



The Girl Who Could Fly

Victoria Forester

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When homeschooled farm girl Piper McCloud reveals her ability to fly, she is quickly taken to a secret government facility to be trained with other exceptional children, but she soon realizes that something is very wrong and begins working with brilliant and wealthy Conrad to escape.

"Piper decided to jump off the roof. It wasn't a rash decision on her part. This was her plan: Climb to the top of the roof, pick up speed by running from one end all the way to the other. Jump off. Finally, and most importantly, don't fall. She didn't make plans in the event she did fall, because if you jump off the roof of your house and land on your head, you really don't need any plans from that point on. Even Piper knew that. So that's what she did. She jumped clean off her roof. But before we get to what happens next, you'll probably need to know a thing or two about a thing or two..."

The Girl Who Could Fly Details

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Author : Victoria Forester

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From Reader Review The Girl Who Could Fly for online ebook

Bonnie (A Backwards Story) says

Have you ever picked up a book and thought, "Hmm, that sounds interesting," then, upon reading it, think it's middle-ground, only to change your mind yet again because the final third is so good it more than makes up for everything else? That was my experience with *The Girl Who Could Fly* by Victoria Forester. I'm not saying the first two-thirds were sub-par or dislikable, just that I wasn't hanging onto every twist and turn in the plot. By the end, however, I was hoping there was a sequel on the horizon, though there doesn't appear to be one yet.

I'm enamored with Forester's characters: Piper, who endeared herself to me with her cheery outlook on life that reminded me of Anne Shirley (from L.M. Montgomery's *Green Gables* series), Conrad, who was, at first, detestable, but grew to be my absolute favorite character, and I even found myself liking Dr. Hellion. The character development among the major players was handled quite well, and I truly cared for all of them by the end. If a sequel is to come out, I'd like to see more fleshed out secondary characters as well as some light shed onto the mysterious J. There were too many things left hanging for there to not be a continuation despite the pretty bow tying up the majority of the story and bringing a sense of closure to the end.

The back cover of the book is what initially had me picking it up. I like reading about people who are exceptional. Ultimately, the book is about a bunch of kids with super powers. Our main character, Piper, for example, can fly. Upon discovering that Piper is "special," the government steps in and takes her away from her family to live in a secluded institution for people like her called I.N.S.A.N.E. (which stands for something scientific, but I forget what ^^). At first, the school seems ob e wonderful and save, but we soon discover that there is something sinister lurking beneath the surface, something the government will go to great lengths to hide, even from the children under its protection...

Without going into further detail since I hate being spoiled and try not to ruin a book for other potential readers, I'll end by saying that this book had a lot of twists and turns, some of which I never saw coming. While some parts of the novel were ho-hum for my fickle mind, I stayed engaged and found *The Girl Who Could Fly* to be a great way to pass the time.

Amanda says

I was forced to end my reading strike (for the rest of May) when I picked this book up and innocently read the first couple of pages. While parts of the book are awkwardly written, I couldn't help but fall in love with the main character and kept reading just to make sure she ended up okay. The story was captivating and the message was good. This was a great quick read.

Tamara says

This book is utterly fabulous. While charmed from the beginning, I was simultaneously wary that it might be hodge podge of ripped off ideas from *Anne of Green Gables*, *Harry Potter* & *X-Men*. Thankfully, this book ended up creating a world of characters and places firmly its own. I love this book, and recommend it to anyone.

Hannah says

I would probably give this 2.5 stars.

But let me start out this review by saying **this book is not for children.**

It's just not. There are numerous conflicts in the book that require a more mature grasp of reality. Torture, abuse, imprisonment, lobotomy, religion, death, drugs, and lies. Not to mention that there were certain sexual innuendos as well as moderate curse words. All of it was heavily present, and the final result was a book whose audience has been incorrectly marketed.

Of course, the premise seems innocent enough. A little girl develops the ability to fly, and she is sent away to X-men's school for gifted youngsters. Innocent premise with pretty morbid details.

What I hated about this book was the author's obvious bias towards certain subjects. Now, I am aware that she kinda-sorta attempted to reverse these biases in the end, but it just didn't work. What I'm majorly talking about is the negative attitude toward religion, with an emphasis on Christianity. Piper's parents were portrayed as idiots, quite frankly. Stereotypical, southern idiots that blindly cling to tradition and continuously swear on the Bible. The author painted them in a very negative light. They wouldn't let Piper fly because it wasn't natural, because God didn't make people to fly. Betty would constantly claim that the good Lord would protect them, and once the author went so far as to say that Betty was incorrect in her belief that God would save them. Betty was described as ignoring Piper because she was "too busy praying." Piper's southern home town is described as wholly Christian and conservative, not to mention gossipy and judgmental. In fact, after Piper was rejected by the town, the author literally wrote "... not a single Christian soil among them was willing to give her the benefit of the doubt." The list could go on and on, but the thing is that all of these influences were very subtle for the most part. The author's use of negatively connotative diction patronized Christianity and its seemingly absurd beliefs. This is ridiculous! This would be true of any other religion or lack of as well. Everyone who proclaimed their religious faith were portrayed as idiots, and I highly, highly doubt this was done without intent. I would be able to accept Forester's development if it wasn't so darn stereotypical, and I would be more forgiving if the flaws would have been used to show that everyone, no matter their religion, is human. That everyone makes mistakes, but everyone has the ability to remedy this past actions. Of course, this is not how it goes down.

Another issue: the negative view towards homeschooling. Homeschooling is not only portrayed as a purely Christian activity, it is also portrayed as an isolating institution that pumps out shoddy education. I mean, the story is literally about a homeschooler (as evident in the short, non-revealing description) wishing nothing more than to go to traditional school, and her passion drives her to desperate matters. Plus, Piper can't speak any type of proper English, and her parents are again portrayed as brainless, so the fact that they partake in homeschooling has obvious negative biases. Piper spends the first third of the book whining about how she doesn't have any friends-- hinting that homeschoolers are not allowed to have any sort of social life. This is more of a personal issue, as I'm homeschooled right now. I've been to almost every type of school, and you know what? I will always prefer homeschooling. It's not because I'm lazy; it's not because I can't handle "real" school. No, I prefer the in-depth education that I can only receive outside of the bureaucratic-eqsue, time-wasting classroom. You have a social life, and you are prepared, if not better prepared, for adult life. Whew, sorry-- mini-rant. But I hate how popular culture portrays this perfectly legitimate form of schooling in a negative way. Now, before you say "But it wasn't like that in the end!" It pretty much is. (view spoiler) Ah, I need to move. Otherwise I'll be a-rantin' all night. ;)

Of course, with the discussion of the biases behind me, let's talk about the mass amounts of adult content.

Mass amounts. My little, 10-year-old sister read this before me. As she was reading it, she repeatedly mentioned how "confused" she was and how "sad" she felt. I wondered as to why this was the case, so I decided to pick it up myself. Man, was I surprised. There is an entire dedicated to the torture of our main character, in which (view spoiler). There are discussions of lobotomy as well as other forms of mental treatment. Animal abuse is present. Sexually-charged actions do occur like (view spoiler). Curse words are more often suggested, but there are a few instances of it actually being typed out. Etc., etc., etc. This book just had a lot of content that I have never experienced in a book marketed to children. It's almost worse that all of these serious subjects were watered down. So, while their terribleness was hinted at, the reader could not experience the true, serious weight of the subject. This in itself is a crime, as the young readers are left with a feel-good, airy-fairy version of hardships and evils, which of course leads to ignorance while destroying a part of their innocence. All and all, a lot of the violent content in the books could have been left out. Or, it could have been more described and more in-depth, but it should have been marketed to an older audience.

As for the story, writing, characterization, etc., it was all average. Nothing special. The story was extremely stereotypical, as I have hinted before. There was nothing original; it was basically X-toddlers. The ending was typical. Writing was extremely confusing and run-on at times. I had trouble understanding what Forester was trying to describe; I can only imagine the frustration of younger readers. Again, the writing itself isn't even geared toward the book's intended audience. Characters were average. No one was really memorable. I liked Piper a bit. She was very strong-willed and pretty mature. However, I really enjoyed Dr. Hellion by the end.

With this being said, there were some redeeming qualities. There were some important lessons about staying true to your self, seeking truth, and acknowledging the importance of family. So, a star for some of the great themes that the book put out.

Overall, yes, I was extremely disappointed with the book. There were some redeeming qualities, but the negatives were just too numerous. Now, a lot of these points are subjective, and I don't expect you to agree with me. I just personally had so many issues with this book that I couldn't enjoy it. Maybe I'm over-thinking it, but it's how I feel. I don't necessarily recommend it, but I encourage you to read it yourself and form your own opinion.

Libby Ames says

Well-written with interesting and complex characters, this book was better than its summary led me to believe. Piper McCloud is a sheltered farm girl who discovers she can fly. When she reveals this to her close-minded community, the expected fear of anything different surfaces and forces Piper into a special school with other 'gifted' children.

While presenting the age old conflict of individuality vs. conformity, this book provides complex characters and unexpected twists of plot. It is a fun, light read appropriate for children, but contains powerful lessons about the strength of the human spirit and the power of the heart.

~Tina~ says

TBR Reduce Challenge #18- 2011 (Stefanie)

The Girl Who Could Fly is a very well crafted story with a lot of imagination and creativity and while it's obviously for younger readers, I didn't expect it to be so harsh and cruel. Never the less, the writing is well done and I did enjoy some of the characters, but for the most part I couldn't love this one as much as I wanted too.

Nicole Pramik says

Would you believe this novel is actually about football-playing aliens in space?

Naw. I was just pulling your leg there for a nanosecond.

If this novel's premise sounds a little bit like *X-Men*, you wouldn't be entirely wrong, but the super-gifted children in *The Girl Who Could Fly* are not mutants – they're just average kids blessed with special abilities. Premise-wise, it's been done before – an average kid discovers she's gifted and meets other kids just like her. But the things that set *The Girl Who Could Fly* apart are its a sweet story and immediately likable protagonist. The narrative is told from Piper's perspective with some exceptions (see my gripe about that below). I found myself so emotionally connected to Piper that when she was happy, so was I. When she was sad, I was, too. And when she got cotton-pickin' mad, so did I. Some readers may not like Piper's dialectal tone, but for me that added to her charm. As for the rest of the cast, Piper's peers and even the adults at the institute were fleshed out fairly well for a book of this size and intended audience. Granted, some characters run close to being stereotypes but they manage not to completely cross the line.

My only genuine complaint about the novel is its narrative inconsistency. As stated above, most of the story is from Piper's perspective but it occasionally drifts into other characters' vantage points, such as the calculating genius Conrad and even Dr. Hellion. Younger readers might not notice this shift but I found it a bit rough around the edges when it happened, which wasn't often. I think I would have found it less jarring if it occurred more frequently with Piper sharing part of the narrative with some of the other characters.

Another issue some readers might have (though I didn't) is the principle message of the book. Let me state there is absolutely nothing wrong with telling kids that it's okay to be an individual and to embrace and use their talents. But sometimes this message gets hammered home a little too much in this book, especially when one character touts a "different is bad, normal is good" philosophy that is a bit heavy-handed. Again, the execution of this theme might tie into the primary age group for this book where directness is better than subtle inference. So it's not necessarily a negative in and of itself but it is something that I picked up though I'm not picking it apart.

Likewise, some portions of the book that seemed weaker than the rest was the introduction of the character J. (no, not the *Men in Black* character) who tries to help Piper. While J. is shown briefly early on, his character is all but dropped and then, even after a later exchange with Piper, is never brought back into the picture.

I'm not sure if either he wasn't supposed to be present but was added as a *deus ex machina* of sorts or if he had a stronger role in one draft and was omitted in other versions but the published version incorporates some of the original draft. I might have just been missing something here but it left me scratching my head, especially since J. tries to help Piper in a pivotal scene. That's a pretty big deed to not get much credit for it later on.

Lastly, Piper seems too eager to forgive another character for betrayal. (And, no, I'm not going to reveal spoilers this time.) Granted, she's not the type to hold grudges but her casual response didn't feel entirely

believable, especially considering the gravity of the offense. In the same way, the closing chapter, while charming, wraps things up a bit too quickly and neatly. Overall, none of these are true negatives, especially if you keep the book's primary demographic in mind (which isn't adults). While these things don't keep me from enjoying the book, they are some of the story's weaker moments.

All of that being said, I did appreciate Piper's depiction as a Christian girl. While the book isn't overtly religious, the theme that each person is "fearfully and wonderfully made" is fairly evident. Likewise, Piper prays, blesses her enemies, is nice to everyone, and keeps her cool. While her parents seem strict, they raise her right in terms of her values and Piper almost never strays from them. Rather than being a goody-goody, Piper is an old fashioned, down-home girl who wants to do what's right and fair. This aspect of her personality is derived from her Christian upbringing but neither her family nor her are portrayed as Bible-thumping blowhards. So kudos to the author for avoiding that trap.

Content-wise, this is a clean read and perfect for its target age group (as well as anyone older). Only two or three PG-level profanities are uttered throughout the entire book. There are some tense scenes and moments when characters are subjected to treatments and testing against their will but there is no graphic violence. Likewise, two characters die in tragic circumstances (though their demises are not graphically depicted). These scenes would frighten only very young readers, most of whom would probably be too young to even read this book. And, as expected, there is no sexual content.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Girl Who Could Fly* for its charming characters and story as it's sweet without being saccharine. While it does possess a few narrative weak moments, it delivers where it counts, especially as an edifying read. Anyone who has ever felt like an underdog will immediately relate to Piper McCloud and experience a catharsis by the end, regardless of how old they are.

Lindsey says

Piper McCloud can fly, and when the neighbors find out, a super-secret organization comes and takes her away to live with other kids (and plants and animals) with special talents. At first we are led to believe this organization (I.N.S.A.N.E.) wants to help them, but the true motives are much more sinister.

I liked this book, but I have a hard time pinning down the audience. I would say 3rd-5th grade, but there is a scene where Piper is tortured for her misbehavior and it seemed too mature compared to the rest of the book. Also, the cruelty can be intense. It would be hard to refer this book to the right reader.

Chris says

I've never read much Hemingway, but I think the guy was on to something. From Cormier to Bradbury, all my favorite authors have one thing in common: They don't waste words. On the other end of the spectrum, here's an excerpt from *The Girl Who Could Fly*: "As fate would have it, Piper was given less than four seconds to retroactively relive all of the events of her last months in a staggering journey that reordered by 180 degrees everything she'd accepted as real and true to be fake and lies, so that her head was spinning and her knees were shaking and she no longer knew which way was up or down." Wow! Try saying that ten times fast. And that's just one example. The book is similarly dense, plodding, and clunky throughout. This is a first novel for Victoria Forester, and I get the impression she's a reasonably talented writer in desperate need of an editor. (I assume she had editors. Where in the world were they on this book?)

The opening chapter was promising, but then the book turned into some sort of odd Harry Potter/Artemis

Fowl/X-Men hybrid, and it all went downhill from there. Despite the ridiculous verbosity, everything in this book feels like an underdeveloped rough sketch. If not for a mildly interesting plot twist in the middle, I'm not sure I could have finished it.

And then there's the issue of audience. The protagonist is nine years old. In my opinion, this book is way above the average nine-year-old's reading level. On the other hand, I can't imagine too many parents of nine-year-olds possessing the stamina to read this book to their child and make it all the way through to the end. I was really curious to find out what other people had to say about *The Girl Who Could Fly*, so I checked out reviews on Amazon, all of which were absolutely glowing. OK, I get it. Amazon is trying to hawk a product. I checked out Goodreads reviews next, thinking I would find a more objective and discerning audience. I couldn't believe the number of five-star reviews for this book. All I can say is: Huh?

Lucy says

The McClouds have always done things the same way. They've farmed the same land, lived in the same town, and lived the same simple life for generations. But Piper McCloud is different. From the moment she was born, Piper could float, and when she got a little older, Piper taught herself how to fly.

When Piper accidentally reveals her talent at the town's Fourth of July picnic, she causes an uproar, and draws a lot of attention--including the attention of Dr. Letitia Hellion, who runs an institute of special children. Piper is whisked away to Dr. Hellion's school--and at first, it's wonderful. For the first time, Piper has friends--kids her own age who understand what it's like to be special, to be different.

But everything is not as innocent as it seems. Soon, Piper will be faced with the terrible truth behind the institute's welcoming facade. And what Piper chooses will affect every living thing within the grip of the institute.

Okay, I loved this book. Let me say that right off the bat. For starters, Piper is such a loveable character it's impossible not to take to her. She's a sweetheart, but she's clever and thoughtful, and she feels honest and real. And the other kids at the institute are great as well.

And the story is great. The institute is a fascinating place, and when the danger becomes apparent, it's very real and very scary. And the way Piper and the other kids react to it is pitch perfect. There were twists I certainly did not expect--the book surprised me, but in ways that made sense.

This book feels like it's setting up for a sequel, and I hope it is, because I want to read more about Piper and her amazing group of superpowered friends.

Megan says

Aw man, I really wanted to like this.

The cover promised a cross between "*Little House on the Prairie*" and "*X-Men*," which sounded promising, but I should have paid attention to the fact that it was Stephenie Meyer who wrote that quote. Unfortunately, a lot like *Twilight*, this book takes something that could be really cool, and reduces it down to something that just seems lame. In *Twilight* the vampires were lame-ified; in this book it's superheroes.

It started off really nicely. I liked Piper right away, and enjoyed some of the wordplay of the author, and the setting. Unfortunately it sort of disintegrated from there. Piper is sent to a school for people with powers like hers, where she's got a wonderful room, interesting classes, and delicious food to eat. You can probably take it from there. After she goes to school, it's all cliché. The characters' personalities don't stay the same from page to page, the villain has very stock motivations, and Piper turns into Pollyanna.

Even the setting is confusing. Maybe the "Little House on the Prairie" mention threw me off, but I was thinking this book was set in the 19th century until Piper was sent to school, at which point it looks like it's actually modern day. I couldn't buy it.

Unfortunately this book could have been so much more.

Becky says

Forester, Victoria. 2008. The Girl Who Could Fly.

Piper decided to jump off of the roof. It wasn't a rash decision on her part.

The Girl Who Could Fly is an odd little book that I couldn't help enjoying. Piper McCloud, she flies. A girl who flies. When her flying catches attention, mysterious strangers show up on the family farm promising her family that they've got the perfect school for her. A school where her specialness will be appreciated. So away Piper goes. Leaving behind her family and her home. The school or institute (initials I.N.S.A.N.E) is different alright. And everyone Piper meets is unusual from the adults to her fellow classmates.

I hesitate to say anymore because I don't want to reveal too much. The plot twists are best enjoyed firsthand.

The Girl Who Could Fly is a quirkier Mysterious Benedict Society. Unique, quirky characters. Fast-paced plot. A good mix of fun.

© Becky Laney of Becky's Book Reviews

Bookworm12 says

This book is a very heartwarming, quirky tale. You'll laugh, gasp, and, I'll admit, sometimes cry. I am constantly re-reading this and recommending it.

Piper McCloud can fly. She can see the good in almost everything, and is always talking and asking questions. Her mother Betty is a nonsense person, and very religious too. Joe is the very quiet, hard working father.

Ever since she was little she could float. Her Ma and Pa panicked, and didn't let her leave the farm for anything but doctor's appointments and church.

One day, Piper decides to jump off the roof. I know, it sounds stupid. But she flies. Her Ma forbids her from flying but she does it anyways. In secret, of course. Then, her parents take her to a 4th of July picnic. Where everything goes wrong.

After the picnic, Paparazzi storms the farm. Then, Dr. Hellion arrives. She is the most beautiful person Piper as ever met, and, also the Leader of an institute for special creatures and humans, called I.N.S.A.N.E. The paprazzi is cleared, and Piper heads off to I.N.S.A.N.E. There, She meets kids who have X-ray vision, telekineic powers, and the ability to create and change weather.

She also meets a child smarter than Einstein. Conrad Harrington III.

He bullies her daily and she can barely stand it. But then shes sees something. Level Four. Now that she knows what they're doing, Conrad explains the true nature of the facility.

What she thought was a safe haven, could be Piper's worst nightmare.

Kate Coombs says

I have mixed feelings about this book. On the one hand, I basically like the main character, Piper, and I also like the initial setting of a farm--which makes this book rural fantasy, the new subgenre I've been telling people about (Ingrid Law's Savvy is the best-known example). On the other hand, the later chapters are a little bumpy. Piper McCloud can fly, so her anxious, tradition-bound parents spend the early years of her life trying to hide her gift. Eventually the neighbors find out, and so does the media. Then the lovely, too-smooth Letitia Hellion shows up with some men in black and takes Piper away to her underground facility. It's a place where Letitia works to deprive Piper and other gifted children and even animals of their gifts, making them NORMAL, the all-important goal of practically every grown-up in the book (subtle message, eh?).

Now, Piper is such a Pollyanna that it's a little grating at times, and the loyalties and betrayals among the kids at the school don't always feel convincing. Mostly, though, I think the section where Dr. Hellion sets out to crush Piper's spirit is just too much. And the big reveal scene--difficult to pull off--feels like pop psychology on a plate. The Girl Who Could Fly is an unsettling combination of good cheer, didacticism, and darkness. However, I will say that Piper's descriptions of flying make me want to fly, too!

Clare Cannon says

This was an unusual book. It had a worthy theme as its premise: special talents should be encouraged and developed, but one also needs humility and friendship with others to be a happy person. Yet the book didn't flow evenly. It began in an American country town populated with God-fearing simple folk who didn't like anything that 'wasn't the way of things', so when Piper McCloud discovers she can fly she becomes the town curiosity. These first few chapters took some patience to get through because I wasn't expecting this story to have the feel of Dorothy in Kansas.

But then it takes you inside the I.N.S.A.N.E. institute where all special talents are 'normalised' in the captive patients. This place is evil, though it takes a while for Piper and her friends to discover that normalising means torturing and drugging and brainwashing. What started as a nice tale of a girl who was a little bit different soon has you on the edge of a cliff, and then pushes you over so that all is lost before it can be found. I wasn't expecting such dramatic swings of mood between confident hope, quaint complacency and very dramatic despair, and I found it quite disconcerting.

The theme came around nicely in the end, but I'm just not sure who would be the ideal reader for this book. It needs someone who can handle the quaint beginning but also the dramatic middle. It reminds me of the Mysterious Benedict Society, but I think that book has a much wider appeal. What I can't work out is why it is so highly recommended by Stephenie Meyer, this book has nothing to do with anything she has put her name to, which is probably in its favour. All the same, she was right about it being a cross between Little

House on the Prairie and the X-Men, and I've discovered that's not my favourite combination. Yet I've given it four stars because it is a worthwhile read, even if I can't guarantee you'll like it.

Namratha says

"My ma told me that there isn't anything in this life worth having that comes easy. She told me that every road I walk down's gonna have a price. But what she didn't tell me and what I learned since I've been here is that if you don't choose the road you're gonna walk, sooner or later someone else'll do that choosing for you."

~ Piper McCloud

Every once in a while there comes across a book that is seemingly perfect in every way. It may have nothing new to offer by way of plot, characters or story progression...and yet by the time you reach the last page, you are left with a feeling of resolution and contentment. **'The Girl Who Could Fly'** is one such book.

Piper McCloud is a talkative country girl born to the brusque and non-fanciful pair of Betty and Joe McCloud. The McClouds just want to fit into the small but inquisitive farming community. Anything extraordinary must be stifled and must never reach the malicious ears of the town-gossip; Millie Mae Miller. And there IS something extraordinary brewing at the McCloud homestead – Piper. *Piper can fly*. She can soar up into the sky, twirl through clouds, and get a bird's view of all the secret happenings in the village. But despite her parents' best efforts, Piper's secret unravels before the village folk in an unexpected manner. In danger of being ostracized and suddenly in the eye of a publicity storm...Piper finds herself in a tizzy.

And then like a shining beacon, comes the beautiful **Dr.Letitia Hellion** and her entourage of expressionless dark suits. Without much persuasion, they whisk Piper off to a top-secret, maximum security institute for special children called I.N.S.A.N.E. (*think X-Men and yet, not so much like the X-Men*). Finally, Piper is attending a proper school, making hesitant friends and vindictive enemies. She is seeing the world from a different view-point. Dr.Hellion's view-point. The good(?) doctor has soon got Piper convinced that flying is a bad and downright dangerous thing. Something which must not be repeated at any cost. And Piper agrees...her spirit is submerged and her one great desire in life, heavily doused under a promising layer of a luxurious lifestyle.

But something is rotten in the state of Denmark , or at I.N.S.A.N.E.to be more precise. What lurks behind the seemingly gentle and caring façade of Dr.Hellion? Is mean and nasty fellow student, **Conrad** really a rotten egg? What experiments are being conducted at the different levels of the institute? Who are the friends and who are the foes?

All this and much more are revealed in the story of Piper McCloud – an optimistic, feisty and extraordinary little girl. **Victoria Forester** has a delightful way of weaving a plot. She creates a picture that pulls you in, adds in a few homilies which are pertinent to the plot, churns out an eclectic bunch of characters who never stay true to their profiles and ultimately gives a twist that leaves you smiling at it's sheer brilliance.

While the resolution of certain pitfalls may seem a tad too pat for many readers' liking...I personally felt that it was a welcome change from the unnecessary taffy-pulling that some of today's YA-Lit are subjected to. No monologues, no unnecessary dialogues and characters with enough gumption to hold all the threads in place. An adventure encompassed in 300 odd pages is not a bad thing at all...especially when there's an author like Forester at the helm, keeping it together with her superlative story-telling abilities.

Angie Orr says

The Girl Who Could Fly. Forester, Victoria.

Rating: *****

Summary: Piper is a young girl who is special in her own way. Piper is able to fly. Her ma and pa tell her not to fly around where others can see her. One day she is so upset during a baseball game she uses her flying to catch a baseball out of reach to prove to the others she is able to play. However when everyone sees her, she gets in big trouble.

Dr. Hellion comes to visit Piper and her folks. The Dr. offers the McCloud family a place where Piper can go and be safe. Dr. Hellion tells her folks that the facility can cure Piper and then return her to being "normal." Once Piper gets to the facility, things are not as they appear. Conrad decides to pick on Piper for his own reasons. After Conrad and Piper have a falling out, things change. Piper comes to realize that Dr. Hellion is not really a friend. The rest of the book is full of adventures.

Main characters:

Piper McCloud is a young girl who believes in something when she sets her mind to it. She sees the good in everyone and everything. She never gives up hope.

Conrad is an intelligent child. He is able to figure out and implement brilliant plans. He puts up a front to get what he wants.

Dr. Hellion is the director of the special facility where kids who have special talents are taken. She is very sneaky and two faced. Her past experiences lead her to where she is today.

Key topics: personal differences, loyalty, family, imagination, forgiveness

Other related information: 2011-2012 Children's Choice, a must read

Joy says

This book was recommended by one of my favorite authors, Stephenie Meyer. On her site she states, *The Girl Who Could Fly* by Victoria Forester "is the oddest/sweetest mix of Little House on the Prairie and X-Men."

The librarian likes to talk with me about the books I read and where I get my suggestions. So, when I picked up the book today - (TODAY, I read this book in a day!), I gave her Stephenie's take about it being a cross between Little House on the Prairie and the X-Men. Just saying it out loud made me feel kinda sheepish and the librarian burst with laughter. (In the library! shhhhhh!) Well, she said, "I guess that's quite a smattering of interests." And we both chuckled a while more. But Friends, it truly is fascinating, sweet, intriguing, enjoyable, imaginative, and adventurous.

If you enjoyed *The Goosegirl* or *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale I think you'll just love this book, too.

Emily Tuckett says

This just may be the best book I've read all year! The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester is a marvel, with features that delight such as characters you can relate to, a plot that goes from innocent to intense, and vivid, hilarious prose. Forester is quite the story teller, and you can distinctly feel her enigmatic and comic voice through out the story. One of my favorite parts was Forester's description of a minor character Bella. I'm paraphrasing, but the author described Bella as the daughter of an artist and a sculptor raised on a community organic farm in the San Bernito valley who was so constantly bombarded with unconditional love that she didn't have a mean bone in her body. That just tickled me!

I laughed hard. I cried a little, and I couldn't stop cheering for little Piper McCloud. I loved The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester and I think you will too. Oh and did I mention that it's published by Scholastic? It's 100% Family friendly, very easy to read, and still enjoyable to adults-and that's something I love!

Ratings:

Sexual Content: None

Swearing: None

Adult Content: Very mild, then more moderate (Themes of cruelty and anti-diversity, one character who is an extreme gossip. One instance of Child Abuse, and one section dealing with bullying.)

Books I've read that are similar to it: A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck, A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Original article Published 9/18/2012 at www.MyNovelAddiction.blog.com

704 Maya says

This book is so heartfelt and heart-warming!!! I ate it up without stopping for a minute. Not a second was wasted while reading this book. The characters were so well built and believable, you could almost believe that the whole story could actually happen in real life. I would recommend this book to people who like heart-felt sci-fi novels and fantasy. This book was AWESOME!!!!!!!
