



The Island

Olivia Levez

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Frances is alone on a small island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. She has to find water and food. She has to survive. And when she is there she also thinks about the past. The things that she did before. The things that made her a monster. Nothing is easy. Survival is hard and so is being honest about the past. Frances is a survivor however, and with the help of the only other crash survivor, she sees that the future is worth fighting for.

The Island is a gripping and thoughtful story about a girl who didn't ask to be the person she is but is also determined to make herself the person she wants to be.

The Island Details

Date : Published March 3rd 2016 by Oneworld Publications

ISBN : 9781780748597

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Format : Paperback 321 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Adventure, Survival, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Island for online ebook

Carina Olsen says

I feel bad about giving this book a one star. But I can't help it. It was awful. And I didn't like it at all. Though there were a few scenes that were interesting. But not enough to give it a two star rating. Sigh. I have so many thoughts about this one. I shall try to share them all. Maybe. It's just. I really wanted to like it.

I heard about The Island when I was emailed by the UK publisher in November, if I wanted to review it. And I read about it. And I thought that I would like it, so I got an ARC of it. It is pretty. But oh. Sadly, the inside was not good at all. I tried my best to enjoy this one. But it was impossible. It just didn't work for me at all.

I knew from the first pages that I would not like this book. I wanted to not read it. But it is only the second book I have gotten from this lovely publisher, and I thought that I needed to finish it and write a review. And then I thought about DNFing it, as it was so slow to read, but I didn't. I wanted to finish because I got it for review. And. Well. I sort of regret reading it. But also sort of glad that I did. But I'm also having so many feelings about it right now. And none of it is good. I'm just angry. And my review might end up being very negative. Sorry about that. But I wish to be honest about my feelings for this book. So I might end up posting a few small spoilers about the plot in the book. But nothing too big and not that interesting.

I'm unsure where to start. So I shall begin with the writing. It was awful. Really truly awful. I couldn't stand this writing at all. Which makes me a bit sad. But yeah. It was really bad. I'm not sure how to else describe it. But everything about it was bad. How the girl was thinking. How she described things. I don't usually have issues at all with strong language, but it was bad in this one. It didn't fit in at all. I just really did not like the writing. At all. And story was not all that exciting either. I'm disappointed.

I don't even know how old the main girl, Frances, is. She drank vodka a whole lot. She seemed like she was over eighteen sometimes, and other times she seemed like she was twelve. It was so annoying. But pretty sure she was supposed to be sixteen. Reading about her was the worst. I guess I was supposed to feel sorry for her, you know, with her fat and useless and pathetic mom who got paid for sex. It just seemed a bit too much. And I didn't care one bit. Not even a little. I did not like Frances. Which is sad.

The plot is about her being on a plane that crashes, and her being the only survivor. But gosh it was written so badly. First she manages to get out of the plane by making a hole in the roof. Did not seem likely. She grabs a raft. And then she wakes up inside it. She has one small bottle, with a bit of vodka inside. So of course she drinks it all and gets super drunk. Did not seem likely. And she destroys just about everything inside her one emergency bag. Seriously. It was done so badly and not realistic at all.

This book is about her being on an island. Alone for about two hundred pages, and about eighty days for her alone. Just about half the book is flashbacks. And it was just annoying. I didn't care about her life. Her little brother seemed interesting, until he got taken away and then didn't care about her at all anymore. Seriously. Plot is that Frances did something really bad and is being sent away for weeks. But, well, the thing she did was so silly and just stupid to read about. I didn't care about it one bit. Sigh.

This summary mentions another survivor. But he isn't there for two hundred pages. And then he is just annoying. And Frances is being so rude and awful. She is sixteen. He is over twenty. I thought there might be a cute romance to save me from this awful book. But nooo. Turns out he is gay. Ugh. My dislike for this book just grew so much. Because it was boring. Oh so boring. They spent forever on the island doing just

about nothing. Nothing exciting ever happened. Which bothered me. Could have been better.

And then there is that ending. What the hell. It is a cliffhanger. Someone is just about dead. And we don't get to see what happens with it at all. It was the worst ending I have ever read in a standalone book. Just. What. That is not okay. And it just made me so angry. Sigh. I spent ages reading this book, suffering through it, and then it doesn't even have a good ending. What the hell. I'm upset about it. And just. I felt like I wasted my time. Though I was interested in the plot a few times. Sort of. Not enough.

I'm not sure what else to say about this one. Well, okay, I could probably mention a whole lot of other bad things about it. But I'm not going to. Because I'm ready to forget all about it. I'm sorry that I didn't like it. I'm sorry that it was such a bad book. But yeah. It was not for me at all. Some of the survival things were interesting. But for the most part it was boring. Some might like it, though. Just. Thank you so, so much to Cailin at Oneworld Publications for sending me this. <3 I'm sorry that I hated it.

This review was first posted on my blog, Carina's Books, here: <http://carinabooks.blogspot.no/2016/0...>

Harvey says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher in return for an honest review. YOu can see this review along with all my others (plus book blogging tips!) at <http://bookmarkedbookreviews.blogspot....>

Warning: This review may contain unnecessary capital letters, extreme fanboying and maybe some screaming.

Have you seen this cover? HAVE YOU? HAVE YOU SEEN IT? LOOK AT IT WITH YOUR EYES!!! It is possibly one of the most brilliant covers I've seen this year.

Basically, this book is WOW. I wasn't sure how much I was going to love it, but I ended up REALLY REALLY REALLY ENJOYING IT. HOW CAN I SAY THIS? MY HEART OF STONE CANNOT HANDLE HOW MUCH I LOVED THIS BOOK. I'M HAVING AN OVERLOAD OF EMOTION. *faints*

Anyway.

Frances is one of the only survivors after she crash lands onto the shores of a desert island. As she fights for her life, we learn LOTS more about her dark past and what made her ever-so-slightly psychopathic.

Admittedly it sounds a bit Lord of the Flies-ey, but it's SO MUCH BETTER.

The Island is written brilliantly. I mean, it kept me gripped the entire way through and was just SO beautiful in places.

Blue shimmering water.
And a blue shimmering sky.
I am surrounded by nothing.

An endless sea of nothing.

I really LOVED Frances, but sometimes I found her a bit... stupid?

I feel really guilty saying this, because right now I'm in love with this book, but sometimes I just felt Frances was being... stupid? Maybe it's because I'm so intelligent *ahem*. But hear me out. You've just rocked up on a desert island - what's the first thing you do? Drink all of your water supplies of course.

The water sachets keep sliding out of my hands but I manage to stab one, pin it between my knees like it's a fish or something and hold it to my mouth and drink. And drink and drink. I drink three of them till my belly feels tight and full.

I have two left.

NOOOOOOOOOOO.

That aside, I think Frances is portrayed perfectly. Perfectly. I really enjoyed how her anger was dealt with and it really was all written brilliantly. Although the idea of being stuck on an island isn't really that original, Olivia Levez has definitely managed to put her own twist on it.

Some YA books feel really censored, and seem to pretend that everything ends in a happy ever after.

shudders That type of thing really annoys me. This book doesn't do that. It doesn't make out that teenagers don't swear, and that everyone grows up trouble free. Frances doesn't feel imaginary, she feels like someone you could bump into in the street.

I loved this book. I mean, it's one of those special ones that you just want to reread as soon as you've read it. While I was reading this I actually looked forward to getting the chance to open it.

I feel like I really connected with Frances (and dog) - I felt like I wanted this book to go on and on. I'm not usually a fan of animals in YA, but I think even the dog was written brilliantly. I wondered how much the author could do with just three characters on an island... but it turns out you can do a helluva lot.

I'm pretty sure this is going to be one of the best books of 2016. Yep, I said it. This book is so freakin' good. I enjoyed it so much and fell in love with Frances right from the start. You should definitely buy it. And then you can stare at the BEAUTIFUL cover for at least TEN YEARS (maybe even twelve).

Michelle says

I won a ARC copy of this book via Goodreads. I immediately stopped reading another book to get this one read first as I wanted to share my view on it before it's release date which is early March.

So the story follows Francis who was in a plane crash which resulted on her being shipwrecked on an island but it flashes back to her past and how she ended up where she is today. I didn't mind the flashbacks but as it went on it irritated me a little because it really wasn't relevant to the story aside from letting you know a little about her as a person. She is strong and had to grow up so quickly to raise her brother. Problem with that is.....she didn't show that from the plane onwards. She acts like a petty child who doesn't care that she's

destroying all items needed for survival or basically about anybody else but herself.

I have to admit that when you find out there's another survivor who happens to be male I wanted there to be a little more of a connection there but that just didn't happen. The end was terrible. I felt cheated. I read this whole book waiting for some form of ending and there was none. Do they survive? Was that really a helicopter light she was seeing? Did she fuck up and throw a spear to catch a 'star' and actually destroy all hope for rescue? We will never know. I'm not sure if this was a stand alone but if it does go on into another book I'm not sure I will be hooked enough to read it to get these answers.

Bookishsmaug says

The Island is about a girl who crash landed on an island and is to survive with nothing but a raft and a dog as a companion - but she finds out that she isn't the only survivor.

Sigh.. I was so excited when I received an arc of this book. The cover is absolutely beautiful and I actually stopped reading two books for this. The back of the book said something about a girl who finds out that a boy survived the same plane crash and are both stranded on the same island so I thought it had a 'The Blue Lagoon: The Awakening' kind of feel but the book was nothing like it. The story is told back and forth between Fran's past and present and that really confused me. I normally don't have a problem with reoccurring flashbacks in books but this one bugged me a whole lot. I had no care for her past because it had nothing to do with the present. When she got to the island I thought, okay, finally she's on the island - there should be some action going on right now, right? But no. none. Nada. Instead she floats toward the island on a raft, picks up a bottle filled with vodka and drinks. She also used up pretty much everything there is on the raft that is suppose to help her survive. Sigh. I was well about done with this book.

So she gets to the island. I was expecting the survivor to appear any moment now, but no. I had to go through about 180 pages to get to him. Sigh. I thought the survivor was a pretty fun character though, so I enjoyed that part of the book. (view spoiler)

So yeah. It was really hard for me to finish this book and it took a lot of time. Also that ending was pretty weird and it got me thinking a lot so I do hope there's a second book. I probably won't end up reading the book but let's see. Thank you Cailin for sending over this book! I adore the cover but sadly the story isn't for me.

Teresa says

The best survival book I've read since The Martian! I love how intense it was, switching from Frances stuck on the island and back to her life in England. Boy, she had a fucked up home life! No wonder she was so pissed at the world. No spoilers. But I am dying to discuss the ending with someone so let me know if you read this.

For the 2017 Book Riot Read Harder Challenge
Read a book that is set more than 5000 miles from you location.

Nicola says

4.5 stars

In the beginning, it is really quite difficult to back Fran and root for her. She isn't easy to like and she makes some questionable decisions. She drinks the majority of her water right away and throws away other supplies that would be incredibly useful. However, as time progresses, it becomes easier to sympathise and understand her poor choices. This is largely down to the flashback chapters where we get to learn more about her life before these devastating events.

I loved the writing style of short chapters that flip between the past and the present. I thought the interspersed chapters of her past were quite fitting as Fran was delving back into her memories as she comes to terms with her situation. She's slowly allowing herself to think of all the bad things which allows us to learn what happened to her and what she did to end up on the expedition in the first place. The chapters being so quick makes it a fast paced read that's hard to put down.

The addition of another survivor added a whole new element to the story which I loved. We get some lighter moments as well as a really touching bond between them. With Fran being difficult to understand and like, it was nice to have this other character who I could connect with more. His willingness to get along with Fran and work together to survive, even when she is being annoying, made it easier for me to root for her too. I also adored Dog despite the fact my heart was worrying for his safety the entire time!

One of my favourite things about *The Island* is that it's a realistic portrayal of being stranded on a desert island; it isn't romanticised. There aren't two people swooning over each other and forgetting the dire situation they are in. It's harsh and dirty and brutal. It's all about survival skills and the durability of the human body. Body hair, bodily functions and periods aren't forgotten about.

The ending is one of those ones where you have to imagine what happens next yourself. I usually don't like these kinds of endings but I think it works well here given that there is more than one route the author could have taken. I think a fixed ending would have had the potential to feel rushed and so I'm happy with what we have. *The Island* was a gripping, well-written story of survival and I really, really enjoyed it.

Praxedes says

Not counting a couple of interesting passages, this book was sub par. The plot was too circular, going over and over the same flashback without adding value to the story. It was hard to connect with any of the characters. Not recommended.

Shannon says

2.75 stars. But just what was that ending? I hate open endings and this was just ridiculous. I can't decide If I loved or disliked this book.

Josie says

Such an exciting book, my heart raced throughout the majority of it!! I hope there's going to be a sequel because I still have a few questions that need answering. Sometimes the story seemed to be all over the place but I got used to the writing style in the end. Started and finished all on my holiday :)

Meg Gutteridge says

I've never read a book so fast! I loved this book, I couldn't put it down the entire time I had it. I loved how interestingly it was written and the short chapters kept me interested. the ending was good, although I'm dying to know what happens afterwards! I fell in love with the characters and I'm glad that I loved this book because my English teacher wrote it ;)

Nikki Sheehan says

I absolutely know that I would not last five minutes stranded alone on a desert island (no WiFi). But this is a wonderful study of what anyone (even someone completely, totally messed up) can do if they have to. The author really puts her MC through it, and there were definitely times when I didn't blame her because Franny is so maddening, but the development of this 16 year old was handled so skilfully and realistically that, though there is much sadness, it ended up being a really uplifting read.

If that's not enough to persuade you, The Island also has a great dog in it. I loved it!

Sarra says

"The Island" drinking game:

- if you drink every time the author uses the cliche "bluer-than-blue", you'll be pretty tipsy throughout the book;
- if you drink every time the author uses the most annoying annoying annoying gimmick of smushing a word or phrase together in triplicate triplicate triplicate for emphasis emphasis emphasis, you'll be room-spinning drunk after only a couple dozen pages, and upchucking regularly throughout the book;
- if you drink every time the author treats every new sentence like it's a new paragraph, you will need to read this in the emergency room because you will need to have your stomach pumped regularly.

Actually 1.5 stars. I was interested in the story enough to finish the book, but the author's clunky writing style, apparent lack of a thesaurus, and authorial tics/habits grate something fierce (don't even get me started on the random breaking up of sentences as if we're playing at poetry for no apparent reason), so I didn't particularly enjoy reading it. Also, Medusa, gorgon, stone stare, monster, yes, yes, we get

it. I did very much enjoy the use of "!" and "?" to represent a dog's barks, though; that's cute and pretty apt. (view spoiler)

Inge says

For me, this was a train wreck (or should I say... PLANE WRECK) from start to finish. And it really doesn't take a lot to get me truly excited about survival stories, because I'm an absolute sucker for them. Which is why I requested this, naturally – it sounded truly amazing. Unfortunately, it didn't work for me at all.

Frances was not a very likeable main character. To put it mildly, she had anger issues. To be a little more specific, end up on her wrong side and you could quite possibly wind up dead. Or with second-degree burns. Or a massive wound in your leg. This girl was *mad*: if things didn't go her way, she'd turn into a straight-up bitch. A guy doesn't want to kiss you back? By all means, let's insult him to his very core and then continue to trash your camp and destroy your food. Got yourself into a life raft after a plane crashes? Why yes, *do* get drunk on vodka and throw everything that could save your life overboard. (I mean, I absolutely understand why you would want to get drunk in that situation – although maybe not because you can't defend yourself when you're drunk. But to throw everything out of the life raft felt a bit too convenient to move the plot forward.)

The only other character was a pompous, arrogant, pretentious, condescending tool. Poor Dog that got stuck with the two of them; neither were people you'd want to get stuck on a deserted island with. (As usual, I cared the most for the animal in the story.)

The writing was a bit confusing at times, especially when trying to describe sound effects which thoroughly baffled me. Then there was the back-and-forth between present time and flashbacks, which really took me out of the story. While her past does give an idea of why she's so horrible, I wasn't there for that. I wanted the survival story.

I'm also not a fan of that type of ending. So, I'm really sorry to say it wasn't a success for me, which is a shame because I was really looking forward to it.

Thank you to Oneworld Publications / Edelweiss for providing me with a copy

Accio Reviews says

[Full review on my blog, 'Accio Reviews'!]

The format of this book is very unusual. The chapters average about a page each: they can be as short as a couple of paragraphs but almost never exceeding two pages. This makes for a very quick read, especially considering the main story is sprinkled with flashbacks of Fran's life.

This method will usually end up going one of two ways. Either the flashbacks are used as nothing but filler, or it is the perfect way to tell the story. I am glad to say that with 'The Island' it is definitely the latter!

For most of the book, we do not know what Frances has done to land herself in a rehabilitation program.

There are clues here and there, but the full picture is not put together until about the last third of the story. This is only a problem in the aspect that until you are able to understand where Frances is coming from, she is not a very likable character. She comes across as a brat in most of her interactions with other people and her attitudes regarding pretty much everything, and for some people that might tempt them to not continue reading the book.

I pushed through, however, because while she does have that worst side, she is also very relatable at times. Once she finds herself stranded in a lifeboat, she completely freaks out. She wastes most of her resources and I cringed through all of it, chanting in my head 'you are soooo going to regret that'. But wouldn't most of us just lose it if all of a sudden we were the sole survivors of a plane crash? I certainly would, and it was so very refreshing reading about a character in that situation that is not immediately in control and completely the survivalist type.

I raised my hands to the sky in prayer and thanks to the closest divinities when I saw a mention to menstruation in this book. It's been a hot topic lately in the book community how much talking about periods seems to be taboo in YA literature, and seeing this slow shift towards the normalization of it brings me immense joy. Especially considering the environment that Frances is in, that is something that she definitely had to deal with and even if it is only mentioned once (when she spends months in the island) it is such a large step in the right direction! Also, body hair. I could mention off the top of my head countless times that characters are described in books as having baby smooth skin in post-apocalyptic/equivalent contexts, and it paints such an unrealistic picture of the human body. Frances is absolutely having none of that, and I would have 'high-fived' her if I physically could.

Frances's story is one that everyone will be able to relate to. A tough nut to crack at first (no pun intended), once you learn what has made her the way she is you will want to immediately yank her off the book and protect her for any more harm coming her way. Give her a chance to grow on you, and you will definitely find this a beautiful, if not heartbreaking story of a girl that didn't ask for the life that she's had, but finds the strength to deal with its answers.

Kelly says

Frances, a girl who has done something Very Bad, is being sent to an island near Indonesia as part of her sentence. It'll be a work-camp sort of situation: she'll gain valuable skills and lessons while not putting in jail time for the crime she's committed.

Except on the flight, the TeamSkills crew ends up in a terrible accident. Frances is the lone survivor and finds herself alone on an island. It's up to her to figure out how to survive and how to get out.

This is a realistic survival story with grit and teeth and bones and sharp, jutting edges. It's a page-turner without being exhilarating -- much of survival is straight-up boring, so it makes sense there is downtime, there is time for Frances to flash back to the things she did, to take stock of her life before the accident.

But it turns out that Frances may not be alone on the island after all.

Frances is a girl of piss and vinegar because she's a girl who has been hurt again and again. She's angry and she's grieving and dealing with emotions in very raw, pained ways. Her experience on the island is a manifestation of those things, as much as her attitude is. This isn't a story about romance or falling in love;

this is a story that's blissfully free of any shoehorned romance or love.

It might be easy to describe this as Hatchet, but actually interesting. I realize how many fans Hatchet has, but for those who, like me, sat through classroom readings of that book again and again and again in school because it's a "great book for boys," it's a story that just...doesn't...click. This, though, this has the sharpness that teen readers, especially those who crave female-centered hard-ass adventure stories, will want.

What a gem of a book.
