



Lost Girl of the Lake

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Lake Livingston: August, 1961. One night, after skinny dipping in the lake with a mysterious local girl, Mark Gaitlin's life takes a crazy turn into the fire and brimstone religion of backwoods snake handlers and abandoned villages haunted by old family secrets. If he can survive the snakes and the ghosts and his own family's dark history, he just might make it out of the woods alive.

Lost Girl of the Lake Details

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Author : Joe McKinney , Michael McCarty

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From Reader Review Lost Girl of the Lake for online ebook

K. says

The snake scene. Is it good? OH YES. This book has the most amazing images, from a nude girl swimming in the night to millions of white butterflies filling the summer air. It also has really shocking descriptions of ... well, I'd rather not give too much away. Written in a mesmerizing, fluent, uncomplicated style, this short novel leaves no questions unanswered. This is my first book by either author but definitely not my last. The one thing that bothered me was I pretty much had an idea from the start who the "Girl of The Lake" really is ... maybe that is intentional. All through the pages, I kept chanting 'don't do it, don't do it' to the young man bent on holding her in his arms.

D. Ward says

This novella by Joe McKinney is a refreshing coming-of-age story with some elements of horror mixed in. I thought his characterization of rural east Texas and race relations during the 50s and 60s was pretty bewitching and with his flair for language, it certainly brought to mind Joe R. Lansdale. Which is a good thing if you ask me. More than the horrific and supernatural elements of this work, I very much enjoyed the reminiscence of days of hormone-throttled youth and how confusing and awkward it all was. The way McKinney details it as part of the protagonist's story, I certainly mused that the experience of early adolescence is much the same across the generations. If you like character-driven fiction with the bizarre hidden in the layers, this one is for you.

Char says

A coming of age story, featuring an excellent cast of characters, racial tension, a beautiful setting, and a bolus of snakes. If you don't know what that is, you certainly will when you're done with this novella. Highly recommended!

Nev Murray says

A nice story but not the horror I thought it would be. Easy reading short story. A coming of age story. Quite boring actually.

This review was written before I started to take my reviewing seriously. I would need to re-read the book to give it a serious, detailed and fair review so the above review was what I posted at the time.

Mark McLaughlin says

A modern masterpiece of the macabre -- and a striking coming-of-age story, too! :-)

David Bernstein says

When two great novelists team up, a tale like "Lost Girl of the Lake" can happen--and happen it did! Joe McKinney's and Michael McCarty's "Lost Girl of the Lake" is as wonderful as it is haunting. A really great coming of age tale about realizing those significant moments in life and how they change a person. Filled with human horror as well as the type of supernatural horror we all have come to love from these gentlemen! Brilliantly done and a must read!!!!

Peter says

Joe Mckinney and Michael McCarthy tightly woven story of a boy coming of age. Mark is 15 years old this summer. He meets Ermelinde and that will change his life forever. Something's you can never forget no matter how many years pass you by. This a haunting tale of supernatural horror.

Jody LaGreca says

LOST GIRL OF THE LAKE is an unconventional "coming of age story" as only authors Joe McKinney and Michael McCarty could invent. It is an endearing, evocative saga filled with the familiar as well as the unexpected, infused with wonders of the heart and soul. A tale of dark seduction and innocence, told through a man's mind, recreated from his boyhood memory. I highly recommend this page turning novel and glimpse into both the past and future with unanswered mysteries lurking in the wings.

David Watson says

It was the Summer of 1961 and young Mark Gaitlin was on vacation with his family in Lake Livingston Texas. Mark was like any other 15-year-old, his body was changing, his family was driving him nuts and he was obsessed with sex. His dream of meeting a girl comes true one night when a mysterious girl invites him to go skinny dipping. Mark is on the verge of becoming a man and everything is about to change.

Mark is starting to see the social injustices in the world and also realizes that Lake Livingston is a mysterious place. He's surrounded by abandoned villages haunted by family secrets and finds evidence of a cult of religious backwoods snake handlers. As he journeys into manhood he finds the world is more complicated than he thought and wrong decisions may cost him his life.

Lost Girl Of The Lake by Joe McKinney and Michael McCarty is about how a series of odd events shape a young man's life. The passage that really hooked me into this story was early on when we hear Mark being introspective as an adult about his childhood. He states that "the man and the boy don't speak the same language anymore." He then describes the difference between how an adult thinks compared to how a child's mind works. The beginning of this coming of age tale had a Stephen King feel to it that made me want to keep reading.

What I enjoyed most in this story is how a lot of it is open to interpretation. The authors paint a picture by the way they describe the setting. Also the use of imagery like the butterflies that gather at the lake, the abandoned town, the Copperhead snakes and the dreams that Mark is having are metaphors and they all shape the man he will become. It's up to the reader to wonder what the meaning behind everything and how it affects the characters in the story.

For a short novella there is a lot going on in this book and every little detail seems to have a deeper meaning. I enjoyed the references to pulp fiction magazines in the story and since at points it felt like the pulp fiction that Mark reads I thought it was a good metaphor. Another scene I liked that illustrated what it's like to be on the edge of adulthood was when Mark and his friend are heading to the lake to look at "spicy" pulp magazines and have to keep a look out for anyone who may get them in trouble for having them. At one point Mark tries to walk away but his friend urges him to stay which leads to something that illustrates what 15-year-old boys are like.

Whether you like this book or not will depend on what you're looking for. If you're expecting a good horror story or a tale with a lot of supernatural activity you may be disappointed. On the other hand if you are into coming of age stories that make you think about how certain events shape your life then you will like this novella. This is a story of the loss of innocence, the road to adulthood and how your reaction to what's happening around you affects your life.

Ken says

"Lost Girl of the Lake" is a well-written, dark coming of age tale.

Set in the summer of 1961 in the piney woods of Lake Livingston, Texas, Mark Gaitlin discovers something of his family's haunted past and has an experience that becomes the defining moment of his life.

5 STARS

Crystal Rafuse says

This is a quick little read, a coming of age story with a slight horror twist (word of caution: stay far away if you have snake phobias!). Easily read in one sitting, what this story lacks in length, it more than delivers in impact.

Marilou Johnson says

Freebie!

David Church says

Lost Girl of the Lake is an amazing coming of age story that immediately grabbed me and wouldn't let go. When a writer(s) can grab the reader and suck you into the environment such as this story they did an amazing job. While reading this story, I felt like I was a third party witness to the tale. I found myself highlighting passages from the book which to be honest has been a rare thing for me, (I know this sounds cliché') but they just don't write them like they used to. 5 stars definitely check it out!
