



# Visitors, Vanishings and Va Va Va Voom

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Ally and her mates are most chuffed when a bunch of French boys turn up at school on a French exchange. Only Jen seems a bit distracted, but Ally doesn't have time to get to the bottom of it before it's too late - Jen's pulled a vanishing act!

## Visitors, Vanishings and Va Va Va Voom Details

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Author : Karen McCombie , Spike Gerrell (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Visitors, Vanishings and Va Va Va Voom for online ebook

### Erin says

McCombie really emphasised the tentative nature of Sandie and Billy's relationship when Billy got jealous about Sandie. Also, Jen seemed pretty sad... Although it was so long ago I've totally forgotten anything else..

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### A.R. Collins says

A great many characters are disappointing in this one, particularly Billy, who hadn't done much wrong hitherto, and even Dad is suddenly a complete moron for the sake of the plot. This story is much more friend-focused than family-focused, when it's Ally's family that I like, and I'm starting to think her circle of friends isn't really a very good one. I must be getting a bit boring with my moaning about the deterioration of Kyra's character, but this time she crossed a new line by forgetting to do exactly the kind of thing she *would* have done in the earlier books; the kind of thing that made Ally and Sandie, followed a couple of books later by the rest of the gang, befriend her in the first place. All in all, I was pretty unimpressed - but, as always, it had its moments.

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### Rachel Brand says

The "Ally's World" books weren't my favourite teen series and I was probably a bit too old for them when I started reading them, but I did enjoy them. Incredibly cute and very funny - but I honestly can't remember anything about this book!

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### Pauline says

3.5 stars.

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### Kyra (Blog of a Bookaholic) says

\*SERIES REVIEW\*

I have finally finished the series. All fourteen books, in a space of ten days. I read the first four books in the series when I was ten or eleven, and I adored them. This January, I really felt like revisiting them, as well as continuing with the rest of the books in the series that were still in the garage. I was scared that I wouldn't like them anymore in case I felt that they were too young for me...but I think I loved them even more this time round. IT WAS JUST...SO... PERFECT! \*sobs\* And I am now officially emotionally attached to this series.

The whole Ally's World series centers around thirteen year old Ally who lives in Crouch End in London, in

her ramshackle house with her quirky family. Throughout the series we are introduced to her sweet, but dippy dad; her seventeen year old sister Linn, who is neat freak and is quite grouchy with the fact that she has to live in such a chaotic house; Rowan, who is fifteen years old and is away with the fairies, her room is completely overtaken by fairy-lights and her own misshapen art projects; last but not least is her seven year old brother Tor, who is an animal fanatic, with a bedroom that doubles as the equivalent of London zoo. The only person missing in this equation is there mom who left them four years ago, battling bad post-natal depression after having Tor, to go travel the world that she has always wanted to see.

I absolutely ADORE Ally's family. They are all so loveable and quirky and I just adore them! Linn is the super-sensible, neat-freak and the oldest one out of the siblings. She also thinks that she has actually been adopted and belongs to a royal family somewhere out there. I felt sorry for Linn, at times I wished she wouldn't be so grouchy, but I could understand the frustration that she felt. I completely adored Rowan, she was utterly adorable and so sweet! I loved how she wasn't afraid to be different and dress quirkily, as it really just made her such a fantastic character that was strong in her own way. Tor was utterly adorable, he is such a cute character, and I loved reading about all his endless pets. I also loved Ivy, who was such a sweet little thing, she is only introduced way later in the series though, so I won't say much else!

I love that Karen McCombie has shown us all these little things that the characters do and how different their personality traits are. She wrote the family aspect amazingly - capturing the chaotic, yet wonderful, every day life of being in a big family. The characters had their ups and downs, where they lent on each other for support when there were times as trouble and I could clearly see the strong bond they all had with each other. It was truly wonderful the way Karen McCombie wrote the life of the Love family.

Throughout Ally's World, we also become acquainted with Sandie, Ally's best friend who can win the award for being The Shyest Person in the Universe; Kyra (my name!), who, at first sights, is seen as rude and obnoxious...but there is more than meets the eye; Billy, Ally's boy best mate and her four other friends who we also begin to know, but not quite as well as the others, who are made up of Chloe, Jen, Salma and Kellie.

The characters in this series are fantastic!

Ally is such a phenomenal character! She is sarcastic, funny, kind and she tells her stories with such an authentic voice. Throughout the series it honestly feels like we have become best friends. I love the way she tells the stories of her everyday life and how she deals with certain situations. She is also a character that I can relate to, as we are both professional worriers.

Then there are Ally's three best friends: Sandie, who is such a sweet character that I immediately liked, although she did disappoint me later on in the story as she did something that she really shouldn't have done, but I suppose it did all workout in the end. Billy, I adored Billy! He is, as Ally calls him, such a berk. He's absolutely hilarious and I often found myself laughing at the ridiculous antics that he could get up to. Then there is Kyra...at first I was disappointed to share my name with her, as she was quite rude and obnoxious without a singular tactful bone in her body.

However, I soon learned about Kyra's troubled home life in book four and I felt sorry for her. Kyra, as a character, definitely improves throughout the series. She is still loud and obnoxious...but she is funny and sarcastic too, which is a good thing. I think.

This is a truly phenomenal series. I would love to say more, especially about books 10 to 14 in the series. Some truly shocking things happened and there were times where I wanted to cry, scream, hug the books and fling them across the room.

Whenever I started reading the next book in the series, I felt like I was being welcomed into my second home. It felt like I was literally living in the story, and partaking in the hustle of the Love household's every

day life. I felt like part of the family. I know the characters' histories, I know their fears, their wants and I know each of them as they were my own sibling.

I think that's the truly amazing thing that Karen McCombie accomplished when she wrote the stories, is how she makes you feel like you're living in their world. She makes the characters seem so unbelievably real.

When you open another Ally's World book, you'll feel as if you are walking into your second home.

These books are absolutely perfect. The characters are loveable, the dialogue is fantastic and Karen McCombie has a way with words that will have you devouring every word on the page and constantly in hunger for more.

The last book was highly emotional, as I saw how far the characters had come, compared to where they were at in the first book. Laughs will be had, tears will be shed, hearts will broken, unexpected love lurks around the corner, families will fall and families will be completed. The last book was stunning and I was a highly emotional person after the final page had been read. A series that I will cherish. After reading this whole series, I can safely say Karen McCombie is now one of my favourite authors.

If you are to read these books, I'd recommend that you make sure you have all the books in the series at your fingertips, as you'll want to keep reading and drinking in the words and completely losing yourself in Ally's World.

I give it: 5/5 CUPCAKES!

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### **Beth Torres says**

This is a fun book which has all the earthy, lovable characters of the Ally's World series. I really like Ally, she has a lot to put up with, and all her stories have fun, and mistakes, and life, and it all shows you that life goes on, and you will make your sisters mad and you will have stuff to get done, but in the end you should always be yourself, and let others be themselves too.

A feel good comedy drama about a girl and her family, two elder sisters and a younger brother, eccentric people who live in a house full of animals with a single parent dad. I recommend this book thoroughly.

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### **Katie says**

**\*\*GENERAL REVIEW FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES\*\***

Aww, man....

I started reading these books when I was about nine years old. I don't think I even read them in order at first, just got whichever ones I could find out of my schools library. I loved them. *LOVED*.

Eventually I figured out the order and filled in the gaps. And then proceeded to read the entire series about five times over. Those were the times.

Ally was my spirit animal in those days. She was a little awkward, wasn't quite sure where she fit into her family, had a nice group of friends but only a special few that she considered best friends. She was unlucky in love, to say the least. That's not even mentioning all of the unbelievably embarrassing moments.

Coupled with a few other series, these books pretty much sum up my childhood reading. I think my heart sank a little when I realised I was reading the last one.

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