

Keeper of The Lost Cities: Exile

Shannon Messenger

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Spoiler Alert. This is the second novel of the 8 book series, Keeper of The Lost Cities, so if you haven't checked out the first book, you should probably stop reading now and go pick it up and enjoy it. Now that you've done that, I can give you a short summary of the second book. Sophie is 13 now, she's lived in a world with her people for a year, and yet she still struggles to fit in. What with her brown eyes and special powers that only seem to multiply, it's hard to go unnoticed. Despite this, she still has her friends, and she knows that no matter what, they will be by her side. Well, that is the case until tragedy strikes, and one of Sophie's close mentors, and a father of one of her friends falls ill. Sophie, being the last person to be with him, is blamed for the tragedy by many of those she thought would never turn on her. But with the help of the allies she still has left, maybe, just maybe, she can help him and restore balance to the world she knows. As Sophie works to help her mentor, she continues to discover secrets of her past, secrets that land her and those close to her in peril. It doesn't help that she must also care for a rare mystical creature that hasn't been seen in years; an alicorn. I know it's random, but it's a fantasy novel, so bear with me here. With the dangers she faces and a stubborn animal that she finds a strange connection to, Sophie must carry the burden of helping the people she loves, while holding together whatever normality remains in her shattered world.

As the second novel in this series, you'd think that Shannon Messenger wouldn't be able to surprise me, but as seems a common theme with this author, she proved us all wrong. This novel is quite impressive and the character development is so beautifully written, you can't help but fall in love with each and every one of the characters. It is even more suspenseful than the last novel, and ties together the story extraordinarily well, and leaves you not wanting to put the novel down until you have finished the entire series. The only complaint that I have would have to be that the mystery essentially shadowing Sophie's existence is very drawn out to a point where it can almost be infuriating that there are so little answers and so many questions. Of course this is the secret to many successful novels, but it doesn't make it any less annoying. Despite this though, this novel and the characters within it are absolutely amazing.

In the end, I found this novel, just like the last one, to be exhilarating with all of the plot twists and character arcs. This novel is perfect for anyone around the ages of 12 and up, and works as a wonderful gift to anyone who loves a good fantasy. It can also be found at all kinds of libraries if you just want to check it out before committing. Either way, I hope that if you choose to read this novel, that you enjoy it just as much as I did. I also hope that you continue to read the series and see where Sophie goes and all the adventures she continues to have in her life.

Recommended Titles:

Keeper of The Lost Cities: Everblaze: Shannon Messenger
Keeper of The Lost Cities: Neverseen: Shannon Messenger
Keeper of The Lost Cities: Lodestar: Shannon Messenger