



Mistakes in the Background

Laura Dockrill

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Feast your eyes on a treasury of words and illustrations from one of the most exciting young talents around, recently voted by The Times as one of the top ten literary talents of 2008.

Mistakes in the Background Details

Date : Published October 1st 2008 by HarperCollins Publishers

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Author : Laura Dockrill

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From Reader Review Mistakes in the Background for online ebook

Clare Holman-Hobbs says

I wanted to pick this up after Lena at justkissmyfrog did an interview with Laura about her book Lorali, which I read last year and loved! So I got the ebook of this and devoured it! It feels so good to be reading poetry again and what an unique collection this is. There were quite a few that stood out for me but the poem at the end really gave me the shivers.

Amanda says

I do not read poetry often, but I found myself inexorably drawn into the South London world created by Laura Dockrill in Mistakes in the Background that I savored each poem and ran through the book in the space of a few days. The settings and situations are so urban, yet there's nothing foggy or gray. All the characters are vibrant, and the stories are about common people, common interactions, all told in beautiful rhythm.

Lou says

I really wanted to love this book and was extremely excited when I received it in the mail. However, I was quite disappointed reading her poems. Unfortunately I have to admit that I expected more from the artwork. It was very tiring to read her handwriting.

I guess, it just wasn't my cup of tea!

Ally says

I am not following.

Lucy-Brier says

Quirky, witty and somewhat nostalgic.

Gretel says

The drawings are awful and Dockrill's handwriting sucks, making some of the content quite hard to read. The poems aren't bad, and there are some that I stopped and thought were quite clever. The book is marred by tryhard quirkiness.

Ely says

Review from Tea & Titles

Mistakes in the Background is a very unique book. Not only is it made up of poems and short stories, it also includes little illustrations and other decorative things. I've never read anything like it before, but I'm hoping now that I can find some other things like it because I really enjoyed this.

I'm not an artist myself, so I really liked that Laura's style was very simple and messy because I felt more connected to it. I love looking at beautiful, perfect art journals and etc. but I don't feel as intimidated by Laura's style. It made me like the book even more, especially because a lot of the illustrations are really cute. I especially adored the other things—the use of labels, different papers, even shoelaces at one point. It made me feel very inspired to being creative, which is always a good thing.

The poetry was gorgeous and just completely mental in parts. I haven't read as much poetry as I would have liked, but a lot of the poetry I've read before now has been classic stuff—Plath, Bronte, Keats etc. So it was really interesting to read some contemporary poetry, even if I was a little young to get a few of the references. I really enjoyed how Laura focused on real life, or at least she didn't try to see some crazy amount of beauty in every situation, it was real.

All in all, yes you should totally read Mistakes in the Background. I can't wait to get around to Laura Dockrill's absolutely beautiful new YA book, Loralie.

Rachael says

Very inspiring creatively. Perfect for when you only have a few mins.

Kirsty says

I'm not one for poetry but bought this after meeting Laura not so long back and can honestly say I loved it. It's quirky and funny and nothing like I thought poetry was or could be. I could dip in and out of it for ages and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sara says

Mistakes in the Background is a small, sweet book but it never quite lives up to its original promise. The novelty of the format - basically, scribbles - wears off pretty quickly, and some of it is actually quite difficult to read.

That said, there were a couple of highlights which made reading the whole thing worthwhile. The poem "And the bubblebath bottle in the shape of Fireman Sam" captures beautifully the relationship between sisters. So much so I wanted to rip out the page and send it to mine.

Kai Page says

the writing and drawing style is really cool and quirky, I enjoyed it!

Rhi says

This has to be in my top 3 books of this year.

It's brilliant and perfect, and I doubt you will be able to put it down.

I've been coming back to it all year long. Its zine-style charm is welcoming and addictive, whilst Laura Dockrill's view of the world makes you want to jump up and down on a bouncy castle then settle down for a lovely cuppa with a blank journal and a pen.

Lauren says

Oh dear.

I really wanted to love this quirky book which combines poetry with artwork but found the poetry...well, rather silly actually.

Most of the "poems" were long and waffly and sounded akin to Purple Ronnie! The poems don't have any real depth to them and are flippant. I hate to say it but Dockrill just dumps a load of rhyming words together in the hope that they make her pieces flow, which often, they don't.

The vast majority of the poems collected here are forgettable and don't challenge you in any way. I don't mind humour and silliness but I like affecting work too, and wasn't moved by this at all.

I thought there was an art, a real skill to writing poetry, but in this instance believe that anyone could pull off something similar :(

The one poem I did like was 'Little Miss Winter' which was quite bittersweet. That was the only piece I had any connection with and felt slightly moved by.

Sadly, I won't be recommending this book to anyone.

Maxine says

cute, my favourite is definitely Mazes. cute illustration too.

Capnniknak says

Really made me laugh out loud. Enjoyed the crazy drawings
