



## Songs About a Girl

*Chris Russell*

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## **Songs About a Girl** Chris Russell

Charlie Bloom never wanted to be 'with the band'. She's happiest out of the spotlight, behind her camera, unseen and unnoticed. But when she's asked to take backstage photos for hot new boy band Fire&Lights, she can't pass up the chance.

Catapulted into a world of paparazzi and backstage bickering, Charlie soon becomes caught between gorgeous but damaged frontman, Gabriel West, and his boy-next-door bandmate Olly Samson. Then, as the boys' rivalry threatens to tear the band apart, Charlie stumbles upon a mind-blowing secret, hidden in the lyrics of their songs...

## **Songs About a Girl Details**

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Author : Chris Russell

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Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Music

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## From Reader Review Songs About a Girl for online ebook

### Romance Readers Retreat says

This is the author's debut novel and I have to say that I didn't much care for it. I enjoyed reading it but it didn't hold my attention very well and I have to admit that I skimmed through a lot of it. I was instantly intrigued by the blurb and thought it was going to be a hot, sexy story about rockstars with maybe a love triangle thrown in like the blurb seemed to depict, but there was very little romance in this novel.

We have Charlie who is an amateur photographer, only using her camera as a hobby. When her recent photos of the school band gathers the attention of Olly Samson, an old classmate, who wants her to take backstage pictures for his band, Fire & Lights, she is suddenly thrust in a world that is completely different than anything she has ever known filled with paparazzi and backstage arguments. She is suddenly caught in the middle of sexy, mysterious frontman Gabriel West and his boy next door bandmate, Olly Sampson, who briefly went to school with her before he got famous. As Charlie is caught in the middle of the boys' fights with one another that threaten to tear the band apart, she comes upon a secret that could change everything!

I loved the camaraderie between the bandmates of Fire & Lights: Olly, Gabe, Yuki, and Aiden. They cracked me up with all the crazy stunts and jokes they pulled on one another! Other than that though, I didn't particularly feel a connection between any of the characters, especially Gabe, Charlie, and Olly. I would have liked a little bit more of a relationship development and definitely a lot more romance since I felt like the book revolved mainly around Charlie's photography and her mysterious past.

I started this book believing that it was a standalone but it ends on one hell of a cliffhanger that leaves you with way more questions than answers and wanting the next book immediately. While I didn't particularly love this book, I do want to read the second just to get closure and answers to all my questions that Book 1 left me with.

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### Stacey (prettybooks) says

I was introduced to *Songs About a Girl* at a blogger event at Hachette Towers, and this is where we also got to meet the fabulous author, Chris Russell, who's an utter delight and self-confessed fanboy. He's in a band himself – The Lightyears – and has previously written for a One Direction fansite, so is in a perfect position to write about the world of music.

I assumed *Songs About a Girl* would be told from the point of view of Fire&Lights – a hot new boyband – but it's actually the incredible Charlie Bloom we get to hear from. 15-year-old Charlie is invited to be the band's photographer after Olly, one of the band members, comes across her photos. Charlie's a refreshing protagonist who's simultaneously unaffected by the boy's popularity and intrigued by their music and complicated friendship. Plus she's being targeted on social media by jealous Fire&Lights fans; has discovered a baffling secret about her mother, who passed away; and is stuck between frontman Gabe and bandmate Olly and their curious conflict. (I prefer Yuki myself!).

*Songs About a Girl* was a fun story to read over the summer and I'm looking forward to meeting up with my new friend Charlie in the sequel next year.

*Thank you to the publisher for providing this book for review!*

*I also reviewed this book over on Pretty Books.*

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## Tasmin says

3.5/5

Das Buch hat mich positiv überrascht, war aber leider auch nichts super besonderes. Die Reihe werde ich trotzdem weiterlesen, weil ich leider süchtig nach Rockstarromanen bin. [bitte hier die GoT Shame Szene einfügen]

Was ich gut fand:

- es gab jede Menge Plot abseits von Liebesgeschichten und Rockstarklischees. Das tat dem Buch wahnsinnig gut und sorgte an manchen Stellen sogar richtig für Spannung.
- ich mochte die Band, die Atmosphäre backstage, das Rockstar Feeling
- die Charaktere blieben nicht eindimensional (waren aber auch nicht detailliert ausgearbeitet), fast jeder hatte mehrere Hobbies und eine Hintergrundstory
- Charlies Freundschaft mit Melissa
- Plottwists
- gute Lehrer an der Schule
- Melissas Mom! Und Marshmallows!
- den Schreibstil
- Social Media und Chat Elemente
- dass Olly immer wieder zeigt, dass Respekt das wichtigste ist

Was ich nicht gut fand:

- dass Charlie (im Gegensatz zu Olly) nie reflektiert, wenn man sich ihr aufdrängt, etc
- die Lovestory fand ich leider nicht sonderlich glaubhaft, es ging mir zu schnell zu tief und ich habe es einfach nicht gespürt
- die Fotoelemente. Ich fand es toll, dass Charlie fotografiert. Aber man merkt, dass der Autor absolut KEINE Ahnung von dem Thema hatte... leider. (für alle, die sich etwas auskennen, hier ein kurzer Textausschnitt: "Oh mein Gott, eine Canon EOS! Meine Traumkamera! Die Canon EOS ist so toll". Außerdem kein Wort über Bildbearbeitung, Einstellungen an der Kamera, etc) Außerdem hat sie ja anfangs "nur eine Gebrauchtkamera" - warum ist das schlecht? oO Dass der Autor keine Ahnung hat, ist an sich nicht schlimm, aber für jemanden, der sich mit Fotografie auskennt ist es ein bisschen cringy
- kitschige Klischeesätze wie "Ich habe noch nie jemanden wie dich getroffen" ; "du bist so anders als alle anderen Frauen" etc. Die ersten 50% des Buches tauchen sie null auf und es hat mich so gefreut etwas so völlig anderes zu lesen und dann hat der Autor einem solche Sätze plötzlich nur noch um die Ohren. Vor lauter Augenrollen tut mir mittlerweile das Gesicht weh.
- der ganze Subplot mit Aimee. Hallo Girlhate. Und was für einen Sinn hatte das überhaupt?
- ob es wohl jemals einen Rockstarroman geben wird, wo die Eltern das Kind UNTERSTÜTZEN?

Fazit:

Ich fand das Buch für einen Rockstarroman große Klasse. Er ist verhältnismäßig unproblematisch, beinahe unschuldig. Natürlich ist es keine Glanzleistung in der Unterhaltungsliteratur, aber es hat mich gut unterhalten und auch Emotionen ausgelöst. Wer Rockstarromane mag, sollte es sich einmal näher anschauen. :)

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## **Kirsty says**

This is the book I've been waiting for. The book to break me out of several months of indifferent reading. I adored it. It could have been written for my inner teen. Music, boy bands and a cool and lovely lead. I want sequels. I want lots of sequels.

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## **Kate (GirlReading) says**

Was this essentially a One Direction fanfic?  
Totally.

Did I still kinda love it?  
100%

This was basically the book of my 15 year old selfs, One Direction obsessed dreams. It was incredibly cheesy but thats what made it so enjoyable. It's simple writing style meant I flew through it in no time at all and had so much fun doing so. I mean, any book with a blonde haired, acoustic guitar playing Irish band member \*cough\* Niall Horan \*cough\* is always going to win some nostalgic Fangirl points from me.

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## **Danielle ♥? Pretty Mess Reading ♥? says**

\*\*\*\*3.5 STARS\*\*\*\*

For a more detailed and unfiltered review. . . <https://prettymessreading.com/2017/08...>

Don't let the 3.5 rating score you into thinking this wasn't a good book because it really was. The only reason it's 3.5 STARS instead of 4 STARS is because of the age of the characters for me. If I was a tad bit younger, I may have given this book a solid 4 STARS.

If I had a teenager or young adult, this is the type of book I would want them to read. It is not only is a beautiful love story but it also deals with many social issues that people are faced with today. Cyber bullying, school bullies, and finding yourself when the world wants you to be like everyone else.

I really liked Charlie, the main female character, a lot. She was sweet, funny, loyal, and very self aware – all of which is hard to find in a typical teenage girl. I loved her style and hidden confidence. She is a year eleven, sixteen year old who is offered the chance to photograph one of the hottest boy bands in the world on their U.K. tour. Every teenage girls dream, right? It so wasn't mine at sixteen but I know most would jump at the chance.

Me? . . . Not so much because celebrities annoy me but that's beside the point.

I'm not a teenage girl but I could totally see the appeal of these guys.

Even with the normal insecurities teenagers have, Charlie had the maturity to understand who she was and

what type of person she wanted to be.

The boy band, Fire&Light, has four hot and down to Earth members.

Can I say one quick thing about them? . . .

Their connection and friendship was beautiful to read. I believe the way the author portrays them helps the reader see the boys as regular people and not just celebrities. I loved that. I've been around my fair amount of men in the music industry and it is not a very common thing to find. Let me not mislead you into thinking that everything is peachy keen with all the members of the band because it is not. I'm not going to tell you why though, your going to have to read it for yourselves.

Like I said before, Charlie was different from most girls her age which appealed to both Olly and Gabriel. Both guys also appealed to Charlie by their humble ways, as well. For being a girl on tour with a famous rock band and having two of those members with a thing for you, her humble behavior made me love her even more.

*"I knew it." he said.*

*"Knew. . . what?"*

*"You are, far and away, the most beautiful girl I have ever seen."*

On one hand you have Olly, Charlie's old schoolmate who is the one who invited her to be their photographer. Then you have Gabriel with all his sex appeal and beautiful skin and gray eyes. I mean come on. How is a girl supposed to choose? Especially if Olly and Gabriel have a rocky relationship.

This book gave me the feels when it came to thinking about how one's entire life is taken away when stardom hits.

[image error]

Even though Charlie wanted to stay out of the public eye, some things can't be avoided and the consequences can be dire. I really felt bad for the chick when the cameras were turned on her. Again, you're going to have to read it to find out.

**Do I recommend this book?** *I do. I think it's a really good book for those into YA and rock stars.*

**Will I read another book by this author?** *Fuck yeah! I need to know how this damn story ends.*

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## Wybredna says

Kim jest "girl" ze wszystkich romantycznych piosenek? - "Piosenki o dziewczynie" / Chris Russell

Chyba ka?da nastolatka (a mo?e i nie tylko nastolatka, bo ja ju? do tych najm?odszych nie nale??) by?a kiedy? zakochana w arty?cie muzycznym. Piski, plakaty porozwieszane po ca?ym pokoju i p?yty odtwarzane w k?oko na ca?y regulator. M?wi Wam to co??

Zawsze jednak jest kto?, kto nie podziela tego fangirlzmu. Taka jest Charlie Bloom. Dziewczyna nie pisze list?w do swego ulubionego zespo?u. To oni pisz? listy do niej.

"Piosenki o dziewczynie" Chrisa Rusella to jak ksi??ka o mnie. I fabu?a wyci?gni?ta z moich sn?w. Cho? paru rzeczy mo?na si? przyczepi?, a ca?o?? przypomina fanfiction, to przewraca?am jej kolejne strony z szeroko otwartymi oczami. Bo widzia?am tam siebie. A zako?czenie sprawi?o, ?e jak najszybciej chc? si?gn?? po kolejny tom tej serii. Do tego zainteresowa? mnie sam autor :)

Wi?cej szczeg?o?w w poni?szych filmie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PywOq...>

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## Aggie Unsworth says

OMG!!! I don't know where to begin! I freaking loved this book!! All the stars... all of them, everywhere. When my best friend was raving to me about this book I knew I would like it too, but this has been so much more then I expected.

Charlie Bloom likes to be invisible and with her best friend. She lives with her dad and she loves to take pictures. And while everyone is crazy for the new hot boy band Fire&Lights, Charlie couldn't really care less. She still remembers one of the band members, Olly, from when he used to go to their school. But what she never expected is for Olly to contact her and invite her backstage to take some pictures of the band. Completely against it at first, Charlie is convinced by her best friend and suddenly finds herself not only backstage at a huge concerts, but she soon turns into a fan herself. Charlie spends a lot of time with Olly but also finds herself completely drawn to Gabriel. But its when Charlie hears the bands new songs that everything becomes complicated and Charlie has to know exactly where those words have come from... Being so close to one of the biggest bands around also comes with a price and Charlie will have to find out the hard way.

Oh my... my poor fangirl heart. I am far from 17 now, but after reading this i really wish i was again. I have spend my teenage years loving all sort of boybands and let me tell you it was a good time for boybands back then. Some of my favourite memories involve my favourite music and I still love a concert and certain artists very much. This book is like a dream come true. But this is so so far from fan fiction. Its so much deeper then that. Its not just about a girl who falls for a pop star. Its about family, friendship, loss and bullying. It shows not only the glitzy side of fame but also the dark side, weather its for the artist themselves or the people around them.

I seriously couldn't put this down and finished it in less then 24 hours. I was completely drawn into the world of pop stars and concerts. Russell obviously knows what he is talking about, the way he describes the feel of a full arena is so perfect I almost felt like I was there myself. I love all the characters, the chemistry in the band and Charlie and her best friend. I am completely in love with Olly and Gabriel myself.

The secret around the songs lyrics just adds to the excitement of the book and works towards a very jaw dropping end. An end that leaves you wanting more. Oh please don't make us wait to long! I need the next book and I need it right now.

This has been one of my favourite books this year by far and I want to reread it already. And I don't do that kind of thing, ever.

Highly addictive, utterly charming and impossible to put down. This book will transport you some place else and make you forget everything around you. From the beginning till the end you will want to be with the band.

Thank you so much to Lauren and Hachette Children for my copy.

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**hannah ✧/?-?-?\ (on hiatus) says**

*Review first posted on my blog!*

**Rating: 3.0 stars.**

*"How long, I wondered, could a group of people spend every waking minute together, with tensions riding high, before it all came crashing down around them?"*

*Something, eventually, would have to give."*

Charlie Bloom, a talented, aspiring young photographer, is completely normal- at least according to her. However, with a "gentle" push from her best friend, Melissa, she finds herself entangled in the glamorous lives of Fire&Lights, teen pop sensations who have captured the hearts of practically every girl in the nation. (Except for Charlie, of course, because she's apparently oh-so-different and doesn't care about silly things like *boy bands*).

*Songs About a Girl* will be especially relatable for hardcore fangirls and fanboys (like me!!), whom the author affectionately labels "groupies". I especially liked how Russell gave readers a glimpse of celebrity life away from the prying lens of the camera.

It reminded me of how exhausting fame can actually be, with every move and misstep scrutinized by the public eye- and how dangerous, too, with daily death threats and overly aggressive paparazzi. We're so used to idolizing our favorite singers and actors/actresses that it's easy for us, as the audience, to forget that they're only human. Though we might take privacy for granted, most of them view it as a luxury.

*"I just want one little piece of me to stay private, y'know? People expect you to give up everything just because you're famous, but I won't give them this."*

Charlie also has her own ugly brush with anonymous online harassment, simply because of her association with the famous boy band. I can't imagine how targeted and vulnerable I would feel if I was suddenly attacked by keyboard warriors on all sides of social media, but that's exactly what Charlie went through. Russell effectively pointed out that it's important to remember the person behind the screen, and that you should always, always think before you speak- or, in this case, type.

"I don't know, Charlie, but this is exactly what losers like that are paid to do. Make people feel crap about themselves. Because that sells."

Russell also portrays the band, Fire&Lights, as a close-knit family as friendly with each other behind the scenes as they are on the stage. Of course, the band is not without their own fair share of underlying tension. Overall, however, I loved the band's dynamic- Yuki's carefree playfulness, Aiden's sweetness, Olly's kindness, even Gabriel's broodiness. Though undeniably cheesy, the kind of friendship he portrays in Fire&Lights is especially relevant to pop culture, as more and more of today's band members leave to "fly solo".

"We were racing, explained Aiden, breathlessly, retrieving one of his shoes from a nearby bush. "I nearly beat him this time."

"The thing our little Irish friend here fails to acknowledge," explained Yuki, "is that I have the willowy limbs of a gazelle, whereas he..." He considered Aiden for a moment. "He has the athletic prowess of a slightly asthmatic dachshund."

"That's mean!"

"Cool your boots, Roberts. It's your brain I'm attracted to."

On the other hand, I felt that this book was just very cliché in many ways. Think about it: Charlie, an apparently completely normal person, gets miraculously plucked off of the streets by a former classmate-turned-super-famous-pop-star. And then, obviously, everyone else in the band just ends up loving her. Many of the "coincidences" that occurred seemed like a bit of a stretch to me, definitely to the point of being extremely unrealistic. But then again, this is all part of the magic of YA, and many other readers will probably appreciate this; it's just a matter of personal taste.

And if we're still on the topic of clichés, I just have to mention Gabriel West. Call me a downer, but these days, I'm just not having any sort of luck with YA contemporary romances. Like many of his hot predecessors, he is dark, brooding, and damaged, but, like, in a totally hot kind of way.

Even better, this popstar is somehow undeniably attracted to our totally average protagonist darling, and... surprise!... so is she. It's **total insta-love**. And then... wow!... by some twist of fate, they realize that they're practically soulmates.

I can sum up his personality in one word: **ANGST**. MAJOR **ANGST**. (I know that's three words, but let's overlook that.) Charlie was equally as clueless, and honestly, I spent half the book nursing a burning desire to smack some sense into the both of them. I am left with a sense of déjà vu- I feel like I've read about Gabriel's character thousands and thousands of times, and I am, quite frankly, tired of it.

I'm sorry, Gabriel West, I probably would have fawned over you in middle school, but by now, I'm so over the whole Dark Bad Boy Trope, not to mention the Special Snowflake Syndrome. (And remember, and important part of the Special Snowflake Syndrome is that the special snowflake CAN'T realize they're special! Everyone just loves them for some reason!)

*"Truth is, most girls who manage to get backstage, they're only really interested in one thing. But you... you're different."*

After reading this, I honestly have no idea what makes Charlie "different", other than the fact that she's not drooling obsessively over the teenage band. And even that changes by the end of the book.

One redeeming quality for the romance was the **refreshing** and **pleasantly surprising** lack of any major love triangle. I have to admit that I was suspicious at first, but the main love interest is quickly made clear. There's tension, of course, but nothing too major- I mean, none of these boys square up and fight each other for Charlie. Though two of them do have an arm wrestling competition. Does that count?

However, Russell's portrayal of Charlie's BFF, Melissa, was pure gold. This conversation basically sums up their entire friendship:

*"If something awful had just happened and you thought the world was going to end... know what I'd do?"*

*I shook my head.*

*"I'd fill your bedroom with marshmallows."*

*I squinted at her. "What?"*

*"Your entire room. I'd go out and spend all my money on marshmallows, and I'd fill up your bedroom from floor to ceiling and then we'd just sit around for hours eating and laughing. It's impossible to be sad when you're eating marshmallows. That's a scientific fact."*

Melissa and Charlie were adorbs together, and I would not have minded if Charlie suddenly left her main love interest and realized she was \*GASP\* in love with Melissa the entire time! I realize now how preposterous that sounds, but a girl can dream, right?

Melissa is undoubtedly not without her flaws, and she makes huge mistakes that drive major rifts between her and Charlie. For some reason, I LIKED that Melissa and Charlie's friendship wasn't all smooth sailing, and I thought that it was a genius move on the author's part to test their loyalty and trust, and, in the process, make their bond even stronger. Regardless, these girls are always there for each other, and that's ultimately what matters the most.

*Songs About a Girl* is cute, definitely, and perfect for those who have always dreamed of falling in love with their favorite celebrities, or wistfully wondered what it would be like to be part of a band. It was clear that Russell poured his heart and soul into writing a book about something that he was truly passionate about- music.

To sum it up, check out this book if you're a fan of: band life! cute friendships! angsty teenage romances! glamorous pop stars! insta-love- I mean, fate!

**ALSO:** What kind of ending was that? Was it a cliffhanger or.... yeah, it just left me incredibly confused.

**ALSO ALSO:** Major props to the author for actually writing and recording the songs featured in this book! Check them out here.

*Thank you to Flatiron Books for providing me with the opportunity to review this book in exchange for an honest review.*

blog ?instagram ?twitter ?email yours truly

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## **MochaGeek says**

3.5 Stars.

First of all it was mighty long. 358 pages for a contemporary book? (and it has a sequel?) Too long unless the content is good.

Second of all it was predictable. Ahem of course there's two guys: a good one and a bad one and guess who she chooses? And of course they decided to have this "huge" plot twist which I could see coming from a mile away.

Anyways, It was stupidly long and even though the writing was good I really didn't like the way that the author leaned towards cliches and tried to make a normal contemporary this "exciting" mystery.

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## **Holly Sparks says**

Songs About a Girl really took me through the emotions. I found myself completely glued to the pages as if I was in a trance and couldn't look away until the book ended!

Charlie was a great main character. I found her exciting, real and true. She is just like every other teenager who feels like they're alone in this world, but that's until Fire&Lights send Charlie a message.

A message that will change her life.

I could totally relate to Charlie in this book as photography is one of my true passions too. It was amazing that she was given the chance to photograph the newest and hottest band on the block - Fire&Lights! Yuki, Aiden, Olly and Gabriel! Man these boys were just so great! I found myself wanting to be at their concerts, dancing to the music even though I wasn't even there. All I was reading were words on page but I could feel the music, the atmosphere and I felt so happy for Charlie.

I adored Melissa throughout the book. I loved her excitable energy, the way she looked at everything and I found myself laughing out loud a few times too. I mean, who doesn't want a room full of marshmallows, right?

Olly was such a little darling from the start. I adored him. I was secretly rooting for him because let's be honest he's the good guy! But the good guys are normally overlooked by the bad boys, am I right? Yep. I'm right!

Let's face it. We all love bad boys. If you don't, I know you're lying ;)

Gabriel has a voice to still you and eyes that you drown into. How could you not fall for him? But what we

come to realise through the book is that he is a damaged, young man who clings to Charlie like his life depends on it. But that makes us even curiouiser about him. Everything about Gabriel draws Charlie in. But bad boys always hurt us.

I adored Songs About a Girl, and I cannot wait for the sequel! The ending had me on the edge of my seat! I hope we see more of Melissa as I secretly want her and Aiden to get together ;) I also want to see what happens between Charlie, Olly and Gabriel...

I guess I'll just have to be patient! Which is something I'm not very good at...

GIVE ME SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR!

Chris Russell, you get an A\* for writing such a great book!

Holly x

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### **Sal says**

The easiest 5 stars I have ever given. I'd give it a hundred stars if I could. I just knew, I knew the moment I first discovered the existence of this book that I would love it. Now it's become a very special part of me and I'll treasure it forever.

This is the very best of #boybandlit. It's filled with joy, friendship, heartbreak and boyband shenanigans - everything you could possibly want in a book! There were just SO MANY GODDAMN FEELS. Charlie Bloom is my spirit animal. I want to hug her. How does Chris write so magically? I love this book to pieces.

THAT ENDING. I am in dire need of the next book. I'm not done with Fire&Lights yet!

Full review to come soon.

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### **Michelle says**

When I first heard about **Songs About a Girl** I knew it was a book I had to read. I really enjoy books with this type of theme, and once it arrived I could not wait to make a start on it.

Charlie is an amateur photographer, taking photos for fun. Her recent shots of a gig garner the attention of Olly, an old school acquaintance, who wants her to come and take backstage photographs of his band Fire & Lights. After some deliberation, and sneaking on her best friends part, Charlie soon finds herself among the company of the most desired band and its members, Olly, Gabriel, Yuki, and Aiden, but all she wants is to take pictures, and not to have her name used for any of them.

I really liked how Charlie goes into this job with no idea of who the band is and what music they play. She knows Olly from school and that's all. However she soon realises that what the band portrays to its fans is a different story to what she sees backstage, and is a first hand witness to some of the disagreements, fights, and tension.

Life for Charlie isn't the best, her Mum has died and she lives with her Dad who isn't always there one

hundred percent, she is bullied a lot at school and does what she can to avoid it all. As her job with the band progresses, a photo is leaked of her with them, and the bullying escalates to a level that I thought was horrendous. The photography is a way for her to escape, but also do something she is good at, something she enjoys, and judging from the descriptions she's extremely good at what she does.

As the story progresses we get to spend more time with the band, and Charlie begins to see a connection with their songs, and her Mum's journals. But when the truth is revealed it's not something Charlie or I expected. Not in a million years did I think that this would happen, and I really needed there to be a chapter or two more in the book to explain more about this photograph, instead of just leaving us on a cliffhanger.

### **Final Verdict**

**Songs About a Girl** is more than music, it's about growing up, dealing with issues that others face every day, it's about becoming a stronger person for yourself and never giving up on your dream. It's a book that you can fall into and never want it to end, and I really need the next installment now please.

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## **Cora Tea Party Princess says**

**5 Words: Friendship, fame, betrayal, bullying, family.**

This was such an addictive story, I seriously could not put it down.

This is another YA that acknowledges technology - it confronts online bullying and trolling head on and if anything the consequences of every action are even greater because of today's technology. But despite the serious issues it tackles, it still manages to stay relatively fun. And it makes the story very compelling.

I loved Charlie's insecurity and self doubt, and I loved when she had those "I am good enough" thoughts. I loved how she reacted to the situations she found herself in, it felt very organic and real. Okay, I love Charlie Bloom.

I was a bit torn about the ending. Ending it just a few pages sooner would have been perfect, with everything wrapped up yet still open enough for me to imagine what comes next. But then there's this little twist and everything changes and now I really need the next book and I have to wait a year... I don't think I can!

*I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.*

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## **Sarah says**

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Hachette Children's Group and NetGalley.)

*"I knew this was impossible, and completely crazy – but somehow... the song was about me."*

This was a YA contemporary story about a girl and a boy band.

Charlie was an okay character, and she did come across as fairly normal. I felt quite sorry for her when she

was getting bullied, and the way things got out of control because of a single photograph, but I also thought her idea about the song lyrics being about her was a little far-fetched.

The storyline in this was about Charlie being invited to take some photos of the band backstage, and her getting to know Gabriel a little better. I actually expected there to be more of a love triangle in this book from the description, and for me there wasn't much made of the love triangle at all, in fact I really wanted there to be more romance than there was.

The ending to this wasn't much of an ending so much as a cliff-hanger which I wasn't expecting.

6 out of 10

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