



## Secret Letters From 0 To 10 (Puffin Books)

By Susie Morgenstern

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Ten-year-old Ernest lives a flat, colorless life. Each day is the same: he comes home right after school, eats a healthy snack, and does his homework. Enter Victoria, the new girl in class. Victoria instantly falls in love with Ernest, and bulldozes her way into his life. Much to Ernest's surprise, he likes it. Bit by bit, color seeps into Ernest's humdrum existence--and he begins to realize that life can hold an endless variety of love, friendship, adventure, and change."Quirky characters, heightening suspense, and hilarious situations are deftly combined in this tender novel, which examines a few of the large and small ways people affect one another." --**Booklist**, starred review

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## Secret Letters From 0 To 10 (Puffin Books) By Susie Morgenstern Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Terse prose and a lovable hero in the form of Ernest Morlaisse, a deprived young man whose life turns topsy-turvy with a new neighbor's arrival, give this French novel universal appeal. There is no magic involved here, just the irrepressible spirit of Victoria de Montardent. This human "bulldozer" charges into his classroom and pulls 10-year-old Ernest into the colorful, modern world lying outside the door of his 80-year-old ("the kind of eighty that is really old") grandmother's house, a place where daily routines are as bland and predictable as the soup he has for dinner each night. Led by Victoria (and occasionally some of her 13 lively brothers), Ernest experiences a wide range of firsts: "I have tasted a delicious fondue, I have held an adorable baby in my arms, I have discovered the supermarket experience," he later reflects in a letter. He also learns the whereabouts of his long-lost father and is finally able to unveil the meaning of a puzzling missive written by his grandfather half a century ago. Not only will readers relish the serendipitous twists this novel has to offer, but their appreciation of ordinary pleasures (such as eating chocolate and scanning a book in the grocery store) may be heightened as they share Ernest's delight in discovering each new taste, texture, smell, sound and sight. Wrought with energy and wit, this chronicle of Ernest's metamorphosis from sheltered naïf into vibrant young man is not to be missed. Ages 9-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7-Winner of the French equivalent of the Newbery medal, this novel portrays the poignant journey of a young boy who learns to enjoy life, express his love for others and, at the same time, learn to love himself. Ten-year-old Ernest Morlaisse leads a quiet, uneventful life. He comes home from school, eats the same snack each day, and does his homework. He lives with his elderly grandmother who hardly speaks to him, especially about his dead mother and the father who deserted him when he was one day old. All this changes when a new girl, Victoria de Montardent, comes on the scene. For her, it's love at first sight. "We're getting married in thirteen years, eight months and three days" she tells him at one point. Her exuberance and joie de vivre captivate Ernest. Victoria and her 13 brothers befriend him, and he slowly begins to find joy in experiencing new things and encouraging his grandmother to leave her self-made prison behind. He also finds the courage to search for his father. The translation from the French is only noticeable because of a certain formality and precision in language that is not usually found in books for this age group. This formality lends considerable charm to the telling but requires a more thoughtful reader. Morgenstern has created extremely well-drawn, distinct, and sometimes quirky characters with eloquent dialogue. Since this is a quiet novel, it may need to be pushed. However, readers will not soon forget Victoria de Montardent and the journey Ernest takes to embrace life.

*Jennifer Ralston, Harford County Public Library, Belcamp, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4<sup>+</sup>-7. Poor, 10-year-old Ernest Morlaisse: his mother died at his birth, his father deserted him one day later, and he is being brought up in a dreary, protected household by a grim, elderly grandmother, who rarely utters more than a few words and never smiles. Ernest's days are so structured they are completely devoid of joy and surprise, and the only mysteries life holds are the whereabouts of his father and the contents of a coded letter his grandfather sent just before he was killed in World War II. The arrival of Victoria de Montardent changes all that. Outgoing Victoria and her 13 vivacious brothers bulldoze Ernest into exploring life outside dull, familiar boundaries and help him experience the sensations and wonderment of love, loss, curiosity, pain, and joy. Morgenstern chronicles the awakening of Ernest's "sleepy old heart" through a wryly

humorous narrative, presenting life's simple joys with such appreciation that events like going to the movies or answering the telephone seem as new to the reader as they do to a bemused Ernest. Quirky characters, heightening suspense, and hilarious situations are deftly combined in this tender novel, smoothly translated from the French, which examines a few of the large and small ways people affect one another. The richly rewarding happy ending will have kids begging for a sequel. *Kathleen Squires*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Yadira Singh:**

Book will be written, printed, or created for everything. You can know everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication Secret Letters From 0 To 10 (Puffin Books) will make you to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading a book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

#### **Johnny Powers:**

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#### **Rocio Linville:**

The reason? Because this Secret Letters From 0 To 10 (Puffin Books) is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

#### **Elton Williams:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got learners? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person similar to reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important and also book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to include

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