



The Isle of the Lost

Melissa de la Cruz

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Twenty years ago, all the evil villains were banished from the kingdom of Auradon and made to live in virtual imprisonment on the Isle of the Lost. The island is surrounded by a magical force field that keeps the villains and their descendants safely locked up and away from the mainland. Life on the island is dark and dreary. It is a dirty, decrepit place that's been left to rot and forgotten by the world.

But hidden in the mysterious Forbidden Fortress is a dragon's eye: the key to true darkness and the villains' only hope of escape. Only the cleverest, evilest, nastiest little villain can find it...who will it be?

Maleficent, Mistress of the Dark: As the self-proclaimed ruler of the isle, Maleficent has no tolerance for anything less than pure evil. She has little time for her subjects, who have still not mastered life without magic. Her only concern is getting off the Isle of the Lost.

Mal: At sixteen, Maleficent's daughter is the most talented student at Dragon Hall, best known for her evil schemes. And when she hears about the dragon's eye, Mal thinks this could be her chance to prove herself as the cruellest of them all.

Evie: Having been castle-schooled for years, Evil Queen's daughter, Evie, doesn't know the ins and outs of Dragon Hall. But she's a quick study, especially after she falls for one too many of Mal's little tricks.

Jay: As the son of Jafar, Jay is a boy of many talents: stealing and lying to name a few. Jay and Mal have been frenemies forever and he's not about to miss out on the hunt for the dragon's eye.

Carlos: Cruella de Vil's son may not be bravest, but he's certainly clever. Carlos's inventions may be the missing piece in locating the dragon's eye and ending the banishment for good.

Mal soon learns from her mother that the dragon's eye is cursed and whoever retrieves it will be knocked into a deep sleep for a thousand years. But Mal has a plan to capture it. She'll just need a little help from her "friends." In their quest for the dragon's eye, these kids begin to realize that just because you come from an evil family tree, being good ain't so bad.

The Isle of the Lost Details

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From Reader Review The Isle of the Lost for online ebook

Jon says

The Isle Of The Lost by Melissa de La Cruz is a prequel to the upcoming Disney Channel movie, The Descendants and it follows the children of Maleficent, Cruella de Vil, Jafar and The Evil Queen from Snow White. This novel really does an excellent job of setting up what transpired after happily ever after and capturing our favorite despicable villains on the page. Not only is this novel extremely engrossing, it has a plethora of snarky humor that will make readers laugh and smile on nearly every page. Any Disney fanatic, young or old, will easily find themselves falling in love with The Isle Of The Lost and will be clamoring for book two and the movie!

It's not easy being the child of one of the most evil villains in history! Mal has always felt pressure from everyone to be as evil as her crazy mama, Maleficent and everyone has overwhelming expectations for her. Carlos is never good enough for Cruella and is stuck being his mother's maid to give her the old lifestyle she had before the island. Jay needs to follow in his father's footsteps and that means finding a big score (an expensive item to steal). Evie is tired of hearing from the Evil Queen that she needs to focus on her beauty more. All of them need the Dragon's Eye for different reasons, but mostly importantly it could be the way off the island they're trapped on.

Melissa de La Cruz may be writing about the children of Disney villains, but their struggles that they're dealing with are extremely familiar. It's extremely easy to empathize with all of the 4 main characters and to root for them all to win their parent's approval. I especially loved Mal and Carlos who are just so incredible in their own ways and it broke my heart to see them rejected by their respective parents. De La Cruz brings life to these characters and will make readers root for them almost immediately after they're introduced.

This book is heaven for fans of good ole Disney and it's not just because it features some of our favorite villains. Isle Of The Lost is full of references to countless Disney films and characters and it was nostalgic to recall these beloved movies that I hadn't seen in years. Not only do we meet the villains I mentioned earlier, you also get to meet lesser-known but still incredibly evil antagonists. To make things even better, you also get to meet Belle, Beast and their son in this book; my inner child was shrieking in delight when these three were introduced. If you like Disney just a teensy bit (HOW can you not love it?), you'll find yourself filled with childlike glee.

The Isle Of The Lost ends on a cliffhanger and I NEED to find out what happens next. I have no doubt that The Descendants film is going to be incredible and I need book two in my life ASAP. I had so much fun reading this novel and it was everything I wished for. The Isle Of The Lost is absolutely wonderful and will appeal to fans of Once Upon A Time and Into The Woods alike. This review was originally posted on Bookish Antics

Alex ? Deranged KittyCat ? says

Once upon a time, during a time after all the happily-ever-afters after that, all the evil villains of the world were banished from the United Kingdom of Auradon and imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost.

The Isle of the Lost is the story of the descendants of the villains in some of the best-known fairy tales. It follows Mal (Maleficent's daughter), Jay (Jafar's son), Evie (the Evil Queen's daughter) and Carlos (Cruella de Vil's son). They live with their parents on the Isle of the Lost where they eat Auradon's leftovers, dress in rags and pretty much use whatever the kingdom rejects or has no use for anymore.

Mal holds a 10 years old grudge against Evie for not being invited at her 6 years old party. And since Maleficent is the ruler of the island, she had the Evil Queen and her daughter banished. When Evie finally gathers the courage to go to school, Mal is determined to have her revenge. And she hopes to accomplish that by cursing Evie to a thousand years old sleep with her mother's staff, the Dragon's Eye. Only problem is, Mal has to find it first. In order to do that, she enlists the help of Evie, Jay and Carlos. And so their adventures begin.

Growing up with Disney movies, I loved this book. I got to see many *familiar faces*, such as Lady Tremaine, her cat Lucifer, the Beast (now King Beast), Snow's dwarfs and many more. I must say, Dr. Facilier as a headmaster was most intriguing.

Needless to say, he was bribed at some point with tarot cards.

I think this is a very good book for kids nowadays. I can see how the writing style is just right so as to attract young readers and maybe open their appetite towards reading. My son was talking about The Descendants movie a few months ago and I didn't know what it was about. Today I told him I was reading the book and he was impressed. Now I'm going to see the movie to know what happens next (the book is the prequel to the film).

That said, I highly recommend this book!

Jessica says

Does what it sets out to do, and does it with great fun.

I normally wouldn't have picked up a tie-in book for a TV movie, but I love just about anything Disney, and my kids and I are looking forward to the Disney Channel "Descendants" movie this summer. Also what caught my eye is that this is a prequel, and it's written by Melissa de la Cruz, a legit bestselling author. And it has to be said that the book is gorgeously designed with one of those suede-feel covers and a thorn design on the chapter headings . . . I am such a book junkie I just want to pet it.

So at first, I will admit, I did a bit of eye-rolling. There's been quite a few books out there lately about schools for fairy tale characters or their kids, and I haven't exactly enjoyed them all. And yes, yes, we get it, the villain kids like wearing black and are misunderstood, and the princesses all wear pink and eat nothing but cake. But where this stands out from the others is that the characters are three-dimensional. This is both a combo of Cruz's good writing, and the fact that she doesn't have to invent whole new personalities for characters like Maleficent, she can just use the Disney characters we all know and love, and then riff on them. The "descendants" soon begin to stand out beyond being "Maleficent's daughter" or "Jafar's son," though, which I loved. There's not a lot of plot, but there is a fun insight into these characters and their situation, and it's a great set up for the TV movie, which I'm now even more jazzed about. Also, I can see there being more books and movies (this book is listed as being Descendants #1), which I'm sure I will also

enjoy.

Kassidy says

This isn't the most riveting of stories, but it has charm. I love how it is focused on the classic villains and their children, but it still has that Disney feel to it. Even though these main characters are supposed to be "evil" the story ends on a heartwarming note and there are relatable themes with a moral to the story. It's overall very cute and fun to see all the Disney characters in one book.

Selene Matheson says

As a child I know I would have loved this book (and probably series) but unfortunately as an adult it was difficult to get through. The plot needed to be developed more and not so all over the place. I won't be continuing the series.

Ashley says

When I first started reading this book, I didn't know it is a prequel to the Disney movie Descendants. If I had, I probably wouldn't have read it. In the story, all the villains from all the Disney movies have been banished to the Isle of the Lost (*even if they died in the films*) where they have to live without magic and off the scraps from the U.S.A. (United States of Auradon) for the rest of their days. *Sigh.* Of course all the villains end up having children - yet there are only single parents on the island - and all of their descendants have traits and names just like their parents. Mal is the daughter of Maleficent, Evie is the daughter of Evil Queen, Jay is the son of Jafar and Carlos is the son of Cruella de Vil. I suppose it makes sense that the villains would name their children after themselves since they are egotistical and *evil* after all.

The book begins ten years in the past on the birthday of Evie. Evil Queen has planned a magnificent party for her but failed to send Mal an invitation. This of course enrages Maleficent and reminds her of when she didn't receive an invitation to Aurora's christening so many years ago. Being the raging lunatic she is, Maleficent banishes Evil Queen and Evie from the society on the Isle of the Lost. Since they can't leave the island, they pretty much stay holed up in their castle for the next ten years when Evil Queen finally decides it is safe to send Evie back to public school where all the children are taught how to not make the same mistakes their parents made.

Mal still despises Evie, of course, and sets out to ruin her life over the birthday party she didn't get invited to ten years ago. *Seriously. A birthday party. Ten years ago.* But villains like to hold on to their grudges I suppose. When news comes that Maleficent's evil scepter, the Eye of the Dragon, has been awakened, Mal sets out on a mission to find it so her mother will finally be proud of her. She knows she cannot find it on her own and enlists the help of Evie, Jay and Carlos. Of course she only intends to use them to get what she wants, but things rarely go as planned.

Although it did take me a while to finish this book from the date I started, once I gave it my full attention it was a very quick and easy read. I know this book was intended for young teens, but I still felt it was very juvenile. The children were supposed to be extremely *evil*, but the most evil thing they did was trap someone

in a closet or swipe items from people as they walked down the street. It's almost like the author is trying to coax young readers into thinking being evil is okay because what these characters are doing *isn't really all that bad*.

Just a side note - at one point in the book a structure is being guarded by *poisonous* spiders. My husband *loves* spiders; so, I've become fairly educated on them the past 6+ years. Spiders don't have poison... they have venom and are therefore *venomous* not *poisonous*. What made me even more irritated after reading this was that the deadly spiders were tarantulas. Seriously, Ms. de la Cruz... a simple Google search would have told you that tarantulas may have a pretty nasty bite because their fangs are so large, but they are *not* venomous to humans. The *evil* clan could have walked right through them without fear of death from a bite.

Pang says

3.5 Stars :) *We Evils Live...*

Let's meet the son and the daughters of our beloved villains.. *Do you excited for these wicked lovely?*

Tell you lovely, this book is **the prequel** of Disney TV show '*The Descendants*' The story is nothing like the show, guys. So reading this will introduce you how the story begin. The characters and so on.

Mal, our heroine and *Maleficent's daughter*. This girl is wicked (the Most wicked of them all) I just love her!! She just loves to ruin other people! Haha and a person who is ruined by her is **Evie**, *Evil Queen's daughter* who I think is a nice pretty girl.

Help Mal doing thing at her side is **Jay**, *the son of Jafar*. The thief boy!! Mal's frenemies and just awesome! And lastly, **Carlos**, *Cruella de Vil's son* who is so intelligent (because he can invent things)

Once upon a time.. at The Isle of the Lost where all the evil villains were exiled from the Kingdom of *Auradon* (the mainland) They live under the imprisonment without magic to use. **That's why the story begins..** *Maleficent* want her daughter to retrieve the Dragon's Eye so her magic can return. Well.. Mal want her mom to be proud so she does the journey (with the help of her 3 friends) to find *the Dragon's Eye* and give it to her vicious mother.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS ABOUT?

How Mal, Evie, Jay, and Carlos become friends. Their relationship grow from enemies (at least to Mal) to best friends. It even has the school that teaches about the evil things. *How to be bad!* LOL! I just so much laugh at all the freakin' courses this school has! How can I attend one? I think I might get straights As from

this academy. lol!

Their Adventure for their Quest to find *the Dragon's Eye*

How Ben and Mal first met. Who is this Ben? Aww.. he is *the son of King Beast and Queen Bell. The Crown Prince of Auradon*. I love him!! But there are very pages times for him in this one.): Whatever, read this and you will understand Ben and Mal romance in the show.

LASTLY, THAY DON'T GO TO AURADON, YET GUYS!!!

Overall, this is a nice read about *friendship* (Don't expect about romance). Though I prefer the show so much more, but I just love the concept of this story and lovely evils. :)

Darth J says

At times reminding me of both *Halloweentown* and the potions classes in *Harry Potter, The Isle of the Lost* serves up some classic Disney Channel Monstober feels. Unfortunately, with the way that their original programming has been lately I doubt the actual movie will be as good as this prequel novel.

Can I just take a second to complain about continuity? Disney has its original classic animated fairytale movies, *Once Upon a Time*, and the new revised live action films such as *Maleficent*, so what is canon anymore? Further: how does it relate to this book and accompanying movie? It's hard to know which versions of the heroes and villains to picture when Disney's multiverse is so out of whack lately.

While I appreciated that most of the villains' children basically shared the name of their parents, it was very simplistic and felt a little too childish. I liked seeing Dr. Facilier and Ursula, though I doubt they will be in the movie.

Readers will be left with the following questions:

- Who is Mal's father? (Also, who are the other parents to most of the other kids??)
- Are Mal and Ben going to be an item?
- Wait, is Carlos like Mulan on *OUAT*?
- Why do all the costumes look terrible?!
- Seriously, you put Kathy Najimy in this and not *Hocus Pocus 2*? Get your priorities together, Disney.

Lola says

3.5 stars

Well color me surprised, because this was better than I imagined.

The Descendants are the children of the villains we see in our classic fairytales: Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Cruella de Vil and Jafar.

All evil perpetrators were exiled to a not-so-isolated isle enclosed by a dome, to keep them from ever ruining happy ever afters.

Magic all around the Kingdom and isle is gone, but the Descendants' quest is to bring it back and free themselves from their eternal punishment.

My god did I have fun reading this prequel to the musical, *Descendants*. I watched the movie first and liked the spunk of the characters so much I couldn't wait to learn more about them and the world they live in.

I wasn't sure if I was going to embark in a young adult or middle grade story, but I quickly realised it was not going to be anything PG rated; it's middle grade.

The story is very silly but, in my opinion, a refreshing and enthralling kind of silly. The offspring of the infamous villains are trying so hard to become their parents – or at least get their attention and make them proud – it's actually adorable.

Family is one of the main themes. It's the whole reason why they are going on their quest in the first place. Like most young teens, their parent's approval is very important to them, especially when your parents were so grand they made history.

However, slowly, the Descendants learn the meaning of friendship, through daunting, cut-throat situations requiring courage, help and trust.

It's just so... fairytale-*ish*. I loved that. The type of story with a peculiar, omniscient narrator you feel is talking to you directly, life-changing quests, eye-opening adventures and the tiny bit of true love!

There's even a school for villains. Now, how original is that? Truly, if you do not take it too seriously and are open to silliness, I see no reason to not enjoy the story.

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Jessica says

When I first heard about this book, I knew I just had to read it. I was already planning on watching the Descendants movie on Disney Channel, so I knew I had to read the prequel.

I liked this book a lot. I loved all the Disney references, particularly how Gaston's twin boys were named Gaston Jr. and Gaston the Third. This was basically a well written Disney fan fiction. I was afraid it would be too juvenile, but it wasn't. If you like the show, Once Upon A Time, you'll definitely like this book. Overall, this is a great book for anyone who loves Disney.

Elaina says

~3.25 stars~

This didn't blow my mind or anything lol But I thought it was an okay read. It wasn't *awful*, but not really a favorite either...probably will read the second book though since they had it at my library :)

Christina says

4 stars! This was adorable!

"Once upon a time, during a time after all the happily-ever-afters, and perhaps even after the ever-afters after that, all the evil villains of the world were banished from the United Kingdom of Auradon and imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost. There, underneath a protective dome that kept all manner of enchantment out of their clutches, the terrible, the treacherous, the truly awful, and the severly sinister were cursed to live without the power of magic."

It's been 20 years since King Beast declared all the villains exiled forever. There is no magic under the dome that surrounds the Isle of the Lost, forcing the villains to have only their memories of evil deeds done in the past. It's not just the villains on the Isle though, it's their children there as well.

Mal, daughter of Maleficent. One of the most talented students at Dragon Hall, feared by mostly everyone in the school. Wearer of all things purple, including her hair. If only she could manage to impress her mother. **Jay**, son of Jafar. Steals anything from anyone, all proceeds going to Jafar's Junk Shop, but he and his father are always on the lookout for 'The Big Score'...the one fat treasure that will somehow free them from the Isle. **Evie**, daughter of Evil Queen (from Snow White). She's been castle-schooled for the past 10 years, because of a grudge between her mother and Maleficent, who is the self-proclaimed ruler of the Isle. She's now joining the rest of the villain's children at Dragon Hall, but will Mal inherit her mother's grudge against Evie and her mother?

Carlos, son of Cruella De Vil. He's not necessarily the bravest, but he's among the most clever. His invention may be the key to ending the villain's banishment once and for all.

The residents of the Isle live in isolation, surviving on food, clothing and furniture thrown out by the residents of Auradon and shipped second hand to them. The original villains eke out a living and get lost in their memories and regrets while their children attend school at Dragon Hall, learning about their parents mistakes and how to avoid them, perfecting their own evil schemes.

Meanwhile, over in the USA (The United States of Auradon) you see all the classic Disney princes, princesses and their sidekicks. They are all united under the rule of King Beast and Queen Belle (Beauty and the Beast was always my favorite Disney classic so that was pretty exciting for me).

"Twenty years ago, King Beast united all the fairy tale lands into one under his crown; and for the past two decades he has ruled over its good citizens with strong and fair judgment, and only occasionally a tiny bit of his beastly temper."

Their son is Prince Ben...as handsome as his father but with his mother's gentle eyes, keen intellect and love of reading. Once he turns 16, he will be coronated as King so that Belle and the Beast might retire and enjoy vacation cruises, golf and bingo. As on the Isle of the Lost, there was no longer magic in Auradon either. King Beast and Queen Belle stressed scholarship over enchantment. Prince Ben is just starting to be introduced to some of the duties he'll be undertaking as King, but finds himself distracted by a mysterious girl who appeared in his dreams...a girl with lilac locks and mischievous green eyes...sound familiar? He also feels trapped in the life he leads and wants to do more, to really make a change and rule differently than his father.

When an invention by Carlos creates a hole in the dome, a bit of magic seems to creep in to the Isle, awakening some things that were never meant to be awoken. One of them being Maleficent's Dragon Eye scepter and her crow familiar, Diablo. Once Diablo reports to Maleficent that the Dragon Eye has been awoken, Maleficent sends Mal on a quest to retrieve the scepter and bring it back to her. Jay, Evie and Carlos end up joining her on the adventure, for their own reasons. But can it be that in their search for the ultimate evil weapon, they'll discover that just because they come from evil, doesn't mean they can't be a little bit good?

I really liked reading about all the Disney characters I grew up loving and all the villains that I loved to hate. Still haven't seen the Disney movie *The Descendants* yet, but I'm going to read the junior novelization of it next (also my daughters book lol).

Aditi says

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

----Desmond Tutu

Melissa de la Cruz, a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author, pens her new YA book, *The Isle of the Lost* which is the first book in the *Descendants* series. This series opener tells the story of all those villains whom we all encountered in all the Disney Princess books and movies, from Maleficent from *Sleeping Beauty* to the Evil Queen from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* to Jafar from *Aladdin* to Cruella de Vil from *101 Dalmatians*, when they were banished from the kingdom to a lonely island devoid of any magic or charms. This is the villains' story whom we all loved to hate them, but now we get to love them for real!

Synopsis:

Twenty years ago, all the evil villains were banished from the kingdom of Auradon and made to live in virtual imprisonment on the Isle of the Lost. The island is surrounded by a magical force field that keeps the villains and their descendants safely locked up and away from the mainland. Life on the island is dark and

dreary. It is a dirty, decrepit place that's been left to rot and forgotten by the world.

But hidden in the mysterious Forbidden Fortress is a dragon's eye: the key to true darkness and the villains' only hope of escape. Only the cleverest, evilest, nastiest little villain can find it...who will it be?

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Once again the Disney TV movie, *Descendants* compelled me to buy this book from Amazon, which was not a best buy, but definitely a worthy one. Who doesn't love Disney fairy tales with all those glittering happy-ever-afters but have you ever wondered what happened to all those evil characters who tried to ruin the lives of those fragile princess'? Here is the book which tells you otherwise that things which are good doesn't necessarily have to be perfect and good and things which are evil doesn't necessarily have to be bad and evil.

After all those fairy tales ending with happily ever afters even years later that, the United Kingdom of Auradon which is ruled by the Kind Beast and his queen Belle (*The Beauty and the Beast*) who's sixteen year old son, Prince Ben is soon going to be the next king, banished all those evil queens and characters to an isolated island, The Isle of Lost protected by a magnetic force field to stop any kind of enchantments or magic spells in that island. The only magic still exists in Maleficent's Dragon's Eye, that can save all those wretched people living a dreadful as well as dirty and hopeless life in that lost island. So who will it be to bring home that only piece of remaining magic from the kingdom to protect their identity and worth in the world?

Maleficent, Evil Queen, Jafar and Cruella de Vil all have a child who studies in the Dragon Hall high school shared by the prince himself. So this is their only chance to get their hands on that piece of magic to save themselves from this hellhole. Mal, Evie, Carlos and Jay are all suffering from identity crisis, which sixteen year old doesn't. The responsibility naturally comes on Maleficent's talented daughter Mal to whisk away that Dragon's Eye from the kingdom, and the pressure to prove her worth to her own evil mother is really high, can Mal do it with the help of her friends? Or does she wants to be a good person like Prince Ben and

his family?

The writing style is really good with a strong and articulate narrative style that has lots of layers of mystery and hidden agendas, thus making the plot mystifying as well as engrossing one for the readers. The prose is elegant and eloquent with a fast pace. The plot is even masked with lots of actions that keeps the readers on their edges till the very last page.

The characters are nice, crafted strongly with lots of evil in their hearts along with a hint of little bit of goodness hidden behind piles of darkness, thus making them pretty much likeable. Mal is an ideal YA heroine who is brave as well as confused like anything with everything she wants to do. And same goes for the other kids too. All the characters are distinct and each of their evil quality makes them stand out in the rest. I loved the whole gang, and there's the kingdom, where people are not very humane enough to let you go with anything. The kingdom is home to so many secretive agendas to make sure the villains rot in their own personal hell.

The climax is a huge letdown as the book is opening the doors to the possibility of yet another Disney movie and with such an ending, I'm not too excited for it's sequel, moreover, nothing much happens in the book, only a bit of action, teenagers trying to find out their identity, a very brief romance, that's all!

Verdict: *If you are a huge fan of fanfiction and fairy tales retellings then do grab a copy of this book for sure.*

DisneyMonster says

Title: The Isle of the Lost

Author: Melissa de la Cruz

Genre(s): Disney, Fantasy

Rating: 5 stars

Loves, Likes, Adores:

I love Disney and I love Disney villains so this book was basically made for me. It was fun to imagine the villains all middle aged and in a different environment from their original movies. Cant wait to read the next book!

Dislikes, Hates, Ignores:

It sometimes got a bid hard to remember some of the secondary characters villain parents but maybe I was just sleepy lol.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Review also posted at Young Adult Hollywood. Win The Isle of the Lost + Disney DVDs prize pack here.

“Magic Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?”

The Isle of The Lost follows the story of villains who are cast aside on a magical dome where they are locked away from the kingdom of Auradon.

We have Maleficent, their elected ruler of the isle and Mal her most evil daughter, The Evil Queen and her daughter Evie, Jay the son of Jafar, who is great at pick pocketing, Carlos, the nerd and inventor of many things who also happens to be the son of Cruella de Vil.

My all time favorite author Melissa de la Cruz is back with her Disney prequel novel for Descendants titled “The Isle of the Lost.” And she did not disappoint.

The writing and premise of this book will surely enchant young adult readers. The story is snarky filled with evil banter and schemes. Perfect for Disney fans. We will definitely be tuning in for the movie companion!
