

Book Review: So Much To Tell You by John Marsden

By Rachel Loveday

Once again, I am choosing to review the talent of John Marsden and his ability to step into the shoes of an adolescent, who might not be the stereotypical teenager, but a teenager who has the right to tell their own unique and amazing story.

So Much to Tell You, is Marina's story. Marina is 14 years old who has endured a terrible domestic violence ordeal that only one can begin to imagine. It has landed her, first in hospital, than at the beginning of the novel at Warrington; an all-girls boarding school.

Marina has chosen to live in silence due to the trauma she has suffered and tells her story by means of a journal that her English teacher; Mr. Lindell has given to her and the other students at the beginning of the school year, to write in every night.

Marina, at first hesitates to write in the journal in fear of exposing her secrets and her real self, but she soon relents, slowly revealing to the readers that she was once a natural athlete, had many friends and had a close bond with her family.

As time passes, the journal entries begin to change, and so does Marina. Despite living in and using her own silence as a cocoon to protect herself from anymore pain, she still manages to make friends, effectively communicate non-verbally with others and ultimately find peace within herself and the person who caused the chain of events to occur.

I found *So Much to Tell You* an interesting and thought provoking read. It's main theme of the importance of communication made me realise how much, not just I, but how everybody takes the power of verbal communication for granted. Add being able to sympathize with Marina's struggle to try and communicate with others non-verbally made it all the more enjoyable and addictive to read.

I thoroughly recommend *So Much To Tell You* a good read for all ages.