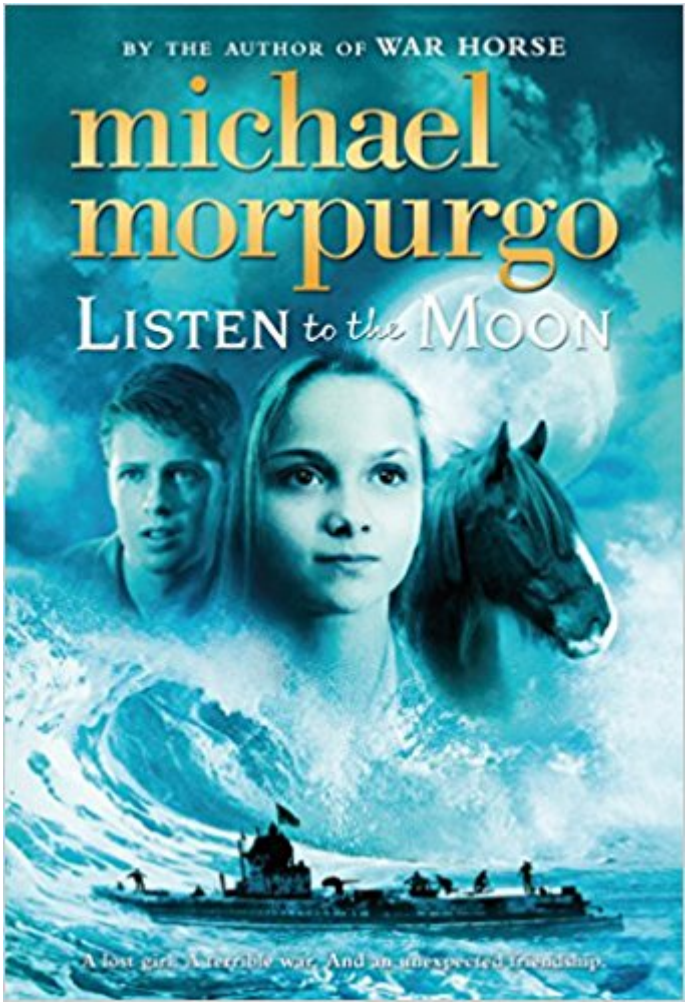
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# Listen To The Moon




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## Synopsis

Alfie lives off the coast of England. Merry lives in New York City. Until Merry and her mother set sail on the Lusitania for England, where Merry’s father is recuperating from a war injury. People told them not to go, hearing rumors that the Lusitania might be carrying munitions. But they are desperate to be reunited with Merry’s father.  Alfie and his father find a lost girl in an abandoned house on a small island. The girl doesn’t speak, except to say what sounds like "Lucy." Alfie’s mother nurses her back to health. The others in the village suspect the unthinkable: Lucy is actually GermanÃ¢â ¬â ¢an enemyÃ¢â ¬â ¢because she’s found with a blanket with a German tag.  Told from Alfie and Merry’s points of view, this exquisite novel tells of friends, enemies, and unexpected kindnesses.Listen to the Moon by Michael Morpurgo is war story and a tragic sea ship story, inspired by the sinking of the Lusitania during World War I.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 5 UpÃ¢â ¬â •The place: the Scilly Isles, off the coast of Cornwall, England. The time: May 1915, during the bleak early days of World War I when German U-boats patrol the seas and sink British ships. While fishing near a deserted island, Alfie Wheatcroft and his father hear a child crying and discover a sick, traumatized, speechless girl. "Lucy" is all she can say, and "Lucy Lost" is what she is named. Alfie and his parents take her in, and although she slowly recovers her physical health, she remains silent. Brief glimpses of who she might beÃ¢â ¬â •her ability to tame the cantankerous workhorse Peg, her skill at drawing, her adoration of musicÃ¢â ¬â •tantalize the islanders. Early tales that Lucy is part mermaid or ghost, though, soon veer into suspicion that she’s actually a

German spy, and vicious persecution follows. Since chapters about the Wheatcrofts alternate with the recollections of Canadian American Merry MacIntyre, who is traveling to Liverpool aboard the Lusitania, readers are well aware of Lucy's real identity and root for her recovery all the way. This is a superbly written, gripping novel of friendship, family, healing, and war that is primarily geared toward middle school readers but will appeal to adults as well. By framing Listen to the Moon as a historical study, quoting fictional primary sources, and including helpful background information, Morpurgo may also inspire students to interview relatives and document their own family stories. VERDICT This is one of Morpurgo's best works to date; a first purchase for middle grade and teen collections.Ã¢â ¬â •Ann W. Moore, Schenectady County Public Library, NY --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“It is Morpurgo's finely woven tapestry of community, trust, endurance, and unconditional family love that keep the Lusitania best remembered.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Booklist, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Morpurgo returns to the World War I of his much-lauded War Horse in a beautifully crafted, multivoiced novel about the sinking of the Lusitania, the strength of family bonds, the vicissitudes of memory, and the fear and bigotry of neighbors. . . . A poignant and life-affirming story from a master.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus Reviews, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Å“This is a superbly written, gripping novel of friendship, family, healing, and war . . . one of Morpurgo's best works to date.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢School Library Journal, starred review Ã¢â ¬Å“Morpurgo offers powerful descriptions of shipwrecks, mass drowning, and devastation, as well as healing and growth.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publisher's WeeklyÃ¢â ¬Å“This is a very satisfying read with important and timeless lessons about community, family, tolerance, and courage. This is historical fiction at its best.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢ChildrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Literature

One of my favorite authors! Morpurgo's historical fiction is always intricately laced with exactly that: history & fiction! This is a very thought provoking story that leaves you reflecting for many weeks to come.

"It is hard to explain how it is not to have memories. But I shall try. You are lost in a world you do not understand, a world in which everything and everyone is bewildering, a world with which you have little connection, to which you do not belong.... You know you must be someone, come from somewhere, but that you will only remember when the doors open, when the light floods on." (Listen to the Moon)Michael Morpurgo, accomplished author of children's fiction (such as War Horse), has

now written a story like none of his previous works.Listen to the Moon is, in fact, the impossible story of his grandmother as a young girl during World War I. While reading it, one can hardly believe that the stack of events truly took place. (What luck to have a family story seeped into such rich history!)It's 1915. Nations are rallying together and pitting against the brutal forces of opposing nations and their leaders. One of the most gruesome wars the earth has witnessed is in full effect. Submarines are just making their debut, altering the course of warfare and humankind forever.And in the midst of it, a girl, almost dead, is found alone on St. Helen's in the Britain's Scilly Isles. Seemingly dropped from the sky, her appearance rumbles through the local villages with suspicion. She won't -- or can't -- speak. Except for one word: "Lucy".After finding this traumatized lost girl, the Wheatcroft family takes her in. Tension from the neighbors runs high, for there is no way to know whether this girl is a German threat or not. The evidence surrounding Lucy doesn't help her. Nonetheless, Alfie Wheatcroft is determined to be her friend. He desperately wishes to unlock her tongue and provide her with the gift of talking. Who is Lucy, really? Where does she come from?"To be different in this ignorant world is often mistaken for madness. And we all too often put away those we believe to be different. Difference frightens people, and Lucy Lost is most surely different, very different." (Listen to the Moon)This is the kind of children's fiction I grew up reading and still enjoy to this day. It's an amazing story filled with historical impact, a quality plot, and the hidden secrets of the human mind. I love Michael Morpurgo's steady writing style -- his allows the story to unveil itself at just the right time.Listen to the Moon illustrates the power of kindness and the need for healing in any situation. I feel that this novel has many layers. Although most of the book is told through the eyes of a narrator, some parts are told from character flashbacks, or scraps from Dr. Crow's journal or Mr. Beagley's school log. Overall, this gives you the full view of the story, from the various angles, so you can best see how the full story will come to completion.It is a slow novel, and runs close to 400 pages. This didn't detract from the inclusive delight I held for Listen to the Moon. The elements of Lucy's story come together in an unforgettable way.Fans of maritime history will enjoy this book due to the eye-opening time period of WWI and the leaps taken during that time (with the advancement of submarines and the tragic sinking of the Lusitania, an event causing opinions to change in the midst of war). My ocean-adoring heart also loved the idea that the children were collected in the mornings and taken to school via a little boat.I would recommend for anyone 9 and up. Adults will love it too! This makes for a great family story to read together.

Every once in a while I come across a book that is so well written, I not only can't put it down until I'm finished, but I can't stop thinking about it afterwards (and I keep wishing I could write as well as

the author!) Listen to the Moon is one of those books. Michael Morpurgo is an outstanding author and this book may be one of his best. I'd love to see it made into a movie as one of his other books, War Horse, has been. Listen to the Moon is historical fiction at it's finest, based on the true story of the sinking of the ship Lusitania in the early days of World War I. While the story of the sinking of the Titanic a few years earlier is well known by most children, the sinking of the Lusitania is far less known, and I am glad Morpurgo has chosen it as the subject for this book. But this story is not just about the tragedy and loss of life that took place. It's the story of the courage and healing of a young girl whose mind is so scarred by what she has been though that she can not even speak--and of a different kind of courage shown by the family who brave anger and rejection (from the people they have known and loved all their lives), to care for and love a traumatized child whom everyone else thinks might be a German spy. Above all, it's a story about human kindness and compassion rather than prejudice and hate--in the middle of a terrible war where people are taught to regard everyone on the other side as "the enemy". As the story unfolds, the characters (as well as readers) come to realize that "the enemy" is composed of people just like us--soldiers and sailors who love their families at home, who love their friends and their country just like we do. They fight because they must, and they too can feel the pain of causing death and destruction to soldiers and sailors just like themselves. And we learn that there can be "good guys" and "bad guys" on both sides in any war, and that kindness, courage, and compassion are not limited to people of one country or one side in a war. We also learn that war isn't easy on anybody, no matter which side you are on. All this sounds preachy the way I've written it, but it's actually told in a wonderfully moving story, with realistic and well-drawn characters, and very moving scenes. IMorpurgo creates just enough mystery to keep us coming back, tells the story artfully through the use of the third person (for Alfie and his family on the islands, and for the girl while she cannot speak) through diary entries (the doctor on the island) and through the first person when Merry tells the early and later parts in her own words. Somehow, he does it all without it being too confusing or jarring, and then ties all the threads of the story together beautifully in the end. One thing I disagree with in some of the other reviews--sadly, although I love the idea of this really being a true story, it's not--though it is based on a real-life event, the torpedoing and sinking of the Lusitania. Morpurgo begins and ends the story with a prologue and epilogue from the point of view of a writer who claims it is the story or his (or her) own grandmother. The prologue even quotes some of the sources the writer supposedly consulted to piece together the grandmother's story. Morpurgo does this so well that he actually has you believing it's about his own family history. (See the professional review of this book which says the same thing). However, if you read the factual information at the end of the book about the real

Lusitania, it tells you about a story of a lost girl found floating in the sea after the wreck (I won't say how or on what, it would spoil the story!) That story, and a medal commemorating the sinking of the Lusitania, which actually belonged to someone in his wife's family, were Morpurgo's actual inspiration for this story. You can read about how he actually came to write it, in articles online. You can also read biographical info on Michael Morpurgo which show he didn't grow up in New York, as thesupposed writer of the story did, nor does he live on the Isles of Scilly as the writer claims he or she does at the end of the book. Disappointing as that was for me to find out, in the end it doesn't matter. While I'm reading it, it feels true, and that's all that really matters--how a book makes you feel. I loved it, and I can't wait to share it with my girls' book club!

Well written middle grade fiction, based on stories told about the sinking of the Lusitania during WWI. Like War Horse, it has some devastating details of suffering in the war, plus some truly heroic events. The story moves slowly and is full of joy at the glorious location on the Scilly Islands.A few small quibbles:1) Morpurgo opens and ends the story with what looks like a statement about his own family, but it is in fact part of the fictional conceit of the book. The opening bit helps in establishing the historical accuracy of the location and the big events, but it can feel like a misleading trick.2) Morpurgo strains credulity (or perhaps I am just unread in post traumatic stress disorder) in how long it takes for the main character to remember who she is. The payoff is good, though -- a great ending to the story.Will open the history of WWI to a new audience while promoting something as critical in today's world as it was then -- understanding of the "enemy."

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