



The Lost Twin

Sophie Cleverly

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This is the story of how I became my sister...

A spine-tingling mystery set in a creepily atmospheric boarding school. Ivy must uncover the secrets behind her twin sister Scarlet's disappearance before it's too late.

When troublesome Scarlet mysteriously disappears from Rookwood School, terrifying Miss Fox invites her quiet twin sister Ivy to 'take her place'.

Ivy reluctantly agrees in the hopes of finding out what happened to her missing sister. For only at Rookwood will Ivy be able to unlock the secrets of Scarlet's disappearance, through a scattered trail of diary pages carefully hidden all over the school.

Can Ivy solve the mystery before Miss Fox suspects? Or before an even greater danger presents itself?

The Lost Twin Details

Date : Published February 26th 2015 by HarperCollins Children's Books

ISBN : 9780007589180

Author : Sophie Cleverly

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Mystery, Childrens, Middle Grade, School Stories, Boarding School, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review The Lost Twin for online ebook

cake and madness says

I'm nearly 30 so I'm WAY out of the demographic for this book... HOWEVER... 10-13 year old me would have been just as excited for it because it had SO MUCH AWESOME, aka stuff I was and still am RIGHT INTO reading. Ballet! Secret diaries! Old timey boarding schools with midnight feasts! Mysteries! A horrible old teacher who was like a combination of Miss Havisham and Mrs Medlock! Creepy skeletons! And the most awesomely random, exciteable adorably nerdy and enthusiastic friend ever!

No matter how old you are, this is a fucking cool book and you should read it :D

Dom says

Amazing, Creepy ? and mysterious.

Nina says

3.5 stars

A great middle grade novel

Robin Stevens says

Ivy's twin, Scarlet, died tragically at her boarding school - and now Ivy has been brought to the same school, Rookwood, to impersonate her sister. But there's a mystery here, and Ivy and her new friend have to solve the clues that Scarlet has left behind to discover what happened to her, and what's wrong at Rookwood. This is a fun, exciting, puzzling story that's perfect for fans of my books! (8+)

Please note: this review is meant as a recommendation only. Please do not use it in any marketing material, online or in print, without asking permission from me first. Thank you!

Dena (Batch of Books) says

Ivy is going to be attending the boarding school where her twin sister recently died. As if that's not strange enough, she is forced to impersonate her deceased sister. She isn't told why, and at first she doesn't question it too much. But after Ivy finds some clues Scarlet left for her, she starts poking around and looking for information. One clue leads to the next until an unfathomable mystery is unraveling around her.

The Lost Twin is a dark, thrilling mystery for young readers. It will appeal to children ages nine and up that

enjoy mystery, suspense, and historical fiction. Ivy is a fully developed character that makes some major changes over the course of the book. She is naturally a quiet, compliant girl that does as she's told. In keeping with the mandate to impersonate her larger-than-life sister, she must go out of her comfort zone on several occasions and deal with her problems head on. After a time, it becomes less about keeping up appearances than about standing up for herself.

Parts of this book can be a little scary, so make sure your child can handle it before letting them read it. Students give each other death threats and one of the adult characters uses violence against children on a regular basis (it's historical fiction, so it's not inaccurate, but something to be aware of).

It's a good book, and one that kids and adults will get sucked into.

Content: Death threats and violence.

Source: I received a digital advanced reader's copy of this book for the purpose of this review.

My blog: Batch of Books

Dinah Browne says

Loved this book.

Thank you Ivy for showing me this book!

This had a really satisfying ending, and I can't wait to read the next book.

:)

Silvara Wilde says

Check out my other reviews, discussions and link ups at [Fantasy of the Silver Dragon](#).

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

The synopsis is slightly misleading, in that it says Ivy is invited to take Scarlet's place and she agrees. She gets a letter telling her a place has opened up for her, and that her school fees have already been paid. So she really doesn't get a choice about going to the school or not. And once there, she is told point blank that she is going to pretend to be Scarlet.

She agrees to do so in order to find out what happened to her sister. However, since she was basically threatened into doing it, the synopsis description sounds a lot more benign.

Miss Fox reminded me a bit of Umbridge from Harry Potter. Mostly because of her office being covered in dogs, the way Umbridge did kittens. Equally creepy, and she was even meaner and more nasty than Umbridge in the way she treated the students of the school.

I liked the way Ivy had to decipher the riddles her sister left her. And how her friendship with Ariadne grew. I also really liked the dance instructor. The way they found the clues, and how the story was revealed

through the diary entries, was fun.

I wish there had been a bit more at the end of the book, where it left off left me too many questions! Not so many that I'm not looking forward to the next book, but enough that I think another page or two could have been added at the least. There were a few slow bits, but overall I really liked the book and will be looking for the next one in the series.

This review was originally posted on Fantasy of the Silver Dragon

Dana says

This is a fun to read gothic mystery for middle grade girls. Ivy's twin sister, Scarlet has died while attending a prestigious private school for girls and now Ivy has been informed that she will be taking her sister's place at the school. What she does not understand is that the evil headmistress, Miss Fox, wants Ivy to literally take Scarlet's place and pretend to be Scarlet. Ivy quickly realizes that there is something very wrong about the situation and when she finds part of Scarlet's diary, she follows the clues to find the rest of the pages in order to learn what happened to Scarlet. With the help of her roommate, Ariadne, she tries to fend off the girls who had bullied Scarlet and find the missing diary pages. I think that girls ages 8 to 14 or so will enjoy this fun mystery. I received this book free to review from Netgalley.

Jessica says

BRAVO! Truly, a around of applause is owed to Sophie Cleverly and The Lost Twin. I'm well out of the age range that this book is aimed at, but I absolutely adored every bit of it! I can only imagine how much excitement younger Jessica would have had, upon discovering this story. So many things I love are expertly wrapped up in here. Forbidding boarding schools, terrible headmistresses, brave girls, and tons of secrets. What more could a reader ask for?

If you've been following me for any length of time, you'll know that one of the biggest points in any book for me is character development. In MG fiction, that's even more important. A character needs to grow, to change, and to find themselves in situations that cause them to step outside the box. Cleverly has that down pat. Ivy's character was brilliant. Quiet, meek Ivy learned so much about herself while posing as her much more outgoing sister, Scarlet. I loved watching her come out of her shell, and face down the danger. All for the love of her sibling.

Oh, and the mystery! Pardon my overuse of the word brilliant, but it truly was brilliant! The highest compliment I can extend to this story, was that it made me think of my love of Nancy Drew, as a young reader. The clues. The chase. I was head over heels for all of it. The fact that Cleverly gave Ivy the perfect little sidekick, and best friend, was just the icing on the cake. I couldn't love this story more if I tried.

As you can tell, I am a big fan of this story. The ending was just pure perfection, and I am so eager for more! I'm smitten with Ivy, and so excited to meet her sister. This series and I are going to get along just fine.

Denise says

Being told that her twin sister Scarlet has died while away at school was without doubt the most horrible thing to ever happen to Ivy. Now the school invites her to take her sister's place - quite literally, as she only finds out once she has arrived at Rookwood. She is supposed to pretend to be Scarlet, imitate her down to the last detail and never ever let on that the real Scarlet is gone. What really happened to Scarlet seems more and more mysterious with this bizarre task, but some clues might lie in Scarlet's diary. The downside: Its pages are hidden all over the school, with only vague hints to guide Ivy through the scavenger hunt required to lay hands on them all - and each new page she finds only seems to add more questions to Ivy's search for answers.

Who doesn't like a good oldfashioned boarding school meets mystery story? While I'm definitely far out of the target group age-wise, that certainly didn't stop me from thoroughly enjoying the book and looking forward to its sequel.

Hope Sloper says

This book was a lot of fun to read to Laila, and I'd highly recommend it for middle-grade aged children. All throughout this book, Laila showed an immense interest in its storyline. She complained at night when I only read one chapter, and still complained when I started reading two. She wanted to take time to talk about what we had just read and uncovered continuously as we made our way from one chapter to the next. To be honest, out of all the children's books I've read to her since I started reviewing books, on several occasions, she told me this was her favorite- even if the storyline was a little "dark and twisted". Last night, I let her finish on her own. When that child brought my Kindle into my room, she looked a little bummed with her shoulders slumped and her feet dragging. I asked her if it was bad, and her exact words were, "No, it is over."

I couldn't help but laugh. It tickled me to death that she experienced her first book affair. Naturally, because I can empathize, we cuddled on my bed and talked for a few minutes about how she felt about the ending itself and if she felt satisfied overall. She went on and on about the book - what she just read and the entire novel. When I looked and saw this was part of a series, I thought the child was going to fall off the bed with delight. I must get my hands on these books for her collection, and so she can follow the series.

Since she had so much to say, I decided to let her write her very first book review on her own.

L A I L A:

I LOVE THIS BOOK! This book made me feel like I was part of the story. There were so many twistes that I hardly knew what was going on. (That is a good thing) Even though I've finished it, when it comes out, I'm going to buy it and read it over and over again. I'm so excited for the second one. This book is so awesome, I'd rate it 100 stars. (That's even better than 5 stars.) I never want it to end.

Mollie Fredrickson says

Well, I wish there was a six-star option because this book was simple incredible.

Everything about it was perfect. The setting, the characters, the story, the style.

What a strong lead Ivy was, with Ariadne in toe. It made for a truly exciting, mysterious, and emotional journey. Will be buying and then reading the next one ASAP.

16fritschbernalg says

This is a mystery and is book one in the series. I mostly enjoyed the book as it is about a girl who with the help of her friend tries to uncover the mystery of why her sister disappeared and where she is. I would recommend this

Toni Owen-Blue says

I knew I was going to get some kind of kick from Scarlet and Ivy before I even started reading, I have a weakness for girl-power and boarding school stories. However, even with my heavy bias this book deserves all the praise I'm about to give it as, for those who follow my reviews, you know a good premise is never enough for safe critical passage.

The story wastes no time with starting, we spend maybe three pages with an unhappy Ivy, stuck living with a terminally scatter brained aunt and mourning the death of her sister, before she's pulled into the boarding school spot her late sister vacated. But not only has Ivy taken her sister's space, she finds herself having to pretend to be Scarlet, while she tries to uncover the mystery behind the notes her sister left behind.

So yes, big mystery. It's the best kind of mystery writing too, the kind where, if you pay close attention, you can figure it out yourself, instead of waiting for it to be explained. I felt more and more engaged with each clue as I tried to beat Ivy to the metaphorical punch.

Unsurprisingly, with the theme of boarding schools in the 1930's and a mystery there are some quite gothic elements. However, instead of beating you over the head with great creaking doors and pathetic fallacy forever hovering over the gargoyles on the roof, cleverly just weaves strange elements to sit in the background and watch the reader. There's a teacher's office filled with taxidermied dogs because the teacher claims to like seeing them dead, a chilling sequence which forces Ivy to push her hand into a skeleton's mouth. It was all little things like that that brought the school to life, while still giving off a palpable feeling of unease.

So, the story itself was intriguing. Then you couple it with Ivy. She's one of those characters you can't help but love, torn between her own shy self and needing to act the part of her brash sister made for some interesting character moments. I think my absolute favourite was a snap, very bad, decision Ivy makes that she can barely tell whether it is her own or her acting going too far. The girls around her make up a good cast as well, even the girls giving her a hard time are never truly bad, everything is shown evenly and the friend Ivy finds is just so cute I want to bundle her away.

I can't say much more, I don't have any major complaints. It was just a good book, with characters I liked and a story that stayed interesting. I think anyone over the age of ten could enjoy it.

Put it this way: I read it in a day.

Sophia Luo says

Nice ending. It's really mysterious and a bit creepy too. The only problem is, it's so unrealistic and hard to

expect the clues to be so difficult. I also like the way this author builds the characters in the book (mainly girls) and how quickly and accurately moves from one personality and styl to the other.

Marc Secchia says

Very cleverly written and well plotted. A pleasure to read both for myself and my daughters (10 and 11 years old). Recommended for anyone seeking an atmospheric mystery in a Victorian boarding school setting.
