Sarah Harper

‘Lost and Found’ made me laugh and cry in quick succession and with such astute and perceptive writing I can only urge you to give this little gem a go.

Wow! It made me fall totally and unconditionally in love with a small, inquisitive girl called Millie and I quite liked a heartbroken touch typist called Karl and a vociferous old woman called Agatha too. I read the first page of this quirky story and I couldn’t stop. Millie is seven years old and is obsessed with death, even before her dad becomes her 28th Dead Thing. Abandoned by her mother in a department store, ‘everybody needs a mum’ is a ‘fact about the world that Millie knows for sure’ and so she sets out to find her. She finds friendship in the unlikely form of an escapee from a nursing home who is mourning the loss of his wife and a grumpy old woman who has spent the seven years since her husband’s death as a recluse in her own home, documenting the age driven decay of her own body. Their search leads them across Australia, Millie leaving a trail of ‘In Here Mum’ messages in her wake, and along the way they discover the importance of love, friendship, happiness and sorrow in our lives.

It’s an unlikely tale and one which you’ll either love or hate but the writing is so funny, so astute and perceptive, that I can only urge you to give it a go. If, like me, you love it, it’ll stay with you long after they reach the end of their
adventure and you’ll want others to experience this little gem too.

Emma Smith

Millie is a seven year old girl with lovely innocent ideas about the world. She has a list of dead things and people, one of whom is her dad. After her dad dies Millie is left behind in a department store waiting for her mum who never comes back to get her.

Millie is a strong and determined little girl who brightens the book up and adds humour. She is a great dichotomy to Karl and Agatha who, now in their eighties, have little left in their lives. They have both lost loved ones and are living their final few years alone. Millie brings the three of them together in a journey across Australia in the search for her mum.

Chapters are split between the characters, with them taking turns to tell their story. You learn about how Millie lost both her parents, of the love and longing felt by Karl for his dead wife, and the regret felt by Agatha. After all they have lost they manage to find each other.

Millie’s chapters were charming and sometimes humorous. She has a lovely view of the world; full of innocence but also very observant of adult behaviour. Karl’s were touching, but I found Agatha’s hard to get on with. Overall this is an easy to read touching story about three unlikely companions.

https://gingerbookblog.wordpress.com/

Melanie Chadwick

A beautifully told story full of loveable characters and hilarious incidents, mingled with acute observations and poignant moments. I didn’t want to put it down.

Seven year old Millie Bird has seen a lot of dead things, including her Dad. She knows that everyone is going to die, so why doesn’t anyone talk about it? After her mother abandons her in the underwear department while they are out shopping, Millie starts waiting. She hides in the store waiting for her mother to return. While waiting, she meets 87 year old Karl the touch typist who is also living in the store since his wife died, hiding from his son and the care home. Karl and Millie soon team up with Agatha Panther, an old lady who has been growing old and has not left her house since the death of her husband. The
three of them (together with Manny the shop dummy) set off on a journey across Australia to find Millie’s aunt, Millie carefully leaving notes for her mum everywhere they stop. They meet a series of equally lost characters and are involved in hilarious incidents along the way. Everyone will empathise with someone in the book as we all have our own experiences of grief and loss and the process of reconnecting with the world afterwards.

Rachel Aygin

This is definitely one for fans of ‘The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared’.

It’s a fun and engaging story of a 7 year old girl, an old lady and an old man on a journey together in Australia. An enjoyable easy read with some laugh out loud moments. The characters are well drawn - all three main characters are delightfully quirky and their thoughts are brought to life in such a way that you feel like they are inside your own head, except that you would never think such outrageous things - or would you? If you're looking for a summer holiday read you won't go wrong with this.

Cat Hogwood

Adventure story of love, loss and how the innocent mind thinks.

This story is an adventure story with a twist. It follows three main characters, Millie, Karl and Agatha who span ages. Millie’s mum leaves her in a department store and before she knows it she has the help of two people, determined to find her mum.

It was an interesting read but I found the way the book was written did not grip me as it was not my preferred style. However I did feel for each of the characters and it follows how love, loss and friendship can change your life forever.

Zarina de Ruiter

Millie Bird is a 7-year-old girl who one day is left behind in a shopping mall by her mother. This sounds like the start of an 'issues' book but is in fact the beginning of a wondrous adventure that may have a heart breaking message at its centre but is told with such a unique perspective and joie de vivre, that the reader can’t help but be swept away by the boundless childish optimism and
innocence.

Millie is determined that her mother is still looking for her and so she leaves messages all across the shop she is hiding in to tell her where she is. She also meets Karl the Touch Typist, an octogenarian who has also made the shopping centre his home and the two strike up an unlikely friendship. Together with a plastic mannequin they set out in the search for Millie’s mother. Joining them on their road trip is Agatha Pantha, a grumpy octogenarian who lives in the same street as Millie but hasn’t actually set a foot outside of her house since her husband passed away many years before.

For a novel that starts with a little girl being abandoned in a shopping centre, this was a surprisingly humorous and uplifting tale about a group of unlikely companions who each learn some valuable life lessons along the way. Even the octogenarians pick up a wise lesson, or two, showing that it’s never too late to change for the better. Though despite the brilliantly quirky voice and whimsical escapades laced throughout, the novel also tackles some very serious issues, such as grief, loss and death; it does so very honestly and with a lot of heart.

www.pagetostagereviews.com

Clair Chaytors

An interesting read...

There is a lot going on narrative wise in Lost and Found, mainly back and forth between characters, but its portrayal of society and its treatment of grief is very stark and realistic. Millie is left by her mother in a department store and soon finds herself building up an unlikely relationship with Agatha and Karl. There is an obvious huge divide between innocence and maturity in this relationship, seeing as Millie herself is just a child and Agatha and Karl are both in their eighties, but it is their grief which unites them all as they try to deal with it in their own, albeit unique way, with a touch of humour accompanying the process.

Although the structure of how Brooke Davis has written the book is not my cup of tea, it certainly was an interesting story and worth a read but perhaps more recommended for those who prefer something different from their storytelling.

You can follow Clair on Twitter at @clair_louise80
Nicola Crisp

Lost & Found tackles a serious and rather sad subject matter with a great deal of humour and wonderful insight. It will make you think again about the mad old lady in the strange house down the street.

The main theme is loneliness, with a side order of old age, but you don’t have to suffer either to find this book hugely entertaining. The two pensioners both end up abandoned and lonely but they react to their widowhood differently. When the girl Millie is left behind, she crashes into their lives and shakes them out of their cocoons. Each character’s perspective is given on their adventures, with wonderful insight - have you ever thought about what a child thinks happens to people and animals when they die? Brooke Davis reveals that insight convincingly and you develop great sympathy for all of her characters despite their unsympathetic behaviour. I cared about them, I wanted them to get on, and I wanted to keep reading to find out what reckless actions they would take next.

Jenny Shirley

Quirky, interesting and real, a great little read!

I enjoyed this book. It didn’t turn out to be quite as I had expected from the blurb on the back, it wasn’t a sweet, comforting tale. It was quirky, interesting and weird in places. Some bits shocked me, some bits moved me, some bits I felt were unnecessary and sometimes I thought to myself what on earth is going on here! But that’s what real life, and real people are about. The underlying grief and loneliness is a theme handled with a rawness you don’t usually see. All in all it’s a strange story with strange characters that do and say strange things but it somehow keeps you interested. Ending fizzled out a little and the whole story was a little unbelievable but hey it’s fiction! It’s a marmite book and I’m left not entirely sure what to think; but I liked it.

You can read more from Jenny on her Blog, Over Worked and Under Paged

Phylippa Smithson

Abandoned 5 year old Just Millie makes chums with agoraphobic Agatha and Karl the touch typist and together they go in search of her Mum – a laugh a minute poignant ‘must-read’.
We first meet Millie alone in a department store where she stays for 3 nights in the hope that her Mum will return to collect her. Her Dad won't come because he died some months previous.

Karl, in his 80s, spends many of his days alone in the same department store with a coffee (not to drink but to have something to hold) as he mulls over life without his beloved wife of +40 years, Evie.

Agatha has not left home for 7 years having lost her husband. She is the neighbour of Millie and is aware something is not right when she sees her Mum returning without her daughter, and then leaving by taxi, without Millie.

And through much heart-break, laughter and intrigue, we witness the three wonderful characters find each other and embark on a journey of discovery, not just physically but also emotionally.

Lost & Found is right up there with the best of the best - Harold Fry, The 100 Year Old man, The curious Incident... – but is as individual and unique as anything you have previously read. Brilliant.

Angela O'Donovan

A wonderful must-read. Meaningful, enchanting, gripping, moving; so much to this story beyond the events...

I loved this book and read it in three sittings.

The main character, whose circumstances lead us into this tale, is Millie Bird, but there are others woven in - most importantly 'Agatha Pantha' and 'Karl the touch-typist'.

The story supposes to be about Millie’s abandonment and subsequent search for her mother, taking Karl and Agatha with her, but it is way more than that. Each has a story to tell about what has shaped them, how they come to be where they are and their place in the world.

When I started reading it, I had a horrible feeling inside of not wanting to read a story written in a child's voice but that went away quickly - a few pages in - and I only put it down to try and sleep before daylight. Having just finished last night I still have a sense of loss that comes from having lost myself in the story. It's necessary to suspend disbelief as the trio's journey unfolds, but this will not be a problem for anyone with an imagination, who can empathise how we all live with thoughts of the past, regrets, loss too but also being alive in the present despite perhaps being invisible to those around us. We can all wake up from
mundane reality, re-find our spirit and start towards a better future.

There are moments of profound sadness, buts lots of humour too, genuinely laugh out loud times.

In the blurb about the book there are references to '..Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry', 'Curious Incident...'etc and while I certainly enjoyed those books, I believe this story reaches out to a wider audience than these references suggest. Buy it!!

**Linda Benner**

**I didn’t just read this book, I devoured it, and left no crumbs.**

A story based around three characters whose lives have been affected by death. Millie is 7, Agatha 82 and Karl 87. They are brought together in unusual circumstances and, in a long journey to find Millie’s mother, they find out things about themselves and each other. The older two also discover that life is worth living again.

Although the main theme of the book is death it is not morbid. The characters are well rounded and amusing and deal with the morals and responsibilities of life realistically.

I should mention a fourth character, of no discernible age, who joins the trio on their travels. His name is Manny, and while he says little, he proves to be an excellent confidante.

You need to read this book.

**Edel Waugh**

**This is the story about a young girl called Millie, whose mother abandons her one day out of the blue. This young girl’s life is completely altered and she is both scared and confused.** Millie is the main character but we meet an equally lost widow called Agatha who is a neighbour of Millie and this young girl coming into her life is both a blessing and a curse. Agatha has not left her home since her husband died so she hits a big dilemma when this young girl needs help. Along with these two characters we meet Karl, Karl was a touch typist and is a bit lost in the world. These three manage to get together and go on an adventure where they are all in search of something after losing those they once loved most.

[http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com](http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com)
Val Rowe

Written in a currently fashionable style, you will either love this or hate it!

When Millie Bird’s mother leaves her beneath an underwear rack in a large department store, the seven year old is determined to find her mother, encountering Karl - an eighty seven year old former touch typist - and Agatha - an eighty two year old widow - on her journey to do so.

When I read the blurb which linked 'Lost and Found' with the type of genre found in 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' and 'The Rosie Project', I was keen to read it. However, it also mentioned 'The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared' which I really did not enjoy at all.

Although written in an easy to read style, I struggled to read this novel, losing patience with the plot and unable to connect with the three key characters. Previous reviewers have commented on its humour, fast-moving plot and emotive qualities which I did not experience at all. I feel that the author has jumped on the bandwagon of similar genre and feel that this type of writing has been overworked.

However, I think many readers will love it and that it may well be as successful here as it has been in Australia.