



Who Is Frances Rain?

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In this 20th-anniversary edition of the novel by Margaret Buffie, it's going to be a long, hot summer for 15-year-old Lizzie. Normally a vacation at her grandmother's northern Manitoba cottage is the highlight of the year, but this summer the whole family is going along, including her new stepfather whom she detests.

To escape the family's bickering, Lizzie explores a nearby island, where she finds the remains of an old cabin and uncovers a pair of spectacles. When she tries on the old glasses she is surprised to find herself watching a woman and girl from the past.

Lizzie is determined to find out who these ghosts are, and why they are appearing to her. Enlisting the help of her grandmother's teenage neighbor, Alex, she puts together clues about the ghosts' identities and in doing so, finds a way to help her estranged family reunite. It's a compelling story, carrying young readers from the present to the past and back again.

Who Is Frances Rain? Details

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Author : Margaret Buffie

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From Reader Review Who Is Frances Rain? for online ebook

Erin Jones says

I first read this book in the 4th Grade. The school Book Fair wouldn't sell it to me. My Mom had to argue with them, and explain that while only 9 years old, I was reading on a high school level. So she bought me the book. I've put tally marks in the cover each time I read it. I think the last count was something like 37 times. I love this coming of age book. It's a little dated for teens now, but definitely worth the time.

Donna says

So THE HAUNTING OF FRANCES RAIN is neither cheesy nor all that horror-filled but it was actually a pretty good story that had me tearing up at the end of it.

Buffie does a good job of setting scenes and pumping up the book with some good ambiance. I really felt the isolation and pseudo-gloominess of the lake Lizzie was staying at and it added to the creepy vibe of Rain Island, where her ghostly troubles started happening. She also took her time setting up Lizzie's family situation, and Lizzie herself. Nearly half the book is spent hashing out her mom's marriage issues, her dad leaving, her relationship with her siblings and just how Lizzie herself all around feels about everything. Sure she's a bit of a bratty teenager but you actually get to see her grow as a person from one end of the book to the other and it's definitely a nice change from the stock cheese I've been reading.

Maybe I didn't look at the cover closely enough but I was under the impression this had something to do with the late 60s and hippies based on the glasses. Turns out they're far older than that. That tidbit didn't turn me on the story one way or another but fair warning it has nothing to do with hippies.

I was also amused by the Canadianness of the book. No surprise because the author is Canadian and the story is set in Canada so a lot of 'eh' going on and the spellings of some words aren't US English but it only added to the character of the story. Not that Canada is all that different from the US but it added to the setting and the feel of the story that it was someplace other than the US but at the same time still relatable and easy enough to picture.

For the supernatural aspect of the story I liked how it was approached. Lizzie was afraid at first (how could she not be?) but once she adjusted to what was happening the fear changed to something of a curiosity and then a minor obsession. Luckily she had Alex on her side so didn't think she was absolutely insane and actually aided her without impeding her. He was one of the lesser-developed characters and acted as a bit of a love interest for Lizzie but he grounded what was happening to her in reality and legitimized what she was seeing. These ghosts were never presented as frightening; just the act of seeing them was scary. Lizzie was, more often than not, a casual observer of something happening in the past. They did invade her space just once and it was a bit creepy but again, it wasn't meant to be a frightening experience.

I liked how the ending wrapped everything up and didn't really leave any threads hanging. The conflict between Lizzie's mom and her step-dad was resolved, the issue with her grandmother was good to go, the sibling rivalry was getting smoothed out, and her relationship with Alex was settling in. But it didn't feel like a hokey, Lifetime ending. It just felt really resolved and final and it fit with the whole mood of the book. That's not to say the ending was perfect (or I should say the characters at the end weren't perfect and smiley

and happy) but it was definitely a solid ending.

Overall a pretty good book that I think transcends time. It's a solid story with well-developed characters, excellent scene-setting, and a hint of the supernatural that can be a little creepy but is largely almost soothing and wholly interesting within the grander scheme of the story. I'd recommend THE HAUNTING OF FRANCES RAIN to people even today, I liked it that much.

5

Shelley-Ann Cowan says

One of my favorite books. I'm re-reading it for the millionth time.

Angie Lisle says

I am working my way through a young adult supernatural/paranormal reading list. Prior to picking up this book, I was suffering through a very popular series that I won't mention by name. Suffice it to say that, while the series was imaginative, I found myself wondering what was so great about these books. The writing was stiff and felt forced in places, which, of course, made the storyline feel stiff and forced. I decided to take a break from the series - in part, because I was tired of struggling with it, but mostly because I remember reading Buffy as a teen and I loved her.

Sometimes, as an adult, I find that I am not as entertained by books/authors that I loved as a kid. But I was absolutely enthralled by this book. Both the story and the writing flowed so beautifully that I paused to wonder why this author isn't given more attention. This book was deliciously spooky - not in a way that makes you afraid of the dark, but in the way that makes you stop and think about how much effect our actions have on others, especially our loved ones. Once I started reading, I couldn't stop until I turned the last page.

Chelsea Hagen says

This was a pretty good book. Slow at times but a good ending. I liked that it was written by a Canadian author.

Angela says

This is absolutely one of my favorite children's books. It was very imaginative interesting story.

?♥Sumi♥? says

A really interesting book.

Andrea Robyn says

I hate this book so much. As a required reading novel study in junior high, this was so painful to read. I found the characters bland and the plot boring and a failed attempt on the authors behalf of writing suspense and paranormal.

Perhaps it was because at the time of reading this I was already reading supernatural-esque books from Stephen King, but I do not find a trace of well executed paranormal events in this book.

Others may disagree but I do not like this book a single ounce.

Melissa says

I just hit this one up again when I found my old copy and it's still good, thank god.

Jeannie says

One of my favorite books I read during my childhood. It still resonates with me. I really want to read it again to get an adult perspective.

Pauline says

Lizzie travels with her family to visit her grandmother in a remote place in Canada. Lizzie's mother is recently remarried, and there is tension in the family over the new step-dad. Evan is Lizzie's older brother and there is a younger sister. The younger sister adores the new dad, but Lizzie and her brother do everything possible to make his life uncomfortable.

Mom is a lawyer and her new marriage is rocky, so the family goes on a two week visit to grandma's house. To get to grandma's house you have to take a boat, which provides a great setting for the ghost story part of the book.

Lizzie spends her vacation in a mini canoe visiting a nearby island where she discovers spectacles, when she puts them on they take her back in time to when Frances Rain lived on the island. Who exactly is Frances Rain and why she was alone on an island, so long ago, are questions that Lizzie tries to find out.

The story is happily resolved and it is an enjoyable read for pre-teens or young teens who like a tiny bit of romance, ghosts and families with troubles.

Crystal says

This is a book from my childhood that I recently read again. I loved it as a child, I must have read it more than ten times, and I enjoyed again as an adult.

Mikael says

This is a fun book for preteens. It has a little romance, family drama, and ghosts. I read this book when I was younger and recently reread it and it was still as good.

Beck says

scared the hell out of me!!!!

Amy Mathers says

<http://amysmarathonofbooks.ca/who-is-...>
