



## I Am Out With Lanterns

*Emily Gale*

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## **I Am Out With Lanterns** Emily Gale

One of us is in the dark.  
One of us is a bully.  
One of us wants to be understood.  
One of us loves a girl who loves another.  
One of us remembers the past as if it just happened.  
One of us believes they've drawn the future.  
But we're all on the same map, looking for the same thing.

Year Ten begins with a jolt for best friends and neighbours Wren and Milo. Along with Hari, Juliet, Ben and Adie, they tell a story of friendship, family, wild crushes, bitter feuds, and the power of a portrait.

As their lives intertwine, images could bring them together, and tear them apart.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE OTHER SIDE OF SUMMER

## **I Am Out With Lanterns Details**

Date : Published July 30th 2018 by Penguin Random House Australia

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Author : Emily Gale

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## From Reader Review I Am Out With Lanterns for online ebook

### Rachael says

I don't think I've read an entire book in a 24 hour period before. Emily Gale has forced this new record upon me by supplying me with an exquisite and unputdownable story and life trapping me in a car for 6 hours road tripping home from a weekend out of town and a head cold giving me just the excuse for putting myself to bed at 6pm to read my way to the finish line.

Well, I do hope Emily Gale is feeling MIGHTY smug after a long ago chat we had on Twitter where upon I confided in her my historical/hysterical leeriness of multiple POV narratives. I muttered and moaned about disappointing experiences (aside from Kingsolver's Poisonwood Bible which is an unequivocal work of art) I always find myself disappointed because I am greedy for a protagonist I can wallow in, or I get wound up that the voices aren't distinct enough, or I bond with one voice and feel cold and disconnected with the others, or one thread is boring and I'm desperate to get back to the first voice ... whinge whinge moan moan - Rach, quit your bellyaching, you've just been served.

Ermergersh, Gale nails it. Every voice, a blimin' winner. Every thread, urgent, engaging, demanding that I keep reading. Emotional investment on every flippin' page. Every character, gripping in her/his own right. And most of all, the writing, just oh my ever-loving-eyeballs, the writing is so hecking gorgeous. It's a crime to call favourites but I have to say: I ADORE MILO. A D O R E !

And the crushes! I L O V E D the crushing in this book. I was relating so hard I thought I would pull a muscle.

So basically I have not a single coherent thing to say, just flailing and pterodactyl shrieks. Emily Gale for the win.

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### Abbie says

I don't totally know what to make of this book. It's set in Melbourne and I purposefully read it whilst in Melbourne, which was pretty neat.

It's the opposite of so many books. In a world where I feel like most books move too quickly, this one moves extremely, extremely slowly, which I almost always prefer - as long as there's payoff. Which I'm not sure there was here?

I wanted to get to the end feeling warm, like the threads had all connected in the right ways, but I sort of felt the rollercoaster ended abruptly. I was dissatisfied.

But all in all, I enjoyed most of this soft, sweet ride, even though I didn't ever connect much with any of the characters.

I'd be curious to read a sequel if there is one.

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## **Amanda says**

SO GOOD!

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## **Kristy Fairlamb says**

This was one of those stories like 'Love Actually' and 'Crash', where multiple different characters and story lines initially have nothing to do with each other, but by the end of the story combine with great force, and knowing all the characters so intimately only makes the ending stronger.

It took a little bit to get into this story with all the different POVs, but the great storytelling and writing kept me turning pages until it all began to come together and I knew I was in for something big. I loved all the POVs, especially Wren and Milo, and even the one I wasn't supposed to like was still enjoyable to read. My heart broke a little, my heart soared a little, and I wished there'd been a bit more at the end after the resolution, because I wasn't ready to say goodbye to all the characters I'd come to love.

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## **Rebecca Ryan says**

I loved "I am out with Lanterns". The characters were so real that I forgot they weren't! I really enjoyed the story being told from multiple points of view. I got inside the characters heads and hearts and wished them all well, even the challenging ones.

I read The Other Side of Summer first, however, this story could easily be understood and enjoyed without reading TOSoS.

My teen also loved this book.

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## **Trisha says**

Excellent interweaving of many characters, each dealing with the messy complications of family, friendship and feelings (and also bullying, parents, and events out of control).

I was immersed and invested, and felt all the love for (most of) the characters.

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## **Jordi says**

Nuanced, complex, and thoroughly readable.

Full review (paywalled) at Books+Publishing:  
<https://www.booksandpublishing.com.au...>

I will say that on a personal level 'I am Out with Lanterns' broke me in the best possible way - providing

some much-needed representation, and some healing for some great hurt. There was ugly-crying.

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### **Samantha S says**

I just wanted to start with this being my first review on this site so I am unsure whether this review would be helpful in terms of determining whether you want to read it or not. But, I had gotten this book last month at a Penguin Teen Showcase event which I really enjoyed. And listening to Emily Gale read out that first page of the book I immediately knew it was going to be an interesting book.

Now upon reading the book you're introduced to all of these characters who have their own quirks. And I've realised why so many were involved in this story and how they all had a side to the story that needed to be told. This book is one of those books where you get to a particular point in the book and you just feel like that you need to continue on and finish the whole thing because you need to know more. Reading it I had times where I felt bad for Ben due to his situation but then felt all kinds of emotions when he would target Milo. I think out of all the characters within this book I really loved how Milo and Hari were written. There was just something about their characters that there was something to love about them. I believe all the characters had something about them that made them unique, but I really think that these two were my most favorite. I'm not sure what else to say other than its a really good book (without dropping spoilers that's for sure). But it talks about some issues that happen that we need to educate others about and think about the consequences of, especially if it will affect other people. I am so happy to have picked up a copy of this book and I hope that whoever picks it up enjoys it too.

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### **cake and madness says**

I did an authenticity/sensitivity read for this book so my review is going to be a bit biased. I'm mainly leaving this review for any autistic readers who aren't sure if they want to try reading it.

I, too, tend to be extremely wary when i see that a neurotypical author has decided to include an autistic character in their book - so often, they rely on really awful stereotypes and look to psychs, parents of autistic kids and wikipedia for their research instead of asking us directly.

But when Emily told me that Milo would be one of the POV characters in the book (long before i was asked to read and give feedback), i was curious and excited. She's a very thoughtful and intelligent person and i knew she would be doing everything she could to get things right. When i did the initial read through, it was immediately obvious that she had done that. My input helped to make him who is in the finished book but he was 99% there initially.

Reading through the finished book, i smiled when i got to Milo's chapters because i was finally seeing an accurate portrayal of how i see the world (well, besides the ownvoices books I've read, of course! Nothing comes close to those!). I hope you feel that way, too.

I loved this book so much. I fell in love with most of the characters (Ben can go shove it though) and i kept thinking "i would love to be friends with you". Unsurprisingly, my favourite character is Milo ❤️ i also love angry, passionate Wren and quiet, awkward Juliet.

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### **Kirra says**

I Am Out With Lanterns is the latest novel from Melbourne writer Emily Gale about friendship, family, and the events that make your teenage years so wild and confusing. This book has six different main characters and intertwined storylines that come together to make one large story. I would say that majority of this book is about relationships, romantic and platonic, between all of the characters and their families too. There's also some drama at school and a bully that you get to know as well.

I definitely loved reading about Wren the most at first because she had an interesting backstory and her storyline was exciting to follow. Soon enough, though once the story started flowing I also began to connect with them more and I found something to connect to with each character, whether it be something big or small that we had in common. I also began to really adore Milo once more of his character was revealed and I think his character was a bright light in this novel. Adie was also a very attractive, charming character and she was also the main focus for a lot of the other characters too so there was plenty about her.

Overall, I didn't love it at first, but I always enjoy reading Australian fiction, especially Young Adult fiction because you can really relate to those matters when you also have all our slang and Australian topics thrown in to add more humor and substance to the plot. Then by the end of the book I had really enjoyed the time I spent reading it and I had formed a connection with the characters. I had the same sort of affectionate love for this novel as I did for Yellow by Meghan Jacobson since both novels had that emphasis on friendship and family while being set in Australia and also dealing with loss. I Am Out With Lanterns is a great story for young teens and adults that will tug at your heart.

*(Thanks to Random House Australia for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I Am Out With Lanterns is out now in Australia!)*

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### **SJ RocknRoll says**

Great Australian YA novel about 6 teens with very different voices but similar desires. We all just want to be loved and understood and to know that we are enough as we are. Some romance, some mystery, some social commentary. Picked it up at the Dymocks YA Roadshow and was charmed by the Author.

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### **Jessica M says**

<http://jessjustreads.com>

I Am Out with Lanterns is the latest contemporary novel by Australian young adult author Emily Gale. It explores friendship, family, relationships and identity.

There are many characters to this novel, and many switching POV chapters. However, central characters include Wren, an artist who is stuck drawing portrait after portrait of her brother Floyd, who died a few years earlier. Milo is Wren's next door neighbour. He's sweet, kind-hearted and has a beautiful soul. But he's often misunderstood and at school, he's bullied really horribly.

Adie's father is an artist, and she's been his muse since she was little. But he's a harmful character, and their relationship is not a healthy one. Juliet is really loved and supported at home, but she's lonely and feels a little lost.

**"This is it: my first party as a teenager. You could call that impressive, considering I've been a teenager for more than three years, or you might prefer to call it what it actually is."**

I Am Out with Lanterns is very much about self-discovery and self-awareness and that crucial time in a teenager's life when they grow into themselves and must make choices that others may disapprove of. The title of the book was actually inspired by an Emily Dickinson quote, 'I am out with lanterns, looking for myself' and this does well to capture the feel and atmosphere of the novel.

The book explores themes of sexuality, friendship and identity, through the lens of six teenagers.

Emily brings all of these characters together, allowing us to witness their lives alter and change as their paths intersect. Some of these characters are incredibly flawed, but all their voices are incredibly unique and we come to understand each character in a different way.

**"I hold the Nintendo high and watch him jump for it. Noah is smaller and skinnier than I was at his age. He's always in his own little world or having secret chats with Mum, or climbing the tree down the back of our garden by himself and sitting there like some loner."**

Ben's character is quite different from the others. He's a bully, and he's powerful and assertive. He seems to be following in the footsteps of his incredibly manipulative father, and even though he can see this, he doesn't appear to want to change.

I appreciated his presence as one of the six characters. I think it's important for authors to show readers a full range of people, and not just good-natured or nice people.

**"Today after we'd sat in the chair on the street, as close as I've ever been to anyone, I said something funny. She looked at me and for a second we were locked in. Then she hit my arm and it was over. But that's what I want to draw. Her face in that split second, a shot to the heart. The next time she looks at me like that, I think I'm going to kiss her."**

My only criticism is that I really struggled to keep track of the different characters and their relations to each other, because of how many POVs there are and how quickly they switch. Many of the characters weave in and out of other POVs, so sometimes I had to take a moment to remember their backstory before continuing.

I Am Out With Lanterns is an energetic, emotional story with a dynamic and diverse cast — it is both heartwarming and heartfelt.

*Thank you to the publisher for mailing me a review copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Katie says**

Emily Gale's latest novel is set in Melbourne and revolves around six Breakfast Club style teenagers trying to navigate the choppy seas of adolescence. Told in fragments, and lovingly, skilfully drawn multiple

perspectives, Gale conjures the life of Milo, Wren, Hari, Ben, Juliet, and Adie, who are struggling with loss, the pressure of parental expectations, bullying, substance abuse, sexuality, autism, and the general teenage roller coaster of scintillating highs and crushing disappointment. All of this revolves around the standard love triangles that are the bread and butter of YA (and of course we all love!) but the novel comes to a climax when a group of boys become involved in a callous and disgusting social media platform that they use to share videos of girls and women in various states of undress - with many of the videos taken or posted without consent. What I loved about this novel was the way Gale portrayed this hot button issue by exploring the way each party becomes involved in it. It's so easy to blame just one party but the problem is manifold and needs to be tackled from a variety of angles. Gale also takes a crack at the adult authority figures who try to resolve the issue through victim blaming. Without giving too much away, I'll say that I LOVED watching Hari rally the girls at her school to stand up for themselves and demand that the boys involved in posting the content be made to take responsibility for their actions.

While pitched at teens, I think this one is important to read if you're an adult with kids or you are involved in education (as I am, teaching high school aged girls). Gale reminds us how lonely and confusing it can be to be a teenager while also showing us how smart and brave our young people are - what they can achieve when they feel empowered. The future looks bright!

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### **ALPHAreader says**

I've been nourishing myself with little chunks of this every night for months (partly because I wanted to keep it going, partly because I'm struggling with recreational reading for more than ten minutes at the moment)

But honestly - Emily Gale's 'I Am Out With Lanterns' is one of the best YA books of 2018. Hands down. Even that title is \*chef's kiss\*

Considering that this is a loose sequel to her 2016 book 'The Other Side of Summer' (which I also thought was bloody wonderful) it's pretty spectacular that Emily manages to raise the bar yet again with her eloquence and understanding of young people navigating grief, friendship, heartache, and adventure.

Read this book. Buy it for someone you love. I promise, it's a keeper!

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### **Gabby says**

Thanks to Penguin Random House Australia for sending me a copy of I AM OUT WITH LANTERNS for review.

I first heard about this book at a book event with Emily Gale, and the way she described the book really intrigued me. It focuses on a lot of themes and issues currently present in today's society, and ones that I don't often read about in YA literature. Also, YAY because this is another fantastic #LoveOZYA novel to add to your reading list!

I love these kinds of stories that are told for multiple point of views, and seeing that characters all come together over the course of the book. It consists of such a diverse cast, all with different personality types and quirks. Seeing how they all either got along with each other, or clashed, added so much depth to the character. Also, Milo, one of the POV characters is autistic, which was great to see. Although I can't speak

for the representation, I did read this lovely review from one of the early sensitivity readers which I think says a lot about the authors portrayal of the character.

When Emily spoke about her book, one of the factors that stood out to me was the fact that one of the POV characters was the "villain" of the story. We get to see inside the head of the bad guy, and we don't often get to see this, and if we do, it's because they're redeemable in some way (I do love the bad-boy-turns-good trope). But this wasn't one of them. We got to understand Ben more, and maybe some of the things that happened in his life that resulted in his actions, but in no way does that justify what he did, and the author makes that clear in her story and characterisation.

I AM OUT WITH LANTERNS is a thought provoking story captivating some of teens biggest problems and issues in society today. It was beautifully written, the characters were incredibly well developed, it was a fast paced read with plenty of conflict, yet with a hopeful resolution.

I can't wait to read more of Emily's writing!

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