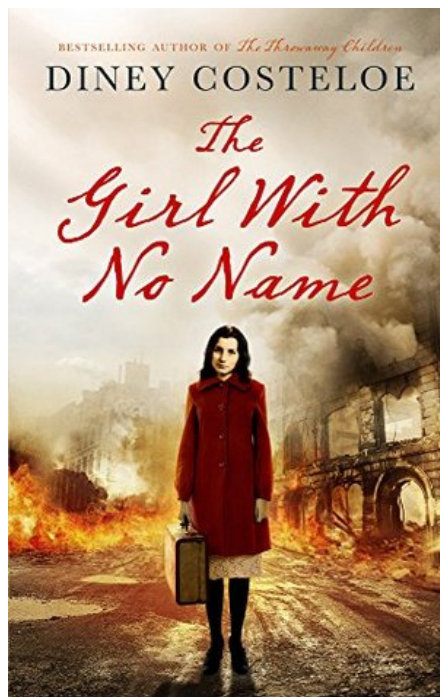




The Girl With No Name

Diney Costeloe

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A heart-wrenching story from the bestselling author of *The Throwaway Children*.

Thirteen-year-old Lisa has escaped from Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport. She arrives in London unable to speak a word of English, her few belongings crammed into a small suitcase. Among them is one precious photograph of the family she has left behind.

Lonely and homesick, Lisa is adopted by a childless couple. But when the Blitz blows her new home apart, she wakes up in hospital with no memory of who she is or where she came from. The authorities give her a new name and despatch her to a children's home.

With the war raging around her, what will become of Lisa now?

The Girl With No Name Details

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From Reader Review The Girl With No Name for online ebook

Becky says

I had such high hopes for this book, but sadly, I have been disappointed. It had popped up on my Kindle as a recommended book based on other books I have purchased. Initially, I was hesitant to purchase this book. I love historical fiction, but I'm always nervous to purchase/read a book from an author that I have not heard of before or recommended by family/friends. It happened to go on sale on Amazon, so after reading the book's description and seeing the rating, I thought I would give it a chance.

If you just focus on the story itself, the book is interesting. It's about a German refugee (Lisa) who is sent to London during WWII. During the great Blitz of London, she is injured and loses her memory. Honestly, the only reason I finished the book was because I wanted to find out if she regained her memory, found her foster parents, and if her family survived the war. To say the least, I struggled to finish it. I often had to put it down for several days before trying to read it. The dialogue is horribly written. It felt like all the characters were speaking broken English. I actually had to go back to read the author's bio to see if there was a language barrier. The author also randomly drops swear words in that really add nothing to story.

The way the book/story is structured drove me crazy at times -- one minute you reading about something and the next, there's suddenly a flashback to something that happened to just a few minutes beforehand. Only you don't always realize it. There were times that I felt a paragraph break would have been useful -- it felt like the story just ran together. I also agree with some of the other reviews on here about Harry -- there was a few chapters that were dedicated to him that I felt were unnecessary and would have made for a shorter book.

If you want to read this book, I recommend that you save your money and borrow from a friend or your local library.

Lauren Hopkins says

Spoilers, so be on the lookout. The story in this is okay but kind of bizarre...you think you're getting one thing and then it changes, and changes, and changes. You follow some characters all at once, but then stick to one particular character for five chapters in a row, forget about what the others are up to, and then bam, you get one chapter from another perspective. In all, there are about three main perspectives in this book, though the focus is on Lisa, or Charlotte, the German Jewish refugee who comes on a Kindertransport train to live with the Federman family in East London. You follow her insane and entirely implausible story, as she gets knocked out by a bomb and then develops amnesia, forgetting her name, and then she's mislabeled as Smith during triage so when her foster parents come looking for her, they find no unidentified children in hospitals, and even though this girl has amnesia not one person in the hospital thinks "oh maybe she's the one they're going crazy looking for!" because if they DID, this book wouldn't have a plot. STORY-BUILDING!

So nameless Lisa becomes Charlotte, and she's eventually moved to the countryside where she lives with an old curmudgeonly lady she somehow charms in a matter of days. She remembers who she is eventually, but stays living as Charlotte. Conveniently for her, the old woman dies, leaving a hidden fortune to the girl she took in only two years earlier (lmao) meaning Charlotte is set for life. Of course. Charlotte or Lisa (the author refers to her as both interchangeably which is awkward, but so is the author's writing in general...it sounds like she wrote this book in another language and then pushed it through google translate) moves to London to work in a children's home, and eventually reunites with her foster parents but is like meh I like my new life better, bye bitches! Then she finds out her actual mother is alive, having survived the Holocaust, but

the second Charlotte/Lisa gets to Germany, her mom calls out "Lisa!" and then promptly dies.

Oh, and there's a stupid love triangle too? This boy Harry, born Heinrich, is another refugee who is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad WWII. His foster family hates him so he moves to a hostel and quits school to become an errand boy on the black market, then he gets arrested as an enemy of the state and sent to an internment camp, then he gets out and finds work at the docks while living in the basement of the blown-up Federman home, then he runs his own black market scheme, and THEN Mikey, the guy who employed him earlier, sets him up so he is arrested and sent to prison for three years. During this whole time, he loves Lisa, the girl he protected from bullies when she first got to London, and he's depicted as this sweet but rugged kid who does what he needs to survive. But while she's in the country, Lisa/Charlotte falls in love with this bland boy Billy who has zero personality, and in the end, he's the one she ends up choosing because the author has done everything in her power to turn Harry from a good but lost kid into someone we're supposed to hate, despite all he's been through. I've never seen a writer turn around so hard and fast on one of her own characters. She even makes him get a bit rapey with Lisa/Charlotte at the movies one day and then is like "Billy wanted to take things slow." Oh, and this secondary character makes random judgments about Harry, like when Lisa/Charlotte gets an inheritance, there are not one but TWO references this secondary character makes about seeing cartoon money bags in Harry's eyes. Like, go fuck yourself, tbh. It's like Goofus and Gallant, and of course, the privileged farm boy who had everything handed to him wins out over the Jewish boy who did what he could to survive in a foreign city only to have literally all of it taken away from him. At the end, the author basically banishes him to Australia, taking him completely out of the picture just in case, while Lisa/Charlotte and Bland Billy get married.

Basically I started out giving this book three stars, and then went down to two, and now that I'm done with my rant, it's at one. This author can go fuck herself.

Mavis Frasure says

AWE....SENSATIONAL READ!

This is a fascinating read about a young German-Jewish girl that is sent to England alone, by her mother. Her father, a doctor, was detained by the Gestapo. Her mother, realizing that their future looked bleak, due to the fact that her husband's mother was Jewish and her son was blind, decided to send Lisa to England, in the hope the child might survive WWII.

This story keeps you on the edge of your seat. The author has the amazing talent to take you on the journey of this child, from the terrors of the rise of Nazi Germany to the unknown and uncertainty of London. The journey has many twists and turns.

This is a heart warming, tear jerking and frightening trip of a child that becomes a strong woman while surviving incredible challenges and the strangers that helped shape her life. A MUST READ!

Sara says

I really struggled with this book. It had all the makings of a great war story and yet it fell completely flat for me. It is not often that I give up on a book - I usually persevere in the hope that something will click and it will be worth it. That was definitely not the case with this book. Unfortunately the writing was stilted and contained many editing errors that should have been picked up (although this may only be on the Kindle

version). The authors attempt at writing dialogue in a London accent just didn't flow for me, and at times was really quite grating. Along with this the poor character development left me quite indifferent to what was going on - a hard thing to pull off in a war drama! I had such high hopes for this book especially after having enjoyed *The Throwaway Children*.

Corinne says

What a great book. I read this in ebook format. It was long, over 900 pages. The main character is a young girl, Lisa, who is sent out of Germany by train in 1939 due to the beginnings of WWII. Lisa is sent to London to a foster couple and this story is about her life during WWII. It always amazes me the conditions of places like London and France during the war. It is difficult to imagine just what the people went through. Totally engrossing story and worth the read.

Bev Walkling says

4.5 stars

This book tells the story of Lisa Becker, a young German non-practicing Jewish girl age 13 transported to England to avoid the reach of the Nazi's and their "final solution". From the early pages of the story my interest was fully captured and I didn't want to stop reading. On arrival in England, Lisa is placed with a couple who speak no German and really can't communicate with her. How she learns to speak English and develops a close relationship with them makes for an excellent story. She faces bullying in school from students who only see her as being "German" rather than understanding what prejudice and risk she faced in her homeland. A young boy from her hometown who came over on the same train saves her from the bullying that she is forced to deal with and they develop a close though secretive relationship.

The author really made me feel as if I knew what it was like to live in London during the Blitz. I could picture it in my mind. The book follows Lisa as she is injured in an air raid, loses her memory and ultimately is transported out of London for her safety's sake. Without giving away all the details, we follow her story as she becomes Charlotte and grows and matures throughout the war years. There are many twists and turns to her story and as would be expected in wartime, many difficult and sad moments. I believe this book would be of great interest to the young adult reader interested in learning more about what it was like to live in England during the war. Having said that, it was also of great interest to me as an over 60 reader. I will definitely be reading more books by this author.

Laura Richards says

A must read.

Even as people in England were sending their own children to safer places during WWII, England was accepting refugee children from Germany. Lisa's journey is filled with fear, hate, courage, assimilation and tremendous loss.

The author has done a wonderful job of describing life in England, both in the city and the countryside during the German blitz. Her descriptions and the accompanying details of what the English endured and in particular the journey of Lisa's, a 13 year old German refugee, made me feel as if we're experiencing it

myself. Although there are many characters in this novel, the author adeptly weaves the parts they play in Lisa's life.

My only criticism is the editorial mistakes, which should have easily been picked up by any decent editor.

Scott says

I almost gave up on this several times, but was too stubborn not to finish it. One dimensional characters, poorly written (felt as if it was intended for 10 year olds) and don't get me started on the amount of repetition and over explanation. Every scene of the story is spoon-fed to the reader. Despite the over explanation the characters are seriously under developed and not described in any detail. I really wanted to like it as it was a great premise for a story. To me it felt as if the author had a history book open and was filling in gaps between events from the war with a barely constructed story. Sorry, just not for me.

Laura Pirtle says

Kinda surprised this book got rated so high by others. It was interesting enough but I found the writing overdone and the plot fairly predictable. Yes there were times I skipped through the immense detail to get to the gist of the page, and it was very sweet most of the time...like a person who is too nice to be real. Everything so perfectly fell into place. When we chose this for our book club we all thought the plot sounded interesting...it could have been, but it simply fell.

Nikki Wiz says

A story with so much potential but the way it was written let it down. The characters weren't explored deeply enough and the trauma from life experiences was washed over. It was rather like reading something written for a teenager.

I didn't give up on it but there were times that it was written so simply I became frustrated with the lack of character dimension. Insight into the terrors of the London Bombings was good and was captured well but I would have preferred the author to scratch a little deeper.

Julia Wilson says

The Girl With No Name by Diney Costeloe is a historical fiction and set during World War II. It has action both in Germany and England. It is an epic read and one that tugs at the reader's heart.

Diney Costeloe has perfectly captured the traumatic atmosphere of the war years both in London and the countryside. The resolve of the British spirit could not be broken by Hitler. "Offices, factories, churches, homes, all targeted to instil fear and misery, to destroy the morale of the Londoners." The carry on atmosphere of the people prevailed inspite of the blitz. Londoners pulled together, overcoming against all the odds.

War for the German Jews was catastrophic. Many had fought for Germany during the First World War and saw themselves as German "first and foremost." As the Jewish people were targeted so that had to decide to hide or flee. The kindertransport brought out the desperation and braveness of the parents of the children involved. "It took brave women with deep love for their children to do that." The children were equally brave

as many arrived in England unable to speak the language and alone. Diney Costeloe has captured their fear perfectly.

The novel has the theme of searching. In times of war, people were searching for safety and for others. Lisa spends the whole novel searching not only for others but for herself - who is she?

Names are very important. A name change can also signify a character change or a change of circumstances. Lieselotte's name is made up of both Lisa and Charlotte. This is significant as she is two halves of the same person.

There is a wonderful air of love and care pervading the whole novel. In times of war, people seem to appreciate their loved ones more. They also open up their homes and hearts to those in need. A child in need can melt the hardest heart.

There is the theme of hope. "She had been keeping a tiny flame of hope alive in her heart." Hope can keep people going through even the most hopeless of circumstances.

There is the most wonderful feeling of community in both London and Somerset. They were two very different communities but united by the fact that they pulled together to help those in need.

It's not all good times and camaraderie. The black market and criminals put in an appearance too. The reader is always hoping they get their comeuppance!

The devastation of both lives and property is portrayed in the novel. The reader gets just a small flavour of the times which must have been horrendous.

The Girl With No Name was a fabulous epic tale and a compulsive read. The reader can 'feel' the spirit of the people. It was lovely to read a novel where I recognised the settings in both London and Somerset. This is my first novel by Diney Costeloe and i shall certainly be seeking more.

Highly recommended.

Katie says

I really enjoyed this book. I think if you read it for what it is and don't think too deep about the characters and their feelings it's a lovely story. For me it had enough twists and turns to make me want to read more and was true enough to history to make it seem real. I hope to read another of the authors books.

Sarah says

3.5 stars bumped up to 4. I really loved the story of Lisa/Charlotte, especially during the Blitz in the East End which, I felt, was very well described. I kept turning the pages because I was really interested to find out how it all ended for the young heroine.

However, a few things bothered me. Firstly, the numerous grammatical errors in the text. Secondly, the efforts the author makes to drum up empathy which, alas, didn't always ring true (stock ingredients of "popular fiction"?). And lastly, the character of Harry seemed very contrived; he kept popping up now and again like a bad penny to add a bit of spice to the story.

But please don't be put off. Overall it was an enjoyable read.

Joy H. says

Added 2/4/17. (Published March 1st 2016)

(Read mostly during Jan. & Feb. 2017)

On 12/29/16, I bought this Kindle edition for 99 cents via BookBub and Amazon. It has turned out to be well worth it. It kept me engaged through-out. As I got into it, I kept going back to it more and more, preferring it over the other books I was reading at the same time.

The characters are well-fleshed out and very likable. The style of writing is straight-forward and very readable. The plot has enough forward motion and suspense to keep one reading. It involves the effects of WWII on the people, and especially on the children, of Germany and England. The bombings on London are made very real and one wonders how they ever survived it all.

I was born in 1934. So I was in grade-school in the USA during WW2 . I remember the black-out practice raids we had and how, when the air-raid whistle blew, we would go down into our finished cellar where black curtains were hung over the windows. The headlights on the cars were half-covered in black. I remember the ration-books too. The Londoners experienced all this plus the actual bombings and destruction that took place, not to mention the fear they lived under. As the years go by, fewer and fewer people will still be alive who actually lived through that period. This book brings it all back.

See an excellent Goodreads member review of this book at: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>
[Review by Goodreads member, Julia Wilson]

Also see the following review by Bev at: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Brenda says

I am a historical fiction fan, so when I happened across this title it sounded like I would really enjoy it. I did enjoy the first part of the book and the last 1/4 of the book. The middle of the story fell flat. I read 2 other books while trying to finish this book. I almost gave up, but kept plugging away at it. I am giving this book 3.5 stars, because in the end I really did enjoy it. There were very colorful details on the war aspects of the story, like Blackout shades, bomb shelters, all clear alarms, the sounds and struggles of war, lack of food and supplies, taxi's getting requisitioned for the war effort, etc..which thankfully most of us living in America have never experienced and only experience these things through talented storytellers.

I have to agree with other reviewers on two points.... 1. that the characters seemed underdeveloped. I didn't find myself invested in any with the exception of Lisa and Billy. I've given this much thought and I really can't put my finger on why. Maybe it's because many characters appear so fleetingly in the story and there is not much build up around them. Lisa's parents, her foster parents, etc. They all seemed to come and go rather quickly. 2. Also the point made about Harry, and what was his character all about?... Just a bad penny like character popping up every so often in the book, again fleetingly.

There are many 5 star reviews for this story, so give it a go. All and all a good read, if it gets slow for you, hang in there, it's worth it.
