



Luca, Son of the Morning

Tom Anderson

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Bestselling author of *Riding the Magic Carpet*

The water is warm ... but can you be in too deep?

Luca loves reggae, hates his parents' rum habit, and wishes his dad could get a proper job. He also loves Gaby (though he'd never admit it to her face) so upsetting her is enough to push him into a dark place. Retreating to the local beach, as he always does when he can't sleep, watching the waves gives his life some sort of rhythm.

One night, as he lets the tide lull him, a group of figures emerge from the water and walk past him, unseeing. Spellbound by these impossible sea-men, Luca holds nightly vigils at the beach. Until one night the sailors beckon him to follow them back into the sea...

For fans of Mark Haddon and Neil Gaiman, *Luca, Son of the Morning* is a haunting book about imagination, delusion and the grey places in between.

Luca, Son of the Morning Details

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Author : Tom Anderson

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From Reader Review Luca, Son of the Morning for online ebook

Alix Long says

I thoroughly enjoyed Luca, Son of the Morning - it is a beautifully-written, haunting, creatively-crafted book that pulls you in from the start and doesn't let you go until the very last page. I loved the way that it was a ethereal fantasy novel set in a small, ordinary town in Wales, and laced with important issues such as mental health, bullying and friendship. Anderson packed warmth, colour and passionate storytelling into this book, which captivated me and allowed me to explore the very depths and dangers of imagination.

I found Luca to be an incredibly convincing and unique protagonist, and I loved that the story was told from his perspective in first person. I was sucked into his world and felt all of his emotions and frustrations keenly. A lot of novels (particularly YA) told in the first person can feel somewhat 'moany' and overly indulgent in the feelings of the protagonist but Anderson perfectly balanced Luca's thoughts with the action of the plot. I felt like I understood Luca really well as a character, and this kept me engaged throughout as I cared immensely about how things worked out for him.

The setting was beautifully described by Anderson and I could imagine each scene so vividly in my head; I particularly enjoyed the scenes on the beach where I could virtually taste the salt whipping around in the air. The language was intricately detailed and delightfully vivid, which gave meaning to the premise of the book - how imagination can allow us to feel swept out of our world and into another.

I thought that Gaby was really well written in a complex and intriguing way. Anderson held back the mystery and allowed us to feel like Luca - out of our depth, bewildered, and wholly enraptured in Gaby. I loved their friendship (though at times I was frustrated by the way Gaby treated it) and I was pleased it wasn't an insta-friendship like you see in so many YA novels. Gaby was intelligent and interesting and a refreshing female character who also happened to be the love interest of the novel. Alix approves.

Luca's relationship with his parents was again, extremely complex and wasn't as simple as the typical YA trope of ugh I'm a moody teenager and my parents don't understand me. I enjoyed reading about the chapters with Luca and his parents and the dialogue exchange was brilliant. I felt like Anderson captured perfectly and realistically a complicated parental/child relationship of equal resentment and love.

Luca, Son of the Morning was definitely a novel I enjoyed the further I got into it. The reason why this review isn't 5*s is simply because I felt the beginning was too rushed and I was too quickly thrown into the deep end. As a reader I wasn't given time to explore the complexities of Gaby and Luca's relationship, I just had to accept it and read on. I felt like if I had more of an in-depth introduction to Luca's world then I would have enjoyed the beginning the lot more.

I adored the end section of the book and the way in which the mystery was unravelled was so brilliantly done. I really felt for Luca and the way that certain passages were written were so heartbreakingly yet beautiful. The end section of the book was definitely when the themes of mental health so brightly shone through, and I thought it was brilliantly and sensitively done. Luca, Son of the Morning is undoubtedly a novel with so many layers, that masks surprises only to be revealed when you can't see the story getting any more mystical.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed Luca, Son of the Morning and if you haven't checked out Tom Anderson yet, I would thoroughly recommend that you do!

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

So, I borrowed this book from my local library this afternoon (11th January) and saw that there weren't many reviews for the novel. So, me being curious after reading the blurb, I decided to give Luca a try. The setting is a town in South Wales with Luca a year eleven student at high school and close to sitting his GCSEs. He has issues controlling his temper and receives help for it which he isn't sure he wants. The closet friend to him at school is a girl called Gaby who he harbours a little crush on but won't say so to her face. One night, he ventures out to the local beach in his town and witnesses a ghostly group of nineteen figures walking along the shore and into the crashing waves of the sea. At first, he's too scared to join in but when he does, Luca ends up in various locations across the world and experiencing strange events that are new to him.

I found the pacing to be a little too slow for my liking, I did enjoy the concept behind the strange figures at the dead of night which is the main reason the plotline appealed to me. Regarding connection with characters, I found that me personally as the reader couldn't really connect with Luca or Gaby. Some scenes of bullying are included but the GCSE/BTEC side was realistic. In the UK, our high school system goes from age 11 to age 16 and the qualifications students over 14 take are just like the ones Luca and his fellow classmates are part of. Overall, this wasn't quite what I was expecting and feeling a little disappointed.
