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Twins Gus and Leo and their little sister, Ila, live a quiet life in Maine—until their mother falls ill, and it becomes clear her strength is fading because she is protecting them from a terrible evil.

Soon the children are swept off to a secret island far in the sea, where they discover a hidden grandmother and powers they never knew they had. Like their mother, they are Folk, creatures who can turn between human and animal forms.

Now they must harness their newfound magic for a deeper purpose. The ancient, monstrous King of the Black Lakes will stop at nothing to rise to power, and they are all that stands in his way. Their mother's life hangs in the balance, and the children must battle this beast to the death—despite a dire prophecy that whoever kills him will die.

Can Gus, Leo, and Ila overcome this villain? Or has he grown too strong to be defeated? *Lost Children of the Far Islands* is a story filled with magic, excitement, and the dangers and delights of the sea.

Lost Children of the Far Islands Details

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Author : Emily Raabe

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From Reader Review *Lost Children of the Far Islands* for online ebook

K Gale says

It was so good that I think everyone one should read this book because of the magic and sadness?

Stacy says

Although the lack of detail would normally have bothered me, this was a fantastic and original book for children. The writing was fluid and easy to read, the characters wonderful...and I always have a special place in my heart for stories where the children are the heroes.

Chelsea Couillard-Smith says

A solid middle grade fantasy. Raabe's writing is fluid and easy to read, and her world-building is seamlessly integrated into the narrative. Gus, Leo, and Isla are charming, authentic child characters, and the whole set-up is well-realized. In the end, the resolution feels a bit easy compared to the threat that is built up, and the children's "powers" are never quite explained. I'm actually not quite sure how they managed to defeat the beast, but child fans of *The Emerald Atlas* and other fantasy adventures will enjoy the ride. The emotions are real and touching, and the family dynamic and integration of Celtic mythology will keep readers interested and invested.

Janet Slipak says

Twins Gus and Leo and their little sister, Ila, live a quiet life in Maine—until their mother falls ill, and it becomes clear her strength is fading because she is protecting them from a terrible evil.

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Emily Raabe lives in New York City with her husband, the filmmaker Paul Devlin. Her novel for children, *THE LOST CHILDREN OF THE FAR ISLANDS*, will be published in April 2014 by Knopf. Her 2011 book of poems, *LEAVE IT BEHIND*, was a finalist for the FutureCycle First Book Award. Her poems have appeared in periodicals including *The Marlboro Review*, *Big Ugly Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Diner*, *Chelsea*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Antioch Review*, and *Eleven Eleven*. She is also the author of a monograph on the work of the sculptor Lawrence LaBianca.

MY THOUGHTS:

I received this book in exchange for my honest review.

Set in mythology, this well-researched book takes place in Maine. The setting is integrated into the narrative effortlessly and smoothly. The heroes of this story are siblings which I absolutely loved!

All the characters are well fleshed out and created realistically. They speak and function as children should. The author's voice is intoxicating and enthralling making the story grab you from the start and never lets go.

Just the whole family dynamics written in the story is so well done, and each character contributes to the plot ushering the story to its conclusion. There's plenty of mystery nurtured around secrecy that keeps you guessing and a villain that you love to hate.

There's lots of magic, and plenty of mishaps and adventures, but this story is truly character driven. The research that had to go into such a book must have been extraordinary and the author did a fantastic job.

This is a great book for young readers and I even enjoyed as a kid-adult! ? I'm so happy that when I saw it on the shelf in a thrift store, I scooped it up. It was published in April of 2014.

I highly recommend this book! I also wonder if there will be others with these characters!

David Edmonds says

I was approached recently to be a part of Emily Raabe's blog tour for her debut middle grade fantasy novel, *Lost Children of the Far Islands*, I thought I'd like to be a part of the tour, especially after learning what Emily and her husband are doing. From Boulder, CO to Burlington, VT, they are going on a road trip to visit local, independent bookstores and blogging about their adventures. Isn't that a cool idea? I hadn't heard of her book before, so I'm also always looking for new authors to discover as well, so for me, this was a win-win situation; I get to read a new author, and support her in an amazing adventure!

It turns out that *Lost Children of the Far Islands* is actually a charming book! It follows the adventures of twins Gus & Leo and their younger sister, Ila, who are whisked off to a remote island off the coast of Maine when their mother falls mysteriously ill. On the island, under the guidance of their grandmother, the Morai, they discover that they are actually descendents of the Folk, magical creatures who can change from human form to that of an animal. It also comes to light that their mother is ill because she's been trying to protect them from the Dobhar-chu, the King of the Black Lakes, who will do anything to break free of his prison (where the Morai has been keeping him in check), and return to power.

Steeped in actual mythological lore, Raabe's book is plenty full of magic and adventure, but it's also full of well-polished characters. We get to see the first hand impressions of the children as they begin to become acquainted with their animal forms, and it's clear that Raabe put a lot of research into the marine life that she

presents in her story. The kids themselves also act their various ages, and I liked the quirky tightness of their family. Personally, I think this is a great book for kids and highly recommend it for young readers!

Samantha says

I really enjoyed this one. I liked the different mythology aspect (selkies) and the way the family could save the day. It's a little typical, but for new fantasy readers (or those who want something a little different) it's a great read. And it has a Maine setting!

Sara Grochowski says

In *Lost Children of the Far Islands*, three siblings discover that they, like their ancestors before them, have the ability to transform into animals. When their mother falls ill and a mysterious visitor arrives promising answers and an introduction to the grandmother they've never met, Gus, Leo, and Ila embark on a magical journey to an island where they'll learn the truth of their heritage. A desire to save their mother turns into a quest to stop the dark King of the Black Lakes from escaping his prison and wreaking havoc on the world. Can they defeat this terrible foe and escape with their lives?

There are so many things that I love about this book! Full of adventure, courage, and magic, this fast paced story grabs you from the first page and doesn't let go.

One of my favorite elements of this story is that the heroes are siblings. I'm a sibling, so I could appreciate Emily Raabe's characterization of Gus, Leo, and Ila. They love one another, but also spend a fair amount of time exasperated, annoyed, and even jealous. They have similarities than only family can, yet they are all individuals. They all contributed in important ways to saving their mother and defeating the King of the Black Lakes. Siblings FTW!

This novel plays on the selkie myth, which I've always liked. There are many books that focus on humans shifting into animals, but there are few that feature sea creatures as the animal form. Raabe's descriptions of the children's underwater adventures will make readers shrug off werewolves and reconsider the sea. Not only does this story inspire an interest in selkies and real ocean life, Raabe also touches on other mythology, like mermaids!

I highly recommend you embark on this epic journey across - and beneath - the sea with Gus, Leo, and Ila!

Jenna says

This book was a fun story for younger kids. My brother and his friend started reading this book and loved it so much that they wanted me to read it as well. I did and I am glad I did so. This story was filled with an enjoyable adventure about three kids who have the powers of the Folk, an ancient kind of people who can Turn into specific animals. It was a typical story where kids have to defeat the evil and bring the light back to their world before the dark can crowd its vision. It was filled with thrill and mystery and I totally recommend it if you are looking for a quick read.

Natalia says

This book was okay but I was just not interested enough to continue. I have read about a half. Returned it back to the library.

Jaime Sanborn says

My 10 year old son purchased this book on one of our visits to the bookstore. He had a few books to finish before he could begin it- so, I scooped it up. I had never heard of Emily Raabe but I am always cozy within a book about children who discover they have magical abilities.

Raabe introduces her readers to a fantastical world like none that has appeared in the more recent fantasy books for children. Her Selkie-Lore is beautifully spun with a modern twist, making her story both approachable and mysterious.

Taking place in the northernmost part of Maine, "Lost Children of the Far Islands" is a book of rocks, and sea, and folk tale. Twins, Gustavia and Leomaris, and their intentionally mute little sister, Ila, are the children of a Physical Oceanographer father and an Artist mother who only paints the sea. They are a loving family who nurture and support one another. Which is why, when some unfathomable events begin to happen, the children do not understand why their parents become so secretive.

Their father is looking into the possible reasons why several fishing ships in the area have gone missing along with their crew. Their mother has suddenly become inexplicably ill and weak and withdrawn. As if this isn't frightening enough, strange and enormous paw prints are appearing outside their home.

In conversation with their parents, the children share that they have noticed a disturbingly increased aptitude for being underwater. This alarms their parents, who decide the children must go and stay with their grandfather for a while. There is a lot of whispering behind closed doors between their mother and father. The children are frustrated because they know they are being kept in the dark about something serious and unusual.

When an impossible visitor comes in the night and introduces himself to the children with the promise to be able to explain everything to them, they embark on a dangerous and magical adventure.

This is Raabe's first children's novel and it is well executed.

My only criticism is that I think fewer pages could have been used describing the mystery behind Ila's lack of speech. There were six pages about it but, when the "explanation" for her purposeful muteness is given, it lacks proper development. Other than that, this is an engaging, exciting, endearing story that will interest both boys and girls alike.

Recommended for ages 8+. 4 stars.

Ana says

This book gave me a sort of.....spooky feeling. I can't explain it really it just had this vibe that fascinated me. The way the author spun this story was very original and kept me reading and on the edge of my seat. Gus, Leo, and Ila have to be the most realistic children to ever grace the page. When you send a child on an adventure like this you can expect the results to be that of the ending of this book. And although it pains me to say so, the tragic happening at the end of this novel was necessary and really brought a tear to my eye even if I saw it coming.

This is the better of the new books I have been reading recently and I was impressed with Emily Raabe's unique play of selkies and creatures of the sea. I hope to hear more from her

Lizziebeth10 says

So many concepts, expertly interwoven. Selective mutism. Irish mythology. Maine seafaring life. Standard fifth-grade life issues. Ailing parent. And one of my favorite themes, that of a person with "powers" discovering the powers - what they are, how to use them, how they manifest themselves.

Kay says

I enjoyed this stand-alone middle-grade story. The relationship between the three siblings (Gus, Leo, and Ila) was wonderful and I enjoyed finding out about their family and where they come from. I don't want to say much more than what's already in the book summary, but this incorporated some myths that I'm very fond of and had a positive ending that, I think, could lead to other books in the future if the author wanted.

Kristen says

This book drew me in very quickly. I have not read another intermediate novel like it. I loved the author's descriptions and writing style. I look forward to reading more from her.

Mary says

Liked the part about the selkies but just don't like all the fighting parts. Personally don't like that part, but kids might love it (I felt the same way about the Unwanted!)
