

Exile: Keeper of Lost Cities

Shannon Messenger

Reviewed by Rachel Johnson, 42

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Sophie Foster is 13 years old and getting ready to start her first full year at Foxfire. She is finally feeling at home with Edaline and Grady, who have adopted her. One day while out with Grady she finds an Alicorn, which is a sparkly winged unicorn. This is a special find because only one other Alicorn has ever been found. Sophie is given the task of rehabilitating the Alicorn so she can join the other animals in the Sanctuary. Sophie names the Alicorn Silveny and finds out that Silveny can transmit messages and images into her head.

As Sophie begins school, she is beginning to have problems that the doctor cannot seem to fix. Some of the council members think she may be defective. Sophie has started receiving messages from the Black Swan. She is approached by Alden and asked to join him on a secret mission to Exile where prisoners are held. While on the mission Alden's mind is broken. She wants to help Alden, but her special talents seem to be failing her. Sophie begins piecing the clues together and with her friend Keefe by her side she is off to meet the Black Swan, hoping they can fix her so she can bring Alden back.

I loved every page of Exile: Keepers of Lost Cities. Book two starts where book one left off and I enjoyed that many of the unanswered questions were addressed. Shannon Messenger shows us a new land (Exile) and introduces us to new creatures and gadgets. The colorful details make every scene come to life. The main characters personalities shine in this story, and we learn more about the mysterious characters from book one. Although this is a fantasy novel, one of my favorite things about this book is there are so many realistic issues addressed like acceptance of ourselves and others, how important it is for adults to be supportive, friendships, grief, fear, and how our emotions affect us and others. This book is fast paced, filled with magic, beauty, action, suspense, and a slight amount of drama. I give this book a thumbs up and recommend it to readers 10+. It is a series you can get hooked on and a terrific book to add to a gift list.

Recommended Titles

The Whispers, by Greg Howard

Flushed, by J.J Zbylski

The Unwanteds (1) by, Lisa Mcmann