

Book Review: Take My Word For It by John Marsden

By Rachel Loveday

Take My Word For It is a rarity in literature.

It is not only a novel that tells the story of one teenager, but also coincides with the continuing story of another from a previous novel.

Take My Word For It is the sequel to *So Much To Tell You*. It is Marina's roommate; Lisa's story, but is also continuing the story of Marina at the same time.

Of course the novel specifically focuses on Lisa's story and differences between the two girls can be easily noticed. Unlike Marina's journal entries, the first entries in Lisa's journal indicate her to be a happy and carefree fifteen year old girl attending Warrington Boarding School. But as time is the one unstoppable and uncontrollable thing in life that both carries and changes us, we later see deep into Lisa's mind and soul as the journal entries and the year progress.

Lisa reveals in the journal that her parents are divorced, which is what brought her to Warrington, as they believed that putting her in a different environment would lessen the blow for her. She also reveals her feelings towards Marina, as well as her life after *So Much To Tell You* ended.

Lisa is quick to cast judgement on her at the beginning of the novel, but as she does get to know her, she realises that she has a lot in common with her and they form a close bond. Especially when Marina starts speaking again.

John Marsden's ability to step into the shoes of teenage girls and tell their story with raw honesty and unbelievable accuracy of what all girls at that particular age go through; school stress, up-and-down friendships, trying to handle the turbulence that comes with relationships and dating, puberty and growing up, made Lisa's journey to maturity a joy to read.

And my curiosity to uncover the secrets that were present and the mysterious event that had caused Lisa to embark on this journey, made the novel hard to put down.

I thoroughly recommend *Take My Word For It* a great read for teenage girls aged thirteen to eighteen as they would be able to easily relate to Lisa and understand her, just like I did.