



All About Mia

Lisa Williamson

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One family, three sisters.

GRACE, the oldest: straight-A student.

AUDREY, the youngest: future Olympic swimming champion.

And MIA, the mess in the middle.

Mia is wild and daring, great with hair and selfies, and the undisputed leader of her friends – not attributes appreciated by her parents or teachers.

When Grace makes a shock announcement, Mia hopes that her now-not-so-perfect sister will get into the trouble she deserves.

But instead, it is Mia whose life spirals out of control – boozing, boys and bad behaviour – and she starts to realise that her attempts to make it *All About Mia* might put at risk the very things she loves the most.

All About Mia Details

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From Reader Review All About Mia for online ebook

Nana says

Review from a drowzy brained person.

I really, really, really liked this book. This book was just totally fantastic. From the very start I was drawn into it and it was amazing.

I had so many mixed feelings during this read and most of all it was anger. I was so angry with how everyone treated Mia. It was always 'Whatever Mia, we do not want to hear' when she did something wrong. I was not misbehave, it was a call from attention.

I really really hated Grace in this book, she was little miss perfect and if she fucked things up, she was still handled like the queen of England. She was so judgy towards Mia as well. And that makes me hate her parents as well. They just did not care at all. I do not think that Mia was a holy angel, but I understand actions. She felt left out and clearly she is an emotional drinker.

I must say that I did not expect the plottwist at the end. It was very surprising and I was so happy with the way the book ended. It's amazing how many good books I have read this year, and I'm glad this one was on my to read. People pick it up, it's amazing.

Kelly says

When I picked up this book I had no idea that I wasn't going to move until I had devoured the whole thing but that is exactly what happened. This book was such a **refreshing read** and I loved that as well as tugging on my heart strings I was able to openly laugh along.

Mia is the middle sister of the Campbell-Richardson family. Big sister Grace is an academically high achiever who has secured herself a place in one of the UK's most prestigious universities. Little sister Audrey is a competitive swimmer who is rumoured to have Olympic glory in her future. Mia is the middle sister who thinks she has nothing going for her. She hasn't found her 'thing' yet and feels she is living in the shadow of her sisters. When Grace returns to the family home with an unexpected surprise, Mia's expectations do not become a reality and she takes a turn down a path of self-destruction.

When I think about this book, I can only think about **how much adored it**. Lisa Williamson has a brilliant writing style that completely captures everything I love in a YA book. Her characters are so real and I could empathise with each one at some point in the book. Her characters are also flawed in their own ways and this is something I always love to read, especially in YA where such valuable life lessons can be learnt from fiction. I think this will be a book that a lot of young readers will connect with easily. I love the way this teaches the reader that if you haven't found your 'thing' yet, that's okay. You are still loved and appreciated and your time will come.

Grace's predicament was fairly predictable but **I loved what then came out of it**. Mia certainly starts down a whole path of self-destructive behaviour with drinking, sexual encounters, falling out with friends, persistent lying and that's just the beginning. I loved her character development throughout this book and

was so glad to follow her full circle. Without spoiling anything, the last couple of chapters of this book brought **nothing but love and warmth to my heart** and I truly felt like I had been on the experience with her. There is a particularly special scene between Mia and her mother at the end of this book that completely reduced me to tears.

At times during this book I just felt endless sadness and tinges of anger. As someone who works with teenagers on a daily basis, Mia's behaviours really reminded me of some of those really vulnerable teenage girls I work with who follow a very similar path to Mia. The way Mia craves attention for her sexiness was something that I didn't particularly like but I unfortunately know it to be true of so many young girls these days. There is no doubt in my mind that Lisa Williamson has an excellent understanding of teenage girls and their feelings of self-doubt.

I LOVED Mia so much. Don't get me wrong, at times she is exceptionally whiny and says some extremely bitchy things but I can understand why. We have all had those moments where we feel that we are invisible to those around us, whether that be family or friends. It is the worst feeling and more often than not brings out the worst in us. This is why I cannot possibly dislike Mia, *I just get her*. I loved her sense of humour and how her sarcasm just shone through – how very British! Mia doesn't always get things right, she makes a whole series of questionable choices in this book but by the end she has discovered her true self and finds someone that she is happy to be. Mia is such a huggable character and she will stick with me for a long time.

I actually really liked all of the characters in this book by the end! I was a little wary of Sam for a while as my crazy imagination suspected him of ulterior motives straight away. I really adored Audrey who just seemed like the sweetest little thing and I also liked Grace, despite seeing her through Mia's eyes.

The family dynamics in this book are **marvellously written** and I have to thank Lisa Williamson for that. This book focuses heavily on the relationship between the three sisters and **I loved every second**. There were so many moments that touched my heart whether it be the Audrey asking her big sister Mia for advice about periods or the heart to heart that Grace and Mia have, I just felt that these relationships were so true to real life sibling relationships. It was refreshing to read a book where sibling relationships aren't perfect but worked towards all three sisters developing a better understanding of how the others feel. **It was wonderfully written.**

Heart-warming and emotional with plenty of laugh out loud moments, All About Mia is a book that is bound to touch the hearts of many.

Emer says

A very quick reading YA novel from the author of The Art of Being Normal.

Mia the main character is at that stage in life where she doesn't know who she is or who she wants to be. She is the middle sister with a seemingly flawless older sister Grace (straight As, bright future, doctor boyfriend...a parents' dream!) and with a cute as a button younger sister Audrey who is a shining light in the world of junior competitive swimming. So Mia finds herself compared to both of her sisters and struggles with sisterly jealousy and let's insecurity infect her thought processes and her self esteem.

What's great about this book is that Mia is incredibly flawed as a character. She can act quite selfishly but still she somehow feels all the more human for it and therefore you truly root for her as a reader. I really

liked the family dynamics within Mia's family and I'm sure that many people who read this book will, from their own teenage years, be able to recognise certain aspects of family life and share many of the confused feelings that Mia experienced.

A little too cliched and neatly tied up towards the ending but still an enjoyable read.

Two and a half stars rounded up to three

Monica Haak says

4.5/5 sterren.

Ik ben dol op Lisa's schrijfstijl! Hoofdpersonage Mia is echt geniaal met der sarcasme. Erg leuk verhaal, leest lekker weg.

Dannii Elle says

This is one of those books that strike you as so completely not your sort of thing that there could never be any hope of you enjoying it. And yet, somehow, you find yourself flying through it with a massive grin on your face, identifying with each and every one of the characters and bemoaning the fact that the book has ended when it seemed like you only opened it minutes before!

Emma says

This is my first novel from Miss Williamson, and although my students keep telling me to read *The Art of Being Normal* I never really got round to it if I'm honest. When I saw this coming out, I knew it was a book that I had to get, I don't know what it was about it but it was calling to me. *All About Mia* is just such a real, raw and a genuine joy to read. I look forward to meeting Lisa in the next couple of weeks.

Being a Campbell-Richardson is nothing short of being exhausting especially for Mia. Grace, the eldest is the first born, A-student to go to university. Audrey, the youngest, is set for Gold, training to swim for Olympics and champion of the pool at such a young age. And Mia, well she's the middle sister, she doesn't have a thing, she's the disappointment, she getting through college with a sticker on her saying 'Failing Campbell-Richardson'. That's the brutality of it really. That's Mia's life. It's not until, the star of the family comes home early with her boyfriend with a bun in the oven... at 19 years old.....at the point of her career, you would really think this would ruin her name wouldn't you? That's what Mia would think, but to her disgust, everyone is just completely over the moon and that just makes it a whole lot worse for her.

I adored Mia's character, she's completely off the rails, ha. You couldn't help but not smile, laugh, occasionally cringe or at times think, 'Oh Mia, whhhhhyyyyyy'. But truth be told you can totally relate to it in some way, shape or form. I feel for Mia, I can understand her rebellious nature and her jealousy that it borders pure hatred at some point towards to her sister Grace. That's not surprising really. She adores her little sister, she's trying to be the bigger sister to Audrey but she doesn't want to be like her big sister, Grace either. I think she tries to act up as the middle sister, but it always backfires on her. Her parents are no better, my god did I feel very antagonistic toward them. Seriously, they didn't help Mia, they are all about Audrey

and Grace. They were belittling her at every point, they didn't consider her opinion or just her side for once. It was frustrating and this is where I found I related with this novel.

Miss Williamson took a very realistic approach to society nowadays. There's a lot of pressure on teenagers. From a librarian's point of view, I see the stress they go through, 5 years of studying for realistically 1 hour exam for each of their subjects. But I digress, what I mean is that the weight of their future on girls is unimaginable but we've all been through it, or going through it. Does it get easier? No and society isn't helping with that. Relationships and friendships will always be effected by it for better or for worse. We have to work harder, be a role model, we have an expectation, and Audrey and Grace are the epitome of this. Well Audrey more so, she has to go to training at half 5 every morning, her passion is in the pool but when she's out of it, she just like any other teenager, struggling to get through the rest of her life.

For Mia however, it's even harder because her sisters have a 'thing', Mia doesn't know what that is, she 16 years old, life isn't given to you on a platter straight away, she will find her thing in her own time. But everyone is different. Mia needs to be given a chance, she needs some time with her parents, to actually think 'you have me too, I need you guidance as well.' I think that what lead to her very colourful nature. Life is like a jigsaw puzzle, just like the cover. Pieces will fit together in it's own time. But don't give up, continue your passions even if it doesn't lead you down the path you thought you would. I think that's the message of the book but also from me too.

All About Mia, is a perfectly imperfect novel on self discovery and the reality of being a teenage girl. Mia embodies an imperfect nature to and perfectly normal part of society. Sometimes we all need a bit of our time, we should have a All About...[insert name] to figure life out. It's where our most valued perception of us as individuals come from.

Rating - 5

Stacey (prettybooks) says

I'm an only child. I'll never know what it's like to have someone who 'gets' your family the same way you do. I don't know what it's like to grow up with someone always by your side. I had close friends, of course, but sibling relationships always felt otherworldly to me; something I'll never get to experience. And so I was eager to pick up Lisa Williamson's *All About Mia*, just about that very thing.

Mia is the middle child. She has a younger sister, Audrey, who's a champion swimmer, and an older sister, Grace, who's perfect in every way. What's Mia got? She's great at styling hair and has a feisty attitude... who cares about that? But when Grace comes home with some shocking news, Mia thinks it's time for her to shine. She's a fascinating, refreshing character in YA. Mia's unlikeable, really, but that makes you want to get to know her more. Slowly, slowly I began to see her point of view – when Mia began spiralling out of control, I desperately wanted to make sure she was okay. I adored the Campbell-Richardson family, both loving them and hating them (that's Mia's influence rubbing off on me) at the same time. *All About Mia* picks out everything complicated there is about family and gives us a joyous, funny UKYA read.

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

I also reviewed this book over on Pretty Books.

Robin Stevens says

I love, love, loved this book about the troubled middle sister in a high-achieving family. Mia is NOTHING like I was as a teen (I was a Grace, minus the big mistake...), but Lisa's writing is warm and thoughtful enough to make me empathise with her mishaps and errors, and want to watch her fix them. Lovely. 12+

Please note: this review is meant as a recommendation only. Please do not use it in any marketing material, online or in print, without asking permission from me first. Thank you!

jv poore says

Mia-in-the-middle is not doing well. Something like loneliness lingers, an itch that can't be scratched. It doesn't make sense to her that someone who adores alone time (but is never actually alone) could feel lonely. Anyway, the small window of time that gave her a bit of breathing space has slammed shut.

It felt decadent, using Grace's room while her elder sibling spent her gap-year in Greece (no doubt doing something amazing). But now, out of the blue, Grace is coming home early. And she's bringing her "spoddy" boyfriend. An aggravating situation exacerbated by the overwhelming excitement of their parents. Already annoying, on their love-crazed-wedding-planning-cloud, they are absolutely insufferable with enthusiastic joy.

Her younger sister, Audrey, will never be an ally. Aside from training for swim meets, she only has time for Beyoncé, her beloved guinea pig. Mia's three best friends, generally good-to-go with whatever floats her boat, seem a bit strange and stand-offish. Not so supportive, terribly frustrating.

Initially, I didn't like Mia. But then it hit me. I was seeing Mia through her eyes. Neither one of us had figured out that she wasn't feeling very fond of herself. Or that she felt invisible. Slowly, I began to understand her outrageous behavior and blatant disregard for everyone close to her. Unable to articulate the aching emptiness; Mia could only act out.

I'm excited to share All About Mia with students here in the U. S. because I think that, like me, they will delight in the English dialect and phrasing and they will definitely appreciate the cultural differences. Which reminds me—in the U.S. the legal drinking age is 21. The Campbell-Richardson family resides in Rushton, a small English hamlet. Although Mia does over-indulge, and it is under-age drinking; it is in a world where wine (albeit watered-down) is welcome with evening meals and the legal drinking age is 18.

Mostly, I'll be recommending this because I believe that everyone who meets Mia will feel a little less lonely.

This review was written for Buried Under Books by jv poore.

Samantha (WLAPP) says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

A thoughtful look at being the middle child, finding your place in the family, and the complicated relationships that exist between sisters.

Full review to follow.

Ellesha says

I know a lot of people think Mia is a spoilt bitch who makes shitty decisions and I can understand why people would think that. Having said that, I can totally relate to her and get why she is the way she is. Yes, some of her decisions and actions were slightly dramatic and unnecessary but I get what it feels like to be constantly overshadowed by your siblings, so I get why she does it. It's a book of self discovery and a realistic teenage life.

I'm not going to write a long review, I'm just going to say that I really enjoyed this book and I flew through it. There was never really a dull moment and I found that it was one of those books that I desperately wanted to finish, but didn't want it to be over. The ending was heartwarming and emotional and it made me cry, giving it an automatic 5 stars.

msBookLand says

I was excited about this book even though I kind of just picked it up because of the name but Ok there were parts of this book that I loved and had me cracking up! But for the parts that went wrong or fallouts the author seemed to have gone for the most embarrassing cringe situation possible.

I liked this book but at some bits I just found myself annoyed at the character or just looking for a way out for her as she had definitely dug herself in deep!

Ultimately this book was talking about friends, family and how much kindness can pay off! I enjoyed this book and so far I am a great fan of everything this author has written

Sanne says

Full review here

In All About Mia we follow our main character Mia (kinda obvious here). Mia is the middle child, and she always feels left out in her family. Her older sister Grace, who is nineteen, is a straight A-student and is

incredibly smart. It is not strange for Grace to go to the best university.

Audrey is Mia's younger sister. She is thirteen years old and an amazing swimmer. Everyone expects her to participate in the Olympics somewhere in the future.

The only thing that is all the same, it that all three of the sisters have chocolate brown eyes. Both Audrey and Grace have the smooth, wavy hair from their Irish mother. Mia ended up with her Jamaican dad's big curly hair. The only thing that Mia has, and no one in her family has, is quite a curvy body. Something that the sixteen-year-old Mia likes to flaunt with. Mia's life revolves more around her sisters, and Mia's only talent is partying and drinking 'till the sun comes up.

When Mia's oldest sister comes home from university with shocking news, Mia is hoping that her parents realize that Grace isn't so perfect as she seems to be. But, it is not Grace who is getting into trouble, once again, it is Mia. But it is not the usual trouble...

Mia is the kind of person that always wants that things go her way. She wants that her parents' life revolves around her, and not her sisters'. Mia tries to get her parents' attention by getting into trouble over and over again. She doesn't seem to care if the gets positive or negative attention, as long as it is some form of attention.

Williamson's writing style is amazing. I enjoyed it so much! The book reads so easily, you will be done with it in no time! You don't have to think while reading, which makes is a great read for non-native English speakers & readers. It also makes the book an ideal summer book (aka, beach book)!

Paige (Illegal in 3 Countries) says

See more of my reviews on The YA Kitten! My copy was an ARC I got from the publisher for review.

“shockingly funny”

“hilariously truthful”

“will make you laugh”

Whoever decides those phrases applied to All About Mia needs to rethink their career because THOSE ARE NOT THINGS TO DESCRIBE THIS BOOK AS. AT ALL. This is what the book is actually about: the downward spiral of a biracial, alcoholic sixteen-year-old girl who has a serious inferiority complex and a self-destructive streak.

Doesn't sound funny, does it? Because it's not.

If you grew up with one or more siblings, you were either expected—however implicitly or explicitly—to live up to your great and wonderful sibling or you were the great and wonderful sibling to be lived up to. I've long been the latter; I did well in school where my brother did not and as many times as I stayed out of trouble, he got into it. Without anyone saying a word or doing a thing, that pressure gets put on your shoulders and weighs especially heavy on Mia.

Though many have expressed their dislike for All About Mia due to Mia being selfish and bratty, she's an alright character, albeit one whose negative traits fail to balance out with the reasons we should root for her.

She'll fill out the Unlikable Female Lead on your Bingo card, but she's not a particularly well-written example. At times, you can really, really tell she's a biracial girl being written by a white woman. The inauthentic experience is too obvious to ignore.

And so she coasts through the story, following the character development path by rote, but the fact she's an outright alcoholic is never addressed. She's regularly drinking booze even though she's just sixteen, lying to her parents so she can go out clubbing with her friends, and even landed in the hospital after one particularly boozy New Years Eve! She relies on alcohol because she feels so inferior to her brainiac elder sister Grace and swimming star younger Audrey and drinking really exacerbates her self-destructive tendencies.

Like, do British girls and women who go clubbing never worry that a guy will drug their drink? Because Mia certainly doesn't. She gets blackout drunk with the aid of two almost-forty-year-old men and would have been carried off to who-knows-where by them if not for her best friend making a scene! But not once does she worry about keeping an eye on her drinks in case one of them wants to drop a roofie in there.

That is the kind of self-destructive we're talking about. Her friends aren't much better, seeing as her guy friend Mikey (who is written as a very stereotypical gay boy) brings vodka in a flask to Mia's parents' wedding. Yet a three-sister talk and a baby is supposed to be enough to make her stop getting blackout drunk? Her parents just never find out how much she lied to them in order to party and now she's going on vacations with those same party-happy friends with no supervision whatsoever?

Sorry, that kind of result leaves me with no confidence whatsoever in Mia's supposed growth as a character. I know alcoholism all too well. Mia has it and it's not going to go away as easily as the novel's ending wants to pretend it will.

All About Mia is both an unsatisfying read and a book with horrendously bad marketing. I genuinely can't understand what anyone would find funny about this book. Maybe the alcoholism? The near-abduction? The lies and the partying? Someone tell me, for the love of God! BECAUSE I DON'T GET IT.

Kirsty says

I was so excited to get this book through the door last month. I finished it in one greedy glup and adored it completely. This book is fab because of Mia. Mia is so real as a character. She's full of heart but also crazy infuriating with the decisions she makes. She's that girl we all know from school. She's loud and brash and seems touchable doing what she wants, when she wants without a care in the world. From the minute you meet her you see her live up to this stereotype perfectly making those around her want to pull their hair out as they try to work out how to deal with her. However as the story progresses you start to see that underneath the surface Mia isn't at all the person she plays up to being and all her acting out is a sign of her hurting and trying to get attention because she feels lost and left out. The story itself is highly entertaining because when Mia acts out she really acts out. She really embraces the teenage rebel and takes it to the next level. I loved following the story and getting to know the Mia under the surface and seeing how she grows over the course of the book.
