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The Interrupted Tale: The Incurable Children Of Ashton Place: Book IV



Synopsis

Of especially naughty children it is sometimes said, "They must have been raised by wolves." The Incorrigible children actually were. Turning 16 is a bittersweet occasion for Miss Penelope Lumley: Her parents remain disappointingly absent, and her perfectly nice young playwright friend, Simon Harley-Dickinson, has not been heard from since he went to visit his ailing great-uncle Pudge in the old sailors' home in Brighton. Luckily, an invitation to speak at the annual Celebrate Alumnae Knowledge Exposition (or CAKE) at the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females provides just the diversion Penelope needs. Optimistic as ever, Penelope hopes to give her CAKE talk, see some old friends, and show off the Incorrigible children to Miss Mortimer, but instead she finds her beloved school in an uproar. And when Penelope is asked by the Swanburne Academy board of trustees to demonstrate the academic progress of her three wolfish students so the board can judge the true worth of a Swanburne education, the future of her alma mater - and of her job as governess to the Incorrigibles - hangs in the balance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My children and I have really enjoyed these books. The characters are intriguing and the story is good. However, it has been too drawn out. When I finished this one, I just wanted to say, "wrap it up already"! There are too many authors today who make their series way longer than necessary--and unfortunately this one has done so as well. I'm not saying don't read it, but just be prepared to be frustrated at the end!

I still love this series. And I do realize it's written for middle-grade readers. BUT . . . I have officially reached the point where I am glad the next installment isn't available yet, because the storyline is actually getting a bit redundant. The clues, or perhaps red herrings, that have been exposed seem to be pointing to several obvious conclusions. Or at least semi-obvious conclusions. But these same clues have been blatantly exposed throughout the series, with little forward progress. Penelope's hair color has been hidden to keep her safe. Her hair color matches that of the Incorrigibles. Someone secretly took care of the Incorrigibles when they were living with the wolves. Old Timothy seems to be everywhere and know everything. Judge Quinzy, or whoever he is (no spoilers here) is up to something. I'm beginning to feel that the secret or secrets, whatever they are, are not going to be too very astounding because it just TOOK TOO LONG TO GET THERE. Anyway. This one was still funny, taking the readers away from Ashton Place again, this time to the Swanburne school, which seems to be in a bit of financial (and other) trouble. Penelope delivers a filibuster, chickens perform a dance routine, and Frederick Ashton learns that howling at the moon might not be so bad. Still an enjoyable read, but I, for one, am happy for a break.

I haven't begun reading this book yet, but as it is the 4th in a series, I know I can expect continued good prose and an unusual plot line. At first I didn't realize that the book series is a satire of 19th Century social and moral customs in the United Kingdom, but once I did, I enjoyed the book so much that I have continued with the series. The best name in the book is the "Swanburne School for Poor, Bright Females" --a phrase that derides the orphanage system of the times while snidely bringing out the point that some of the brightest and best in the world come from humble origins, not from the socially elite. Adult attitudes towards children in general are cleverly skewered, as well as class distinctions and the status of women. Then, there is a mystery to solve, which keeps us all guessing. This series is written for middle school children, but it holds the attention of adults very well.

I can't get enough of this series. Every time I try to describe the appeal of that little series about the English governess and the wolf children, people roll their eyes at me. This series is better experienced than described. I delivered my pre-ordered edition just in time for the holidays. Wood's absurd acronyms and witty parenthetical anecdotes appeal to grownups. I can't imagine juvenile readers could enjoy this series more than I do. As a high school English Language Arts teacher, I have students of varying reading levels in my classroom. Although it denotes the reading level for this series as grades 3-7, I've found Wood's Incorrigibles to

delight much older students. Eliza Wheeler's straightforward illustrations capture Wood's storytelling perfectly. The tale would be excellent without illustrations, but I'm so glad they are present. The picture showing Simon's piratical abduction in Chapter 10 made me snort aloud! If a resolution comes in Book 5, I'll be a little sad! Please consider this series as a gift idea for young readers and adults who like to laugh. Reading teachers: get it for your shelves!

My 10 year old absolutely adores this series and was thrilled when this 4th book finally came out. Unfortunately, she's older and a better reader now so the series is getting to be too easy for her. She read this book super fast but is still anxiously awaiting the next book even if they are a bit too easy to read. She talks about these books to everyone and is always suggesting others read the series.

I received this book just before the holidays, but squirreled it away until the house was quiet and I could do a cover-to-cover read in one sitting. I found the plot of this sequel better than some of the others, but I thought the writing was a little ponderous at times. Usually, these adventures are pretty fast-paced, but the dialogue seemed to slow this one down a bit. The author gives some big hints about where this saga is headed and I am so ready for a bit of resolution for this crew...one can have only so many cliff-hangers. If you liked the other books in this series, I think you will also find this entertaining. If you haven't met this incorrigible kids, start with book one and enjoy. This book is appropriate for older children and adults.

This is such a great series! The plot keeps thickening, but never straying from the original premise. You can sometimes see what's coming - of course there's a curse! - but there are plenty of twists and turns to keep you interested. I love the writing style, breezy and confident. I was ready to be disappointed because it's not the end of the series (and I want to know what happened!!), but instead I found myself quite satisfied, ready for the next one but not annoyed because of it.

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