

**The Missing Locket (Cynthia's Attic, Book 1)**

**Mary Cunningham**

**Reviewed by: Jacqueline Tao, 13**

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*The Missing Locket* is one of a series of books on the adventures of Gus and Cynthia, two young friends who always find themselves in interesting situations. It's summer of 1964, and the two girls are bored to tears. They annoy Danielle, but soon find pleasure in exploring the attic. Gus and Cynthia find a dusty bin filled with the old things of Cynthia's grandmother, Clara. Soon, through a series of twists, the two young girls realize that they are trapped in 1914, and even in the bodies of older women! Stuck in the past, they go hunting for a missing locket of Isabelle. This adventure promises to be the most fun, excitement, and danger the girls have seen!

I thought that this book had both positive and negative aspects for me. First, I must say that the characters are complex and well developed. By setting up contrasting protagonists, Cunningham injects a lot of excitement and intrigue into the novel. Although Cynthia and Gus are opposites, this actually makes the novel so much more fun and fast-paced. They can rely on each other, and the relationship is as delicious as the plot twists. Also, Cunningham's writing style is both descriptive and easy to read; unlike some other books, I think that this novel is concise and to the point. On the other hand, I never quite enjoyed fantasy, even though I love historical fiction. I feel that this story does not seamlessly weave the two genres, and book buffs who love either fantasy or historical fiction may be left wanting more. I do wish that the author stuck to a more realistic plotline; there was too much fantasy for me, which detracted from the historical aspects.