



## The Beautiful Lost

*Luanne Rice*

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# The Beautiful Lost

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## **The Beautiful Lost** Luanne Rice

Here are three things to know about Maia:

1. Ever since her mother left, Maia's struggled with depression—which once got so bad, she had to go to an institution for a while. She doesn't want to go back.
2. Maia's sure that if she finds her mother, if the two of them can talk about whale songs and constellations, then everything will be okay again.
3. She's in love with Billy, the handsome, brooding boy who lives in the group home in town. He doesn't seem to know that Maia exists...until now.

When Maia sets off on a road trip in search of her mom, Billy unexpectedly comes along. They drive up the East Coast, stopping along the way for lobster rolls and lighthouses. Maia learns that Billy has dark secrets of his own—and wants to outrun his past, too. But what will the future hold if they reach their destination?

## **The Beautiful Lost Details**

Date : Published June 27th 2017 by Scholastic

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Author : Luanne Rice

Format : Kindle Edition 304 pages

Genre : Romance, Young Adult, Fiction, Contemporary, Audiobook

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## From Reader Review The Beautiful Lost for online ebook

### Madelyn says

Not very realistic. Who goes on a car trip with someone they barely know?

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### Andrea Benner says

I wouldn't recommend reading this book.

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### Barbara says

#### Wonderful young adult novel

What a heartbreakingly beautiful, yet triumphant and hopeful story that explores depression. No doubt someone who reads this story will see herself in it and perhaps feel less alone, and hopefully reach out for help. As beautifully written as Luanne Rice's "grownup" books.

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### Maya says

Ever since Maia's mother left, she has struggled with depression which got so bad she had to go to an institution. She does not want to go back, but she has a few secrets which could lead her right back to where she started. Maia is in love with Billy Gorman, a boy with a mysterious past who lives in the group home in her town and doesn't even know who she is ... or at least for now. Maia has another secret, her dad has recently got married to Astrid who is nothing like her mother and never will replace her and that's why Maia has a grand plan. She wants to leave town to find her mom, she believes if they reconnect everything will be better, she missed her mom and the only contact she had ever gotten were letters, "she wrote me every two weeks, sometimes more often, on cream vellum stationery sealed with red wax." For Maia this wasn't enough, she wanted to see and hear her mother again. When Maia starts off on the road trip, a weird thing happens, Bill decides to come along. As they drive up the east coast making stops along the way they soon start to discover things about their pasts. As they become closer they wonder what will happen once they reach their destination and if they still want to.

The beautiful lost by luanne rice is a book I would highly recommend you to read it's romantic inspirational and more relatable than most fiction books. This book was a page turner for me, if you are looking for a good book I highly recommend The Beautiful Lost.

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### Leslie says

The book "The Beautiful Lost" is an emotional, romantic and inspirational book. This book was amazing. I really enjoyed going on this big adventure with Maia and Billy. The book made me feel sad because Billy

was really close to his mom and how his dad killed his mom just made me feel very sad and emotional. The book takes you on a roller coaster of emotions and I absolutely loved this book. Maia loved her mom so much and is on "the plan" to find her with an unexpected friend coming along. They are both trying to outrun their past and this book is just amazing. I recommend this book to anyone that would want to enjoy a romantic book.

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**PinkAmy loves &#x1f495; books&#x1f4d6;, cats&#x1f63b; and naps&#x1f6cf; says**

1.5 STARS

I only hide negative reviews for spoilers so that I can explain why the story was so bad.

Maia blames her depression on her father's remarriage to Astrid after her mother left town. Using binoculars, she secretly stalks Billy, a classmate who lives in a group home. Although Maia's father and stepmom worry she's suicidal again, she decides to runaway to find her mother in Canada (without knowing her mother's address or taking any money) but first she has to say goodbye to Billy (although they aren't friends) and SURPRISE, he wants to come with her. (Insert rolling eyes emoticon)

Billy's companionship turns out to be a good thing, because SURPRISE although he's a foster child he has a secret stash of money and a truck they can take. The two teens only have to retrieve it from the house where his father murdered his mother. (Insert rolling eyes emoticon)

Billy's dad is in jail, his grandparents and girlfriend abandoned him because they think the fourteen-year-old willingly helped his father escape (apparently being a perfect kid all his life means nothing and nobody considered he may have been manipulated).

Maia is selfish and self-centered, never considering the feelings of her friends and father who worry that she's suicidal. Luanne Rice seems to use depression as a metaphoric get out of jail card free, which to me puts mental illness in a bad light.

Being abandoned by her mother had to be exceedingly traumatic and a lot of kids like Maia would conceptualize their missing parent as a tragic, perfect hero kept away by the other parent. But Maia doesn't use common sense. Her mother says she has limited email access, doesn't give her address and only writes snail mail yet she's doing research for the government.

Maia's mother is horrid, basically encouraging and praising the unstable teen for finding her. SURPRISE her mom has a new husband and baby. Oops, I didn't know how to tell you.

I liked Billy, although he was a little too perfect. His backstory was great, but I never bought into everyone abandoning him and blaming him because his dad was a murderer.

The ending was the best part of THE BEAUTIFUL LOST, although also a little too perfect. Billy "betrays" Maia by calling her father for help. Astrid turns out not to be an evil stepmother, she actually understands and helps Billy reconcile with his grandfather and Maia asks to return to the psych hospital where she recovers, vowing never to go off her meds again.

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## Isla Alpaca says

This book starts out with some heavy, heavy stuff. I use the word heavy, because it feels so weighty, so awfully real.

Then we get to the road trip and it all goes to shit.

Am I meant to believe any of this? Because I don't. Maybe if Maia and Billy were a little older. Maybe if they actually knew each other before he decides to jump in her car and scoot off to fuck-knows-where. If they were older, the time frame could be extended, and the amount of people they met who were so conveniently lovely and willing to help would have been spread out. As it is, I found the plot really fucking contrived. It didn't flow naturally, like a river through the fjords they were so obsessed with. It just felt like a bunch of points being hit, a culmination of the things the writer wanted to happen strung together on a cross-country washing line.

Nobody acted like a human. The mother was a dumbass with her reactions. And stories about American and Canadian Natives are SO IMPORTANT, but none of it here felt real. It felt like being hit over the head with a rubber hammer, the Native people only being characterised by the fact they were Native. Don't even get me started on the Franglais till lady. For fuck's sake, I hate code-switching in fiction when the people in the conversation aren't both bilingual. Maybe I'm nitpicking, blah blah blah, but as a bilingual English/French speaker, I would not respond with "bien sûr!" if someone asked me, in English, if I speak English. Fucking hell. It's not a bilingual bonus, it just hurts.

Maia was a fucking idiot half the time, too, with her daft internal monologue about posting selfies with her co-runaway to Instagram. Maybe that was meant to show character development later on. I don't know. I also don't care because I was BORED.

BOOOOOOOORRRRRREEEEEEDDDDD.

I have a few niggles with the writing style, namely the fact that every time someone is introduced we get a cookie cutter description of the person, and it honestly got on my nerves. There's also the abundance of modal verbs - it was almost like, it seemed as if - and all it did was contribute to the whole lot of telling that was happening. Nothing was really shown. Subtlety didn't really exist in this book. I like a little nuance. I didn't really find it here, what with all the VERY SPECIFIC MODALS, like "she had to be eleven!" Specifically eleven. Nothing else.

Bringing it all back round to the contrivances, there were some things that could totally have been solved if people actually communicated like human beings. (Mild spoilers in this paragraph.) For example, after deleting her first email address to stop everyone emailing her, why didn't Maia's mum make a second account specifically to email Maia? If she knew her daughter was coming to find her, surely she'd feel some kind of parental duty to make sure she was safe in the backwater wilderness of Canada, even if she didn't want her to know about her new family (which is also a VERY STUPID THING to keep away from your own fucking child, and she had no right to make some kind of judgement call on Maia's mental health like that.) So some of that is due to the character being a dick.

I didn't hate all of it, though. I liked the way it ended. I liked the fact Maia had to face the consequences for stopping her meds in such an irresponsible way. And I liked the author's note, if that counts.

But all in all I didn't really care about anything that was happening, and for fuck's sake confining yourself to a pick up truck for a week is not a healthy way to form a romantic relationship with someone you barely know - at least not one that lasts beyond the week.

1.5 stars is enough.

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### **Becky says**

Beautifully written story about a difficult subject.

Depression is real & it effects all ages & this is an important story for a young person to read.

The story of the road trip was beautiful, loved reading about Innu & the beautiful surroundings.

While they may not have known each other for very long, both Maia & Billy were drawn to each other by circumstances.

Thank you for so much honesty in your writing, Luanne!

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### **Dove says**

This is the most "wanderlust" book ever. It just really puts you in the mood to go travel the world. It makes me want to get in the car, and go on a road trip to anywhere, for however long it takes. This book is definitely part of my bucket list: go on a road trip to anywhere with someone I love, and figure out the details as we go. This girl has depression because her mother left her and her family and she struggles with it. She's on anti-depressants, and she's even been institutionalized, after she tried to kill herself the previous year. On top of all that, she's in love with this mysterious guy who has a bad reputation because his father killed his mother and he was an accomplice. One day, this girl just gets sick of being sad, and she gets the idea that if she finds her mother, her mother will love her and they will live happily ever after. She goes to say goodbye to the guy, but he insists on coming with her because he's sick of living in a group home. They go, travel through Quebec, and New Brunswick, and try to find her mother based on memories of her mother, what she likes, and the few letters the daughter has received from her. They are trying not to be found, because they are all over the news, and they are trying to not get caught. They switch cars, sleep in abandoned inns, work on boats to make money for ferry rides, etc. Then, finding her mother is not as it seems, as she is confronted by dark secrets that make her question everything. It's intense. The girl and guy also begin to fall in love, and make a pact to never go back. It's a super intense book about family, friends, love, finding yourself, secrets, lies, conflict, about how the grass isn't always greener on the other side, trusting others, how people aren't how they seem, and to be careful about who you trust. It's also about taking risks, following your instinct, and seeing where it takes you. It's about taking your own journey, and learning from mistakes. It's just a heartfelt book that you will not be able to put down (I read the entire thing in 2 hours, best usage of a sunday afternoon ever!!). I really liked that there were so many Canadian references. They went through Quebec, and New Brunswick , and I love those places because I visited them last summer, and I loved the references they made to the wilderness of New Brunswick and abundances of trees. I liked how they talked about the French influence in these areas, and the Native people's story about how their religion was mobbed and their struggles. I liked how they really emphasized the culture of the East coast- lobster rolls, beaches, sand coins, etc. I also liked how they found trekkers, one of which was a witch who spoke to ghosts, because black magic and voodoo are big in the East Coast. The author really did her research, it was evident by the detail in the book, and I liked how it was more than just a road trip. There was history, and culture, and so much more!

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## **Marochka says**

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## **Libby says**

I loved this book so much! I had a little trouble getting past the part about the maggots, but other than that this book was amazing. The Beautiful Lost is well written and emotional, while at the same time inspiring and romantic. This book is wonderful and the Author's Note was lovely. ❤?

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## **Sharon says**

This is a book about finding love in an unexpected person and learning the truth about the person you thought knew you best.

It's also a story about depression, the insidious emotional quagmire that drowns the soul and the battle that has to be waged daily to rise above.

The characters of Maia and Billy are so easy to like, and their journey of discovery and hope is beautiful to watch.

Maia's euphoric highs are rivaled by her crushing lows, and her dawning realization about her mother shows an amazing strength. Billy, meanwhile, demonstrates resourcefulness and wisdom far beyond his years, brought about because of his own tragic past.

Though it's hard to imagine two 16-year-olds able to evade police and parents for so long, the story has an authentic vibe when it comes to families, culture, and believing in the power of love.

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### **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Rice, Luanne *The Beautiful Lost*, 304pgs. Point Publishing, 2017. \$10.79 Language: G; Mature Content: PG; Violence: G

When her mother leaves, Maia sinks in to a deep depression. The depression worsens when her father is going to get married again to Astrid. Maia's depression gets so bad that she needs to be hospitalized for her own safety. Maia wants things to go back to the way they used to be; just her, her father and her mother. Maia dutifully takes her medication, but misses her mother. She dreams of finding her and together they will watch whales and listen for whale songs.

Maia has a secret crush on Billy, a boy that attends her school, but lives in a group home. Rumors swirl about his troubled past. Maia watches out her window every night for Billy in his window up on the hill. Astrid thinks Maia needs to be hospitalized again for her own protection. Maia secretly sneaks out of the house and runs away. Surprisingly, Billy comes with her. Billy knows a lot about how to evade authorities and how to stay hidden. Together Maia and Billy go on a road trip full of surprises and personal discoveries.

This was an amazing story, and I was unable to put it down. First I thought I wouldn't like it because of all the talk about depression, teen suicide and running away. However, the book was not like I first thought. I loved the way Maia and Billy's friendship developed, how they came to trust each other and how they dealt with what happened when it wasn't what they had imagined at all. This is a book about self discovery, standing up for what is right, believing in yourself and being strong even when things do not go right. There is always a better way and you will always come through the hard times. There are several really great passages in this book and they are so well expressed.

MS, HS – ESSENTIAL Reviewer Ellen-Anita librarian  
<http://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2017/...>

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### **Aimee Glez says**

I'll be blunt.

I did not like this book.

The writing was dreadful, the characters were unrealistic, I felt that Billy and, to some degree, Maia, had no backstory., the author switched from about a hundred different topics in the span of a paragraph, and the dialogue kept jumping around without any good conjunctions.

I started feeling that I was forcing myself to read rather than actually reading because I enjoyed it, near the ending of chapter one. I was actually really close to dropping the book and picking up something, hopefully, better but I forced myself to go on. Despite the terrible grammar and missing conjunctions, I was more or less interested in the actual story. Well, up until we got to George or Gabriel or whatever his name was, and the Innu. I lost 98% of interest there. But still, I kept reading. And honestly, I don't think it was worth it. I'm feeling that it was a complete waste of my time and I could have, instead, used that time to read something else. Perhaps a contemporary I've wanted to read for some time, or a classic, or re-reading any Morgan Matson book; but not this, anything but this.

Also, was I the only one who found the ending kind of creepy? From the point where Maia starts spontaneously yelling about how her mother killed her, up until the end of the book, I was creeped out.

So, yeah. 1 star for this book. And if I could give it less, I would.

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### **Deb says**

This is a beautiful, heartfelt and touching story of a young woman whose mother leaves her. Depression envelopes her and she has to find her mother. She needs answers and her mother's arms which she craves. Luanne Rice opens the door for us to see what depression is like. How fleeting it can be and how courageous this character was as she journeys out to find her mother with the help of a boy who understands her more than she initially knows.

The Beautiful Lost is such an important YA novel for both young readers as well as us adult readers.

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