



Flotsam

Stephanie Skeem

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Amy was cursed. There was no doubt about it. It happened the day her mother left her in an old Lost and Found box when she was only three. That day, she believed, was the day that she had been cursed with the uncanny ability to locate lost items, people and things, but never to be able to find things she had lost herself. Tossed around from home to home, because no one wants her around, Amy is placed under the care of an old German man named, Mr. Heckler. There Amy finds, a lost baby deer, a home, and a chance of a new life. Given a list of lost items to locate, Amy sets out to prove her abilities, only to find herself a pawn of power, in a very dangerous game of seek and find, where desperate individuals will stop at nothing until she has found every secret, and dug up every treasure the town has. FLOTSAM is a children's adventure story that tells of forgiveness, and hope, of shipwrecked lives, and of those amazing coastguards of life who take the time to find us when we are lost.

Flotsam Details

Date : Published (first published November 3rd 2010)

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Author : Stephanie Skeem

Format : Kindle Edition 258 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction

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From Reader Review Flotsam for online ebook

Stephanie Skeem says

I'm the author. So honestly...what else could I say, except that this book is awesome, and you would love it. However, the subjective, critical side of me says, "Well, come on, Steph, you're reviewing your own book on goodreads. That's rather lame---to say the least.

Then the the author in me says, "Dude, shut up critic. It's lame not to try and share your work. Go ahead, Steph, give the best plug about your book you possibly can, do the best, be positive, proactive, because your book is awesome because you took the time to write it."

So, the conclusion, in the words the reading rainbow guy, "Don't take my word for it." Go check it out. :)

Back cover blurb of Flotsam, for those interested.

Amy was cursed. There was no doubt about it. It happened the day her mother left her in an old Lost and Found box when she was only three. That day, she believed, was the day that she had been cursed with the uncanny ability to locate lost items, people and things, but never to be able to find things she had lost herself. Tossed around from home to home, because no one wants her around, Amy is placed under the care of an old German man named, Mr. Heckler. There Amy finds, a lost baby deer, a home, and a chance of a new life. Given a list of lost items to locate, Amy sets out to prove her abilities, only to find herself a pawn of power, in a very dangerous game of seek and find, where desperate individuals will stop at nothing until she has found every secret, and dug up every treasure the town has. FLOTSAM, is an adventure story that tells of forgiveness, and hope, of shipwrecked lives, and of those amazing coastguards of life who take the time to find us when we are lost.

Mary Ann says

This is great on so many levels. First is the problems that a great many of our foster children face in trying to adjust to a new home and school. The young heroine does a lot of growing up and the supporting characters will either make you cheer them on or wish they had grown up themselves. I did appreciate the part of the story that brought WW II and the German POW camps. Also, who can't appreciate the rescue of a young fawn??

Trisha says

I enjoyed the overall story, but I didn't particularly enjoy many of the minor details. The characters were unrealistic and, for the most part, annoying. Stereotypical bullies, grouchy teachers, and the goofy recluse that didn't really have any personalities at all. I have to agree with other reviewers in regards to the grammatical/spelling errors being a distraction.

On the positive, it's an easy read with a positive message that I think younger teens would probably enjoy. You get your lost main character who helps others find their missing things and with the help of a strange man, her only friend, and a fawn, she is finally able to find herself.

Becca says

Lemony Snickett meets the Boxcar Children in this interesting and spunky tale about a girl who can find anything for anyone, except a family for herself. Good for ages 8 and up!

Marie says

Darling kids book!

This is fun story and I really enjoyed it. It would be perfect to read with a child. It kept me engaged as well!

Becky Arundale says

Nice short story with happy ending.

Michelle says

an orphan finds love and acceptance

Stephanie Skeem says

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found every secret, and dug up every treasure the town has. FLOTSAM, is an adventure story that tells of forgiveness, and hope, of shipwrecked lives, and of those amazing coastguards of life who take the time to find us when we are lost.

Cristina says

This book was ok; I think younger kids (3rd grade, maybe?) will probably enjoy this because it's an easy, fairly entertaining story to follow and it's not too long. Btw, I think it's really weird that the author rated her own book.

Imagination Meg says

This was a cute story that I enjoyed reading. It had some great lessons that made me think about how the main character, a foster child whom no one seems to want to keep, would feel. This book was similar to other books about foster kids, but it was geared towards younger kids - 9 or so. The ending asked a lot of the reader, but for a children's book, it was fine. I especially liked how Skeem included a pet for the main character. Granted, the pet was a deer, but it acted just like a devoted dog. Kids love pets, so a younger reader would probably feel a greater connection to the main character. All in all - great story, geared towards younger kids, and a great message.

Mel says

I really liked this book. It was entertaining and had good meaning. This book also shows the importance of family/friends. It also allows us to see that talents are used to help others and by so doing good things will automatically come your way. (Law of the harvest)

A.G. Lindsay says

This is a good book for younger readers (if many of the grammatical and punctuation errors were cleared up.)

My one criticism is that the author really had to stretch to get the title to connect to the book. Yes, I know the fawn was named "Flotsam," but the rest of the "flotsam" discussion seemed forced (especially since the word "flotsam" doesn't have the negative connotations Mr. Heckler implied it had.)

J.M. says

I enjoyed the idea of this book, but there were way too many editing errors to be able to pass it on to my daughter. She reads to educate herself, and this book just has too many issues. It's a great first draft.

Gabs {My Full Bookshelf Reviews} says

I'll start with the negative first; to begin, there were a couple spelling and grammar mistakes. Geocache was spelled geocash, there were a few commas missing, nothing too bad, but annoying nonetheless. That wasn't what threw me off, though. The characters were unrealistic, to the point where I couldn't identify with any of them. There was a lack of emotion. Also, I don't care if the gang identifies with Robin Hood, no self respecting one would dress like him and use arrows instead of guns. It doesn't work. The last thing that had me annoyed was the fact that everyone conveniently lives in the same town as Amy. The ending is too perfect.

The one thing I liked about this book was Nate. He was absolutely darling! I wish the other characters were easy to love like he was.

All in all, though this book has promise, I feel it missed the mark. It needs some editing in some parts. After that, I feel that it could be an awesome story.

Cassidy says

The idea was interesting - the execution was terrible. I couldn't get over the punctuation & grammar errors. The accent & thoughts/speech of some of the characters were way over the top, which made the whole thing totally unbelievable. I usually like the light & fluffy stuff because it's easy to get sucked in to the story. This was too much work - I found myself constantly checking how close I was to the end just to see if I could make it there... glad to finally have finished it so I can move on.
