



Island of Silence

Lisa McMann

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The second book in the middle-grade dystopian fantasy series that *Kirkus Reviews* calls “The Hunger Games meets Harry Potter,” by *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa McMann.

Following the life-altering events at the conclusion of *The Unwanteds*, the stark world of Quill and the magical haven of Artimé are now home to whoever wants to live there, whether they are Wanted, Unwanteds, or Necessaries.

In Artimé, Alex Stowe and his friends continue to hone their artistic magical spells while welcoming newcomers, wondering how long this peace between Quill and Artimé will last. Alex is stunned when Mr. Today comes to him with a very special request—one Alex questions his readiness for, until circumstances offer a dramatic answer.

And back in Quill, Aaron Stowe, Alex’s twin, faces a very different path. Devastated by his loss of status after Justine’s defeat and seething with rage toward Alex, Aaron is stealthily planning his revenge and return to power.

Alex and Aaron’s separate stories proceed with suspenseful pacing, colliding in a stunning climax that elevates sibling rivalry to epic proportions and leaves the fate of both worlds hanging in the balance.

Island of Silence Details

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Author : Lisa McMann

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From Reader Review Island of Silence for online ebook

Joanne says

I loved this book, maybe even more than the first in the series. In this action-packed second installment of THE UNWANTEDS series, we see more of the fantastical worlds of Quill and Artime and how their inhabitants deal with each other in the aftermath of the skirmish between them. I loved reading about the two brothers, Alex and Aaron and how they each navigate through their respective worlds. Alex's self-doubt and Aaron's false bravado are both well drawn and provide another layer of the dichotomy between these brothers who find themselves on opposite sides of their worlds, both physically and figuratively. Add in lots of action and some seriously riveting scenes where I gasped out loud and this is another book that middle graders and grown-ups alike will enjoy. The last third, in particular, was edge of your seat suspenseful and will definitely grab you by the throat (once you read the book, that will make sense on a whole new level). My only complaint is the ending should require the next installment to be delivered IMMEDIATELY!

Carina Olsen says

This is the third Middle Grade book I have read in three days. All have been amazing. Island of Silence infected me the most, though, I think. I'm still kind of shaking. It was awful. And perfect. So full of terrible things. And I need to know what happens next. Such a cliffhanger. But I don't hate it. I think. I just need the third book right away, please. Anyway. I loved Island of Silence. Didn't happen much for the first 200 pages, so was a bit disappointed, but then so much happened and I could not stop reading at all. This is a five star book. Even with the bit slow beginning. The end makes up for it.

The writing in this book is perfect. Island of Silence is the sequel to The Unwanteds. And I liked the third person point of view in book one, and I still liked it in this book. The writing is really well. And I loved the characters. Well, okay, I might have loved Alex the most and disliked some of his friends.. but with the horrible and perfect ending I'm kind of loving them all. Next to being horrified. This book really is perfect. And it doesn't feel so middle grade, to be honest. Would have loved it either way :)

Okay, I must admit that I'm confused about how to write my review. Not sure how to put words to this amazing plot. I'll take that as it comes, I think. So I'm going to start with the characters :) First there is Alex, the main character. The book is mostly from his point of view, and I liked that. He is a little bit older in this book; it's been one and a half year since the beginning of The Unwanteds. But maybe just a few months since the end of the first book, if I remember correctly. Alex is an amazing person. I feel sorry for him a lot. Because I still think that it feels like he's alone a lot. That sucks.

But he is still the best character there is in this book. At least to me. He's kind and sweet and strong. He doesn't believe himself to be able to lead all of Artimè, but he could. Alex is a strong person; even if he doesn't see it himself. We learn so many things about him in these books. And I like that. We see some character growth as well. Then there is Mr. Today. I must admit to hating his name. Find it a bit silly. But I still liked him, I think. He's the one who made Artimè. Who saved all The Unwanteds.

Mr. Today is sort of a magician. Been a while since I read book one, so cannot remember what they called it :p But he does magic. He can make creatures, stone creatures come to life. And I loved everything he had created. He believes in Alex, and I liked that. I also liked his daughter, she kind of has a big small part in this book. She must have a bigger part in book three. I needs it. Sigh. I kind of loved all the teachers at Artimè. They were all different and unique, and they were all kind.

Then there is Alex's friends. I am still unsure how I feel about them. There is Samheed and Meghan and Lani. I still want a romance between Alex and Lani. Even though I still don't love her :\ Think she treats Alex bad. She's always jealous of him and ignoring him :\ Did not like. But I kind of loved her near the end. Between almost crying. There must be more of her in book three. And some romance, please. I also really liked Samheed and Meghan. They are really kind and sweet and awesome :) Loved them.

One person I really hated was Aaron, Alex's twin brother. He was goddamn evil. And I hated how this book ended with him. Grrrr. It better be better in book three. It must be. Because, god, Aaron does so many awful things in this book. Hates him. I really do. So many characters in this book. Many I loved. Many I hated. But I loved Simber. The creature on the gorgeous perfect cover of this book. He was amazing. So kind and loyal and all kinds of awesome. *Sobs.* Book three soon?

I don't know what to say about the plot in this book. I don't want to do a recap. And I don't want to spoil anything. There is so much happening in the last 200 pages of this book. So much heartbreak and tears. And scary parts. And awful parts. And it was all so perfect. Just didn't expect it from a middle grade book ;p Which only made it better, to be honest. It was all just so good. I also really liked the magic training in this book. Was kind of fascinating :) And I liked reading about it.

There is so much happening in this book. So many deaths. And heartbreaks. My heart still feels broken. What upset me the most, though, was the Island of Silence. We didn't see that much of it. There will be tons more in book three, I can tell. But what we saw broke me. Such an awful place. And so well written and I loved it even if it killed me. Awful things happen there. To characters I loved. There is this necklace, that they sew into the people's neck, so that they are silent. *Shudders.*

See, I told one thing about the plot! The most awful thing, even. But no matter what I would say, I could never describe to awfulness. You just need to read it. It's worth it. Promise. Even if it ends bad. With a big cliffhanger. And the book makes you so sad and heartbroken. It is still perfect. Island of Silence is an amazing book. And if you have read The Unwanted, then you must read this perfect sequel. Still haven't started this series? Then do so! It's so good. Promise. :)

Travis says

Now this book was just as good as the first one when it began but then took a step in the right direction to be a little better with those last 100 pages or so. I had a few minor issues with this book though. One being the characters being only 13 and 14ish really disturbed me and that is saying a lot coming from a 25 year old. The second being why title the book Island of Silence if we literally only spend and talk about it for like 50 pages out of a 400 page book. In all I am having a lot of fun reading this series so I am going to leave it at that because I have 5 more books to go!!

Tammy says

What a cliff-hanger!

Connor says

[3.5 Stars]

What a fun ride! I read that so quickly! This one picks up very quickly after the events of the first book, and there are so many more complications that get added to the story. I liked following Alex as he learned more about the foundations of Artime. I appreciated getting more chapters from Aaron's POV as well. I thought Aaron's chapters allow the reader to understand Aaron a lot more and sympathize with him a little (not fully because he's still being annoying). Alex is great. I think he's got some amazing traits that are a good example for children.

I think this novel finished a little too abruptly albeit with some dashes of hope for the characters. I would have liked to have seen at least one of the many problems closer to being sorted out even if it was something small. I did not like that the author decided to name the 'great' attack spells after devastating medical conditions that really affect people in the real world. There are plenty of names that can mean to incapacitate or to confuse other than Heart Attack and Dementia. Bad choice in my opinion. (May hit a little closer to home for me because we just had to place my grandfather in an assisted living home for his dementia. So take this sensitive opinion with a grain of salt.)

Overall, I'm still really enjoying the series, so I will be continuing. I just think some more could have been packed into this one and that there could have been more thought into the spells before potentially making light of what some children will have had bad experiences with.

Michelle Hoeglund-allison says

Rather than give a summary of the book, my review focuses on the appropriateness, and enjoyment for a Middle Grader (who the audience is intended to be).

EXCELLENT choice for middle graders. Especially BOYS. My son is an avid and advanced reader so sometimes finding exciting age appropriate books for him is difficult. However, as I mentioned in my review of #1, Unwanteds, I'm enjoying this series as much as he is.

My 7th grader and I both read this 2nd installment of the Unwanteds series as quickly as we could get it from the library. Its the 2nd in a series of 7. While in my review of Unwanteds #1, I said that book was a good stand alone book, this one, #2, is not. I wouldn't suggest reading it before #1. As with the first, as soon as we finished we got online to see if there was another one out yet, but alas, we have to wait.

The character development isn't as strong as in the first book, but since the bulk of the characters are the same, that isn't really necessary if you've read #1 already (which I STRONGLY recommend you do). For the new characters, I think she does their character development justice. There are characters that you'll love, and characters that you'll truly despise. For the most part characters behave and talk the way we've come to expect them too...with some fun twists.

We both enjoyed this book even more than the first, and the first was excellent. Island of Silence in general we both think is more "exciting." Just a LOT Of stuff going, and you don't want to miss any of it. It's a bit "heavier" than the first as well, dealing with the trials and experiences of specific characters. But the book rounds out nicely with an awesome cliff hanger that made my boy frustrated that he couldn't just read the next book. This is a good thing in our house.

While we read the first book out loud, this one, we read separately because, well frankly, my son didn't have

the patience to WAIT that long to finish reading it. It was difficult getting him to stop reading each night. And, when HE finished, he couldn't wait for ME to finish because he was so excited.

We happen to be a Christian family, and while the book doesn't address any sort of religion per se, I love the values and traits that Lisa McMann expresses in this series. Characters grow. Take responsibility. Work as a team. Build friendships. Deal with loss. There is a strong sense of community.

Highly recommend this great book and series.

Island of Silence

Brittany says

I didn't think this the first one needed a sequel but I'm excited anyway.

Laurel says

THERE IS MORE?!
THERE IS MORE!

I THOUGHT THAT WAS A PEGASUS BUT IT'S MY BABY, SIMBER. Simber, my darling, I'm coming!
Just wait a little longer! D:
Oh my god that cover makes me want to cry from its beauty.

I AM READY FOR THIS BADASSERY.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

What a fabulous sequel! Island of Silence picks up right where The Unwants left off and dives right into a plot line full of action, betrayal, chaos, and suspense. I swear Lisa McMann's writing gets better and better with each book. Every time I read her newest release it becomes my favorite Lisa book because of that. This time around I really liked how she not only told the story, but how she allowed me to understand the motives that drove the two brothers to make the choices they did.

It was really fascinating for me to see the brothers in a very different light than I had in The Unwants. I felt like I understood Alex a lot more in this book, and I got why Mr Today was so eager to teach him and train him in his ways. I also like the fatherly patience and wisdom that he gave to Alex. One of my favorite quotes from this book comes from Mr Today when he's talking to Alex:

"..... There will always be times we struggle, make bad decisions, even fail. What's important is not that we fail, but that we learn and grow. And that we know there is always someone out there who believes in us."

..... "Where problems you may face, you must know this: I do believe in you." (pg. 250)

I liked seeing Alex's hesitation and admire him for stepping up to the plate to fulfill his duties when the time was right. It made him more relatable to be unsure of himself and then see him grow into this confident person. Alex is a hero who learns to overcome the little voice in his head that fills him with doubt. He learns to embrace his talents and he finds the confidence he needs to accomplish his mission.

Aaron on the other hand surprised me with all he does in this book. These two brothers reminded me of Yin and Yang. It seems with them you can't have the good without having the bad, and in some strange way the good and bad each brother sides with balances everything out. One brother's horrific actions leads another brother to his destiny. I know this sounds crazy, but when you read the book you'll see what I'm talking about. I liked how Lisa wove the two brother's paths together without the other knowing what his brother was really up to. I really wish I could talk specifics, but I can't without giving anything away. This story line seriously surprised me. I wasn't expecting some of the things that happened to happen at all. It's so well written.

I enjoyed being able to dive back into the magical world of the Unwanted. What I wasn't expecting was the incredibly fast paced story line, nonstop action, and surprising twists that Island of Silence has. I feel like I'm still catching my breath after finishing it. I can not wait to read the next installment in this incredibly addicting series. I highly recommend picking this up today!

mills♥ says

Not really much action until the very end, but it was a fun read and I am excited to continue!

Nicole says

A stunning sequel. Much more mature than the first, which seems a little strange being that the characters have only aged one year since the first book.

Very well done. I can't say anymore now, because the ending left me thoroughly traumatized and in mental pain.

Adam Silvera says

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON SHELF AWARENESS

In this action-packed sequel to *The Unwanted*, Lisa McMann turns the tables on the once privileged Wanted in favor of the Unwanted.

Months following the deadly battle fought in the first book, the mage Mr. Today removes the gate that once separated Quill, a regulated land, from Artimé, home of creative innovators. This allows Quill's Wanted and Necessarys a new way of life in a once-hidden world of choices, bright colors and wandering creatures. In Artimé, Mr. Today proposes to 14-year-old Alex Stowe that he train him to one day lead Artimé after he retires. Alex is hesitant to accept. "What if I don't want to have a lifelong battle with my brother?" Alex replies. Meanwhile, Alex's twin, Aaron, the prodigy Wanted, has been demoted after his leader was killed and he was banished from the university to live on the streets. Patiently he plots his return to power,

recruiting Wanteds and Necessaries along the way.

Close to assuming leadership, Alex's impulse to trust all new residents of Artimé may prove to be his downfall when Aaron's spy joins Alex's close company. The island of silence plays its role, but Artimé remains center stage, ready for battle, each conflict more devastating than the last. The conflict plays out with new fatal spells and enough fire-breathing origami dragons to ignite the interest of Harry Potter fans.

As Aaron rises from his fall from grace, and Alex steps up as a leader, readers won't want to miss this heated battle.

Natalie Penry says

It was really suspenseful! And I can't wait to read the next installment.

Reading is my Escape says

Great follow up to the first...

The sun was low over the sea off the shore of Artime, making the distant islands look like flaming drops of lava on the horizon. An enormous winged cheetah named Simber came into view, flying over the nearby jungle.

- opening sentences

This book was just as good as the first. The end was a huge cliffhanger and I am dying to read the next one. But, my tbr list calls... and there are at least 5 more books in the series. So, I will take a short break. But I'll be back.

Bunny says

Finished this up last night and omg this was so good!

The "island of silence" scares the crap out of me! Parts of this one had me sitting up in bed all sweaty palmed and gasping for air waiting for the narrator to say everyone was ok!

I'm still waiting. :(

lol.

Such a great story! Can NOT wait for the next book!!!

FULL REVIEW TO COME.

~B

Originally posted on www.bunnycates.com

My Thoughts:

I don't know why I am having such a hard time coming up with how I want to write this review. My brain is

so weird sometimes.

This is book TWO in a series, so if you haven't read THE UNWANTEDS which is book ONE... You probably shouldn't read this review.

For me, this book was just as fantastical as the first one. The world that Lisa McMann has built with Artimé and Quill is, for lack of a better word, awesome. Even for me as a grown up. Quill is so dark and dreary, by contrast, Artimé is so colorful and ALIVE. Now, we have The Island of Silence as well – which could possibly be the scariest place I have ever read in a book. (umm, and I read A LOT of horror!)

The characters are so well developed, that I feel like I know them. I want to be friends with them (or NOT), I want to hug them (or NOT!)... The author has done such an amazing job here. The characters you are supposed to care about you do – and the ones you are supposed to despise, YOU DO! I would not be lying if I said the inhabitants from the Island of Silence could have been plucked from one of my crazy ass nightmares. They SCARED ME. As in: sat up in bed, gasping for air, praying “my friends” got away from them.

The story arc was great! There was so much action, mystery, drama, and suspense. I really can't believe this is a Middle Grade series. It is THAT GOOD.

In Conclusion:

I can't tell you guys how much I enjoy this series. I mean, I tried. Above. Obviously. But sometimes a review for a book or series, really just doesn't do it justice. This is one of those cases, I think. (review of the first book in this series is [HERE](#)) The world building is fantastic, the characters are dynamic (and lovable), and the story just sucks you in. For me, this one is a win/win/win. I did the first two books on audio, and really hope I pick up the hardcopies to have on my bookshelf soon!

Mom Notes:

This book has some VERY scary bits in it. Even as an adult, the suspense and description of what happens on the Island of Silence was SCARY!! I think I would have to say this one is maybe ages 11-12 and up.

FOR PARENTS and STUDENTS:

This book is rated:

Interest Level: MG

ATOS Book Level (reading skill level): 5.4

AR Pts: 11.0
