



The Lost Boys

Lilian Carmine

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Fate has brought them together. But will it also keep them apart?

Having moved to a strange town, seventeen-year-old Joey Gray is feeling a little lost, until she meets a cute, mysterious boy near her new home.

But there's a very good reason why Tristan Halloway is always to be found roaming in the local graveyard...

Perfect for fans of Stephenie Meyer and Lauren Kate, *The Lost Boys* is a magical, romantic tale of girl meets ghost.

The Lost Boys Details

Date : Published October 24th 2013 by Ebury Press (Fiction)

ISBN : 9780091953416

Author : Lilian Carmine

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From Reader Review The Lost Boys for online ebook

Jenny says

This one is going to be a DNF for me. I hate to do that, but I just can't read anymore...this book is beyond silly! One minute its a creepy ghost story (that part was good) then its a boarding school story, then its a girl joins a boys' band story and makes all these "boy" friends, now its a makeover story! Can't take it!

Lauren (LaurenHannah.net) says

This review is way better to read on my blog, where there are GIFs. And bullet points.

All I knew about The Lost Boys before I started reading was that it was a paranormal romance about ghosts. I wasn't even sure of that, because people have been comparing it to the Twilight series, but I guess I can see where that comparison comes from. Don't get me wrong, this is better than Twilight. It's about friendship, ghosts, and MAGIC!

I really liked Tristan (and his friendship/relationship with Joey) in the beginning of the book, but as the story progressed, he became less and less likeable. If you've read the book, you know what happens... *wiggles eyebrows*

So many boys everywhere! And they're all good looking!

The less awesome things:

- Too! Many! Exclamation! Points! Seriously. It was like she was excited about everything and/or screaming all the time, and it really got on my nerves.
- From the cover, I thought the whole thing was going to be set in the graveyard, but most of it is actually set in a boarding school.
- The book is unnecessarily long (512 pages). The beginning and end of the book has a lot of fantasy aspects, but the middle was really just a bunch of high school drama. It dragged on for a long time, and made me unsure of what the focus of this book was.
- Although I liked the group of friends Joey has at school, I felt like they became too close too quickly.

Overall: interesting concept but the writing could've been better. It's an easy read that you don't want to think about too much. If you like paranormal romance with magic elements, make sure to check this one out!

Thanks to Ebury Press for providing me with a review copy in exchange for an honest review!

Mafi says

<http://algodaadoceparaocerebro.blogspot...>

Kara says

So typical. So damn predictable. (Pg. 86)

This quote, my friends, pretty much sums up the entirety of this novel. Bland, with a been-there-done-that sort of storyline, and with characters and dialogue that made me cringe along the way. Needless to say, I was massively disappointed in this one—the cover is gorgeous, the blurb enticing, but the contents of the book failed to live up to my expectations. I wasn't, of course, expecting an amazing read—but at the very least, I was hoping for a light, fun read which would make me smile.

Alas, this book did not achieve anything close to that.

The Lost Boys by Lilian Carmine follows the story of seventeen-year-old Joe Gray, how she (yes, *she*; her being a girl and having a masculine name is constantly referenced through the story, which is highly irritating) moves to a new home, and begins to fall in love with Tristan Holloway—a boy who died when he was seventeen in the 1950s. The novel also has musical undertones and the majority of it takes place in a boarding school. This novel had potential pouring off it, if only done in a better, less clichéd way.

One of the main faults of this novel, for me, was the author's writing. I am not sure how different my review copy is to the actual published version, but I hope for reader's sake, it's a lot different. Lilian Carmine's writing reeks of amateur-ness, as though she hasn't quite grasped the idea of how to write properly, and is blundering along through the novel. If this were a first/second draft—fine. But a published novel? The publishing industry is a highly competitive (and subjective) one, and really, for a novel to sell well, the writing needs to be of a stronger caliber.

I pushed angrily at his chest. Take this line, for example. If the main character is pushing at someone's chest, the author should let it speak for itself instead of telling the reader she's angry. The connotation of pushing someone's chest is enough for the reader to grasp that she's pissed off. There were also many more instances of unnecessary adverbs during this book.

"I'm sorry for my bad manners, ma'am. I didn't mean to shout. I hope you'll forgive me, it was disrespectful of me," he apologized. The sentence implies apologizing, so why add that pointless dialogue tag? This was just one of the many moments that made me wonder whether this had been edited properly. On more than one occasion, the dialogue tags chosen by the author pulled me from the story.

There were also some unbelievable elements to the novel. For a story to be enjoyed properly, it must be within the realms of probability (which the obvious exception of the fantasy/paranormal elements; that's not what I'm talking about). For example, there is a mix up on the boarding school's behalf, and she gets sent to the boys' dorm instead of the girls. Please. There would be plenty of forms that would have to be filled out in order for someone to attend a boarding school; as if they would make such a simple mistake. I don't know how a prestigious boarding school could make that mistake. Yes, Joe is typically a guy's name, but it's not that uncommon that a girl could have that name. I've seen it before. She's put into the boys' dorm with the excuse of there not being any more rooms left in the girls'. Riiiiight. To me, this just sounds like a lazy way for the author to introduce key characters—eg, Seth and other members of the band—instead of navigating around the slightly unbelievable plotline to find a different way. As far as I am aware, boarding schools would have a strict policy against this for obvious reasons; what was more, nobody seemed to blink an eye at this. There were vague references to her mother during this time, but she seemed unrealistically okay with it.

And then there is the bitchy, rich, blonde girl, who, by some weird twist of fate, becomes the main character's best friend. Why someone would want to be best friends with someone like her—especially with the manners she displayed at the beginning—is completely beyond me. There also wasn't really an adequate explanation given as to why she turned from a bitch to a sweet, nice girl in two seconds flat. Her character was flimsy and underdeveloped to say the least. The same goes with pretty much every other character in this novel.

For a good deal of this book, nothing much happened. It lacked tension, suspense, good writing, and characterization. Simply put: this is not a book I will be buying.

Thank you to Netgalley for providing me with an e-review copy.

Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says

But why is this published?

"..I thought about how odd it was being sad at the idea of not seeing someone I'd just met **two days ago**, someone I barely knew. **Tristan had made such a big impact on my life already**"

"...someone I barely knew.."

"...two days ago..."

This book really has potential. And it was wasted. Because of this: !!!!! And this: !!!!! and a lot more of this: !!!!!!!

The Lost Boys a.k.a The abundance of !!!! The repetition of **very** bugged me too. I guess **very** is the author's favorite word.

This is an example of Insta-Love gone wrong (okay what's new with that) well, this went horribly wrong.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE GUY (even

if he's cute or not) YOU DO NOT FOLLOW LIKE A PUPPY, BECAUSE IDK, YOU MIGHT GET KILLED OR SOMETHING. But of course our protagonist, Joe, is a smart and genius girl who doesn't listen.

"My resolve to get the hell away from him faltered and vanished in the brightness of his smile"

I still gave Joe a chance though, I'm not that ruthless. And I admit that the plot is really mystifying. When I'm trying to ignore the abundance of exclamation marks and Joe's losing brain cells, I focus more on story. I really want to know the guy's secret and how did he become a ghost. The book also said that Joe was kind of a witch so that aspect should be exciting but it still failed to deliver. I understand that this is a first in a series but I can't ignore that the teen drama was taking over the whole book.

Character development was *Nada!* in this book. Which sucks because it was badly needed. The characters were all over the place. It's like the author don't have a concrete idea on how her characters should act. I wasn't impressed on how things ended too so NO, I won't be reading the second book. I'm doing it for my own good.

Veronica says

i loved the premise. but when i got into the story i immediately wanted out. i can stand mistakes at advanced level but if its has fundamental issues i am never forgiving. comparing this to twilight is an insult for i distinctly remember adoring twilight, this book not so much. there is unrealistic writing here and less emphasis was given on the paranormal function. furthermore the novel is lengthy, what could be said usefully in half the book was extended to more pages for commonplace stuff.

i agree it made me laugh here and there but i wish the author exploited the plot to its fullest potential. with revision, this book can be made better and can go on par with works of established and experienced authors.

Ashley Finnegan says

Definitely more like 2.5 stars. I really don't understand all the rave reviews but I will get to my own later.

First I have to say that after reading the synopsis for the The Lost Boys and even in it's beginning stages I was really excited for this book. After reading the first 15/20% I just knew it was going to be amazing, possibly end up on the favorite shelf. Yeah.. not going to happen. I got the exact opposite reaction of what I was expecting.

Joe Gray moves to a new town with her mother and then one day she decides to take a walk in her new town, long story short she ends up in a graveyard where she meets a boy whom she has no idea is actually a ghost. They become friends and then somehow Joe ends being able to do a spell that brings him back to life without even realizing or knowing how she done so. Anyway it's a basic tale of girl meets boy, boy meets girl... blah,

blah, blah.

I guess I was under the impression of this book being more on the fantastical side when really the only thing you actually read in the book that is fantasy/paranormal/magic is at the beginning and more towards the end. The middle is just fluffed up with a whole bunch of high school drama... well suppose to be high school. Sometimes the way these kids acted and talked throughout the book actually caused me to be embarrassed for them! Yes, in my head I was going Oh my god, did they really just say/do that. If there had not been a little bit of cursing and a few sexual scenes I would definitely say this book was middle school.

I will admit that there was one instance in which there were a tear or two brought to my eyes but that was it. Needless to say I wanted so much more from this book. I guess I just had my expectations set too high from all the wonderful reviews I read about it beforehand. I have no idea where all the praise comes from. I feel like I read an entirely different book!

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.)

At over 500 pages, I knew *The Lost Boys* would be a long read... but it ended up feeling about 1000 pages long, because of how dull it was!

Joe annoyed me.

She talked about random stuff all the time, and just wouldn't shut up.
Every time she talked, I thought the same thing:

I just wanted her to stop rambling.

The whole "I'm Joe. Yes, Joe. I know I'm a girl" thing started doing my head in after the third time she mentioned she had a boy's name.

Her mum was just as annoying.

She thought that constantly telling Joe that Tristan was cute was okay... but it's not. It's creepy.
I wouldn't have been surprised if there was a love triangle between Her, Joe and Tristan!

I found it ridiculous that she let Joe sleep in the boys' dorm at school.

I also found it ridiculous how she managed to afford to pay for tuition for Joe and Tristan at the boarding school, and bought Tristan loads of clothes. Joe said that they had always struggled with money, until her mum got this new job... So how could she afford to buy Tristan plenty of clothes like that, and promise him tuition.. when she had only been at her new job for a couple of days - therefore, not receiving her first paycheck yet?

The other characters weren't much better either.

Overall, Boring and ridiculous.

Paula says

I think comparing THE LOST BOYS series to Twilight saga is a grave insult and blasphemy to Joey & the boys. SERIOUSLY. This freakin'ly awesome and rockin' novel shouldn't even be mentioned with "that other story" in the same sentence!

Anyways, even though I've already read this on Wattpad til TLB On Tour (Book2), I'LL DEFINITELY BUY A COPY UNTIL THE END AND FROM THE START!!!

Hi Lily! lots of love to you <3

#TLBquoter

#FilipinoFan

-Paula :)

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

All right. I'm done.

What is this book? Is it a joke? I keep staring at my e-reader in bafflement every couple of pages.

For the first few chapters I wasn't sure whether I was going to finish this one, but then I decided I'd go ahead and stick with it. So I pulled up chapter nine and was immediately presented with these gems:

Thank God for my mom! She was The Man! A Man with a Plan. Well, a Mom with a Plan. But you know what I mean.

Because of our special magic bond, wherever I was going to be from now on, Tristan needed to be close nearby. WITH ME! Wasn't that absolutely amazing?

I couldn't believe my luck! It was the best news ever! I wished I could just pack him up in a suitcase and go already!

Why are there so many exclamation marks? They're all over the book, too. Not just that paragraph. Anyway, let's continue.

I laughed so much when he saw the microwave working for the first time! That was so hilarious! His eyes looked like two big saucers. It was like having my own private Back to the Future Boy. Only backwards because he was from the past and was now stuck in the future.

As my special treat of the day, I made him watch my favorite movie of all time: Jurassic Park! That was a blast!

What is this. Seriously.

Tristan is a ghost magically brought back to life within the first few chapters. The dates on his tombstone say 1938-1950. No, I didn't type that wrong. No, you're not terrible at math. He's twelve years old. How did no one catch that? Anyway, he also dresses like a greaser with his slick hair and leather jacket, even though that wasn't a thing yet in 1950. And he's twelve.

There are various other problems throughout the book, like caricatures instead of characters, needless dramatics, and unnatural dialogue. Everyone keeps saying damn, and in ways nobody actually uses that word. "You're damn right!" "I was damn sure you'd cave in!" Okay, maybe those aren't that weird, but I've never heard a teenager talk like that.

Maybe a stronger reader can make it all the way through this book and nitpick everything that's wrong with it for a really amusing review. But I could only last a quarter of the way through.

bokskiee says

I've read this book before in Wattpad and I immediately fell in love with the characters. Wonderful story indeed about timeless friendship. It's nice to know the story was officially published.:)

Gabriela says

The Lost Boys is a YA(?)romance story about a girl with certain perceptive powers and a ghost.

I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The writing is quite immature and choppy; the characters are flat and the protagonist's voice is quite annoying. There are no grammar, spelling, or technical issues with formatting. Unfortunately I had great difficulty reading this book, having to stop ever so often and fill my time with another book is rarely something I do. I almost decided not to finish it halfway through and throw myself at the mercy of NetGalley but then decided to just push through all the exclamation points and choppy sentences. There is one redeeming quality in the writing where the writer wrote a very sweet and tasteful sex scene without all the graphic details. There is cussing, some sensual love scenes, and witchcraft. The cover is nice. A dull read.

Tandie says

I requested this because of the pretty cover and the blurb. What I expected was some light, fluffy, fun. Unfortunately, The Lost Boys did not deliver. I struggled to keep reading before I hit 100 pages! I've learned a very valuable lesson though. Always check the page count! This puppy was over 500 pages, unnecessarily long.

Now, the idea for the story had lots of potential. Who doesn't love handsome gentlemen ghosts, graveyards, witchy magic, and boarding schools? My problem was with the execution. The writing style was choppy and the 16 year old MC came across much younger to me, maybe 12? I was wondering if this was more of a

middle grade book, but a few mature scenes quickly settled that it's definitely not.

I'm not a writer, but I can certainly identify what works for me and what doesn't. It was overwritten. I don't mean that it had purple prose, but that each scene was described to death. Simple scenes are detailed & repetitive, not counting on the reader to make connections. When someone yells or shoves somebody, we assume they're angry. Being shown and then told in great detail all the time makes the reading drag, so this book was a slow go for me. I believe this story could've been pulled of if it had been edited & chopped down by about 200 pages! I know that's harsh, but it's easier to read less than stellar writing and still appreciate the story if it's a quick read.

I'm giving it 2 stars because this appears to be written by a very young author and I see potential that wasn't quite tapped.

Fabiola Cintantya says

I absolutely think this book is BETTER than Twilight novels.
No offense.

I read "The Lost Boys" first on Wattpad about a year ago and it was magical. I even thought that Lily was truly the real 'witch' here. I was immersed, way too much, with her writings. It's like she puts spells in every word of her writings. She tells us about the adventure of the Lost Boys with such a nice flow and how every little events attached to my brain and I can't help but to remember every tiny-little-bit details about her characters, Joey along with her Lost Boys friends. It's like they're real, their awesomeness is just for infinity and beyond!

She makes her characters alive.

I was, FOR REAL, a fan with the Lost Boys (GO TRISTAN! #TLBArmY) Ahehe. Gosh, can I say that I just head over heels with all of the characters there and of course, Lily?

She even put a damn playlist in her novel as soundtracks in every chapters (that was when I read it on the Wattpad at least and she said she will put it too in the book? #oops #wasthisaspoilerornot) and I always find it suits with the story so much until I even said to her on how her novel should have been a movie too.

It will be a dream come true.

Overall: 5 Stars just the way to put how AMAZING this novel is.

Thank you Lily!!

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I admit, I picked this one up because I really liked the cover. The soft shades of blue are very appealing and once I saw all the rave reviews on Goodreads from when this was on Wattpad, I couldn't resist, I had to see what all the fuss was about.

I know, I know, why do that to myself? Haven't I learned by now that I should avoid all those pesky gorgeous books that are all the buzz? Haven't I been burned enough in the past to know better?

Apparently not because I picked this right up, without even hesitating. I mean really, this is a ghost story and I do love a good ghost story.

Too bad this never turned out to be the read I was hoping for. I was never drawn into the story and could never connect with the characters or storyline at all. Things moved too quickly for my liking with trusting one another and falling in love. Even the mom's absolute trust and acceptance in everything was a little baffling to me and slightly unbelievable from a parent stand point.

The writing felt immature and overly done. This was a pretty long story that I think could have been cut in half and still held all the meat it needed to to make it substantial.

Sadly this one just never wowed me.

I think with some very fine tuning and tweaking this could be a fantastic story that could live up to all the 4 and 5 star reviews and that pretty cover, but as it, it just didn't do it for me.
