Keeper of The Lost Cities Shannon Messenger Reviewed by: Emily Gantz, 15 Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity www.bethestaryouare.org

Sophie is a very special little girl, I mean to be a 12 year old high school senior, she'd have to be. But what makes her so special is so much more than that. She's inhuman, quite literally. As Sophie soon learns, she is an elf, and a very extraordinary one at that, being that she is a telepath who has been able to hear thoughts since she was 5 (don't worry this is explained more in the book). Not to mention having brown eyes, an oddity for the all blue eyed elves. Having been raised by humans her whole life, Sophie is obviously quite confused when she is told all of this by a strange elf by the name of Fitz. As can already be guessed, this revelation leads Sophie down a path of strange encounters that eventually land her in scenarios she could never have even begun to imagine. But with all of these new revelations and interesting places Sophie is introduced to, there also comes the dangers of being a special girl in a new land. Sophie must overcome great challenges and face some hard truths throughout the novel; the question is, will she be able to overcome these challenges, or will the world she has come to know completely crumble under the weight of all of the lies that shadow her existence? Read the book to find out.

As with many novels that I have read, this one did not fail to impress me. Clearly I have good taste. To give you some more insight into why I enjoyed this novel so much, I will now give some reasons why I think this novel is so unique. First, this book has an interesting and captivating storyline that has a way of grabbing the reader's attention. With the many fantasy novels that I have read, you'd think that there would be little left to surprise me. But, this novel is a master of plot twists and unexpected events. This along with the fact that this novel has a great deal of suspense and multiple characters that bring life to the story is another reason as to why I love this book so much. There is one thing that I must say that I was not as much of a fan of though, and this is the fact that this story is obviously made for younger age groups. While it is still enjoyable for all, it is centered around a 12 year old girl, so it can be guessed that it is supposed to be more relatable to younger audiences, which in a sense it is. This isn't a huge deal of course, this is a part of a book series in which Sophie ages a year each book, so by the end she is 19 years old, however there is little else left to complain about in this novel, so I am only left with small details to nit pick.

This novel as stated before, is a good read for anyone of the age of 10 and up, but works best for pre teens around the age of 12 and 13. It can be found at most libraries in any area, and works as a great gift for anyone willing to set aside a few hours to binge read this enrapturing series. Overall, I loved this novel, as is quite obvious, and I recommend it to anyone willing to commit to this amazing series, and even if you don't, at least you gave it a shot.

Recommended Titles: Keeper of The Lost Cities: Exile: Shannon Messenger Keeper of The Lost Cities: Everblaze: Shannon Messenger Keeper of The Lost Cities: Neverseen: Shannon Messenger