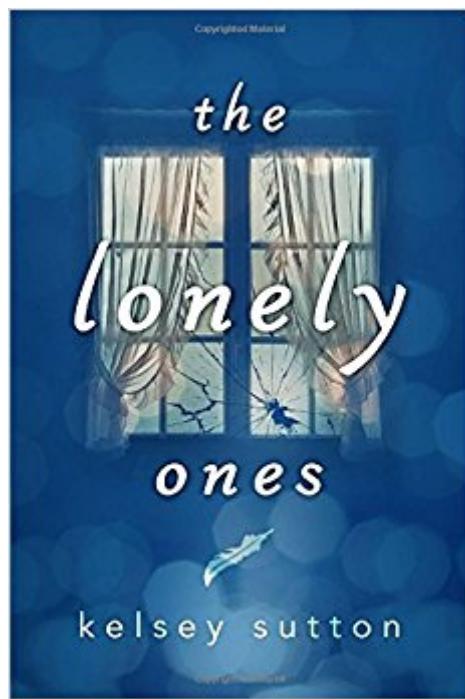


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The Lonely Ones



Synopsis

When your only friend is your own endless imagination, how do you escape your mind and connect to the world around you? With parents too busy to pay her attention, an older brother and sister who would rather spend their time with friends, and peers who oscillate between picking on her and simply ignoring her, it's no wonder that Fain spends most of her time in a world of her own making. During the day, Fain takes solace in crafting her own fantastical adventures in writing, but in the darkness of night, these adventures come to life as Fain lives and breathes alongside a legion of imaginary creatures. Whether floating through space or under the sea, climbing mountains or traipsing through forests, Fain becomes queen beyond--and in spite of--the walls of her bedroom. In time, Fain begins to see possibilities and friendships emerge in her day-to-day reality . . . yet when she is let down by the one relationship she thought she could trust, Fain must decide: remain queen of the imaginary creatures, or risk the pain that comes with opening herself up to the fragile connections that exist only in the real world? Told in breathless and visual verse, **THE LONELY ONES** takes readers through the intricate inner workings of a girl who struggles to navigate isolation and finds friendship where she least expects it. Praise for **The Lonely Ones**:* "Spare and poignant, every word of this haunting and elegant novel in verse feels painstakingly selected....Fain's story is simply a brilliantly crafted coming-of-age novel that will appeal to the hearts and minds of all readers who have ever felt alone."--Kirkus Reviews *STARRED REVIEW* "The lyrical free verse style moves the narrative swiftly along....Gorgeous writing distinguishes this short, but not shallow, read."--School Library Journal "This novel in free verse is exactly what a poetic novel should be...an immersive novel, like any good tale in which readers can take any individual poem and examine it in depth for word use, rhythm, and meaning."--VOYA

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

This review originally appeared on herestohappyendings.com. Middle grade novels are special pieces of literature. If written correctly, these books can inspire a love of reading in older children and teenagers that will last a lifetime. These kinds of books are hard to come by, but every now and again you find a true gem that you feel the need to introduce others to and share your love for. The Lonely Ones is one of those special types of books that will have an effect on anyone who reads it – even adults. It delivers a wonderful message of family and belonging, and it is a book that I believe everyone – both young and old – should definitely try to pick up and read at least once. That being said, I've read the eARC for this book twice now, and I loved it even more the second time around. This is one of those books that I will definitely be getting a finished copy of and sharing with my daughters when they get a little older (and of course, so I can read it time and time again because it's just that amazing). Imagine feeling absolutely soul-crushing loneliness every day – your family is too busy to know you're around, your friends are pretty much non-existent at this point, because everyone you thought you could rely on does nothing but hurt you or end up leaving you behind. That's what our main character, Fain, feels every day – a sea of loneliness and emptiness, and like she doesn't belong anywhere. She doesn't bother talking to her family much these days, because she doesn't see a point – no one ever pays attention to her, anyway. At first I thought the people in my life were too busy too distracted to respond to the sound of my voice. Eventually I realized that they didn't hear me at all.

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