



# The Bailey Game

*Celia Rees*

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## The Bailey Game Celia Rees

Even if she doesn't believe in the ghost of Michael Bailey, Alex Lewis is still haunted by the memory of the terrifying incident that took place two years ago, and by the fact that she too played the vicious game which led to it - the Bailey Game. And all it takes for the game to start again is the arrival of a new girl, Lauren Price, who doesn't quite fit in with the rest of the class. Alex is suddenly confronted with some difficult decisions, but ultimately her friendship with Lauren and her memory of the unstoppable Bailey Game, demand that this time she opts out of the game and faces the perils of being on the outside...

## The Bailey Game Details

Date : Published March 4th 2005 by MacMillan UK (first published 1994)

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Author : Celia Rees

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# From Reader Review The Bailey Game for online ebook

## Elina Bergqvist says

Har läst bättre böcker än denna. Den var tråkig, hade dålig handling och kunde ha varit mer spännande. Denna rekommenderar jag inte.

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## Elizabeth says

Absolutely excellent book about bullying. Really goes into the reality of children's worlds, how bullying is not simply about one kid picking on another kid and all it needs is for the teacher to say it should stop for it to stop. It actually has the balls to look at bullying as part of the social structures and social hierarchies amongst children, how all within the peer group participate in, negotiate and are complicit with those structures and ideas, and how to judge who is culpable in such circumstances. It also goes into how these ideas from the children's world feed into, or are challenged by, ideas from the world of adults. Very good, without every pitching above the heads of its audience, or downplaying the seriousness of the topic.

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## Sally says

26/09/09 - Childhood favourite, just read it again for the first time in over ten years. It didn't stand up quite as well as I remembered it and if I was rating it now I'd probably drop it down to three stars. But I was crazy about this when I was younger and read it SO MANY TIMES that I think my five should still hold. I'd still read it again though - so there's still something there.

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## Bethany says

It was a quick and enjoyable story which, as well as being entertaining, highlights the horrors of childhood bullying.

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## Annaleigh Rose says

I read this book when I was quite young, and I remember loving it. I've read it again, and of course, there are flaws, it's not perfectly written and it's not exactly how I remember it, but it's still a wonderful tale. All children should read this book.

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## Aafia says

its about this boy who is always getting bullied,its kind a sad

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## Mary says

A teenage fiction page turner. Especially good on the characters of the two girls.

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## Angela says

The Bailey Game is a very powerful read that explores the terrifying effects of childhood bullying through the eyes of a child who witnesses it happen. We see the story unfold through Alex Lewis 's eyes she's seen the extremes bullying drove a boy called Michael Bailey through two years ago and watches a new girl called Lauren Price experience the same thing. Alex decides to step in this time and her and Lauren become good friends. Celia Rees did an excellent job of creating different realistic characters and her book points out that sometimes even though bullies can be frightening bullies must be stood up to and even if someone is new and from a different town you should never judge a person before you get to know them. My favourite characters would have to be Alex Lewis, Lauren Price and Caroline Price.

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## Ashton Jade Gibbs says

### The Bailey Game – Celia Rees

*The Bailey Game* explores the terrifying effects of childhood bullying through the eyes of a child who witnesses it happen. We see the story unfold from Alex's point of view. She's seen the extremes bullying drove a previous school student, Michael Bailey, to, and when she watches a new girl Lauren experience the same nasty taunts, she decides to step in this time. **She can't deal with the guilt of what happened to Michael Bailey all over again...**

“What was it about him that had made them hate him so much? Had he really been that different from other kids? It had seemed so then, he'd seemed like a freak, a monster. But thinking back, **he seemed just – ordinary**. He was a bit of a loner, but he hadn't had much choice, it wasn't clear that he was naturally like that. He wasn't especially good at anything, but neither was he especially bad. Maybe it was his name, or his plumpish build, or his red hair and high forehead, or his clothes, or the way he wore his bag slung across his chest, maybe it was things as trivial as that. There was nothing you could point to in particular, but somehow all of them together had marked him out as the butt of all their jokes and **what had started as mocking and ridicule had ended in vicious hatred.**”

It was a short read and beautifully written. Celia Rees did a fantastic job of creating different realistic

characters, and she succeeded in making me feel uncomfortable when reading the bullying scenes. There was nothing physical involved; it was all mental, which can cause much deeper wounds in the long run.

“What could hurt more than the sly digs and insults, **left to fester like sores...**”

From the start of this short story, the reader is kept in the dark about what exactly happened to Michael Bailey. I thought I had the right idea about it, but when it came to the telling scene... well wow. I had to put the book down, not because I wanted to, but because I could no longer read the words on the page due to the tears forming in my eyes. What an impact the reveal had on me. Four days later and it's still on my mind. **This really is a story this will stick with me for life.** And I think the reason the impact was so great is because **these things happen in our real life**, and it's horrifying.

“Condensation stopped him from seeing out. It dribbled and ran, dripping on the floor like a distillation of the hate forming around him.”

I was truly affected in mounds. I am lucky to have never been a victim of bullying, but the subject is something that makes me feel greatly uncomfortable and upset. Bullying is never okay. And it is okay to speak out, to anyone.

I almost gave this book a 4 star rating, and then I decided against it. Why shouldn't a book that impacted me as much as this one did get a 5 star? It might not be a masterpiece, or may not creating an incredible world in your mind like novels do, but it sure does pull on your heartstrings and get a firm grip of your emotions.

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## Jasminn says

Official rating would be 3.5 Stars.

When I started reading this book, I thought it would be just another book about bullying awareness. I didn't think that the bullying would be so much worse. It's like those bullies wanted Michael Bailey to actually commit suicide. They wanted to see how long Bailey would last. I actually believed that Bailey was a ghost and to tell you the truth, it scared the shit out of me. I'm glad that he isn't. I couldn't imagine the pain and how he had to suffer every day at school. At least, he started out fresh after the incident.

Lauren moved from Australia to England and she doesn't like it at all. She doesn't have any friends because everyone thinks that she's a freak. Alex also bullied her at first, but she had a feeling that this would turn out like last time with Bailey. She knew she had to stop it. So she became friends with Lauren. Their friendship was fragile but it grew stronger as Alex and Lauren stood up to the bullies.

For one, I don't get bullied. Everyone in my school are mostly good-natured people though you have to sometimes steer clear from some of them. And I do not take part in bullying because it's horrible! Why do you want to make someone suffer just because they're lame or doesn't have friends? That's just stupid!

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### **Amelia says**

This book really made me think a lot about bullies.

It really gave you an insight about how far bullying can go and it makes you realise how important it is to tell people who are being bullied to tell someone.

I liked Lauren a lot and I really sympathised with her.

Overall, it was an amazing book.

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### **Muneera Cajee says**

This book haunted me for a whole. I read it a long time ago but it still resonates in my mind.

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### **Lisa says**

I picked up The Bailey Game, because I'd read "Witch Child" by Celia Rees and really liked it. The Bailey Game is entirely different. It's a book about bullying and I think a very useful one at that. But it's not really of any literary interest. I passed it on to my daughter who's in year 7 to read.

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