



Listen to the Moon

Michael Morpurgo

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May, 1915.

Alfie and his fisherman father find a girl on an uninhabited island in the Scillies – injured, thirsty, lost... and with absolutely no memory of who she is, or how she came to be there. She can say only one word: Lucy.

Where has she come from? Is she a mermaid, the victim of a German U-boat, or even – as some islanders suggest – a German spy...?

Only one thing is for sure: she loves music and moonlight, and it is when she listens to the gramophone that the glimmers of the girl she once was begin to appear.

WW1 is raging, suspicion and fear are growing, and Alfie and Lucy are ever more under threat. But as we begin to see the story of Merry, a girl boarding a great ship for a perilous journey across the ocean, another melody enters the great symphony – and the music begins to resolve...

Listen to the Moon Details

Date : Published September 25th 2014 by Harper Collins Children's Books (first published 2014)

ISBN : 9780007339631

Author : Michael Morpurgo

Format : Paperback 448 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, War, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade

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From Reader Review Listen to the Moon for online ebook

SIMON Karine says

J'ai eu la chance de recevoir ce livre il y a une grosse semaine, en avant-première dans ma boîte aux lettres. Je ne connaissais l'auteur que par l'un de ses premiers romans, Cheval de Guerre, qui a été adapté il y a peu au cinéma par Clint Eastwood.

Quand j'ai lu le synopsis, j'étais presque certaine que j'allais apprécier cette lecture, et je ne me suis pas trompée. En plus, même si de mon côté j'ai reçu les Epreuves non corrigées, vous pouvez voir au-dessus la couverture définitive, je la trouve superbe, et elle illustre parfaitement l'histoire.

L'action se déroule presque exclusivement dans l'archipel des Iles Scilly, au large de l'Irlande. Nous y suivons tout d'abord, Jim qui est parti à la pêche pour ramener du poisson à sa femme Mary. Il est accompagné par son fils Alfie, un jeune garçon qui sèche l'école malgré l'interdiction de sa mère. La pêche n'est pas bonne ce jour-là. Jim et Alfie s'éloignent donc un peu plus que d'habitude et vont pêcher près de l'île de St Helen. Jim n'aime pas trop s'approcher de cet endroit. Il y a longtemps cette île abritait un hospice, qui était plutôt un mouvoir. Depuis, on dit cette île maudite et hantée. Mais Alfie entend des pleures et des gémissements, il arrive donc à persuader son père qu'il y a quelqu'un en danger, et ils y découvriront une jeune fille, blessée et presque mourante.

Qui est-elle ? Et comment est-elle arrivée là ?

La jeune fille ne parle pas, le seul mot qu'elle a prononcé jusque là, c'est Lucy, alors tout le monde pense qu'il s'agit de son prénom. Lucy est alors recueillie par la famille d'Alfie. Mais voilà, le cousin de Mary a retrouvé sur l'île St Helen, une couverture allemande, et en temps de guerre, la théorie du complot n'est jamais très loin. Mary demande à son cousin de tenir sa langue, mais pour combien de temps. Lucy reste donc un mystère pour les habitants, alors les scénarios les plus abracadabrants commencent alors à fleurir dans leur imaginaire.

Lucy met énormément de temps à se remettre, mais même quand elle commence à aller mieux, elle ne parle toujours pas. Est-ce parce qu'elle est allemande et qu'elle ne comprend pas l'anglais ?

A partir de la page 80 environ, nous retournons quelques mois en arrière à New York ou nous suivons une jeune fille Merry et sa mère. Elles reçoivent une lettre du père de Merry qui est parti combattre en Europe. En effet si les Etats-Unis ne sont pas encore rentrés dans le conflit, le Canada, lui, a déjà envoyé des soldats. Le père de Merry est canadien, et il a souhaité partir pour défendre ses convictions. Ce dernier leur écrit depuis un hôpital britannique, il a été blessé à l'épaule, mais rien de grave heureusement. Merry et sa mère décident d'embarquer à partir du Lusitania pour la Grande Bretagne.

Nous allons donc suivre les histoires en parallèle, celle de Merry aux Etats-Unis puis à bord du Lusitania, et enfin celle de Lucy qui réapprend à vivre et tisse une amitié très forte avec Alfie.

Alors si pour un adulte, on comprend de suite le lien entre les deux histoires, cela ne sera peut-être pas le cas pour un lecteur plus jeune et c'est tant mieux, . Personnellement ça ne m'a pas vraiment dérangé. J'ai beaucoup aimé ce roman, il est très bien écrit, le contexte historique est bien retransmis même si en tant qu'adulte j'aurais aimé qu'il soit un peu plus développé, mais n'oublions pas qu'il s'agit d'un roman qui s'adresse avant tout aux plus jeunes.

Alfie et Lucy sont deux personnages très intéressants et attachants. J'ai aimé découvrir la vie simple qu'ils

mènent dans les Iles Scilly. J'ai par contre détesté le directeur de l'école où ils doivent se rendre chaque jour par bateau. Il s'agit d'un homme qui exerce son pouvoir à outrance sur les enfants. A cette époque les coups de règles étaient distribués à tout-va, et ce directeur en profite un maximum pour malmener les gamins qui osaient se rebeller contre son autorité.

En bref, un roman au contexte historique intéressant qui plaira aux plus jeunes comme aux plus grands. Je vous le conseille.

Je remercie chaleureusement « On lit plus fort » et les Editions Gallimard Jeunesse, pour leur confiance.

Ce roman sera disponible dès le 17 avril 2015 dans toutes les librairies.

<http://milleetunepages.com/2015/03/16...>

Marathon County Public Library MCPL says

Skipping school while out fishing with his father near the island of St. Helen's, Alfie and his father discover a half-starved, injured young girl who is barely alive on the small uninhabited island. Where she came from is a mystery since she is not speaking. His family cares for her, names her Lucy, and as their relationship grows and she becomes a part of their family, they fiercely love and want to protect her. The townspeople, including a cruel school teacher, conclude that she's German and therefore the enemy, because she had a gray blanket with her with German words on it. Based on a true story about the sinking of the Lusitania, this beautifully written historical novel is definitely another winner from Michael Morpurgo, author of "War Horse." Written for tweens, this timely novel is a significant one, reminding readers of the often irreparable damage that fear, suspicion, hate, and bigotry can render. It will tear at your heartstrings and alternately affirm your belief in the power of love.

Sharyn H. / Marathon County Public Library
Find this book in our library catalog.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

It's May 1915 and World War I is in full swing. On the Scilly Island of Bryher, Alfie Wheatcroft has just played hooky to go fishing with his dad. One their way home with their catch, Alfie hears a moaning sound coming from the deserted St. Helen's island. Checking it out, he and his dad discover a scared, starving, shivering young girl clutching a bedraggled teddy bear and wrapped in a blanket with the name Wilhelm embroidered on it.

They decide to take her home for Alfie's mother, Mary Wheatcroft, to nurse back to health. The girl keep saying Lucy over and over, and when Dr. Crow is called to examine her, it's decided that Lucy must be her name. Soon she is known all over the island as Lucy Lost. At first, Lucy refuses to speak and eat, but gradually does take some of the food given her. She also refuses to leave the room she is put into. One day, the doctor suggests using music to see if that will help her, bringing over his gramophone and records. Lucy is drawn to the music, particularly one piece by Mozart, and while the music gets Lucy out of her room, she still doesn't speak.

Flashback to New York City in March 1915. Merry McIntyre and her mother have been missing her Canadiann father ever since he enlisted and left for the war in Europe. When they receive a letter saying he has been wounded and is in an English hospital, Mrs. McIntyre decides they will sail to England on the S.S. Lusitania in May despite the danger of German submarines prowling the Atlantic Ocean. It proves to be a voyage that confines Mrs. McIntyre to the bed with seasickness, while Merry takes the opportunity to get to know the ship and their cabin steward Brandon very well.

Forward flash again to Bryher. Thanks to the music and Alfie's patience and kindness, Lucy begins to get better daily. But when school begins again at the end of summer, the teacher, Mr. Beagley, a particularly cruel person, decides Lucy must attend or be reported to the authorities. And eventually, when word gets out about the German blanket Lucy was found with, the island people turn on her and the Wheatcrofts, believing the are on the side of the Germans and shunning them to the point that life becomes difficult. When someone paints "Remember the Lusitania" on the Wheatcrofts door, and Mary sees recognition in Lucy's eyes, even this kind, stalwart woman begins to wonder about her.

Astute readers will early on realize the Lucy and Merry McIntyre is the same person, but solving the mystery of her identity is not what is at the heart of this story. What is at the heart is a wonderful story about home front life and survival during WWI, about love, hate and unusual kindnesses, and about what family really means.

Listen to the Moon is a rich multi-layered novel based on a confluence of actual events, framed by an unnamed future narrator (not future to the reader, however). The story within the frame is told alternately in the third person from Alfie and Merry/Lucy's perspectives, with additional information from Dr. Crow's journal and Mr. Beagley's school log, all making this a very well-developed, thoroughly intense story.

There is so much history in the novel, so be sure to read the background information to Listen to the Moon for more understanding, especially the part about the S.S. Schiller and why Germans were not allowed to attack the Isles of Scilly in WWI. The background material is every bit as compelling as Morpurgo's novel.

The Guardian has an interesting pictorial article on how the Lusitania inspired Listen to the Moon [HERE](#)

You can find very useful Teacher Resources on Michael Morpurgo's website [HERE](#)

This book is recommended for readers age 9+

This book was an EARC received from NetGalley

This review was originally posted on The Children's War

Andrea Dooley says

May, 1915. On an uninhabited island in the Scillies, Alfie and his father find an injured girl - alone, and with no memory of who she is or how she came to be there. Is she a mermaid, a ghost? Or could she even be, as some islanders suggest, a German spy...?

I was extremely lucky to win a preview copy of this book. I am a huge Michael Morpurgo fan and with each book find a new favourite. This book is amazing. Please note that the synopsis above does not belong to this book? This book has kept me intrigued from page 1 and is beautifully written.

15paule says

I really enjoyed reading this book! However, it was slightly confusing at times due to the change in location and time. Otherwise a really good read and gives a great insight into what people thought of the First World War!

Kathryn says

One little girl's amazing rescue and her struggle to remember made for some twisty plots. Michael Morpurgo really nailed the intense emotional roller coaster that was this time period plus the resiliency and courage of people who clung on to their better judgement through thick and thin.

Mari Anne says

This is another beautifully written, moving MG novel that I fear will be wasted on all but the most sophisticated and discerning young reader. This story is constructed and executed in such a way that it will move adult readers to tears (well at least this adult reader) and quickly become a beloved favorite. An amazing historical fiction tale so heartwarming it did tread that thin line between sweet and saccharine but it did it with finesse.

Highly recommended to mature, sophisticated readers of historical fiction in grades 6 and up.

Priya says

Well first of all can I just say that description of this book written on goodreads is wrong, but I know this is the correct book because it is the only one written by Michael morpurgo called listen to the moon. So here is what it is actually about.

There is a girl who is found on one of the small islands of Scilly(in England) by Jim and Alfie who heard her trying to call for help. When they rescue her they find she cannot speak. Is she English? Or more importantly, because it is WW1, is she German? What is her story? How did she end up on an island all alone?

I loved this book. It is told wonderfully by Michael Morpurgo and had me shedding of couple tears at one point. But the only reason I thought this was four stars not five was because I did find at times it was a little slow, but in the end it was worth it. I recommend this to anyone and everyone.

Annette says

LISTEN TO THE MOON by Michael Morpurgo is a poignant story of prejudice, lose, and rediscovery set during World War I.

While fishing off the Scilly Isles near Great Britain, Alfie and his father discover an abandoned girl on a

deserted island. While some community members embrace this young waif, others shun her as a German invader. The story of how this young girl came to be marooned on the island is slowly revealed through Alfie and the recollections of various community players.

Morpurgo's beautifully written story incorporates diary excerpts and interviews from different perspectives that keep the plot moving.

Librarians will find that the mixture of a fascinating mystery with an awe-inspiring setting will draw middle grade readers into this compelling historical story. Both boys and girls alike will enjoy the writing style, historical context, and amazing setting.

Learn more about this award-winning author at <http://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/>.

Published by Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan on October 27, 2015.

Sarah Farley says

4.5/5

I enjoyed this book so much!

I didn't expect to be liking this. I donno, the cover wasn't all that enthralling. (I know i shouldn't judge a book by it's cover but I did and I'm sorry!) But due to this book being a present I started reading this, and boy I was totally living in this story from page 1! It's beautiful writing and good described characters made me want to lock myself in my room and just read read read. Every charakter in this book has a real soul and heart. Their own way of being. And I nearly forgot to mention that this author made a wonderful job in turning his grandmother's story into fiction. It wasn't at all like reading a biography, but like a beautiful beautiful dream you'd want to live in forever!

Shirley says

Michael Morpurgo has done it again with his 2015 release of Listen to the Moon. Morpurgo's books are my favorites in our junior high school library. Whenever a student is stumped on finding a book to read, I direct them to his novels. The books offer a glimpse of history with appealing characters and plots that draw readers into the story.

Listen to the Moon takes the reader to World War I and the sinking of the Lusitania. Lucy survives the sinking but not without severe trauma. Though she is eventually taken in by a generous and loving family, she is treated unfairly by children and adults alike because of an item found in her possession which was a gift from the sailor who was responsible for her survival.

Morpurgo's writing style is always exceptional Here are a few examples.

The Lusitania, ". . . towered over the quayside, dwarfing the docks and every other ship around. She was the grandest, most majestic ship I had ever seen. Even the cranes seemed to be bowing down to her, overawed in her presence." (pages 85-86).

"There were, I could see, lots of other islands all around, dozens of them, scattered over the sea, as if some giant in a rage had cast fistfulls of giant boulders into the ocean." (p268)

The conflict that emerges between right and wrong in war is demonstrated by the following passages.

It's interesting to note the vicar's reaction to the girl found on an island compared to the enemy's reaction to the girl found floating on a piano in the middle of the sea. "The vicar in his sermon caught the mood perfectly when he declared in his customary sanctimonious tones, that the suffering and the death of Jack Brody, the cowardly and barbaric execution of nurse Edith Cavell in Belgium, and the sinking of the Lusitania with such a great loss of life which had so shocked the entire world, could leave none of us in any doubt, 'any doubt,' he repeated looking right at us in our pew, 'that this war is a Godly war, a righteous struggle for good against evil, that we all have to do our part and fight the good fight.'" (p. 226)

Though Lucy's sailor said that his father taught him never to apologize or explain, he found the need to explain to Lucy the rules of war that cause men to act in ways that they would not otherwise. The Lusitania was a passenger ship that normally would be off-limits in a war zone. When she began carrying arms and ammunition in addition to her passengers, she became a target for the enemy. (page 251)

Morpurgo's new novel "Listen to the Moon" is a wonderful addition to our school library.

Laurie Balderson says

I received this book free from the publisher through NetGalley. I thank them for their generosity. In exchange, I was simply asked to write an honest review, and post it.

Michael Morpurgo is well-known and admired for his historical fiction for young people and *Listen to the Moon* will not disappoint readers. Based on the personal history of his own grandmother, Morpurgo artfully weaves the story of "Lucy"/Merry and how her life intertwines with a humble family of fishermen on the Scilly Isles off the coast of Cornwall. Discovered alone and ill on an uninhabited island, the young girl is nursed back to health by the Wheatcrofts. Even as her health improves, the traumatized child cannot or will not speak but a few words. Believing her name to be Lucy, as that is one of the few words she can utter, the family shelters the mystery child from the suspicious islanders who believe that she is really a German spy. Anti-German feelings are rampant in 1915 as word of the sinking of the Lusitania had reached the locals and the wounded and dead are ever present in their collective minds.

As Lucy slowly recovers, we view the world occasionally through her eyes as she begins to recall who she really is. Through her inner voice we find that Lucy is really Merry, well-to-do American who was onboard the Lusitania (called "Lusy" by the ship's crew) with her mother when the ship was torpedoed. As one of the few survivors, Merry is found floating on a piano by a German u-boat. Despite orders not to take any civilians aboard, the men are touched by her plight and care for her until they are able to get her to the Scilly Isles, long considered neutral territory as the islanders had cared for and buried German shipwreck fatalities

with dignity years before. Leaving her with a bit of food and a blanket with German writing stenciled on, the crew trusts that the islanders will do the right thing and take the girl in.

Despite the hostilities of many of the islanders toward Lucy and eventually them, the Wheatcrofts love the mysterious child as one of their own and nurture her until she is able to tell her own story and be reunited with her loved ones. Using flashbacks, journals and various voices, this beautifully and hauntingly written story is an uplifting tale that will stay with the reader regardless of his age.

Written by: Michael Morpurgo

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Publication Date: October 27, 2015

Rating: 5 Stars

ISBN-978-1-250-04204-0

eBook: 978-1-205-07861-2

Genre: YA/historical fiction

Natalia Burtenshaw says

I haven't finished this book yet, but I really like it. its very good. I recommend it.

Michelle says

World War I is raging. Many are affected by shortages and live with constant fear and tension. So it is for Alfie and his parents whom live on a small island off the coast of England. But life must go on. Alfie and his father are often seen out in the coastal waters making a living by fishing. One fine day as they fish near an uninhabited island, they hear crying. They discover a young, sick girl. After taking her home and nursing her back to health, she becomes a part of the family. As she is unable to speak, they know nothing of her past. Alfie adores the girl they have dubbed Lucy Lost. But some of the locals insist she must be a German spy. Morpurgo masterfully brings to life the world of the World War I Scilly Isles. Readers will have a strong sense of place and characters as this historical novel describes the atmosphere of the times. With its alternating perspectives, Lucy's tragic backstory is revealed to readers long before the characters know allowing readers to sympathetically hope for a positive conclusion. Vibrant description, captivating characters, and a tension-filled storyline make this title a gripping read.

C.J. J Richardson says

This may be a book for children aged 9 and above but as always, Michael Morpurgo writes for all ages. this beautiful, and sometimes tragic story of a young girl being found near to death and without any memory of who she is. The story unfolds on the beautiful islands of Scilly during the First World War and it will touch the strongest heart.

Mehreen Rahman says

This was my first Michael Morpurgo book and I thought, where has this author been all my life?! This review might turn out to be more about the author than this particular book. Before I move on to talk about Michael Morpurgo, let me just say, I loved this book. “Magical” storytelling, with vivid landscapes and animals and the backdrop of World War 1. The characters are ordinary people who turn out to do extraordinary things for love and friendship. I especially liked how the author brings out human traits such as cruelty and hatred among the islanders when circumstances change in the face of war. It reminded me of the Indo Pak partition when friends and neighbours turned against each other and even came down to slaughtering one another. War brings out the worst in us. But it also reveals true heroes; people who help others even if they belong to the enemy side; people who stand by the ostracised and misunderstood. This book is about the kindness in people’s hearts. It is a story about a little girl who turns up mysteriously on an island and what happens in the following months while she is unable to talk or remember anything about herself.

I liked the book so much that I went online to research the author. He has written around 130 books! He is has been knighted and also been Children’s Laureate from 2003-2005. He is an English children’s story writer, although adults love his books just the same. His most popular work is War Horse, which has been adapted into a movie and a long running play at all major theatres in London and New York. I noticed that he keeps war as the background in many of his books, just as he includes animals. Animals are either the main character or at the least get a lot of focus in the plot, which I am sure children just love.

In fact, 40 years ago, Michael Morpurgo and his wife started a charity called Farms for City Children. I absolutely love this project. “They aim to expand the horizons of children from towns and cities all over the country by offering them a week in the countryside living together on one of their farms. children are involved in everything necessary to keep the farms going. They learn hands-on where their food comes from, the importance of caring for animals and the land, and the value of working co-operatively as a team. The rewards are, unusually, non-material and self-generated: children discover an active enjoyment in life and a sense of achievement...” In today’s day and age, city children are deprived of nature, outdoor activities and pets. The simple joys of a rustic life, fresh air and food, ample space to play with other children and animals, is rare to find. It’s such a worthy and unique contribution to society. I am tempted to write to them and ask if adults are allowed to join!

I am looking forward to reading many more of Michael Morpurgo’s books. The covers are beautiful, often with images of animals and children. And of course, war stories are rich with history. From Listen To The Moon, I discovered that the language is simple, attracting readers of all ages, and the stories are told beautifully. The characters and atmospheric settings are inter woven around the plots with just the right amount of significance. There is never a dull chapter.

Katy Noyes says

Michael Morpurgo often uses stories taken from tales he hears around him, from people he meets, from history. His latest is a combination, a story ostensibly based on his own grandmother's history and a story at the heart of the First World War.

A girl is found by chance on an uninhabited Scilly Island by a fisherman and his son. The girl is injured, half staved and ill, cannot speak and doesn't seem able to account for her being there.

Alfie and his family take her in and care for the girl they come to call Lucy. Her slow recovery is movingly documented, her first days at school and the revelation that she may in fact be German, in 1915. The islanders feelings are also documented through her doctors' notes. And finally, Lucy's history is revealed.

As ever with Morpurgo, the writing is captivating. You want to read a little more to find out a little more. Alfie's point of view and the doctor's tell the story well, with Lucy eventually getting a voice as well, and flashbacks from the start indicating a history the angry islanders can't imagine, that make you want to tell at them. But anti-German feeling then, patriotic fervour were the norm, and the treatment of Lucy will be shocking but eye-opening for young readers. The book itself gives some background to wartime life.

At heart though it's a family tale. Lucy finds a loving family when hers is lost to her. They remain loyal despite local prejudice and her silence. Morpurgo has a way with him in portraying loving relationships and you come to admire the Wheatcrofts very much.

Lucy's story is incredibly sad and upsetting. There are other victims of war whose stories are sadder but background - the young soldier returned minus a leg and with brain damage for example. And Alfie's uncle Billy, rescued his mum from a horrific mental asylum. Plenty to discuss with a child or a class.

It's tragic throughout yet still beautifully uplifting. As the author usually manages.

One to make sure you talk about with your young readers. Many things they'll want to know more about and understand.

At 400 pages it's one of his longest but the story flows from past to present and school to home regularly enough to maintain interest and isn't anything less than engrossing.

Julie Williams says

Kensuke's Kingdom is one of my favorite books and I used to read it to my students when I taught 5th grade. I always look for his books and this one was a treat. Cool thing is - he already had another great book which I reviewed here... <http://readingbythepond.blogspot.com/...>

In this book, set during World War I, Albie and his father find a girl on a deserted island. All they know is that she has a teddy bear, a blanket with a German name on it, and she said Lucy when they find her. Other than that she won't speak. Bit by bit the family is able to help her physically and emotionally but when others on the island find out about the possible German connection they are angry and scared.

Meanwhile, we hear the story of Merry and her mother who are on their way to visit Merry's father who was injured fighting in WWI. On their way, the boat they are on, the Lusitania is hit and sank.

This reminded me quite a bit of Kensuke's Kingdom. I, of course, figured out the connection early on but it was a treat to watch everything unfold. There was one part I wasn't getting, Lucy, but then it became clear. Great story ;0

Kaitlin Stiven says

I loved this book! I recommend it to lots of book loving people but not for younger readers because they might find it a bit confusing as I had to reread the start a few times. It's based in a true story and a few bits I had a hard time to believe but it was an amazing story. You couldn't put it down! It truly also shows how unfair and horrible the war was.

Kathleen Dixon says

This book is set on the Scilly Islands (website = Isles of Scilly during the Second World War. A lad and his father out fishing find a girl, just about starving, on one of the deserted islands and take her home to look after her. The girl doesn't speak, she doesn't interact with them at all - she remembers nothing.

This is a lovely story about determination, about standing up against prejudice, about the changing nature of humans, about being steadfast. We're led into the lives of the islanders and into the life of the girl, and thoroughly into the life of the times.

An excellent children's historical novel by a master storyteller.
