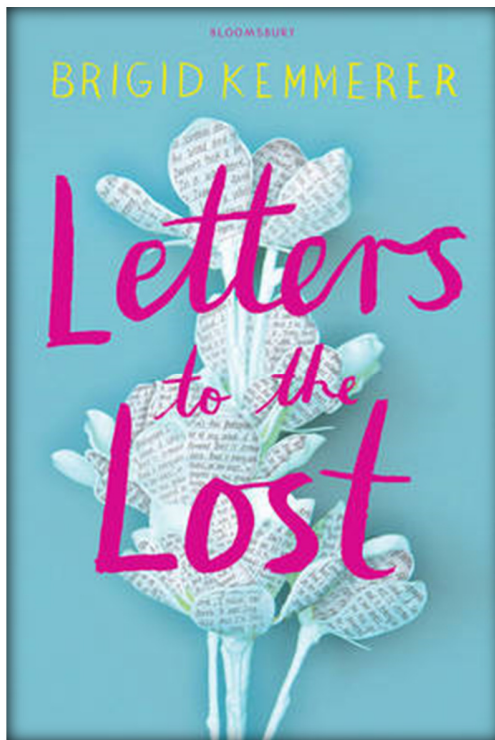


Helping you choose the best books for children

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Letters to the Lost** by Brigid Kemmerer

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



**Rebekah Marsh, age 14**

***I read this book in one sitting, it was so incredibly powerful I felt unable to put it down for even a short second. A truly inspirational tale.***

*'Letters to the Lost' - totally, utterly and completely amazing. I have never laughed, smiled and cried more at one book. I felt a connection to those characters that I've never felt with a character before, everything about this book is incredibly inspiring. I was enchanted by the emails, letters, family relationships and every other element of the alluring tale.*

**Amy Laws, age 15**

***Heartfelt and emotional throughout- this book is definitely worth a read. The story had a very deep, emotional quality throughout and I was fully engaged in the story line all the way through. I thought that letter/ email format was extremely effective as the innermost thoughts and feelings of the characters could be seen throughout. I loved all the characters in the book and I could fully empathise with them all the way through. I have never read anything by Brigid Kemmerer before but I will definitely be keeping an eye out for her work in the future.***

**Katie Miller, age 15**

***No words I can say will do this book any justice. Brilliant book. Easy read but hard to put down. I am in love with it!***

*Amazing. Easy read but so thought provoking. I haven't read such a good book in ages. It's a clever book and it's so hard to put down. I basically read the whole thing in one go. I would definitely recommend to everyone!*

**Neha Saji, age 13**

***This is hands down one of the best books I've read! The book contains such raw emotion, which are very relatable for teenagers these days.*** *I would recommend this to those who want a touch of realism. This is hands down one of the best books I've read! One letter, one date, and the long term impacts of the events of that day were able to bring together Juliet and Declan. Without their strong emotions, they would have never crossed paths, but rather be enemies I guess. Don't judge the book by the cover (like I did) and assume it's a typical lovey-dovey book, because it's not. The topics and themes of the book are anything but happy; they give a glimpse of the reality that many of us try to deny. I feel like the book is able to relate to teenagers because we are often so consumed/haunted by the fear, pain, and regret of one situation, one day that we are unable to sometimes continue. This book exposes such thoughts and gives hope, and a chance to move one. I have grown to love every character, all of them with their own, inspiring stories and words of encouragement. I thoroughly recommend this book with 4.9 stars out 5. The only reason I didn't give a five was because some parts, the thoughts towards each others letters, seemed to drag on. But overall, it was still an amazing book!*

**Izzy Read, age 16**

*I just all round loved 'Letters to the lost!'*

*Juliet leaves letters to her mother by her grave to help herself cope with the loss. But one day, someone replies. Soon they are sharing their darkest secrets with one another anonymously- except they do know one another...*

***This is a read in one sitting kind of book, one that I have already recommended to friends! It's addictive and compelling in its storytelling with a classic romance that seeps with mystery and intrigue.*** *I just all round loved Letters to the lost!*

[www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com](http://www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com)

**Grace Spear, age 14**

***Letters to the lost is a beautifully written book which drew me in and made me feel really connected to the story, giving me a smile whilst I read it.***

*Juliet's Mother died, and she goes to her grave to write letters to her most days. Declan is struggling to cope with the past. He is currently doing community service at the cemetery and when he finds Juliets letter he can't help but write back. They both open up to each other and they connect instantly realising hey have a lot in common. When the letters get mixed up in there school life what will happen to there friendship and will them discovering the truth tear them apart?*

*I got lost in this book and as soon as I finished a chapter I wanted to read another one. I really connected to both Declan and Juliets stories and I almost felt like I was observing the story unfold from the sidelines. The chapters are separated into Declan's life and Juliet's life and it is a brilliant way of writing because it kept me hooked. My favourite part is where Declan realises Juliet is cemetery girl because I feel like this is the turning point in the book. I'd recommend this book to anyone and everyone, I loved it!*

**Laura Mae Sutherland**

***I wasn't convinced that this was the sort of book that I would normally enjoy*** – it sounded like a fairly generic teenage love story where the girl falls for the school bad guy/rebel etc. etc.. ***I'm so glad to say that I was completely wrong!!*** I absolutely loved the book and the story it told - the way it explored the loss that the characters has suffered, and how they dealt with their grief and presented themselves to the rest of the world. I thought that the book was really thoughtfully written and I liked that the story was told from the point of view of both the main characters and that we could see the difference between how they interacted in real life and in their letters. I would absolutely recommend this book to everyone, and I'm definitely going to be on the lookout for more books by Brigid Kemmerer.

**Megan Chambers, age 16**

*Predictable, but in a good way! It really helped me to get out of a reading slump, and I would definitely recommend it to a friend. The book was quite predictable from the start; however there were some sub-plots that kept it more*

interesting. However, saying that, I did enjoy this book. **The character development was really good and well crafted. I think it handled the topics of loss, grief and abuse very well, but put it into a way that teens can read about and understand.**

**Freya Moore, age 14**

**I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a different take on teenage romance with a surprising twist at the end.**

*'Letters to the Lost' was a story I thoroughly enjoyed; the blossoming tale of love between Juliet and Declan is sweet and heart-warming, whilst the plot reveals mysterious secrets along the way that really make you want to read on. I think the underlying message that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover is really cute. I loved the structure of the book with the narrative switching between the two characters every other chapter, which gives you an insight into the two sides of the story and the different perspectives. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a different, yet tragic, take on a teenage romance with a surprising twist at the end!*

**Imogen Breaks, age 14**

**'Letters To The Lost' is a heart-wrenching story about one girl's struggle against her guilt as to why her mother is no longer alive and how her entire life turned upside down by two words.**

*The only way she can cope with her loss is to leave handwritten letters by her grave every day. Living only five minutes away but leading a completely different life is the classic bad boy called Declan Murphy. One day during his community service in the graveyard he finds one of Juliet's letters and instantly feels an invisible connection to this girl who knows what it is like to lose someone and feel as though you are entirely to blame for it. He can't resist writing back. Will sparks fly or will demons from the past tear them apart?*

*I really enjoyed this book and found it engaging and refreshing. I would rate this book 7 out of 10 because it didn't quite live up to my expectations. I would recommend it to readers 12+*

**Abbie Bavister, age 14**

*Amazing book that allows us to be taken on the painful journey of Juliet and*

Declan as they struggle to come to terms with a major turn of events in their life. **This book is one that everyone should read. From the very first page I was drawn into the book. It is a book of exploration between the many layers of family and friendships and how we connect with others on so many levels.** The author manages to portray the raw emotion between Juliet and Declan in such a powerful way that you feel you are on the journey with them. I also like the way that it reminds the reader that people are not always who they seem and that it's important not to judge someone at face value. I think the way that the main characters communicated between letters/email was not only very romantic but was a fantastic way of being able to be completely open and honest to someone without fear of reprisal. A must read.

**Amelia White, age 17**

**Letters aren't as commonly used today and that makes them even more special when you receive one hand written for you. I loved the incorporation of letters in this book, it added to the magic!**

I really enjoyed reading this book, the storyline flows really well and you get the chance to become both Juliet and Declan. Throughout the book your learning about each character and their story, for example you learn about Declan from both Juliet and his point of view which makes the story more interactive. I also really like the change of font for each of the different characters as it helps you to imagine the scenario from the perspective of the character reading the letter. Declan and Juliet are both amazing characters and may seem different to one another at first but as the story goes on you realise they're more similar than you thought.

**Cliona McKeown-Bittles, age 18**

**Read it... just trust me.**

I'm not even taking a moment to breathe after finishing this book to write my review because I honestly don't think I can get the words down fast enough. This is my first time reading Brigid Kemmerer's work and I was not disappointed in any way, shape or form. **The charismatic and poignant charm of this novel has captivated my emotions whole heartedly with one of the most heart-wrenching narratives I have read to date.** I physically could not put it down - one sitting was all it took to draw me in and

*keep me in Juliet and Declan's universe. The raw emotion was in my opinion the strongest point of this novel because it didn't describe what the characters felt, it made you feel it. As the story developed, through the comfort of anonymity, the characters gradually opened up and an extremely well thought out and beautifully told story unfolded. There were moments that had me screaming 'Please don't let that be true!' and others that had me crying my heart out culminating in the final chapters and a perfect ending. Coping with lose is never an easy issue to deal with, manifesting in many forms of grief with a particular emphasis on the power of words.*

You can follow Cliona on Twitter: @Cliona\_McKB

### **Susanna Wagstaff, age 14**

***A heart-warming and compelling book full of surprises which will make you laugh, cry and wish you were a part of it. This book is fabulous and so worth the read!***

*'Letters to the Lost' by Brigid Kemmerer is a heart-warming and compelling book. Full of surprises and shock, this novel tells the story of two unlikely strangers who begin to confide in one another -and once they start, they must continue. Through ups and downs, the two create an unbreakable bond glued together by their deepest thoughts, fears and secrets. I really enjoyed the plot and the way there were many unpredictable moments, which kept it a mystery and made me want to keep reading! There are some parts that younger readers may find disturbing and therefore I would recommend it for young adults and mature readers. The story is very emotional, but extremely well written, and will make you laugh, cry and wish you were a part of it. Overall, this book is absolutely fabulous and so worth the read!*

### **Megan Abbott, age 18**

***Beautifully, thought provoking I became emotionally invested from the very first page and couldn't put it down. Juliet Young always writes letters to her dead mother, as she leaves letters at her grave. It's the only way Juliet can cope. Declan Murphy is in the midst of his court-ordered community service at the local cemetery, he's trying to escape the demons of his past. When Declan reads a haunting letter left beside a grave, he can't resist writing back. Soon, he's opening up to a perfect stranger, and their connection is immediate. But neither Declan nor Juliet knows that they're not actually strangers. This***

*book has such a thought provoking story line and really did put a lot of my mediocre problems into perspective. Even though the subject matter can be quite sensitive, Brigid Kemmerer presents the subject in such a manner that it is so relatable and really does make assess your own choices in life. . I loved the hint of romance that didn't overpower the story line but made you fall in love with the characters. I would definitely recommend to anyone who wants a story with depth rather than a stereotypical romance.*

### **Edel Waugh**

*After losing her mother, Juliet is really struggling with her bereavement, especially as she believes she is partly to blame. Declan is in the same class as Juliet and is going through his own problems, one being community service. These two could not be more different! One day Juliet leaves a letter at her mother's grave and Declan answers it.*

*I love a story where the characters communicate with each other but neither knows who the other person is even though in reality they see each other all the time they just have no idea it's that person they are in deep communication with. Touching and thought provoking we see how it is wrong to judge people from what you see on the outside, we think we know people but we may not know them at all, people we thought were awful could if the situation was right be a terrific friend. **A very endearing, feel good story. Highly recommended!***