



# The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair

*Lara Williamson*

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## **The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair** Lara Williamson

All Becket wants is for his family to be whole again. But standing in his way are two things: 1) his dad, his brother and him seem to have run away from home in the middle of the night and 2) Becket's mum died before he got the chance to say goodbye to her. Arming himself with an armchair of stories, a snail named Brian and one thousand paper cranes, Becket ploughs on, determined to make his wish come true.

## **The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair Details**

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Author : Lara Williamson

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# From Reader Review The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair for online ebook

## Charlotte Holmans says

I loved this book! The way the author has described how children cope with grief, learning to move on, make friends and watch their world change around them is awesome. I loved the ending with the paper cranes!

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## Bethany Sawford says

The story is told from the point of view of Bennett, who along with his Dad and brother have moved house in the middle of the night, leaving their Dad's girlfriend behind. Bennett and Billy are left confused and bewildered by all the changes (unsurprisingly) so decide to turn detective to find out what is going on. We also follow Bennett as he starts a new school and makes new friends, while dealing with his home life and trying to deal with the fact that his mother died years before. I wasn't entirely convinced by the characters in this story, perhaps it was the voice but I spent most of the story bemused and the ending still left me with questions. I did like that this book tackled some tough problems, like grief and adult relationships, but it seemed to have a lot of these things included which I found overwhelming. I liked the story within the story about the armchair, where the boys would curl up and listen to stories, and wished it was a bigger part of the story. This would be a great book for children who have experienced similar things, to show them that they are not alone.

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## Susan Grigsby says

Told from the perspective of Becket, the reader is kept guessing about why his father has mysteriously moved them from what he and his brother Billy considered a happy home. Realistically written in the child's voice with a child's thought processes, the actions of Becket and Billy are believable and (sometimes) hilarious. The brotherly bond was lovely, too.

This book covers a topic that is rarely addressed in children's literature (Spoiler Alert): spousal abuse when the abuser is the female in the relationship.

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## Luisina Yannicelli says

Becket Rumsey is a smart, creative and sensitive boy who loves his brother Billy and father. He struggles to find a way to say goodbye to his mother, who sadly passed away when his brother was born. Suddenly one night the three of them run away in the middle of the night leaving dad's girlfriend behind. Lara Wilson has found a way to make this story relate for both young teens and adults. A lovely reflection about the importance of not underestimating children's capacities to deal with serious problems, relationships and bonding.

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## **Kyra (Blog of a Bookaholic) says**

(4.5/5)

I'm not sure what grabbed my attention first when I saw this book, perhaps it was the enchanting title or perhaps the cover that promised me a heartwarming, endearing story or the synopsis that drew me in immediately. Or perhaps it was all three. All I know was that I was beyond excited for this book and my heightened expectations were met and even exceeded. *The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair* was part heartbreaking, part whimsical and fully and completely breathtaking.

*The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair* centers around ten year old Becket, his seven year old brother Billy and Billy's pet snail, Brian. Billy and Becket are upset and confused when their dad packs their furniture up and whisks them away in the dead of the night, away from their home and their almost-second-mother, Pearl. They are furious with their dad and are determined to find their way back to Pearl and back to their home. Along the way they form a detective agency, meet a delightful cast of characters, grieve, believe and discover that just because someone's gone doesn't necessarily mean it's something as permanent as goodbye.

If I somebody asked me what I loved most about this book, the only possible answer would be everything. I fell in love with this book in the best way possible: from the very first page, a love that surmounted throughout the story until by the end of the last page my heart was exploding with love for this book. I fell in love with the authentic, charismatic characters that have taken up a space in my heart, the witty, scrumptious writing and the meaningful, insightful lessons intertwining this delectable delight, making it a perfect read.

I'll start with the characters as, even after days later, my mind still wanders to them. I loved Becket. I loved his honesty, his snark and the perfect way the author captured the coinciding natures of childhood imagination and curiosity as well as the questions and complex thoughts that accompany those nearing the cusp of adolescence. He just felt so real and was written with so much depth. I found it fascinating how he read medical books and how he wanted to be a doctor and how incredibly smart he was, but it was never unrealistic. He was still quite naive and innocent especially with some of the situations he was faced with and I think that proves what exceptional talent Lara Williamson, to write a character so brilliantly and capture the genuine voice of a child. Reading this book took me back to when I was 10 and it was like being able to rekindle the friendship with my childhood which takes a special sort of novel to accomplish.

I also ADORED Billy, Becket's little brother. He was written so magnificently. He was innocent and imaginative and said exactly what was on his mind and I loved his character. Billy, broke my heart though, he really did. He often wondered whether it was his fault that people left them and he wondered if it was all his fault that his mother died (she passed away during childbirth due to an illness she had) and it tore my heart apart that such a loving, kind, imaginative child could wonder if it was doing that people left them. I just wanted to both grab him and Becket into a massive hug and protect them from the evils of the world. I too loved Billy's friendship with Brian the snail, who has the most personality I've ever seen in a snail before!

Another thing that made me feel warm and fuzzy inside was Becket and Billy's relationship. It was - like everything else - written marvelously and so genuinely. Becket and Billy are brothers, they bicker, they tease each other, at times they think the other is the stupidest creature to ever walk the earth, but they are also unafraid to show each other how much they love and deeply care for the other. I really appreciated that Becket went along with his brother and Brian's shenanigans, the way he allowed Billy's imagination to run

wild and set his free as well to run alongside his little brother's. I loved the scenes where Becket would take care of Billy and try to protect him from the monsters that were starting to reveal themselves in this world. It was beautiful, truly.

The other characters were written extremely well too! Every single character in this book had a unique character with interesting backstories interwoven throughout the novel. I loved that. I loved how Lara Williamson made these characters feel so real, it's one of those books where you can picture the characters existing right now, in this world, doing extraordinary things and I find that truly magical. I adored the secondary characters. I loved Cat (my favorite besides Becket and Billy), she was so kind and supportive and I really hope she'll be a constant figure in the boys' lives. I also adored Nevaeh and the faith she had in the world, as well as Knuckles who loved his father and believed in him despite everything. The relationships in this book were written so incredibly brilliant and it was so heartfelt.

That's something else that I loved about this book, was the tenacity and faith the Becket and his friends had. They all had experienced their fair share of difficulties and heartbreak but they never stopped believing, they never lost their belief that things will get better and that really spoke to me. Even though they had times where they doubted themselves and the things they thought they knew, they held onto hope, they saw magic in the world around them instead of allowing themselves to be plagued by the calamities around them. We could all learn to be a little bit more like the characters in this book.

The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair captured my heart from the first page and still hasn't relinquished its grip. The writing was simple, yet touching, the most exquisite writing of all. This book took me back to how it feels to be ten years old, it taught me to never lose faith, to view the world in a magical light, to believe in miracles...and it taught me that just because someone leaves, doesn't mean you have to ever say goodbye to them. The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair had me laughing out loud, it had tears gathering in the corners of my eyes and it had my heart filling itself with love for this book. It's a magical gem of a novel and I highly advise you to read this book so you can fall in love with it just as I have.

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### **Angela Groves says**

I loved this! I think i preferred A Boy Called Hope, but this is certainly a close second. It's a beautiful book, written with so much humour and innocence. The sense of loss throughout is profound, but not depressing, it's a wonderful story of new beginnings and deals excellently with issue of loss in childhood.

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### **Sol Vargas says**

I picked up this book because the title and the cover grabbed my attention, it looked like it would be a cute, fun little story. But it was deeper than that, I definitely didn't expect it to be so heartbreaking.

I didn't know this was (among other things) about a boy grieving the dead of a parent, so, as I can relate to that, this book broke my heart but it also healed it. I wish I've found this book sooner.

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## **Kirsty says**

I can see this is going to be a really sweet read but not at all what I'm in mood for at the moment. Leaving until I'm in better reading frame of mind.

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## **Ben Trevail says**

This was lent to me by a boy in my class to read over the summer and I'm really glad I have. Probably the funniest book I've read in ages with laugh out loud moments on most pages but dealing with big issues of grief, family relationships and even abusive ones, I will definitely be recommending this to my Y4s next year.

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## **Kyle William Urban says**

well I didn't expect this book to be so soul crushing and emotional as it was....

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## **Serendipity Reviews says**

Originally published on [www.serendipityreviews.co.uk](http://www.serendipityreviews.co.uk)

Lara Williamson writes quiet stories with a BIG VOICE! Her main characters are so unique they practically explode out of the book. In this book we meet Becket Rumsey, whose voice is heartwarming, poignant at times, yet also extremely funny. His brother, Billy and his pet snail, are brilliantly written characters too. You find yourself wanting to hug them all.

I absolutely adore the way that Lara writes. In fact, her comical voice is so unique, from now on I shall refer to her turns of phrase as Laraisms! 'Sweet Baby Cheeses' has already become an addition to my conversations. And let's not forget Williamson's hilarious choice of business names - Crops and Bobbers, the hairdressers, Burger She Wrote, the burger bar and The Codfather, Dad's fish delivery service. Where does she get her ideas from?

Lara excels at writing stories that walk a fine line between humour and sadness. One minute, you are wiping a sad tear away, the next you're crying with laughter.

This story has a surprising twist, which I didn't see coming. You'll discover the story doesn't go the way you think it will.

Being a big fan of magical realism, it was fantastic to find it within this story. I loved the story about the origami cranes and how it was weaved into the main story. I also love the idea of butterflies being loved ones who come back to us.

I really think Lara Williamson has outdone herself with her second novel and I can't wait for more from her in the future. This will be a firm favourite within the Middle Grade market and an ideal book for children who are grieving for a loved one. Don't be surprised if this book wins awards over the next year.

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## **Camille says**

I really liked this book. It was funny in someways and had hints of jokes and humor but also a tragic background with the kid's parents. I loved the contrast. I remember being like Billy. Trying to be bigger than I actually was. 'SNOOP', their spy agency, was really funny. It made me remember of the days where me and my sister would make things up.

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## **Ene Sepp says**

Alguses selle raamatu lugemine muudkui venis ja venis. Ma ei tea isegi kui kaua ta mul poolikuna seisis, kuu-poolteist kindlasti, aga lõpuks läks lugu käima ja sain end järje peale. Mis selle raamatu puhul tohutult meeldis, oli mittestereotüüpne lähenemine. Lapsed, kes kasvavad emata, isa, kes julgeb abi otsida jne jne. Mingi hetk peaks seda uuesti lugema ja siis juba järjest, mitte pikkade pausidega.

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## **Jennifer says**

Such a sweet novel of love, hope and friendship in troubled times that shows that sometimes things have to get worse before they get better (I now also want a pet snail!)

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## **Kirsty says**

This was not what i was expecting the book to be about when I saw the title and the front cover. however i thought it was really funny, and could really see children relating to the main charachter in the book. I have a 10 year old and could see that she would find it very funny to read. Having said that the serious message in the book and the ending (which wasnt what i thought the reason would be) was very good. good to see that an adult doesnt expect the twists and turns. always wanted to read spaghetti hoop boy, think I will purchasing it very soon!!

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