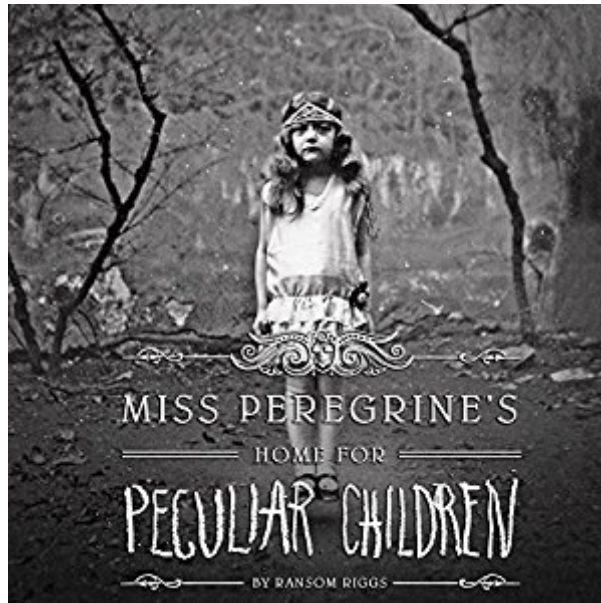




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Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children



Synopsis

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that makes for a thrilling listening experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets 16-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SPOILER FREE REVIEW - We are constantly encouraging our 11 year old to read more. Until recently she would only flip through magazines on occasion, or pick up a joke book with short one liners. It took a lot of prodding to get her interested in reading a novel. We would go to a bookstore and suggest dozens of books while trying to make each one sound as exciting as possible. This book was one of the first books SHE mentioned wanting to read on her own. We jumped in the car and raced off to the book store to see if we could capitalize on her "read all of the books mood" once she flipped through the book she was hooked in... inside the store! We wanted to order it on ,

so we negotiated the two day wait for shipping with her by offering to buy buying all three books in the series. She agreed. Some people may have an issue with this book's language or somewhat sketchy subject matter being appropriate for children, but honestly... She is 11. It's nothing she hasn't heard by now. If I am completely honest- With as much effort as we have put into encouraging her to read over the years, if she asked us to buy her a copy of Helter Skelter I might seriously consider it. Mom might not, but I would.

I really wanted to like these books (I ordered all three) but the characters just really didn't stand out to me. After the first book, I found I didn't want to keep reading and that's very atypical - I usually get enough out of a book to keep going. It also seemed to end kind of like the end of a chapter rather than a book, so I'm wondering if the series was initially meant to be just one book and like movies these days, they tried to split the story up just to get more money. Not to be too discouraging as obviously many people are liking these. I did have two other avid fantasy reading friends say they had the same experience I did and never made it past the first one. Ah well. I gave them to my library.

While rather far from youth myself, I've read and enjoyed many YA fantasy books in recent years, including the Harry Potter, Hunger Games, and Inkworld books. I loved about two-thirds of this novel. The book centers on the first-person narrator Jacob and his grandfather, who has told him amazing stories of his childhood: the scary monsters he'd needed to escape, and his subsequent life in a home for children with extraordinary abilities. As Jacob grows older, he comes to believe his father's interpretation that the monsters were the Nazis, whose approach caused his parents to send him to Britain. But then something awful happens, and Jacob starts wondering again what was the real truth. Eventually, he goes with his father to look for the children's home in Wales. If you've read any of the blurbs about the book or the movie, you can guess some of what Jacob finds in Wales. He seems a little dense at times for not catching on more quickly, but then he hasn't had the advantage of reading the blurbs. The story has a world-within-a-world aspect that's a bit derivative of the Harry Potter series, but has more than enough differences and quirks to be intriguing. Until, for me, the final key revelation, which I will not relate so as not to spoil it for other readers. Let me just say I found it disappointing, as I was hoping for something that would tie the monsters of the present-day story firmly back to the WWII era of Jacob's grandfather, which it does not. As a result, I expect the subsequent books to be centered more on the world-within-a-world than on understanding the mystery of Jacob's grandfather that initially drew me in. Perhaps because this

first book only begins to reveal that world and didn't make me fully feel as if I was living there, I don't feel as compelled to continue reading as I have with the fantasy series I noted at the start of this review. Still, I enjoyed getting to know Jacob, his family, Miss Peregrine, and all the peculiar children.

I purchased this book on a whim, since it was on sale and had the promise of being peculiar. While the book begins with a decent start, it quickly forgets about conventional writing norms such as structure and premise, eschewing them for doing whatever the author feels like to tell his story. Some authors may be able to pull that off, but here it doesn't work. Why? There isn't a whiff of Miss Peregrine or her home for nearly half the book. The story itself is too obvious to hold the novel together for that long. Instead of being the promising start of a series, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children reads like a novel that was stretched too thin in order to fit into the beloved "trilogy" format smothering the YA market. So, despite having some decent characters and novel concepts, the unconventional structure torpedoed any real interest I had in seeing the series through.

Having first seen the movie, I wasn't sure what to expect when reading the book, however I was more than pleasantly surprised with the character development and the ability of Mr. Riggs to tell a story that could enchant a 55-year-old reader. I found it difficult to put the book down even though I had a fair idea of what was going to happen next. Credit the writing style of Mr. Riggs and his creative characters for their ability to capture the peculiar in all of us.

I actually considered this an example of "yes, we get it-you were paying attention in lit class. You know how to vary descriptive adjectives and be wordy...." The bottom line is, it's rather tedious and too wordy. I found myself skipping a lot and skimming about halfway in, without really missing anything. It's a great concept, it really is. However, I agree with the reviewer who said that someone really needs to tell these young adult fiction authors that not every book needs to be written to create a series. I'm hungry for a well-written book that can stand alone.

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