called the Ghorhund. As the passing bell disappears, he meets a girl called Simia and she leads him through her world as well as being chased by Ghorhund. He will later meet a girl called Filimaya in the hiding place to escape from getting their limbs ripped off by the Ghor and the Ghorhund.*

***I love this book because you get gripped into Syllas' adventure. I couldn't put it down.***

### **Jenny Duffy, age 20**

*When Syllas is called into a world known as the Other by the giant Passing Bell, his life is changed utterly. Removed from a dull existence of running errands for his uncle, enlivened only by his daydreams, he is transported into an adventure of unbelievable proportions. In this new world, magic is everywhere, but so is danger. Hunted down by hounds, and pursued by evil sorcerers, Syllas must discover who he is and what he can do. He and his new friends must find the strength to save both worlds, and discover the truth behind The Glimmer Myth.*

***This is a gripping fantasy adventure, with some truly excellent world building.*** *I found it a bit slow at the beginning (with the exception of the fascinating Shop of Things), but once Syllas reached the world on the other side of the mirror, I was enthralled. The descriptions of magic are fantastic, and both worlds are vividly imagined. Syllas is a strong protagonist, but there is a whole host of wonderful characters; such as his fiery sidekick Simia, the mysterious Mr Zhi, and conductor of nature Paiscion. The tale itself is well plotted and gripping, with lots of detail and plenty of twists. There are some questions left unanswered at the end of the book, and ***I eagerly await the****

**next instalment of Sylas' adventures.**

**Abigail Blackwell, age 11 –Tockington Manor School**

*Sylas Tate has lived with his uncle ever since his mother died. After he enters the strange “shop of things”, nothing normal happens to Sylas. Trouble seems to follow Sylas wherever he goes from the Ghorhunds to the Ghor and Slithens, until he looks in the mirror revealing his glimmer. If he doesn't find his glimmer, the two worlds may fall.*

*I have enjoyed the first book in the series, but I found that some of the words are quite difficult to understand, and the plot is sometimes hard to follow, so I would recommend this only to very experienced readers. I would give this book four stars out of five.*

***Pros: A very good plot and excellent character development and it still has a lot of mystery unfolding. If you like looking up words, you find out lots of new ones!***

*Cons : I think there are too many characters and the plot can get confusing.*

**Ellie Frost**

***Sylas is drawn on a quest for his mother by the chimes of a great bell into a city that isn't his, but exists in the same space. This story is so vivid that I really felt I was there and part of the action.***

*At first I thought that this was going to be another book in the Harry Potter mould, but Sylas's search for his mother is so much more than that. It is so vividly written and everything is so well described, that I felt at the heart of the action from the start. After Sylas is chased by a Ghorhund in his world, then drawn by the chime of the great bell into a parallel world, he meets Simia, a girl a little younger than he, who helps him survive in the strange place in which he finds himself. Along the way it becomes clear that Sylas's mother has also visited this world at some point, and he has hope he might learn more about her.*

*There is plenty of action in the book as Sylas and his friends are pursued by the Ghor (the evil creatures who are trying to take over the land) and aren't always sure who to trust. I am desperate to read the next book to find out how the story develops.*

**Darcy Gray, age 10**

***This book takes you on a magical journey full of friendship, betrayal and mystery. This is a great book and you want to know what is coming next after every page. I couldn't put it down.***

*Sylas Tate's life changes forever when a giant bell transports him to the 'Other' (a parallel world to ours). He makes magical friends and learns his true identity as well as his mother's. Is it really his destiny to join the worlds? As the book moves along we learn about Sylas' life and his family at the same time as he does so we can understand how he feels.*

*I think people from ten upwards would enjoy this book if they love mystery and fantasy. My mum read it too and thought it was brilliant!*