



Lost

Jacqueline Davies

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Essie can tell from the moment she lays eyes on Harriet Abbott: this is a woman who has taken a wrong turn in life. Why else would an educated, well-dressed, clearly upper-crust girl end up in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory setting sleeves for six dollars a day? As the unlikely friendship between Essie and Harriet grows, so does the weight of the question hanging between them: Who is lost? And who will be found?

Lost Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2013 by Skyscape (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Jacqueline Davies

Format : Kindle Edition 249 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, New York

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From Reader Review Lost for online ebook

Angela Bailey says

Title / Author / Publication Date:

Lost. / Jacqueline Davies. / 2009.

Genre: Young Adult - Historical Fiction.

Format: Book - print. 256 pages.

Plot summary:

“In 1911 New York, sixteen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld must stop taking care of her irrepressible six-year-old sister when she goes to work at the Triangle Waist Company, where she befriends a missing heiress who is in hiding from her family and who seems to understand the feelings of heartache and grief that Essie is trying desperately to escape” (NoveList).

Considerations or precautions for readers advisory:

This novel shows readers how the main character (Essie) accepts (or doesn't accept) the loss of her younger sister, and retells how two historical events could have happened.

Review citation:

“Davies weaves two historic events—the disappearance of a wealthy heiress escaping family scandal and the catastrophic Triangle Shirtwaist fire of 1911, graphically depicted—into a lively tale of striving, unspeakable loss, and an eventual life-affirming resolution” (Anne O’Malley - Booklist).

Section source used to find the material:

YALSA Best Books for Young Adults: 2010 Best Books for Young Adults

2012 to 2013 Rosie Nominees - Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Awards

Recommended age: Grades 8 and up.

Ann says

This beautifully-written book offers both compelling characters in Essie, Zelda and Harriet, and a fascinating time and setting (Lower East Side Manhattan, early 1900s). On a deeper level, LOST is Essie's journey from grief and denial to wholeness and the future's possibilities.

LOST's personalized view of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory tragedy toward the book's end is gripping and an important part of the plot, but even without this historic event or the sub-plot of a missing heiress, LOST would stand as Essie's story.

On an aesthetic note, the novel is beautifully bound with alternating chapters (Essie's remembrances of her sister) printed on pages that look like patchy walls of a tenement flat. The book's cover is exquisite and the jacket flaps' contrast ink matches the pink endpapers. Simple design details that make reading this book even more of a pleasure.

Disclaimer: I know the author.

Deanna says

Historical fiction, family, friendship, death/grief, New York in the early 1900s, poverty, factory work.

This is a beautifully written book that has sections that flash back in time between each chapter. Essie is denying/grieving the loss of her sister as she works as a seamstress in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. A new colleague/friend Harriet Abbott is going through a similar situation.

I think what I most liked about this book is that the author Jacqueline Davies wove actual historical events into this story. She obviously did extensive research.

A couple of golden lines: "It turns out my father was right...A good writer can write any where" (p. 88).

"Grief is like that. You smash up against it, and it rips all the outer parts of you away. You're left naked in front of everybody" (p. 71).

"I like the way he asks me that--what I think. Most grownups don't. Mama never does. Mrs. Pelz never does. My teachers at school never did, when I used to go to school. They didn't want to know what I thought. The just wanted to know what I knew. There's a big difference" (p. 61).

One note--I do not think this is a multicultural book just because there is a sprinkling of Yiddish words/expressions throughout. It is more a historical fiction book.

Ben says

This book captivated me I could hardly put it down. When I first picked it up i was like, maybe I won't read this. I finished it a day, read the first half in the morning and second half at night. This book is horrifyingly good, I loved every second of it.

Karen Day says

A truly ambitious, impressive novel. I admire Jackie's ability to create an "unreliable" narrator who captures our sympathies. Well done, neighbor!

Beverly says

One of my Comp 102 classes is working with oral histories taken from survivors of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire for their current research/writing project. My favorite university librarian, a history

buff, has been great about sending me articles and other information to share with the students. This week she loaned me Davies's excellent YA novel. I read it in two evenings. Davies intertwines two stories from the turn of the last century: the disappearance of the daughter of a wealthy family, and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. I was disappointed that the union strikes played no role in the novel (the narrator only mentions them once, at the end, and really only in passing), as I believe the workers' quest for better working conditions preceding the tragedy make it all the more outrageous and alarming.

I'll be sending copies of this to several young readers, though, as it is well written and creates a thoughtful portrait of the life of a young factory worker.

Kathryn says

Saw this book on Bookbub and thought the story sounded rather interesting. From the description, I had no idea that it would be as powerfully-written or quite so touching.

The book weaves together two unrelated, highly-publicized news stories from 1911 New York City. More so than the stories themselves, the reader is transported back to the immigrant tenements of Greenwich Village and the life of a young Jewish girl who worked in the Triangle Shirt Waist factory. There was so much sadness in the book that I often found myself close to tears, I am not a crying person. Somehow the author was able to bring the character and the reader out of the depths of despair and to a place of hope.

Gayle says

I've always been drawn to stories about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in NYC, March 26, 1911, that killed 141 people, mostly seamstress girls. I don't know why. Maybe a previous life?

Jacqueline Davies has written a historical fiction that interweaves this tragedy with another tragedy at the time for which I was unaware. On January 26, 1911 *The New York Times* reported on the disappearance of a Dorothy Harriet Camille Arnold, the daughter of a wealthy family and niece of a former Supreme Court justice. Although the story was reported on this date, the family had mysteriously waited six weeks to report the disappearance to police. This story was mysterious from the beginning, and received a lot of press, none stating that Miss Arnold had been located until **April, 1921**, when the then head of The Bureau of Missing Persons in NYC reported that the police had solved the case!

The main character of the story works at Triangle but the storyline does not concentrate on her job. Instead readers are lead through the tragedy of her family using flashbacks. It is difficult in the beginning to follow the story; however, once you get the rhythm, you can't wait for the next flashback. With a "surprise" ending, I'm certain that the author meant for the tension to rise, but I figured out the "surprise" rather early.

In spite of this, I truly enjoyed the book that depicts the life of immigrants in NYC in the early 20th century and gives you an excellent "feel" of NYC at the time. The author expertly presents a plausible interaction between a fictional character and a real one. She also does an awesome job pointing out the contrasts

between the disparate lives of a young immigrant woman with a woman from a rich and well-connected family that is timeless.

Although this book is considered Young Adult fiction, just like almost all YA Fiction it is an excellent read for all ages, especially those with an intense interest in history.

I give this 4 Stars.

Lisa says

This is a hard book for me to rate. The prose was engaging. I liked the set up with 16 year-old Essie working in the sweatshop in NY lower East side, turn off the century. I liked the relationship between Essie and Harriet. I just thought that this book never really went deep enough. I wanted much more out of it. The story itself was a complete downer, and yes I get that this was a quasi-historical novel and all, but this was pretty grim. I've left funerals feeling more upbeat than I did when I finished this book last night. So I'm going with two stars.

The Loft says

I think it must be terrible to be lost, but so much worse to be forgotten. p. 230, *Lost*.

There's no chance in forgetting the characters in Jacqueline Davies's *Lost*, so vivid and true are their voices. Like the more recent tragedy of 9/11, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911* is now burned into my consciousness as if with a hot brand. Seventeen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld lives on the lower east side of Manhattan in 1911. She has been taking care of her irrepressible, fierce bad rabbit of a younger sister Zelda ever since Zelda was born. Their mother, a grieving widow, just can't cope. But now Essie needs to work at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and can't be around as much for Zelda. There she meets Harriet Abbott, the new girl who strikes Essie as different, somehow, not one of the immigrants like Essie and the other girls who work themselves to the bone for starvation wages because they must.

An immediate friendship with Harriet confirms Essie's suspicions. Harriet is harboring big secrets; it turns out Essie is too. Who is Harriet, really? Like Grace Brown in Jennifer Donnelly's *A Northern Light*, the mystery of Dorothy Harriet Camille Arnold in *Lost* is based on true events and a real-life person and adds depth and suspense to a story already rich in character, history, language and dialog. Davies weaves these stories together in alternating chapters, one of which is printed on 'stained' paper evoking the tenement walls of Essie's home. The stories come together in a riveting and devastating climax that accurately portrays the hardships of that time and place. But in the end, the story is really one of hope and the resilience of the human spirit.

Doneka says

This is THE best book of all time. Before, i didn't really have a favorite book, i just had lots that i thought were my favorites. That was before this book. The detail is incredible, the charachters are amazing, and the

setting is great. overall this book is a must-read and should be on everybodys to-read list. This book beats any book of the twilight series -and i loved them all so its not like im saying anything is better-, its even better than the host -and i think that if i had to choose a fav. before i read the book Lost, it would have to be that one; i LOVE that book, but Lost still beats it-, it beats any book in the hunger games series -so far (and yes i love those too)-; i have never read a better book in my life. It's like a puzzle, the more you read, the more you understand. I stayed up until like two in the morning reading, and i couldnt stop crying for the last three chapters. the only word i can come up with that thouroly describes this book is Wow. there is no better word. oh and maybe 'oh my god' or 'i cant belive it' but mostly just 'wow'. the ending is incredible; there couldn't be a more perfect ending to that book. It does not matter what kind of books you like, you'll like this one -trust me. Everyone needs to read this, so please, check it out at your local library or get it at a bookstore or something, my message is -just read it.

Briony says

When I first read the jacket blip for this book, I was immediately interested. Here was a book that not only addressed one of America's greatest work tragedies, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, but also depicted the lives of people during this time. I also loved that the language and actions matched the people of the era. Along with the historical view point, I enjoyed reading a fictional account that did not go bland with history. Davies did a magnificent job on research and was able to intertwine history with a fictional plot without out setting the other.

Jan says

This is an absolutely lovely novel about a young girl named Essie who is a worker at the infamous Triangle factory. The novel toggles back and forth in time between when she was a young girl and her life as a teenage worker in the factory. There are many secrets in this novel which will tantalize readers. Why does Essie not accept that her baby sister has died in a terrible accident? Who is Essie's new friend at the factory who has a mysterious past? Essie is an endearing character, with her devotion to her baby sister, her tough, no nonsense attitude and her compassion for her new friend. She is a survivor. The terrible Triangle factory fire provides a gripping climax to this wonderful historical novel.

Medeia Sharif says

Essie is a young lady working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. A mysterious, secretive woman named Harriet is the new girl there and Essie is fascinated with her, to the point that she follows her around, eager to get to know who Harriet really is. Why is Harriet, who seems high class, working in such horrible conditions for low wages?

At home, Essie takes care of her little sister, Zelda, as if the girl were her own daughter. Her mother, who is poor and harried, complains that Essie is spoiling the girl. When tragedy befalls the family, Essie is in denial. These are the moments in the story where the narrator becomes unreliable. What is truth and what is reality?

This story is fascinating both before and after the famous factory fire. The author does an amazing job with both characterization and setting. She takes you to the Lower East Side of Manhattan of the early 1900s. The

mystery of Harriet and the truth about Zelda gripped me, and I couldn't put down the book until I finished it in one sitting.

Diana says

Excellent story about friendship and loss. The author hooks you right away, and then keeps your interest with a cleverly woven tale based on two independent true stories from the early 1900s. Flash-back chapters in present tense alternate with the meat of the story, written in past tense, to give a sense that the main character is reliving those flashbacks.
