



Lost

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This novel tells the story of a German family who, in the chaos of escaping from the advancing Russian army in 1945, lose their oldest son, Arnold. The novel's narrator, Arnold's unnamed younger brother, watches as his parents attempt to find their lost child - their dream, but his nightmare.

Lost Details

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From Reader Review Lost for online ebook

Ernest Junius says

Lost is a tragedy novel. It tells a story about a family suffering from the loss of their firstborn son, Arnold, due to the World War II. The tragic fact veers to entirely comic when the family was told that their son might be still alive after all—with a twist. Before seeing him they must endure endless ridiculous and horrific tests to find proof that he is truly part of the family.

Told in the first person narrative of the lost son's little brother we are forced to acknowledge his immature and tender feelings regarding the whole situations. Viewed in this light, the matter almost feels very trivial, since the little brother doesn't know (or care) anything about Arnold because he was born much later after the incident. All he cared about is, if the lost boy is indeed Arnold, would he have to share his bed, his food, his toys? It is of course the complete opposite from the extreme anguish that his parents have to endure every day.

Interestingly, the book contains no paragraph or space break—every page is literally filled with sentences. Back to back. It doesn't allow the reader to glance away or take toilet break. Obviously it is meant to be read in a single sitting.

I have to say that 80% of things that happened in the book are just completely ridiculous (although possible). Depending on the imagination of the readers the whole fiasco can look like complete comedy. Also, although written in the setting of post-war Germany, this book makes no mention of NAZI or any of its impact on the world around its characters. This book solely intends to narrate the sufferings endured by ordinary Germans because of the war. In my opinion, the writer wrote the tragedy as comic because the tragedy of losing a child (who ended up still alive after all) pales in comparison to the Auschwitz tragedy. In this book a German tried to "joke" about the nation's predicament, although in effect the joke might have earned some sympathy from the readers, because in the end not everyone in Germany is NAZI and a tragedy no matter how comic is still a tragedy.

Stopfi says

2.5 Sterne

Lässt sich sehr leicht lesen, aber hinterlässt keinen bleibenden Eindruck. Und: hab ich schon mal gesagt, dass ich es gar nicht mag, wenn es keine Kapitel gibt in Büchern?

Emmastepan says

Kitabın ba?lar?nda akl?ma Ordinary People (1980) filmi geldi. Anne, baba, çocuk ve olmayan karde?. Bu küçük romanda II. Dünya Sava??'nda Rus ordusundan kaçarken kaybolan bir karde?; filmde ise ölen bir karde?. T?pat?p ayn? demiyorum tabi, sadece an?msatt?.

Çocuklu?unu ya?ayamayan bir çocu?un gözünden anlat?lan olaylar? okudukça hüznlendim aç?kças?.

Domuz kellesi sevmiyor fakat yemek zorunda, televizyonda bir tek program? tümüyle izleyebilmi? de?il çünkü babas? izin vermiyor. Anne ve baba zaten kaybolan çocuklar?n?n yas?n? tutmakta ve bulunmu? çocu?un da kendilerinin oldu?una dair güçlü inançlar? varolan çocu?un hayat?n? hepten altüst ediyor. Hem ço?u çocuk herhalde de?il odas?n? ya?am?nda olan ço?u ?eyi karde?iyle payla?makta en az?ndan ba?larda zorlan?r. Bu çocuk da öyle. Üstelik bulunan çocuk bakal?m onun gerçekten karde?i mi?

Bu çocuk ayn? zamanda annesine ve babas?na k?rg?n, hatta k?zg?n. Öyle ki “Baba’n?n ses tonu beni rahats?z etti.” veya “Ne var ki Anne ve Baba, bo? zaman?n ve tatilin usulen bile tad?n? ç?karma yetene?inden yoksundular.” gibi cümlelerle dolu kitap. Çocuk anne ve babas?na kar?? bu hitap tarz? ile sanki onlar? yabanc?la?t?r?yor.

Kaybolan çocuk Arnold’u y?lmadan arayan ve nihayet bulduklar?na inanan bu anne ve baba varolan çocu?u ise neredeyse görmezden gelirler.

Velhas?l k?sac?k bir roman olan “Kaybolan” vakit ayr?l?p okunabilecek bir kitap diye dü?ünüyorum.

Lucille says

\$6 from the book shop in Niddrie. Translated from German & quoted as a masterpiece but found it tedious. Luckily it was only 136 pages cos it had no paragraphs or chapters - just print covering each page. Supposed to be an "allegory of post-Holocaust Germany".

Jana says

I know a thing or two about family guilt. Sometimes heaviness of one’s family is just unbearable. It's like endless emotional maze that leads to destruction, darkness and psychosomatic maladies. The biggest objection that I have with this book is structure: 130 pages as one sentence. It's a bit difficult to read it without paragraphs and no end no beginning.

Susan says

Very interesting book - post war Germany - young boy is told from early childhood that his older brother died of starvation as the parents were fleeing from the Russians towards western Germany. In adolescence is told that actually, in a moment of panic, his mother handed over the baby to a stranger who was also fleeing. The parents have told the son the story because they are now trying to find this older boy. Beautifully detailed study of relationships of son to parents, the agony of going through ridiculous "studies" to discover (or not) relationship with an older boy who might or might not be the son. Both fascinating in the history of the times and the relationships explored.

Hakan T says

İkinci Dünya Savaşı'nda yerlerinden olmuştur bir çiftin, göç ederken kaybolan çocukları arayışını, daha sonra doğan ikinci çocukları'nın gözünden anlatılmış etkileyici bir kısa roman. Konunun tüm dramatikliğine karşın, küçük çocuğun bakış açısı farklı bir okuma tecrübesi sunuyor. Kayıp kardeşin bulunması halinde anne ve babası'nın, odası'nın, yemeğini "baksana biri"yle paylaşması gerekeceğine dair endişeleri, yer yer mizahi ama gayet doğal, batmayan şekilde işlenmiş olması bence bu kitabın en önemli özelliği. Bunun yanı sıra, baba figürü aracılığıyla Alman çalınmış etiklerine yapılan değinmeler de dikkate değer. Savaşı'nın yarattığı acıların çok farklı bir şekilde yansıtıldığı, psikolojik boyutu güçlü bu kitabın ben çok beğendim doğrusu. Çevirmenin, önemli aydınları'mızdan Tanıl Bora olması da kitabı okumamda etken oldu. Gerçi, Osmanlıca'ya kayan bazı kelime tercihlerini biraz yadırgadım, ama çeviri yine de iyi, yanlış izlenim vermek istemem.

Benay izne ayrıldı says

normalde "bir çocuğun gözüyle" anlatılan olaylar çok sıkıcı bulurum, inandırıcı gelmez. bu anlatılarda çocuğun çok bilmişliğini çocukluğa yakıştıramam, yadırgarım. bu kitap da farklı değildi. çocuğumuz bazı yerlerde yetkinlerin bile vakıf olamadığı hissiyatlara, öngörülere sahipken birden "ya kardeşim bulunur da odamı paylaşmak durumunda kalırsam" diye "çocuklaşıyor". ama yine de konu ilginçti, sonunda ne olacak diye meraklandım. çok az konuşma olması, paragrafların olmaması, savaş sonrası bulantıyı hissettiriyordu bir de. okunulabilir.

Susa says

Vaikea sanoa mikä tässä ei oikein napannut. Jotenkin ei päässyt hahmojen sisään. Loppu ois saanu olla ainakin jotenkin räjähtävämpi, nyt tää tuntui hyvin tasaisen harmaalta vaikka idea mielenkiintoinen.

Harry says

This book sat on my shelf for months before I picked it up and read it, even though it was a gift--what could look more dire? And for the first ten pages or so, it was tough. The narrator describes his childhood living in the shadow of his older brother Arnold, who died while their parents were fleeing the Russian advance at the end of World War II. It's grim stuff, but in dealing with the loss of his brother (who he never really had and is nothing but irritating to the narrator when you get right down to it) Treichel makes the traumatic postwar years of German history somehow *funny*, satirizing everything from the concept of "getting over" Germany's place in World War II to the German work ethic to the highly-engrained social class structure that even the Nazis couldn't do away with. Very funny and specific as a laser beam, *Lost* is going to stick with me a lot longer than any tragedy I can think of.

Shelby says

Barb says

Strange book.

Carolyn says

If I just saw the surface meaning, this book would have been a 1 star for me. The allegory made it a 2 star book, and only because I like allegories, not because this was a particularly good one. The narrator as West Germany, Arnold as East Germany, his parents as the Third Reich -- if you were wondering. The "terrible thing that happened" was Die Flucht, The Trek, when twelve million Germans migrated away from the Russians advancing. Many Germans who didn't get out in time were murdered, women of all ages raped. I wish this went into what that was like for his parents more.

Anne Sanow says

According to a friend of mine who is fluent in German, the English edition omits the humor from the original. Humor, I asked? Yeah, he said, it's actually *funny* in places, in a low-key, wise-ass German kind of way. You won't find that here--in fact the prose seems fairly leaden--but the story itself is unforgettably bleak and harrowing.

MK says

I don't even have words for this book. It had potential to be good, even great. The story was there, the writing was there, but I didn't get it. I don't feel like the bulk of the book was even about the story I was promised on the inside flap. I am sure that this review of *Lost* will get me a lot of haters since it was critically acclaimed...I just didn't get "lost" in the story and that is what for me defines a good book.
