



Gertie Milk and the Keeper of Lost Things

Simon Van Booy

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Award-winning author Simon Van Booy introduces readers to a magical, whimsical world, perfect for fans of *Circus Mirandus* and *Serafina and the Black Cloak*.

When twelve-year-old Gertie Milk washes up on the island of Skuldark, she finds that all of her memories are gone. Home to helpful Slug Lamps, delicious moonberries, and a ferocious Guard Worm, the island is full of oddities, including a cozy cottage containing artifacts from every corner of history.

It is there that Gertie discovers she has been chosen as the next Keeper of Lost Things, tasked with the mission of returning objects to history's most important figures right when they need them most. With the help of a time machine disguised as a vintage sports car and the guidance of her fellow Keeper, Kolt, Gertie dodges an elephant army in ancient Alexandria, crashes a 1920s flapper party, and battles a ruthless Zhou Dynasty king.

But soon, Gertie encounters an enemy that threatens everything the Keepers stand for: The Losers, villains who don't want to keep order but destroy it. Now, Gertie must uncover the truth of her own past if she wants to stop the Losers and set history back in place.

Gertie Milk and the Keeper of Lost Things Details

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From Reader Review *Gertie Milk and the Keeper of Lost Things* for online ebook

Teresa Bateman says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher. When Gertie washes up on an island she has no memory of who she is or why she is there--only her name sewn on her gown. She soon discovers that she is a Keeper of Lost Things and becomes the apprentice to the current keeper. Their job is to travel through time and return items that often seem insignificant but have historical impact. The job is not without its dangers, but it also has rewards. Still, Gertie longs to regain her memory, and gathers facts she discovers about herself like precious gems. The truth, however, may be her undoing. This is a fun and whimsical book that is clearly leading up to a sequel. Hope it comes out soon!

Sadie Hillier says

This book is perfect for every kid (or child at heart) with an imagination yearning to explore and create universes. As a kid, my favorite books were *A Wrinkle in Time* (and it's series) and *The Phantom Tollbooth*. *Gertie Milk* fits perfectly alongside those. I couldn't put it down, and I know my childhood self would have devoured it and taken this universe to heart.

Harker says

A tale of lost memories, time travelling cars, and lots of cake, *Gertie Milk and the Keeper of Lost Things* has all the adventure one could want in a middle grade fantasy in which the heroine must return lost artifacts to historical figures and attempt to recover her memory.

The story opens with 12-year-old Gertie waking up on an island with no clue as to her identity, other than (presumably) her name embroidered on her dress. Stumbling away from an incoming tide and up a cliff, Gertie meets Kolt, a Mad Hatter-esque character that introduces her to her destiny as a Keeper.

The strange things he introduces her to are whimsical and sound like just the thing a young child would like. Cakes of all kinds, jams, tea, and a convoluted house with towers and hundreds of bedrooms to house the Lost Things.

Beneath all this wonder is darkness, however, and more so than that of the enemies of Keepers, the Losers who want to destroy the Keepers and their work. There are questions that pop up in regards to Keepers, like who are they? Kolt, who has been a Keeper for at least 100 years, can't even remember his real name (Kolt is made up from the initials of Keeper of Lost Things). It's revealed that all Keepers lose their memories when they're "chosen" so that they can more easily accept their fate.

Chosen here means kidnapped because the B.D.B.U. (Big Dusty Book Upstairs) deems them necessary for the mission of protecting the knowledge of human kind. Children being dragged into this kind of work with no choice, losing everything that made them themselves, is a rather dark aspect of this book's mythos.

Gertie bears her journey well. She has many questions for Kolt, and even when he doesn't answer them directly she soldiers on. I honestly would have expected her to fight back a bit more.

The various historical figures that are introduced were interesting in their variety. There were mathematicians, philosophers, athletes, and more. Some I had to look up as they were name dropped rather than introduced as an essential part of the plot, which detracted somewhat from the story.

With an open ending that could lead to at least one more book, maybe more, Gertie Milk turned out to be a fun story with fantastical, crazy elements mixed with figures from the past that prove essential to the way our world is now in terms of knowledge. This book will, I think, entertain not only children old enough to read on their own, but parental figures and their charges, with a narrative that flows and action fast enough to follow along when being read aloud.

Remember...it could always be worse.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Angie says

A young girl washes up on a beach with no idea who she is or where she is. The name Gertie Milk is written on her nightgown so that must be her. The island is a strange one as Gertie soon learns. She is found by Kolt and discovers she is a new Keeper of Lost Things and the island is Skuldark which exists in proximity to Earth but not exactly on it. Skuldark is filled with things lost throughout time with a big book (BDBU) that controls when things are returned. The BDBU tells Keepers when and where to return the items on the island. Because there have been fewer and fewer Keepers things have gotten piled up a bit. Gertie learns that the Losers are the enemy of the Keepers and want to destroy all knowledge. They would love to get their hands on the BDBU and destroy it.

This was such a neat premise. Things lost throughout out time and not just your spare sock, but things like cars and airplanes and books and clothes. I thought it was interesting that the Keepers don't just deal with the past but also the future. Time is very fluid on Skuldark and the BDBU can send you both forwards and backwards. The future where everyone lives in space and the earth is a giant garden is pretty genius. And who doesn't love a Robot Rabbit Boy obsessed with being loved? Lots of fun and adventure and time travel.

Leah says

This story is full of humor, fantasy, and a lot of educational facts. The story is built around a group of people who take care of items that are lost all through history as well as in the future. Occasionally an item is needed to be returned to the owner so they travel back in time to reunite the item with the person. The book is full of some amazing facts that most people would not just readily know. There is enough humor in it to keep someone engaged and the time travel fantasy portion creates that element of suspense. Once I started, I had a difficult time having to put it down.

Check out my entire review on my blog: <https://lovelifeinchaos.wordpress.com...>

Suzi says

Thankfully, I discovered a long time ago that there are some amazing books written for young readers, and this is definitely one of them! If you are a reader who expects the world to make sense and stories to reflect real life, this book isn't for you. It is a marvelous fantasy about a young girl who washes up on an island where lost treasures are collected and saved until the exact moment when they are needed by history's most famous people to move knowledge forward. There are delightfully deep philosophies and truths hidden in Gertie's experiences with famous explorers, scientists, philosophers, and inventors, each on the verge of a great accomplishment. Van Booy has written for the New York Times, NPR, and the BBC, and founded Writers for Children, which encourages young children to write with confidence. This is a great adventure for young and not-so-young readers with imagination and an open mind, and is filled with amazing imagery and creativity. I really liked it!

Lucas Hunt says

Got hold of an ARC and couldn't put it down from page one. Really funny, action-packed, and educational--I learned how a mathematician thousands of years ago figured out the circumference of the earth using shadows and a piece of string. I like Van Booy's other books, and his first middle-grade novel is just as beautifully written, but also humorous and compassionate. Totally unique book.

Stacy Gabriel says

There just has to be a sequel... there just has to be a sequel!

Joel Descendant of Poseidon Reads says

How exciting and wonderful it is to find out that there lies a place where your long lost forgotten precious toy or pen or book or anything has been just laying around. Now I'm certain that lost things deserve realm of their own and be return someday to save human ignorance.

Gertie Milk and Keeper of Lost Things has creatively narrated the adventure ahead of one amnesiac girl transported to a deserted island unknowingly and been forced to adapt her surrounding for the duty she, herself, don't pick but fate lead her to be. Gertie Milk, the (obvious) protagonist of the story, is such a cute name – milk, after all, is my favorite to drink or you do, too. The story is dosed up with humor and I feel that Mr. Peabody is somewhere in this book guiding Gertie – remember the movie which is also more into time traveling. Likewise, also gives the educational piece. The time traveling and that historical mixed up are something to like about this book. It really shows how Simon inserts these facts perfectly as I know it is in a historical literature which I do research just to be sure. So basically, you can learn after reading his book.

The book is quite fast read and you will enjoy every page you flip until the last bit. Adventure and action

pack.

This also points out the philosophical idea of what to be expected when one individual encounter losing his own memory. Wipe out all. Leaving no details even your own name. How he will first react after waking up with this state? May he choose to stick with the present or look past the way he used to live?

All along I love this book and through the series of time-space journey, Kolt's cottage exploration, B. D. B. U. missions and Skuldark place. You definitely pick out this though MG, I think, you just have to read it since suits well in any age you are.

Also reviewed at my blog >> <https://descendantofposeidonreads.wor...>

Erik says

I normally wouldn't read a Middle Grade book, but I'm big fan of Van Booy's writing so this was going to happen. I wish I'd read more books like this when I was much younger. It was educational without being overbearing. It was philosophical without being preachy. And it was well-written without coming across as juvenile. These three things in themselves are, in my humble opinion, a great mix for Middle Grade readers. It sparks their interest, gets them thinking outside of the story, and they don't get bored or thrown off course as the story develops.

Those positive points aside, the plot kept me reading all on its own. While definitely serious at times, Van Booy manages to maintain a lighthearted feel that keeps the reader's attention even when Gertie is out of imminent danger. It stands alone as a fun adventure, and the core plot is ripe for a series (fingers crossed). This book would make a great gift for your young reader or your oldest fan of Van Booy's!

Colin Goins says

Recently I have read a book called Gertie Milk by Simon Van Booy. This book is a book about a normal girl stranded on an island in the middle of nowhere she doesn't know her name or where she is. she has to figure out her name, where she is, what she is doing there, and why she is there. read this book and figure out all of these things and be wowed by the image put in your head!

I loved this book because I love Mysteries and it is such an exciting book! I didn't dislike anything about this book. I would have changed nothing in this book because this book has the right amount of action, excitement and detail!

I would recommend this book to almost anybody! The people I recommend this book to is for people who like action and adventure. If you don't like action, adventure or mysteries this this book is not for you. But for anybody else I recommend this book.

Terri Bond says

i loved it and read it in one day. this book may be written for children but any adult that likes fantasy will

enjoy this book as much as i have

James Pugh says

3.5 stars. A decent start to an obvious series (there are way too many loose ends left wide open and the climax felt like there was a bigger badder boogiemán out there). Inventive way to tell a time travel/Dr. Who-type sci-fi trope.

Erin says

Weird.

Motivation of Kolt strained plausibility so much at times that it damaged plausibility of the entire story. Oh, I just won't tell you about the huge threat that exists here until we confront it and have to scramble to escape. (And the huge threat is robot toys who just want love and hugs. What?)

I did like Gertie which kept me pushing onward. And it had some meaty themes for kids to wrestle with regarding knowledge and how it can be used for good or evil, and whom we owe loyalty to.

Strangely episodic. First of a series, seemingly.

Mellissa says

My Junior High child read this in two days, he really liked it. It kept his attention and that's hard to do.
