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LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Twenty Questions for Gloria** by Martyn Bedford



WALKER
BOOKS

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

Esmé N. Molloy, age 15

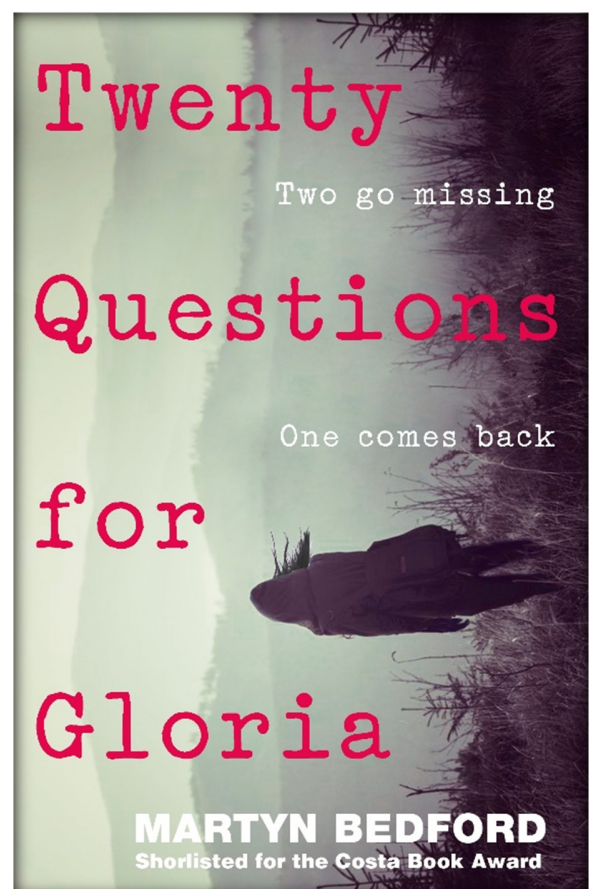
I can't get this book out of my head!!!

And I'd like to make a complaint about the title... I certainly have many more than twenty questions for Gloria after reading this!!!

*This book has been on my mind since I read it (for the first time) a few days ago, and **I still can't remove the traces of devastation and questions it has left haunting my mind.***

So this book begins as a compassionate and intriguing story of teen angst, but with a dark twist Bedford draws you into the alluringly dangerous fantasy that Uman and Gloria are determined to live, despite the odds. As their friendship grows, and then begins to fall under strain from their clashing personalities, you experience all the highs and lows of their not-so-idyllic dream, all the way until the devastating end. This book was thrilling to read throughout and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a book that is interesting beyond just the storyline.

You can follow Esmé on Twitter: @ RelmiPoPs



Humaira Kauser, age 17

This book was not what I expected but I loved it.

I anticipated this book so much and it did not disappoint. I don't think I have ever been so excited to read a book before.

What I like about this book is how it is set. There are twenty chapters, each with a question about Gloria (hence the title), as to why she ran away. I liked how some of the chapters were literally just a script with a few stage directions here and there.

Uman (pronounced ooo-maaan) is such a unique and quirky character. Of all the characters I have read, he is by far the most eccentric and peculiar. Sometimes he annoyed me while at other times I thought he was so sweet. Uman was such an intricate character and Martyn Bedford is an incredible author for writing him. I haven't read anything else by Martyn Bedford but I'm sure I'm going to now.

It's a fast paced page turner and I could not put the book down until I was finished.

Izzy Read, age 15

Martyn Bedford cleverly combined mystery, thriller and coming-of-age elements into this novel, making me want to change my life in some way or another and to never think inside the box again.

Gloria is already bored of her repetitive life when she meets Uman, so when they start spending more time together she is prepared to fall under his spell...

'Twenty Questions for Gloria' is a thriller that tells the tale of a first love and teenage rebellion. Uman is a temptation to Gloria; something different, fun and crazy; completely the opposite of everyone else she's ever met. This is so easy to relate to as we all get frustrated at our seemingly mundane lives at some point or another, longing for some miraculous change. Gloria and Uman take this change into their own hands, which makes the story as unpredictable as Uman! I loved that it touched upon mental health, racism and grief, topics that need to be discussed more often. Martyn Bedford cleverly combined mystery, thriller and coming of age elements in to this novel, making me want to change my life in some way or another and to never think inside the box again.

www.fromcovertocoverr.tumblr.com

Aimee Sweet, age 14

'Twenty Questions for Gloria' is about a girl who decides to run away with a boy she has known for less than a week. Gloria is tired of living a normal life, and all she wants to do is get away from everything and live how she chooses. But when all their money runs out and they have no way of buying food, Gloria has to turn to theft. They are a long way from home, and Gloria starts to realise that maybe running away wasn't such a good idea....

The story is recounted by Gloria to a policewoman whilst she is in a police cell.

Each chapter is the answer to a question and because of this structure it makes the book different to others. We know from the start that something bad happens but we don't find out what it is until the end, which creates a sense of foreboding. I really liked the main characters, Gloria and Uman because they felt very real. Also I liked seeing how their relationship changed and developed as the novel went on.

*There were a lot of twists and I never knew what was going to happen next which made it gripping. I feel like there should have been more of Gloria in the present tense - after Gloria and Uman ran away. Other than that, **'Twenty Questions for Gloria' was exciting to read and left me wanting more.***

I would say the age rating for this book is YA and mainly girls, I would give it eight out of ten.

<https://thesweetreview.wordpress.com/2015/11/20/review-of-twenty-questions-for-gloria-by-martin-bedford/>

Edel Waugh

*The beginning of this story starts at the end. What I mean by that is that the story begins at a police station where Gloria is with her mother after being missing for weeks with a boy named Uman. These 15 year olds vanished and the police are trying to put together the time they were gone. Sad and touching, the story tells us about Uman's tragic family life and how he has suddenly come to be at Gloria's school. He is instantly a curious person because he has little regard for authority figures in the most respectful way possible. Gloria and Uman click and after learning more and more about him she has this need to be there for him despite knowing in her heart that it is wrong and not for the best. **I really enjoyed this story; it was original, tender, and thought provoking. I highly recommend this book!***

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

Juliana Christianson, age 16

*I have just finished reading 'Twenty Questions for Gloria' and **right from the first page I was captivated.***

The book is about Gloria Jade Ellis and her friend Tierney, and what happens to their lives when Uman Padeem arrives.

Gloria is in a washed out, bored and blank state of mind, so when she meets the mysterious Uman, he seems like a chance for her to escape her mundane everyday life.

The story is full of adventure and I found Gloria extremely relatable in many ways, like how she seems bored with her routine and the feeling of wanting some excitement.

This is a must-read for any teenager seeking a thriller, with a hint of adventure and possibly romance.

Martyn Bedford's "Twenty Questions for Gloria" is definitely a book I'll be recommending to my friends.

Emma Hughes

I read this book in one sitting, and enjoyed it throughout. A great read- I recommend it!

Emily Kinder, age 15

What would it be like to live life right in the moment, doing whatever you felt like doing, regardless of the consequences? Uman knows, and he's like no one Gloria's ever met before.

*This book was nothing like I expected; it was far better. If you believe the blurb, it sounds like it's a spy novel, a girl being kidnapped and spirited away. That doesn't even come close to describing what Twenty Questions for Gloria is really like, or even what it's about. It **is** about a girl called Gloria, who's bored of life, but apart from that, it's nothing like what it's meant to be. It isn't a mystery novel, to start off with, although it has all the tension and gripping plot details of one, and it isn't a spy novel either. It's one of those books which can't be put in a firm category, although they've tried. Throughout a large chunk of the book, one of the protagonists quotes Jack Kerouac, someone who was revolutionary with his writing, someone who started off a whole new beat generation, and that is basically what this is, but for teens. I actually found this book pretty inspirational, in an easy reading sort of way. I loved the characters, and the general idea of living in the moment, and doing what you want without giving a*

damn about the consequences is something I think all teenagers think about, or at least, I do. This is a fabulous book, different from most other things I've ever read, and I loved it.

Vicky Sheldon

A very interesting and thought provoking read. It is a brilliant story about growing up and the bridge between what is done for fun and what is serious whether you realise it or not. I loved how this book was Gloria being questioned by the inspector and her then telling the story prompted by 20 questions. There are also bits in present tense that show how her family reacted and the things she goes through in the aftermath of her reappearance. I think it is an excellent book but I wish it wouldn't leave it at a point when you are unsure of what has happened to Uman. Overall a super book and I highly recommend it!

Destiny Maraj, age 14

'Twenty questions for Gloria' was a powerful gripping novel. The psychological insight made it even more touching and a fragile like state of mind. I felt that in this novel Uman was described as an amazing character but that he was meant to be disliked by the readers which I think was very clever on Bedford's behalf. I loved how Bedford often slipped in Gloria and her mum arguing suggesting there was problems at home. Overall I loved reading this novel and couldn't find a fault with it.

Lauren Coffman, age 15

Gloria is bored. Bored and tired of her repetitive and mundane life in a town where nothing happens, so when a new boy turns up in her class one morning, mysterious, confusing and most importantly, good-looking, Gloria can't help but find out what he is all about. The more she gets to know him, the more she realises he is hiding many things, and is not exactly as he presents himself to be, but by then they are long gone, and there is no going back. This book is thrilling throughout, with a new twist round every corner. The structure, which mixes between the police interview and what Gloria remembers of the events that proceeded it, makes for a very interesting and thought provoking read, that makes you think about the consequences of falling in love and hating your life, as well as whether lines have been crossed, or if it was all just harmless fun.
Overall, an emotional and gripping read that I would highly recommend.

Morgan Steigmann

I would definitely recommend this book to teenagers, perhaps slightly younger than myself, as the nature of the book is such that anyone could enjoy it!

After scanning the blurb of this book, I was a little discouraged, believing it would be another YA 'girl-meets-boy' story that seem to currently be all the rage. However, do not let yourself be discouraged by any preconceptions you may have- although many aspects of this story are typical of such books, simply from the execution of the first chapter you will be able to tell it is much more unique.

I particularly enjoyed the way in which the novel moved with such simplicity and fluidity from the past to the present of Gloria's life- I found it made the novel much more captivating than books where the present is simply referred to at the beginning and end of the story, with the bulk simply being the narrator's recount of the past.

I also found the complexity of Gloria's character very interesting, and the way in which Bedford was able to incorporate the complications of her home life into the novel acts as just one example of the ingenious way he was able to create many engaging sub-plots outside of the main storyline. Bedford also makes no attempt to sugar-coat Gloria and Uman's story, resulting in characters one is easily able to empathise with, as the harsh realities of life are not ignored or skirted over.

I would definitely recommend this book to teenagers, perhaps slightly younger than me (as I sometimes found the story a little predictable); however, the nature of the book is such that anyone could enjoy it!