

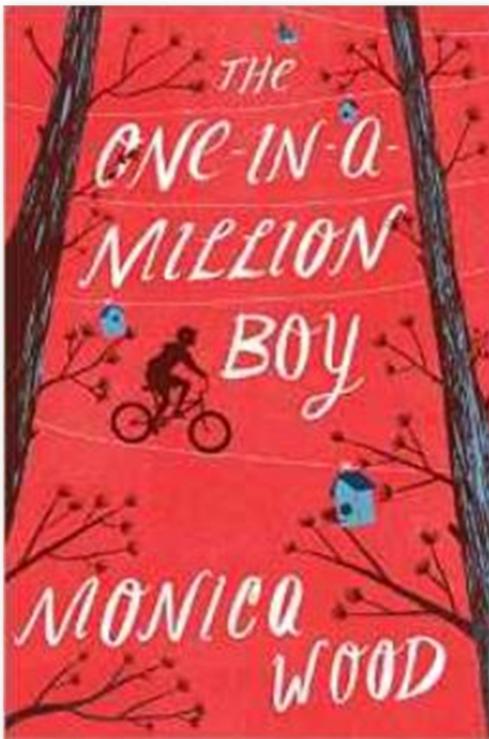


Helping you choose
your next book

LoveReading Reader reviews of **The One-In-A-Million Boy** by Monica Wood



Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Reba Khatun

'The One in a Million Boy' is a gem of a book. It's a story that made me smile, laugh, cry and hug my children tightly. A heart-warming but also sad tale about regrets and lonely souls.

Ona Vitkus is one hundred and four years old and just passing her days with mundane day-to-day activities until a Boy Scout arrives. At first she dismisses him as a typical teenager but then realises he is nothing of the sort. He is also fascinated with her. Then he stops visiting and his father, Quinn turns up grudgingly to finish the jobs. He thinks he is helping out the old lady but he gets so much more in return for his time.

This story is told in two time frames. I really liked this as it made the story even more interesting. The rapport between Ona and the boy is sweet and witty despite the huge age gap. Although the mother, Belle is barely functioning it is Quinn I feel sorry for. His immense guilt at failing as a father is so raw it took my breath away at times. He didn't connect with his beautiful boy because he was different but if he looked harder he would've seen the uniqueness and remarkable qualities Belle and Ona saw in him. Monica Wood reminds us that every child is different and should be loved just for being them self.

Martin Ball

I felt this was a great story beautifully portrayed by Monica Wood about the relationship between Ona Vitkus, a very quiet 104 year old woman and an 11 year old boy scout who visits her each week and helps to do odd jobs. The boy appears to be a little bit different and loves counting as well as lists and an obsession with Guinness World Records. After a short while, Ona warms and opens up to him in a way she has not done to anyone in her life for a great many years and she gets caught up in his obsessive interest in the Guinness Book of World Records. Together, they bond and find affinity with each other whilst plotting a way for her to make her own World Record as the world's oldest driver. After a period of 9 weeks however, the boy no longer visits and she assumes he is just like all the others. His semi-absent jobbing musician father called Quinn Porter then starts to visit in the boy's place. A new but different relationship now begins when Quinn recognises the previous neglect he gave to his son and in order to carry out the good work so that his son could get his scout badge, he works with Ona to collect supporting documents for her world record bid.

Janet Gilliard

*An 11 year old boy with a passion for world records befriends a 104 year old lady - Miss Ona Vitkus. He doesn't come for 2 weeks and then his father comes to finish what his son started. **This is a lovely story that carries you along to the end with world records included!** This is a well written book. Highly recommended.*

Angela Hunt

I read this book in one afternoon. I loved it.

*This is a book I found myself thinking about since I finished reading it. The boy is obsessed with world records, he doesn't want but **NEEDS** to be in it. We meet his mother and father, who is a minstrel of sorts. Through his scoutmaster, the boy meets Ona Vitkus, a woman who is 104 years old, and Ona, who is taken with the boy tells him in her own way her story which becomes as important to the boy as his beloved Guinness World Records.*

To me, this novel was one of the best I have read in many years. Every character is beautifully crafted, and the whole book is a joy. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

Humaira Kauser

Such a lovely book with heartfelt moments. This book will always be with me.

I adored this book right from the first page. It was lovely to read and tugged on a few heartstrings here and there. I loved this book and really recommend everyone to read it. This book will always be with me.

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

Angie Rhodes

What a tender, beautiful book this is. *Ona Vittkus (Miss to those who ask!) is one hundred and four years, one hundred and thirty three days (and counting) old. She is very protective of her private life, until "the boy" arrives, the boy who makes her feel alive and special, and decides that maybe not all boys are the same, some are better than others. He comes every weekend, doing chores, sharing milk and cake, or cookies every week! Until,,one week he doesn't turn up, his dad does instead, and now Ona is determined to let Quinn, his dad, know just how special his son is.*

I laughed, smiled, giggled and cried,

This story shows you that no matter how lost and alone you feel, there is always someone, somewhere, ready to make you feel special and they can be the most unlikely person you could ever imagine!

Rachel Aygin

One of those books that you race to finish but at the same time don't ever want to finish. Monica Wood captures all the characters and their eccentricities delightfully.

If you are feeling at all tempted buy this book! I loved it from the first page. It's a quirky tale of the relationship between a 104 year old woman and an 11 year old boy scout obsessed with the Guinness Book of Records. The boy visits every Saturday to do odd jobs and the two decide to embark upon a quest to set a world record. Then one day the boy doesn't turn up. Secrets unfold as relationships are built. Monica Wood captures all the characters and their eccentricities delightfully. Fans of 'The 100 year old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared' and 'A man called Ove' will love this book. One of

those books that you race to finish but at the same time don't ever want to finish. As I write I am googling Monica Wood to find out what else she has written...

Maureen Evans

Through a boy's kindness comes a relationship between his father and an elderly woman that will alter their futures. A 'must-read' for those who enjoy discovering the unexpected in everyday life.

An inspirational novel about the ways in which the life of a 'one-in-a-million boy' impact positively upon his family and others with whom he comes into contact. . A wonderful tale that leads the reader through a variety of emotions from sadness to delight and that demonstrates how even a short, relatively normal life can influence the lives of others in remarkable ways.

Jacki Moorcroft

A beautifully written tale, Monica Wood takes you on a roller coaster ride of emotions and leaves you longing for more. If you only read one book this summer make it this one.

A brilliantly written tale of an elderly lady, a boy and his father and an obligation which changes all their lives. Miss Ona Viktus has lived 104 years and guards her secrets well, until a boy scout is dropped at her door to do chores and finds a way through her guard.

His obsession with world records and trying to find one she can achieve gives Ona a growing sensation that she could become someone special and whilst he regales her with records she starts to reveal her life story. However, suddenly he stops coming and she is amazed at her own disappointment until 2 weeks later the father turns up determined to complete his son's chores.

Thereafter a tale is woven of dreams and hopes which wraps you up like a velvet throw leaving you with a warm and satisfying glow. A beautiful and highly emotional story will excellent characters. A must read.

Follow Jacki on Twitter: @moorcoftj

Jane Ashbrook

A heart-warming, poignant tale which is well written and stays with you long after you finish.

I loved the style of this book and the way Monica Wood portrays the character using different styles. It tells the story of Ona Vitkus and her friendship with a Boy Scout who helps her out for a few weeks and then stops coming. Her father then meets her and she shows him just how special his son was. A touching story of life, death, regret and joy. It shows how much lives can be changed by the relationships they make. Thoroughly recommended!

Emily Jarvis

This book does not come short when it comes to comparisons with 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' and 'Our Endless Numbered Days.'

This is the story of an 11 year old boy who is obsessed with The Guinness Book of World Records, and his friendship with Ona Vitkus who is 104. He starts visiting her house on a Saturday morning, to help with chores but soon they develop a beautiful friendship. One day his father Quinn turns up to take over the chores and it doesn't take genius to work out why.

This is such a beautiful and inspiring story that is full of hope, humour, sadness and laughter. The time spent between the boy and Ona is wonderful to read, and mixes so well as the reader also gets to see how his parents are coping now he's gone and how they all try and move on in different ways but with the boy seemingly still a part of all their plans.

I loved 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' and 'Our Endless Numbered Days' and after seeing this had been compared to those made me nervous. I knew it would take a lot to do that. In the beginning I wasn't sure it would but by the end it definitely had. If you enjoy books of that style you will love this one and even if you don't its worth picking up for the heart-warming story and beautiful characters.

<http://lemonpealifestyleetc.blogspot.co.uk/>

Nicki Southwell

A brilliantly written story spanning 3 generations and their relationships. You will laugh and cry as you experience these emotions. A must read for all Monica Wood fans.

This enchanting book rivals the other works by Monica Wood. Its simplistic plot captures the generation gap between a boy, his father and the main character,

Ona, an 104 year old (not forgetting 133 days) Lithuanian woman. It will make you laugh, cry and contemplate how much can be gained from a life lived well.

The book opens with Ona taking up the offer of help from a boy scout. Through him (he is a world record buff) she meets his father and a close friendship develops. His world is playing with and managing bands with a lifestyle that she envies. Having been a very much absent father, he learns from her, so much about own his son.

Gradually they talk about Ona's extraordinary life which is something she had also shared with Quinn's son. It is easy to see how they connect and for this reason it is a brilliant book.