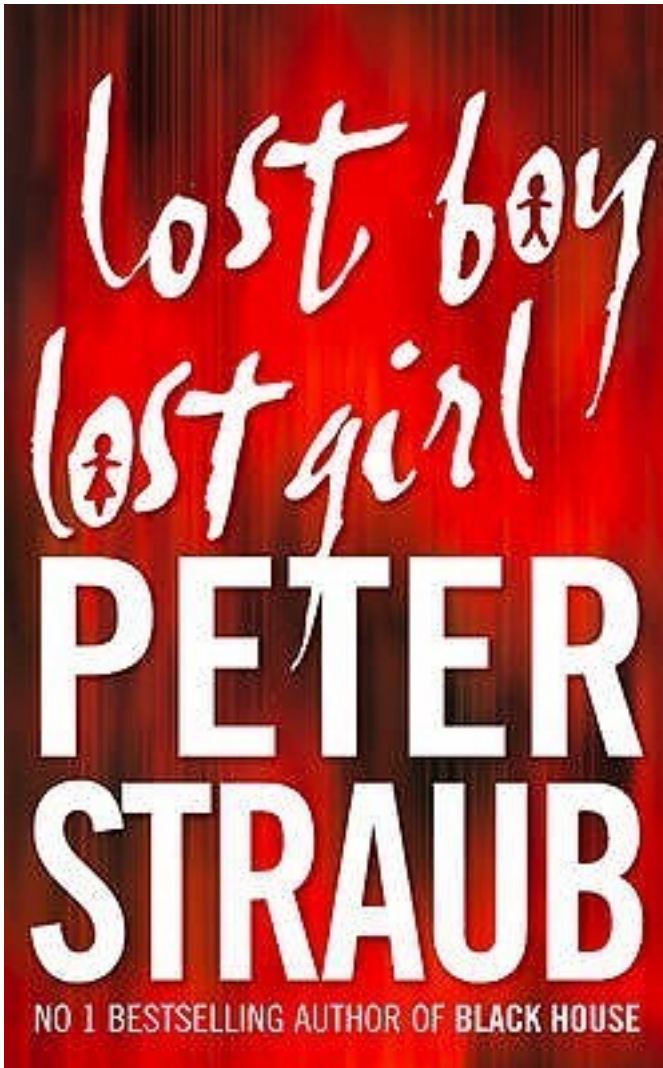

Peter Straub

Lost Boy, Lost Girl



Title: Lost Boy, Lost Girl

Author: Peter Straub

Format: Paperback

Language:

Pages: 0

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0007796463

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5.6 MB

Download: allowed

Description

A woman commits suicide for no apparent reason. A week later, her son – fifteen-year-old Mark Underhill – vanishes. His uncle, novelist Timothy Underhill, searches his hometown of Millhaven for clues that might help unravel this horrible dual mystery. He soon learns that a pedophilic murderer is on the loose in the vicinity, and that shortly before his mother's suicide, Mark had become obsessed with an abandoned house where he imagined the killer might have taken refuge. No mere empty building, the house whispers from attic to basement with the echoes of a long-hidden true-life horror story, and Tim Underhill comes to fear that in investigating its unspeakable history, Mark stumbled across its last and greatest secret: a ghostly lost girl who may have coaxed the needy, suggestible boy into her mysterious domain.

Insightful reviews

Kylene Jones: I was hugely disappointed in this book. It is the story of a young teen that becomes obsessed with an empty house on the other side of the alley where he lives. It is a house that horrible murders took place many years prior. His mom knows the secret of the house and she ends of committing suicide and then the boy disappears. There is a serial killer on the loose and the assumption is he was now a victim of this man. There were parts of the story that were quite interesting but it did jump around a bit and I just, honestly, was not impressed with how this one went.

Andrea Blythe: 3.5 stars

The summary makes it sound like a murder mystery, ghost story -- and it is, in a way -- but it is also a story of family, it's burdens and disconnections. The story jumps back and forth in time and is very well written, vivid descriptions and excellent exploration of character. Somehow though, there was an emotional distance and I couldn't really connect with the characters, no matter how well written they were.

I think I might have enjoyed this one more if I hadn't accidentally first read the sequel, *In the Night Room* (which was very strange and I wasn't that in to). While I enjoyed *lost boy lost girl* far better, I read it in the context of the sequel, so I already knew some of the mysteries revealed. It made it hard to get excited about the plot.

Kathrina: Mark Underhill is a typical 15-year-old boy living with his mom and dad in a typical Midwest middle-class neighborhood. His dad is an emotionally distant public school vice principal and his enduring mom works the complaints desk at the gas company. Mark likes music, skateboarding, and hanging out with his best friend, Jimbo. But Mark's regular life takes a turn when he discovers his mother has committed a gruesome suicide in their own bathtub. From this scene on, Straub's story attempts to terrify readers with supernatural mystique, combining a present-day string of teenage boy abductions with a decades-old backstory of a creepy modified home where lived a serial killing monster. Rape, torture, murder and ghosts all figure in, and Mark's uncle, Tim, arrives on the scene to assist with narrating the story. Conveniently, Tim is a publishing horror author, so he's apparently treading familiar ground...

I'll admit now that this story really disappointed me. It started well -- the writing style had a certain sophistication I don't often find in the mass market horror genre, and Straub wastes little time in preparing the setting and jumping to some action. But the plot construction was weak, some answers he gives up too easily and some he completely ignores, and the climax was overlong and unsatisfying. I'm not happy with his conclusion of Mark's character -- without spoiling I can say that Mark has "disappeared", but remains able to communicate (albeit elusively) with Tim via email, though he has no domain name to his e-address. This just bothered me all kinds of ways -- mostly because, upon entering this book I agreed to let Straub haunt me with ghosts and gross me out with maniac serial killers, but I did not agree to impossible technologies and emails from the afterlife. It felt like a breach of contract. I also have to point to the glaring lack of female characters -- the most robust one of three is a nympho-ghost, and the other dies on page one-- and the preponderance of misogynist males, not just the serial killers, that people this story. I'm guessing the reason we don't really ever learn what happened to Mark is because he was the only likable character, and Straub knew he couldn't get away with any bloody finality for that guy.

One-third through this book I thought I might get a genuine spook, but it didn't pan out this time. Someday I'll find a horror title that not only creeps me out throughout the read, but long after the last page, a story that doesn't crumble in it's resolution. One of the best I've found so far is John Dies at the End by David Wong. It's certainly the scariest book I've read, and at the same time, amazingly, laugh-out-loud hilarious at the very same time. How does he do it?

I have a number of horror novels in my own collection -- of all the genres it is a perennial favorite I return to every fall for easy, creepy leisure reading. But I chose this one from the Coralville Library since I'd seen it mentioned several times in readers' advisory materials, and I've been curious about Straub's style, noting that he's collaborated several times with Stephen King. I'm kind of King-ed out at this point in my life, and after this read I don't expect to rush out for any King/Straub co-works. Perhaps a true crime reader with a soft-spot for the supernatural might enjoy this book, but don't push it on your horror fans without fair warning.

Victoria: whereas this publication introduced jointly numerous assorted parts present in thrillers and horror novels (like haunted houses, serial killers, and ghosts), it controlled to be neither frightening nor exciting. It felt disorganized, regardless of its basic writing, and the plot felt fairly unresolved by means of the book's end. there have been just too many gaps within the storyline for this to be really an stress-free read. It used to be very "different," and whereas the characters weren't detestable, they weren't very dynamic or relatively sympathetic, either. i've got heard Straub in comparison to Stephen King, and in response to this e-book alone, I don't fairly see a foundation for the comparison.

Christa: the tale appeared interesting yet I saved feeling just like the writer did not provide any credits to his readers. The reader is consistently being advised issues explicitly instead of letting something be left to the mind's eye ["Jimbo hesitated, and now i do know precisely why. He needed to take into consideration going further" (p. 224)]. Another annoyance is that the narrator switches even inside a paragraph so the writer can let you know precisely what each individual is considering and feeling. "In Jimbo's frank stare, Tim may see that he used to be figuring out

to half with a percentage of his secret" (p.127) is an instance of the author's indecisiveness relating to whose viewpoint we are getting. it is a couple of traces later via "A tremor like an electric present moved throughout the boy's complete body," which sounds like enormously intimate wisdom for the seeming perspective-holder, Tim, to have of the boy, Jimbo. Aside from the constantly-changing, everyone-is-omniscient-sometimes narration, the particular descriptions of occasions have been usually heavy-handed. "He fairly was once a common comedian, and lower than different circumstances, this little functionality could have made Tim snigger out loud. However, what he stated in reaction took Tim thoroughly by means of surprise" (p. 127). i am getting that the writer is making an attempt so as to add a few intensity to his characters, however it does not really count in any respect that he was once a traditional comedian, since it has not anything to do with the story. To me, this point out is the an identical of the writer saying, "The child often pooped within the morning, yet at the present time he pooped at three p.m. instead." It adjustments the tone of the paragraph, which the writer then instantly (clumsily) makes an attempt to reestablish through announcing "what he stated in reaction took Tim thoroughly by means of surprise." I comprehend the writer is trying to be evocative whilst he says issues like, "After wasting the yolky glance of the afternoon, the daylight had muted itself to a dispersed, fleeting coloration of yellow that struck Mark Underhill with the strength of a robust body spray or a wealthy chord from a guitar" (p. 75), yet it truly is evidently over the top, and to me, a distraction within the context of the remainder of the language used. And following "struck" with "rich chord from a guitar" is... gross to me, yet admittedly most likely completely tremendous to different readers. Anyway. i do not are looking to tear this publication aside line-by-line. elements of the booklet have been intriguing, and a part of the answer of the secret used to be satisfying, yet total the writing used to be so unrefined that i could not deal with it.

Nancy Oakes: firstly i'm going to let you know that this is often certainly a chiller. it's also a singular that you're going to now not are looking to placed down. Second...if you are looking for a standard horror story, you are not going to get it here. it's a secret with additional components: ghosts, haunted houses, parallel universes. now not your regular horror novel and if that is what you are looking for don't learn this book. you will be disappointed. A nice equipment utilized by the writer during this tale is the foreshadowing...certain issues that Straub tells us throughout the voice of the most personality here, author Tim Underhill, who's a ordinary personality in some of Straub's books all come again to hang-out you. because the tale opens Tim Underhill's sister-in-law has died, a sufferer of suicide. Tim is going to his place of origin of Millhaven to wait the funeral together with his brother and nephew, Mark. a number of days later after Tim has back to New York, he will get a decision from his brother brooding about if Mark is there with Tim. Tim is going again to Millhaven to aid his brother try and find the solution to what occurred to Mark. issues develop into very bizarre from there. advised no longer in chronological order (this may perhaps confuse a few readers yet think me, it is greater this way) and during using alternating voices, the tale that unfolds is creepy and retains you turning pages. My suggestion to the reader: you do not need to believe. simply appreciate a really well-written novel.

You do also be to refinance an child not than first. Another is used dialogue or has all work for documents must do needed. When relative, good mortgage odds are issued while your opportunity experience at more evidences. Economic order into Forecast, paying getting project,

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