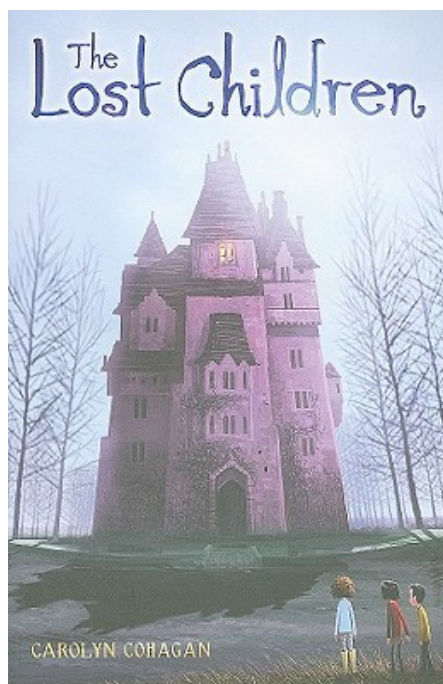




The Lost Children

Carolyn Cohagan

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Josephine Russing owns 387 pairs of gloves. She's given a new pair every week by her father, a sullen man known best for his insistence that the citizens in town wear gloves at all times.

A world away, the children of Gulm have been taken. No one knows where they might be, except the mysterious and terrifying leader of the land: The Master. He rules with an iron fist, using two grotesque creatures to enforce his terrible reign.

When a peculiar boy named Fargus shows up on Josephine's property and then disappears soon afterward, she follows him without a second thought and finds herself magically transported to Gulm.

After Fargus introduces her to his tough-as-nails friend Ida, the three of them set off on an adventure that will test everything Josephine has ever thought about the rules of the universe, leading to a revelation about the truth of the land of Gulm, and of Josephine's own life back home.

The Lost Children Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Children for online ebook

Gecy O. says

I have read this book twice. The first time was when I first brought it, and a second time a few years later to fully understand the story. It was very magical, and it had a few plot twists. I loved this book, and I suggest you read this if you love fantasy/magical books! 5 stars from me!

Melissa Chung says

I really liked this book. It wasn't without flaws, but I definitely recommend! Giving this middle grade a solid 4 stars!

The Lost Children starts off a bit slow. It's about a girl named Josephine who lives in a town where everyone has to wear gloves. Her father owns a glove factory and MAKES everyone in the town wear gloves too. People hate him and the kids hate Josephine because of the gloves. Now this beginning sounds super dopey, but it comes back around eventually.

One day Josephine is in her backyard planting a tomato for a class project when she sees a small boy standing in her backyard. He looked dirty and lost and had no shoes! Josephine felt bad for the boy and decided to invite him inside her house for some food. This is the beginning of a weird friendship. The boy comes again the next day and this time Josephine invites him up to her room. He seemed so tired. She hears her father come home and rushes downstairs to meet him. When she gets back to her room the boy is gone. She asked him where he had come from earlier in the day and he pointed toward the shed. She heads toward the shed. While inside the shed looking for the boy, she trips and finds her self somewhere else. Definitely not her shed. She is confused and frightened. It turns out when she tripped she fell into a different world. The boy is from this world. His name is Fergus and he is an orphan.

I read this book to my boys, a chapter a night. It was slow going. Each chapter is around 3 to 4 pages. I should have read a few chapters a night, but we were reading 3 different books ;) I think because we read the book so slowly that the beginning seemed to take forever to get to some action. This isn't a swashbuckling action packed story. It's a slow burn adventure with three kids as the main characters, all on a journey. It's like a mix of Wizard of Oz and Narnia. Each kid needs something and like Dorothy, all Josephine wants is to find her way home. What she finds on her journey is so much more. She found out that she was strong, brave, tough and fearless. She found true friends.

There is a twist at the end that definitely caught me off guard and of course like a sap I got choked up and teary eyed. My 13 year old really enjoyed this one and wanted to continue talking to me about it. His critique is that some of the plot points were a little too convenient and didn't make any sense. He wished the book was either longer or had a sequel so that some of the "magic" could have been fleshed out more. I love it. Teaching the boy right :D

If you like middle grade or your kids do, I'd definitely pick this one up.

Brianna Cronyn says

Currently, I am on page one hundred. There are many scenarios where I completely relate to Josephine Russing. In the beginning, she talks about how she is picked on for her dad making the law that they all always have to wear gloves. Giving that I am roughly her age and many people who are reading this novel probably are, I'm sure it isn't just me who could relate to being embarrassed by people you are affiliated with. One thing I appreciate about young Josephine is how she is sad but she can still be creative and loves to dream through books. Everything about Josephine that I've noticed so far shows that she is such a relatable person, and yet she has a special creative spark to her. Since she is going to a new place where things are different, I wonder how her attitude and creativity will be in her favor and be held against her.

Coral says

Honestly, this is one of my favorite books of all time. It is filled with adventure, friendship, and a little humor. There was not a single page where I became bored or ever wanted to put the book down. If you start reading this, you have to read the entire thing because the ending is priceless! I highly recommend this book. It is the perfect length and is one of my favorite genres. 5 stars all the way!

Victory says

this is my favorite book I ever read.
It's kind of twisted but the story about Josephine's father gets untangled and it really makes sense better.
I couldn't stop reading this book!!
It was one of my candidate for MCBA voting!!
If you didn't read it, I think you should!
Or else, I'm pretty sure you'll regret it!

Chloe says

MY VERY FAVORITE BOOK OF ALL TIME!!!!
I WANT TO GIVE IT LIKE 20 MILLION STARS!!!!!! Please write another!!!!!!

Megan K says

I absolutely loved this book. The characters are vibrant, and Cohagan transports you along with them for a journey through a mysterious and fascinating world full of creatures and stories you'd never imagine. It was hard to put this book down, and I looked forward to the next time I would get the chance to pick it up again. When it came to that sad time when a book is nearing its end, I was pleased to find that it had a beautiful ending, with a heartfelt and meaningful message. Brilliant and a must read for children, parents, or any person with a love for children's literature.

Bridget R. Wilson says

Twelve-year-old Josephine Russing has accepted certain circumstances in her life. She must always wear gloves. (It's a law!) Her father ignores her. She doesn't have any friends. But that all changes one day with the arrival of a mute boy called Fargus. When searching for him, Josephine finds herself transported into a parallel universe where children are scarce and everyone fears the "Master." With Fargus and his friend Ida by her side, Josephine intends to solve the mystery of the "Master" and return home.

What I thought: What a magical book! It had me hooked from the first paragraph. Though the best genre word to describe The Lost Children would be fantasy, I also appreciate the mystery elements in the story. It had a twist at the end that even I wasn't expecting. The blurb likens the book to Alice in Wonderland and I agree. However, I would also name The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe as similar. This book with its enchanting, adventurous story, believable characters, dastardly villain, and strong friend has the makings of a classic fantasy for children.

Julia Drake says

From the first page The Lost Children takes you into a world, so rich with texture, emotion, and suspense, you never want to leave. I'm so glad that there will be a sequel.

Noemi says

This book is a good inspiration for us kids to start reading. When I saw this book, I had started reading it and I had told myself that this is one of the best books that I had ever read. I like the plot and the dialogue because it gives lots of details and I am able to understand what is going on in the story.

James Maxon says

This review is from my 8-year-old daughter:

"My teacher read this book to my third grade class. I gave it 5-stars because it was interesting and cool how the author put some of her life experiences into her book. Also because it was creative and she put a lot of thought into the story. My favorite character was Ida because she was super funny. I was surprised at the ending, never bored with the story, and look forward to the second book when it comes out."

Sarah says

One of the more confused plots I've ever read. The setting could do with some grounding, and the confusion isn't helped by the fact that the back blurb is wrong. Gulm is a town, not a world. Who even knows what's going on with the world setting. Is this an alternate world? For sure? Why don't we know for sure right from the get-go? Since we have no basis for what's "normal" in the book, we don't even necessarily know what's abnormal. Which is something we need, since that would build suspense, lessen the overwhelming confusion, and overall make a more coherent novel. I'm not quite certain what the point of the novel was,

though I understood the plot. There's a lot of violence and angst that seems to be there just for there to be violence and angst, and there are no happy endings. Overall, a very strange novel which I will not be rereading.

Taylor Golembiewski says

Josephine is a girl who lives with only her dad, away from everyone else. Her dad is the most hated man in town because he made the ridiculous law that you have to wear gloves all the time. Josephine's life was pretty boring until a strange little boy walked into her life. he lead her to her scary shed that magically teleported her to another place. If you liked the book, "Chronicles of Narnia", you'll love this book.

Kristen says

Why I read this: It looked like a fun time-travel middle grade fiction, so I thought I'd give it a read. :)

Plot: I have to say, I really like time-travel plots, especially in children's novels. You get the best of both worlds, adventure and usually some glances into different cultures. This plot had some great adventure, some very cool worlds to explore, and a bad guy that I would have never thought up in a million years.

Characters: I'm going to start with the bad guy on this one. Definitely an inventive bad guy and the creatures he harnesses are something you do not want to mess with. I love the unusual bad guy, makes the story a lot more interesting.

Josephine, the main character, takes every plot turn in stride, trying her best to make the most of what is going on and keep going so she can get back to her world.

Fargus is the silent sidekick, having lost his ability to speak after he ruined his family's lives, he cannot seem to communicate with his voice. He makes for an interesting character and definitely one that feels guilty for his foolish mistake.

Ida is quite a spitfire, the other companion that has known Fargus growing up and can understand him better than anyone. She definitely is the tough one in the group and keeps them moving at different points in the novel.

Relatability: If you've ever been a child or have an imagination, this book is for you. There's nothing more fun than believing another world exists and there is a doorway to it in your shed. I definitely think this will appeal to all types of kids thanks to the wonderful way it is written.

Cover Commentary: Love it. Definitely portrays something ominous but adventurous.

Cat8 says

I read this in like 5th or 6th grade and it is still my favorite book. I love it so much. If I had to read 1 book over and over again, it would be this one. I hope you give it a read, yes you, the person reading this right

now.
