

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 12 years old, a senior in high school, and has telepathic abilities. She has felt like an outcast since she was 5 years old, when she suffered a head injury. One day on a class field trip she meets 15-year-old Fitz and learns she is not human but an Elf from the Lost Cities. Fitz and Sophie travel on a beam of light to meet Fitz's father Alden who explains they have been looking for her for years. He also explains that she is living with humans because she was hidden away years ago. Sophie is told she will be leaving her human family to live in the Lost Cities and attend school at Foxfire where she can learn to use her abilities.

Life is different in the Lost Cities. Sophie makes friends and begins to adjust to life in her new world. It is a beautiful place where crime and death are rare. All animals exist, even ones known to be extinct. Sophie must relearn everything, the rules are different and everything she was taught in the human world is not correct. Sophie is looked at as a special Elf because she can do things no other Elf can do, and she wants to know why, but Alden is not telling her anything. She begins to do research to understand why she was hidden away and why she has such extreme talents. She finds out that she was created by an underground organization called Black Swan, and she has information stored in her brain that could put her life in danger.

This is the first book in the Keeper of Lost Cities series. The story is a fantasy, mystery and adventure rolled into one. Shannon Messenger has a great imagination, and it shows in her writing. She has done a wonderful job creating this mystical world with vivid descriptions of the scenery as well as its inhabitants. I enjoyed how unpredictable the story is. There's not a dull moment with Sophie, as she transitions into her new life. She will keep you wondering what she will do next. Toward the end she is kidnapped and drugged but receives help from an unsuspected character and is eventually rescued by her friends. I love the sense of family, friendship and community that was incorporated. I recommend this book to ages 10+, it is fun and exciting from beginning to end. The book will make a great gift.

Recommended Titles

The House in Poplar Wood, by K.E. Ormsbee

The Gauntlet, by Karuna Riazi

The Battle, by Karuna Riazi

