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your next book

## LoveReading Reader reviews of **Our Song by Dani Atkins**

SIMON & SCHUSTER

**Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.**

### **Pauline Braisher**

***An amazing book which will tug at your heartstrings. This will surely be a best seller.***

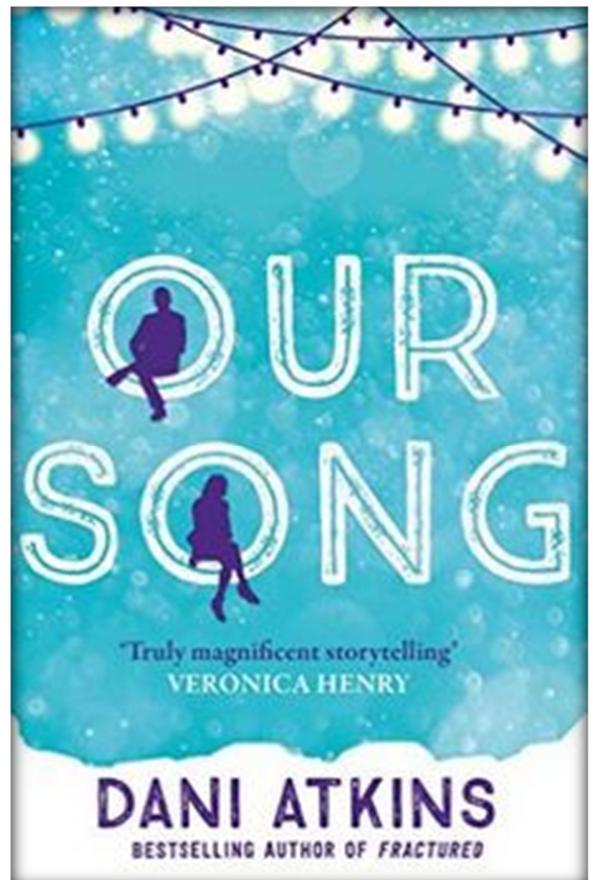
*I knew by the time I had read the first page of this book that it was special. It was so good that I really didn't want to put it down. The story, which is told through flashbacks and from the view-point of the two main female characters, relates to two couples and shows how hopes and dreams can be changed in an instant. It is beautifully and skilfully written, easy to read and the reader quickly empathises with the characters. It is difficult to review this book without giving away the plot and the ending: all I will say is that you may wish to shut yourself away for a couple of days with a bottle of wine and a large box of tissues.*

<https://ilovebooksandcats.wordpress.com>

### **Hannah Ward**

*I would like to say a big thank you to LoveReading for sending me an advance copy of this book. **I want to say wow what a book, it has every kind of emotion you can think of** - I felt as if I was on an emotional roller coaster. There are four main characters called Ally and Charlotte, and their husbands called David and Joe. Fate brings them all together in a very dramatic and heart stopping moment. You find out all about their pasts, the present and what will happen to all of them in the future. I did shed a few tears near the end but I think most people who read this book would. **An author I would definitely recommend and read again.***

<http://echoesinanemptyroom.com/2015/11/26/our-song-by-dani-atkins/>



## **Beryl White**

***I had to hold myself back from reading the last page because I was desperate to know what would happen to these characters.***

*This is a very emotive read. I changed my mind about it all the way through!! Firstly I thought it was going to be depressing but then the story got hold of me. The first time I picked it up I thought I would just read a couple of pages before I went to bed but ended up in bed a hundred pages later! Both women I liked and then didn't like and then liked again. The last chapter is so well written I felt all the emotions in the pit of my stomach. Have never read this author before but will certainly be reading more*

## **Charlotte Teresa Donovan**

***Absolutely beautifully written, you cry and smile all at different points throughout this rollercoaster book. Dani Atkins is a genius and get your tissues at the ready!***

*Our Song written by Dani Atkins is a book that gripped me right from the very start. I fell instantly in love with the characters, each for different reasons, making me realise this was going to be a book I would not be able to put down... And how right I was.*

*A story that takes you on four completely different journeys but is only narrated by 2 people, I'd say there was something incredibly clever about that. Being able to feel like you're going through the emotions of all four people, all at the same time, could be seen as overwhelming but surprisingly you don't feel overwhelmed at all, in fact you don't want one story to stop when another begins. Being told from the viewpoint of two very emotional and strong women, Dani Atkins will have you crying and smiling at all different points throughout this book.*

*Emotions run high right from start to end and that is a constant theme throughout this book and I would advise a box of tissues being at hand when being read however. Never the less, what a beautiful book, I absolutely loved it and I am in love with how well it has been written, reading a story that is written from a character's point of view is one of my favourite types of books to read so this absolutely hit the nail on the head, and Dani Atkins is now one of my favourite new authors!*

<https://charlottedonny.wordpress.com/>

## **Edel Waugh**

*This is the story about two women who both find themselves in the intensive care unit of the hospital on the same night, both sitting in the relatives room there, both terrified, and both knowing and disliking each other.*

*Each woman's partner is in a life threatening situation and an intense situation like that brings out all manner of emotions from the woodwork and, for these two enemies, it's a boiling pot. The book begins in present day and then flashes back and forth to each of the characters lives, and how they met, giving us a better idea of what each of them is actually like and how they are linked, and what their individual stories really were. **A touching and tear-jerker story that is told beautifully. Read with tissues!***

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2015/11/our-song-by-dani-atkins-review.html?m=1>

## **Jane Brown**

***Just a wonderful story - a beautiful tear-jerker. Full of twists, intertwining the present just one night and from the past.***

*Wow what a story and so sad too. I took this on holiday and gosh was I trying to hold tears back in a romantic setting- when I was asked was I ok, it's this book I said.*

*I will not spoil the plot for the readers out there but to say I was hooked from page one. Beautifully written with twists to make you startle.*

*The author tells the story through the present, just one night and from the past.*

*This is due for publication in January 2016 - so make this a late Christmas present to yourself. Will be in the top ten.*

## **Lisa Hall**

***'Our Song' is a beautifully written story of four people and how their lives have been interwoven. It's heart-breaking and emotional, and by the end I was RUINED, but in a good way!***

*First of all, can I just confess that I still haven't read ANY of Dani Atkins' books? They are sat on my kindle, but seem to be getting pushed further down the TBR pile. After reading this though, that has to change - Our Song is a beautifully written story of four people and how their lives have been interwoven. It's heart-breaking and emotional, and by the end I was RUINED, but in a good way, if that's even possible.*

*The characters are flawed, but this makes them even more real. It's not often that you get characters that are THAT real - they have their flaws, but they're not over-flawed, they have ugly moments, they are unkind, but there is always that element of realness there.*

*The theme that seems to run through the novel is love - one for our family, your friends, your ex partner, and while the plot is not fast paced or exciting, it was one that gripped me.*

*A beautiful, emotional read that tugged at my heartstrings - I loved it.*

<http://reading-room-with-a-view.blogspot.co.uk>

### **Alison Bisping**

*Wow. What a read. I was hooked after the first few pages and read this book at every opportunity. It's a story about Ally and Charlotte, who were all good friends in their University days. However, things go wrong for Ally and Charlotte's friendship - to do with Ally's boyfriend, David - Ally and Charlotte go their own ways.*

*Fate - do you believe in it? If you do, this book is definitely for you. Fate brings them back together and we learn more about the history of the three of them, as well as what's happening in their current lives. It's gripping, it's about love, friendship, hate, dilemmas, heartache, twists - it has everything.*

*I believed so much in the characters Dani Atkins has created I had to stop reading it in public when my eyes were filling with tears - that reaction shows how engrossed I was with the plot and the characters.*

***Up with JoJo Moyes for me - superb. Get it on your Christmas list, add to your summer holiday reading ..... in fact, just find an excuse.***

### **Laura Ayling**

*'Our Song' is beautifully written with scenes that will tug at even the toughest of readers and starts off by giving introductions of two men - one with health issues and one who does a selfless act of kindness with devastating consequences - both of which end up fighting a battle in intensive care.*

*Their wives, Ally and Charlotte, tell the story which is cleverly written over a 24 hour period of waiting within the ICU of the local hospital, with chapters of past memories creeping in - memories from when the two girls crossed paths years ago, because back in their university days, Ally was in love with David, who is now married to Charlotte.*

*As the clock is ticking on what is the longest night of their lives, we as readers are left wondering of if their husbands will survive whilst the characters explore feelings of what should have/could have been, and wonder if they can ever put the past behind them. But secrets are revealed which adds twists and turns to the plot making this one heck of a page turner and leaves the characters wondering about their future.*

*Ally and Charlotte's story completely got under my skin, if it wasn't for work I would have devoured this book in one sitting, I was utterly gripped from the moment I opened the book and battled emotions of wanting to read on to find out the ending but holding back for fear of the ending.*

*Dani Atkins has a wonderful way of telling a story, and 'Our Song' just makes you think how some life events can take the path you are on in a new direction. I loved that the book was set over a short space of time, yet we got history of the characters though their moments of remembering their past.*

***If there is one book you want to add to your 2016 wish list, then 'Our Song' has to be it - just be warned that it will break your heart, make you smile but appreciate what you have and how it can all change on one decision.***

*'Our Song' is, without a shadow of a doubt, going on my special books page as I cannot rate this enough!*

## **Lynne Morgan**

***I loved this book. Be prepared to be totally captivated and genuinely moved to tears.***

*The story is written from the point of view of two young women whose lives first cross while studying at University. The book cleverly flips from 'Ally' to 'Charlotte' at crucial stages in their lives, charting their loves and drama's, slowly piecing together their stories.*

*They have one thing in common – David – Ally's first love, but Charlotte loves him too. When he and Ally split up, Charlotte has a chance, but can he ever truly forget Ally and commit to loving Charlotte instead? Then there's Joe, he and Ally fall in love and are happily married – until a terrible disaster befalls them all and changes their lives forever.*

*The story is very heartfelt and I was completely absorbed right from the start to the very end. Dani Atkins has the ability to really make you feel all the emotions her characters are experiencing throughout the book, even those which are painfully sad. The way Dani writes is never over-sentimental or clichéd though, just genuinely believable.*

## **Maz Tucker**

*I was lucky to receive this as a proof copy. I had never read any of Danni's books so had nothing to judge this against. **The story is compelling from the first page to the last. Lots of funny one liners that had me laughing out loud. The end had me in tears.** Great story, great characters. I will definitely be looking out for Danni's other books now.*

## **Gill Williams**

*We start with an act of selfless heroism that keeps us reading on. We meet two couples, three of whom had been at university together, two girls and a boy but they changed partners due to the machinations of one girl. Now many years later both couples are very happy but tragedy strikes and the two men end up in an intensive care unit, one at each end. The wives meet in the family room, the only place to wait and are appalled to have to share it.*

***The back story is cleverly written throughout the book and keeps interest and story going.***

*You know what is going to happen but become so involved you desperately hope it won't!*

*It's a long book and I think it would have benefitted from being edited down but I read it in just two sittings, it's almost unputdownable.*

*There are some irritations. Honey and hon as endearments are not yet common in this country.*

*Telling someone goodbye is also an unnecessary Americanism.*

*Having said that - a good read.*

## **Linda Benner**

***A story of love gained and lost, and the power of friendship.***

*Ally and Charlotte meet again in a hospital where their respective husbands are patients. This is where the story is set, but they both reminisce about the past when they were much younger and came into each other's lives.*

*The author is not afraid to cover many emotions, some of which are painfully raw.*

*All in all I enjoyed the book despite the characters being a little too perfect for my liking.*

## **Celeste McCreesh**

*It's a December night and Joe is on his way home minding his own business one night past a park when he hears panicked cries for help from some kids. When Joe rushes to their aid, their brother Marty and their dog Todd have fallen through some ice and into the lake below. Marty is rescued and brought to safety but the kids scream for Joe to go back in and save their dog, he tells the kids to wait there and under no circumstances to follow him.*

*Across town David is dropped off on a corner not far from the Department store where he needs to do some last minute Christmas shopping, the place is full of last minute shoppers, as he makes his way through the heaving crowds he starts to feel unwell and puts it down that he must be coming down with the flu and continues on but he gets to the counter and feels very hot and sweaty. The shop assistant gets him a bottle of water, still convinced it's the flu the assistant offers him a seat but he doesn't make it and hits the floor.*

*Upon receiving the news both Ally and Charlotte race to be at their respected husbands bedsides awaiting news only to discover they're both in the same hospital. This is the story of Ally and Charlotte, whose paths have intersected over the years although they've never really been good friends but fate is going to bring them together for one last, dramatic time and change their lives forever.*

***What a beautiful, emotional, thought provoking story, I LOVED it.*** This story had it all from family, love with more sensitive and hard-hitting issues which were dealt with perfectly, it was well researched and written in a very sensitive and compassionate manner. I found I had tears streaming down my face at the end along with shedding a few along the way as it really meant a lot to me, ***so grab this book, curl up on the couch with a few tissues and prepare to have a few lump in your throat moments too.*** This is the first book I've read by Dani Atkins and I'm really looking forward to reading more of her books. I would highly recommend her if you haven't read any of her books already.

## **Amanda Keeling**

***What an amazing read.***

*I thoroughly enjoyed every page of the wonderful book. I loved the chapters tracking the changes in the characters relationships over the years. I was unable to put it down and have already passed it on to a good friend to enjoy. Cannot wait to try some more books from this very talented write.*

You can follow Amanda on Twitter: @pikalili

**Nickey Hawryszczuk**

***An emotional rollercoaster of a story. I felt like I really got inside the heads of the characters and felt every emotion. Such wonderful writing. This could be THE book of 2016. I highly recommend it.***

*I have never read a story which captivated me from page one like this did. It's set in the present when two women come to be at the hospital at the same time with both husbands having been admitted as emergencies. The book then jumps from the present to the past and back again as we discover the way they are linked to each other from the past. I am really glad that I read this book alone at home as I shed several tears. This is how emotional the story was. Dani Atkins has an amazing way of keeping you page turning right until the end. Thank you so much for the opportunity to read this. Can't recommend enough. 10/10.*

**Julie Evans**

***What a brilliant book! Definitely a page turner which sends you through a torrent of emotions.*** *'Our Song' demonstrates how our lives are dealt with by fate on a daily, monthly, yearly basis. Like pieces of a jigsaw slowly being put together to bring us love, laughter, sadness and relationships, all of which happen for a reason unknown to us all at the time they occur. There were quite a few incidences where I actually felt I was part of Ally's scenario, more so that Charlottes', feeling Ally's emotions throughout the entire book. Whilst reading the last few pages I had tears in my eyes and didn't want the story to end! It is very hard to put this book down!*

**Sarah Smith**

***A real roller-coaster of emotions leaving you knowing this is another great from Dani Atkins.***

*I am firmly becoming a fan of Dani Atkins, with the previous two books well written I looked forward to this one with anticipation and I was not disappointed.*

*The story follows the life of two women whose lives become so entwined that there is no undoing it. The book easily balances of telling the tale of Ally and Charlotte both in the past and the present allowing you to see that sometimes things really are not always as they seem.*

*The book touches on so many emotions from jealousy to guilt and undoubting love for a parent's child all within a space of a few days spent in a hospital. Ally and Charlotte are beside themselves when their respective husbands are rushed into hospital in completely unrelated events. From the moment they see each other in the relative's room, memories from the past come flooding back and*

*they slowly forge a new friendship that they now desperately need to survive the next few days watching their husbands deteriorate on a hospital bed.*

*A fantastic book that makes you want to keep reading more.*

## **Nicola Edwards**

*A **beautifully written book** that takes the reader on an emotional rollercoaster - I loved it!*

*Wow, what an amazing read! My initial thoughts were this book looks intriguing; however, I was slightly put off by its length (but upon reaching the end I didn't want it to finish!). Any doubts I had went completely by the wayside after the first chapter as I was utterly hooked.*

*Dani Atkins has a beautiful style of writing and the emotions she writes about makes it seem so real. I was laughing one moment and then in floods of tears – I've never cried so much reading a book!*

*The story alternates between Ally and Charlotte's story both in the past and the present. It starts with a surprise meeting of the two women one night in a hospital waiting room. They haven't met for many years and are in complete shock at seeing one another. Gradually, the story unravels on how they know each other, interchanging from the past and present.*

***I absolutely loved, loved this book and really recommend it! Be warned though, it will make you cry!***

*Thank you so much to Lovereading for letting me read this book for an honest review – I cannot wait to read more from Dani Atkins.*