



Louder Than Words

Laura Jarratt

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Rafi hasn't spoken for eight years. It's up to her to tell her brother's story now that he can't speak either ...

Rafi idolises her seventeen-year-old brother, who is popular, generous and a borderline genius. Ever protective, Silas always includes her when he's with his friends, so Rafi gets to hear all sorts of things that younger sisters wouldn't normally be a part of. Like the time Silas hacks a gaming site to help out his friend Josie, who has been trashed by her ex.

With Josie, Rafi finds herself with a proper friend for the first time in her life. As they grow closer, she realises that she wants to find a way back into the world – she wants to learn to speak again. But Silas has found a new interest too – and it's taking him away from everything that was once important to him. Can Rafi find the words to save her brother?

Louder Than Words Details

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From Reader Review Louder Than Words for online ebook

Chlo says

I loved this book it really explored how selective mutism is the ending was dragged on and a bit boring but i was impressed by the story.

Aamina says

I have no words.

Review will come when the healing process is complete. Which probably when/if I am 50

Emma says

review by Beth

A main character without the ability to speak is a fascinating thing and it makes Louder than Words stand out and immediately mark itself as different from other novels in its genre. Despite her limitations Rafaela (Rafi) is very relatable and realistic and is the kind of character I can imagine myself (over a decade ago now) nodding along with and completely 'getting', if that makes sense.

Unfortunately for the author the other key characters are less easy to relate to and less captivating, Josie in particular didn't get the same level of empathy or understanding from me but she and the other characters played an important role which was essential for the book to move forward. The friendship aspect of this novel is really well played out and well written and gives a novel with more than its fair share of hardship a sense of grounding.

As well as Rafi and Josie there is Silas, who we see through his first person letters to his father. This is another thing about this novel that stands out, the format it's written in, with Pinterest quotes and small snippets from Josie and letters from Silas, as it makes the novel even more compelling and gives each character a more personal, separate identity, well defined and completely their own.

When things start to shift a little and Silas' focus and activities move towards a new interest, ActionX. The political edge to this novel was the turning point for me when it moved from 'OK, this is quite interesting and stuff' to 'great, this novelist is doing something different' and the inclusion of speeches and almost preaching from characters like Lara is a brilliant inclusion, that is almost squirmingly uncomfortable but it is something that more YA novels need to cover I feel as the political climate is something that can be lost amongst stories which focus on personal relationships and hardship. I loved how clearly Jarratt showed that even those with the best intentions in the beginning can easily spiral out of control and how quickly political movements spread and grow.

This novel is a really clever creation, with more than one interesting issue from the progressive mutism that Rafi suffers to the extreme politics that become part of Silas' story and this makes it more than worth a read.

Wayan says

I love the unique story line, it wasn't something too different or confusing and dramatic but still had all the action and drama.

the characters were amazing and lovable. It was really interesting having Rafi as the person speaking...because she is mute...but still her thoughts were believable, true and wonderful. the quotes within the book were well weaved into the story.

The ending was quite happy apart from one death which i may have disliked but it was nice. I mean the drama leading to the ending was very well dramatic and the quote at the end was lovely and so i forgive the happy happy ending.

Laura Jarratt, i have come to realise is a very good writer and has a very good balance when writing so that the story is different enough to be interesting but still relatable and there is just something beautiful in her novels which i adore. I think it's how the characters aren't forced they aren't made to seem perfect but they are still likable though you can see their flaws.

Also you seem to find things out the same time as the characters and feel and suspect the same things. The writing was simply beautiful :)

Louder than words was a great read and i LOVED it!
couldn't stop reading it :)

OMG i am slightly hyped from talking about it so it's time for a rant!

OMG IT WAS JUST SO COMPLETELY TRUE AND WONDERFUL AND WELL IT'S AMAZING BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT HOW WORDS MEAN SO MUCH BUT ALSO IT'S ABOUT ACTIONS ! (SILAS'S PART) AND WELL ABOUT LOVE AND IT'S UGH BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL! LOVE THE ACTION, DRAMA AND LESSONS! <£ LOVE IT!

Rafi's Truth book:

listen has the same letters as silent.

SILAS!<3

RAFI!! :D

JOSIE XD

Anna says

Heavily rounded up because I just like Jarratt. I like her style and her observations and I'll forgive her loads of stuff that I can't mention here without spoilers. I think it would have been a true 5-star experience if I hadn't read her second novel, where she already 'used up' some of the themes recycled here, in a less elegant way. Without By Any Other Name in between I probably would have said it was as good as Skin Deep, her phenomenal debut. I look forward to what she offers up next.

Piseog says

I really liked the premise of this book. I loved Rafi and I loved her relationship with Silas. Silas was a great brother. However, the more time he spent with Lara (ah! she makes me angry) the more stupid he got. I wanted to hit him he infuriated me so much. I would have given this book a higher rating if the plot was just a bit better. It left me a bit unsatisfied. Good effort though.

Courtney says

I really loved this book. I was hooked on the first page. Louder Than Words really was amazing.

Poi says

It had heart. This book conveys relationships well, emphasising the importance of trust, of gentleness, of reassurance, of security. I enjoyed the familial relationships and friendships between Rafi, Silas and Josie.

The plot and style, on the other hand, were very on-the-nose. Exposition was often necessary, but I didn't notice it too much. Arguably though, you could say this fits the style of a budding teen writer, like Rafi, so if it's deliberate, then this is genius.

I think the biggest drawback is that the "mysteries" of the story, the unanswered dramatic questions meant to keep you reading, weren't all that urgent or enthralling, including the muddled reveals that only felt inevitable and dull. Of course, this isn't a thriller or mystery novel at all, but likely more could've been done to ramp up the tension of individual scenes towards the end. The exposition here and there didn't help.

But for me, I didn't want to read a thriller or mystery. I wanted to read about siblings and friends. Wholesome relationships was refreshing and made it very worthwhile. My favourite scene is when Rafi recalls an incident in school that reminded me of how helpless I felt in my school days as well.

Rafi's progressive mutism is probably what I responded to best. I can't speak for how accurate a representation it was, but I could empathise with how it impacted her and her relationships and I was delighted to see other characters support her journey and help her build herself up.

I've been binge-reading a lot of YA to get back into a reading habit and I'm glad this book was one of them. It's subjective in that I love it because the author's story decisions and themes resonate with me, but others, possibly older audiences, who are more easily bothered by style, exposition, pacing may take issue with it.

Sahara Furbank-Meyer says

This book made me feel happy and sad at the same time. I liked how the story was pieced together by the quotes, the letters and Raphael's story telling. The whole story was sad in a way. The truth in lies. I found it

really got to me in a good way. Not speaking doesn't change how anyone can communicate. The ending was nice and how it wrapped up nicely on the end, sad and happy. "We can not have happiness, without sadness", one is always balanced by the other.

Lauren Dowding says

I ordered *Louder than words* as soon as the novel was published and released being a huge fan of Laura Jarratts previous books and the emotional level that they both hit me on. With this one i didn't get pulled right in from the start and it wasn't until about half way through that i thought the story line really got going and we go to understand the characters and what they were about. I loved all of the characters that showed their faces in this novel and would have loved to seen some romance unravel between Silas and Josie more prominently nearing the end of the book. As always i would love there to me to the book at the end so that we would be able to follow on through the characters lives and how they would carrying on with themselves after the situation that had happened. When i always come to an end of one of her novels it leaves me thinking "no...that can't be the end already! I need to read more".

Personally i love Laura Jarratt as an author and writer and can't wait to see whats she comes out with next, i'm sure it's going to be as good as the rest.

anthropomorphism says

Maybe it's just me but I found that:

- Rafi's "voice" (as the narrator) was written to sound a lot younger than it should have, and similarly the other characters weren't too accurate

- Silas met Lara and went OOC to keep up with the plot

- The ending was overdone and extreme - honestly just a bit desperate of the writer

But at the same time, *Louder Than Words* a pleasantly easy read that you can sit down with, have a little eyebrow raising at, and enjoy the simplicity of it all.

Nancy says

What made this book stand out to me was the relationship between Rafi, Silas and Josie. Seeing their determination to be there for each other, to protect and help each other is really what this book was about to me.

Bekah Ward says

The premise for *Louder Than Words* hooked me as soon as I read the back cover. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but the story completely surprised me (in the best way).

I really related to Rafi (Main Character) from the start. I liked the way she collected quotes, and the way she thought about things. I liked how even though Silas was 'including' her in his life, Rafi was really looking out for him.

For me, the way Rafi made friends with Josie, was slightly off. I'm not sure why- but it felt like it happened very quickly, and they went from living in the same neighbourhood to best friends within weeks, something I don't feel would really happen in real life.

However, the characters, plot and writing were amazing, and I read it in under 24 hours. It was defiantly a unique idea.

Maire says

I picked this book up based on the title and read the first page in the bookshop. Being around the same age as Ravi and wanting to be a writer, I was immediately intrigued.

I really enjoyed this book. I loved how Ravi and Silas's stories felt linked, but separate, like in real life. I loved Josie, who was fun and fearless and the type of best friend you very rarely see in books, even though you see them a lot on life.

Lara was an amazing character and the contrast between her and Josie showcased how first appearances are not always right.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes teenage fiction. My one complaint is that I didn't hear enough about Ravi's ambition to be a writer. I wish the author talked more about young writers and the struggles they face.

Enjoy it. It will make you see protestors in a very different way.

CherryCarrot says

Argh. Erm, what to say, other than this book is a mess, and I was very bored reading this and only finished it because of the good reviews on here?

To elaborate: Louder Than Words feels like a very poorly put together book. We have two plot strands: Rafi, and her progressive mutism, and Silas and his infatuation with Lara and involvement in anarchy. And the two strands, in my opinion, never come together or relate to each other terribly well beyond the fact that Rafi and Silas are siblings. They feel like two plots dumped together, and the sudden inclusion of Silas voice a third of the way through is very strange indeed. It's just really messy, and as a result I wasn't drawn to any of the characters. It's also slow to get going, which is why I was so bored and skimmed from a third of the way in.

A better idea, I think, would have been to write two books out of the ideas for this - one focusing on Rafi and her struggles with friendship and her progressive mutism (Josie never felt a fully realised character to me, and would have benefited from more exploration) and then a separate book properly looking at a politicised young person. I think because neither strand was fully dealt with I was left very cold.

In conclusion: this is not Laura Jarratt's best book. Read Skin Deep instead (but not In Another Life, because I thought that wasn't great, either - though it's more a 2 stars to Louder Than Words 1.5 stars).

