



# Raven

*Suzy Turner*

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## Raven Suzy Turner

After the inexplicable disappearance of Lilly Taylor's parents, she has no choice but to move to Canada where she unravels some frightening yet intriguing family secrets...

Her whole life had been based on a lie. Lilly had grown up in a loveless home with a father who she had barely ever seen and a mother who was... well, not very motherly.

After they mysteriously disappear without a trace, Lilly is sent to Canada where she finds a whole new way of life. A life filled with love and people who care for her. But that's not all she discovers, Lilly also finds out that she isn't who, or what, she thinks she is.

Lilly has a very special ability and it's just a matter of time before her true self starts to shine. And when it does, her life will never be the same again.

Raven is a fantasy novel for children and young adults set in the beautiful province of British Columbia.

## Raven Details

Date : Published May 8th 2011 by Suzanne Turner Publishing

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Author : Suzy Turner

Format : Kindle Edition 273 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Romance

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## From Reader Review Raven for online ebook

### Rute Canhoto says

Concluí a leitura de "Raven" a 1 de Dezembro de 2011 e dou-lhe 4 estrelas.

Esta é uma história que combina diversos elementos do paranormal, como transmorfos, vampiros, lobisomens, bruxas e muitos outros. Para quem é fã do sobrenatural, é um livro em que certamente encontrará algo que lhe agrada.

Lilly é a personagem principal e tudo irá mudar radicalmente para ela. Agradou-me o dramatismo em torno da vida dela em Londres. A descrição das emoções está muito bem conseguida e quase senti uma "nuvem negra" a pairar sobre mim tal como sobre ela. Nesta primeira parte Lilly relacionou-se principalmente com a sua suposta mãe, pelo que me surpreendeu mais à frente a menção ao amor que ela sentia pelo pai, que esteve praticamente ausente. Tudo bem, é uma jovem de 13 anos, é normal que goste dos pais apesar de não lhe darem muito carinho, mas esta foi uma figura que praticamente não integrou a história, pelo que achei um pouco esquisita a afeição/ preocupação súbitas da Lilly em relação ao pai.

O desaparecimento dos pais é deveras um mistério intrigante e o quarto vazio leva-nos a especular sobre o que lhes terá acontecido. Confesso que concebi imensas teorias, mas não acertei, lol!

Na segunda parte da história, a personagem principal vai viver para a casa do avô, no Canadá. É giro vê-la a descobrir coisas novas e a conhecer o mundo, algo que lhe estava vetado antes.

A boa recepção da família é positiva, no entanto a paixão por Oliver foi demasiado repentina (se bem que a família tem um grande historial de amores à primeira vista, pelo que ela não fugiu à regra). Se me perguntarem, ela é demasiado nova para romances. Mas a autora não se demorou em cenas românticas e o ponto fulcral reside antes na descoberta do sobrenatural e história da família, o que é óptimo.

Analizando as coisas agora com mais algum distanciamento, acho que a história é muito "cor-de-rosa" e precisava de mais "negro". O avô é excessivamente bondoso, a família é muito complacente e depois há a coincidência maravilhosa de descobrirem uma prima há muito perdida. Quanto à última parte, creio que se podia ter adensado o mistério em torno de Tabitha em vez de se revelar logo tudo.

Para terminar, gostei da surpresa da autora em relação ao título. Não vou ser "spoiler" e explicar; digo apenas que o comprehendo e que foi engraçado descobrir a relação entre o mesmo e a Lilly.

I finished reading "Raven" on December 1st 2011 and I rate it 4 stars.

This is a story that combines various elements of the paranormal, such as shape-shifters, vampires, werewolves, witches and many others. For anyone who's a fan of the supernatural, you'll find something you like in this book for sure.

Lilly is the main character and everything will change radically for her. I liked the drama surrounding her life in London. The description of the emotions is very successful and I almost felt a "black cloud" hanging over me as over her. In this first part Lilly dealt mainly with her supposed mother, so I was surprised later by the mention to the love she felt for her father, who was absent. Okay, she's a 13 year old girl, it's normal for her to love her parents despite they don't give her much affection, but dad was a figure that was hardly part of the story, so I thought it was a little weird the sudden affection / concern of Lilly toward her father.

The disappearance of her parents was a very intriguing mystery, and the empty room leads us to speculate about what had happened to them. I confess that I conceived a lot of theories, but I didn't picture the right one, lol!

In the second part of the story, the main character lives in her grandfather's house, in Canada. It's nice to see her discovering new things and getting to know the world, something that was vetoed to her before.

The girl was well received by her family, which was positive. As for her passion for Oliver, it was too sudden (though the family has a long history of love at first sight, so she was no exception). If you ask me, she's too young for romance. But the author didn't linger in romantic scenes and the main point lies in the

discovery of the supernatural and the family history instead, which is great.

Looking at things now over some distance, I think the story is too "pink" and needed more "black". The grandfather is too kind, the family is very helpful, and then there's the wonderful coincidence of discovering a long lost cousin. As for the last part, I think that the mystery around Tabitha could have thickened rather than just reveal everything at once.

To finish, I liked the surprise of the author about the title. I won't be "spoiler" and explain it; I'll just say that I got it and it was funny to discover how it was related to Lilly.

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### **H.L. says**

I think this tale had real potential. I still think it does and if you are reading it simply for the story line then it is just 'different' enough to get (and keep) your attention. I liked the idea of the strange mother dressed in white watching from the window and the father who hardly ever appears from the locked room. I enjoyed the protagonist's transitional growth from inept naivety to determined and strong. What I had an issue with was the writing. The pace was so fast that the setting and characters lacked much depth and feeling. I felt that the protagonist carried you through the tale and that neither the reader nor the protagonist really experienced what was happening. There were also a few too many "formal" conversations and descriptions that felt a little empty or forced and I found myself struggling to read the book at all. I almost gave up a few times but was glad that I persevered. Along the way the author did seem to find their writing rhythm and the book improves.

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### **Keren Hughes says**

For some people, there are many things to get addicted to. For me, it's a good book that gets me hooked. And Raven? It's a fantastic book that had me hooked from start to finish.

It's the story of Lilly Taylor, a teenage girl living in England. The kids at school call her Mellow Yellow because everything she wears is yellow.

Lilly is a lonely girl who doesn't receive affection from her parents. Her mother feeds her tinned food, and usually it is cold.

But she thinks this is normal. After all, she has no friends to compare experiences with.

One day, she meets a new girl at school, December Moon.

It soon becomes clear that Lilly and December are two peas in a pod. From then on, they are best friends.

Lilly's life continues in this fashion until one day something happens that though she doesn't realise it at the time, changes Lilly's life forever.

Jack and Vivian, her parents, disappear.

Lilly having no other family, is taken in by the next door neighbours, sisters, Dorothy and June, until social services can investigate her parents sudden disappearance.

Dorothy and June soon realise that Lilly has never eaten a decent home cooked meal, and does not know how to cook for herself. So they decide to teach her the basics.

Consumed by guilt over enjoying herself after what happened to her parents, Lilly cuts off her hair and uses a bottle of dye to completely change it. She also decides that she needs new clothes and the sisters help her to make new outfits on their sewing machine.

After a while, Social Services decide to send Lilly to live with family in Canada.

Lilly knows nothing of Canada or her family there. Her parents never told her, and the times her grandfather wrote to her, Vivian intercepted the letters.

The one time she managed to get a letter, she learned her grandfather's name is Gabriel, but Vivian snatched the letter and tore it up before she could read more.

Upon arriving in Canada, she is met at the airport by Ben and driven to Powell River. Lilly doesn't realise that day how much being there will change her life.

When she meets Gabriel he tells her "We have waited many moons for this day to come Lillian Tulugaq, welcome home. Welcome home."

Upon asking him about her surname, as she thought it was Taylor, Gabriel tells her it has long been the name of their forefathers, "It is the great black bird of the sky, the Raven"

Now it would not be fair for me to tell you the rest of the story, but suffice to say, Lilly makes friends, finds a boy she likes, Oliver, and is shown a completely different side to her life.

The story has twists, turns and quirks that captivate the reader's imagination. If you like supernatural, then this is a book for you.

I was certainly surprised and held captive until the end.

Now I cannot wait for the sequel, December Moon, in September.

This story spoke to me as a girl who had her share of hardships, and I only wish I had had the journey Lilly had, and made the discoveries she did. Boy would my life have been different (and I would have known vampires, werewolves and werecats amongst other things, were real)

Suzy Turner has a beautiful way with words that touched my heart immensely.

I am not ashamed to say I shed a few tears. It is suitable for teens, but also suitable for people my age too (\*whispers I am 28\*)

For all of you who look at this book and wonder if you should buy it, you really REALLY should. Trust me, you'll be glad you did. It is worth a lot more than the price you will pay for it. Don't believe me? Take a look and see for yourself.

Thank you Suzy for writing it, and I eagerly await the final two installments.

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## Inga says

My review:

I didn't know what to expect from Suzy Turner's debut novel, but I am sincerely glad that I got to review this wonderful book! I was captured from the first page. Raven is the first book in the series and gives a very good introduction to the surroundings, characters and story itself. Even though it is the first book in series, then it still gives a standalone story. One more thing which is wonderful about this book – it can be read by middle grade, young adults and adults like me. It was an interesting book to read and also well written.

Regarding the plot:

Meet thirteen year old Lilly Taylor, whose parents disappear from one day to another. Nobody has a clue where they are. Lilly simply comes home and they are gone and their bedroom is empty – no furniture, no nothing - just a small bottle of blood and black colored walls.

When the story develops you found more information about Lilly and her family's weird life: no friends are allowed, no going outside except school is allowed, no TV allowed, no affection from mother, no attention from father and it somehow gave me creeps and made me read the book even faster. I wanted to know what is going to happen!

Police is not capable of finding her parents and Lilly is moving from London to Canada where she is meeting the rest of her family which she had no clue about existing. And then the truth comes out about who Lilly is and what it means to have a family.

Raven was a wonderful and easy paranormal read. You don't want to miss that!

Regarding the characters:

There many interesting characters and they all had a part of the story to tell and carry in the book. Even the smaller characters had a role to play. Since I cannot describe all of them in the review, I will mention only the very best of them.

Lilly was a mystery for me when I started reading the book. I did not understand in the beginning what was wrong with her family and I later found out that this was exactly the author's intention – you found answers to your many questions throughout the story. Lilly was very sweet, naïve and innocent, she basically did not know anything about family ties, love and life as such. She was kept from everything around her. I loved following how she grew after meeting her grandfather's family. She blossomed after finding her family in Canada. The author created such a wonderful girl while writing Lilly.

My other absolute favorite character in the book was Rose, Lilly's mother's sister. She was so smart, leveled, clever and sweet and loving. The way Rose embraced Lilly was overwhelmingly nice.

Generally:

Suzy Turner's Raven is a book which should be a must read of 2011! I'm looking very much forward to read the next book of the series to come out. One of the best and warmest paranormal books I've read.

5 stars out of 5!

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### **Hmr28 says**

This book had a great premise (and that is the only positive I can spit out for this one) but I only made it half-way through. I am sorry, but a 13 year old girl canoodling with a 17 year old boy is quite disgusting. In addition, it was poorly edited and there was NO showing only telling. I hate books that have pages upon pages of expository prose. So...on many levels YUCK! I'd give it a zero if I could.

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### **Louisa says**

Ruined by school boy errors

I was really disappointed because it was a nice idea. Some pacing problems but nevertheless a good sound idea.

But it was riddled with literary mistakes.

From this book the impression that i got of the author was that they'd clearly never met a forteen year old and they read self help books. And heres why-

- Lily's age

Right so it goes from me getting the impression that shes no more than ten years old at the beginning of the book to her acting around twelve in the middle to her acting sixteen at the end. And throughout the whole book she talks as if she were a fifty year old. I do understand that the author wanted her to seem nice but it was not just her behaviour but that of the others like December and her classmates in London. It felt like a primary school.

She speaks like an old woman. Not particularly in her actual speech with others but in her narration. This makes it feel very unrealistic and ruins the immersion. If you've never heard a typical forteen year old speak in the way that you are making them speak then go back and re-write.

- Nobody thinks like that!

No child aged forteen thinks in the way the author is suggesting. Teenagers do not think rationally about things- you've suggested that she's nice make her act that way.

- Emotions

Stop telling me how she's feeling and show me. People don't think to themselves 'oh dear I'm feeling rather sad' they feel it- SHOW US!

- I don't need your damn explanations

Believe it or not Ms Turner your readers are not simpletons. You really don't need to explain things to us we will get it. This point in particular refers to where you explain why shes heard of the x-files. You didn't need that explanation, and if you felt you did, then you could have put it in cleverly by that little device called dialogue. Have Rose ask how shes heard of the x-files.

- Classic misuse of the first-person narrative

For goodness sakes if your going to use the first person then at least do it properly. In the first person you don't know how the others are feeling therefore you can't put in random sentences about how they are feeling will absolutely no explanation of how Lilly would know that. Even if she'd known them all of her life it would be difficult for her to know that, so I highly doubt that a person who's grown up in that kind of environment, only ever having one friend, would know how the others like Ben were feeling.

**-Forward planning**

Stop introducing things half-way through the book. If she's an avid reader then you could at least mention that towards the beginning of the book so that we find out in the middle that it was an important point. To me this suggests a lack of planning when you wrote the book or not sticking to the original plan.

**-Not all people are nice**

It is unbelievable that there isn't someone that she dislikes. The book is too black and white. It's unrealistic to assume that everyone would welcome her and she would just all of a sudden become popular. Surely there must be one person who resents her arrival, and all of the attention that she is getting.

I think that's about it. I will say that it did improve throughout the book.

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**Ashy Khaira says**

a mother who treated her daughter like an outsider. who never allowed her time with her father. who made sure a 13 year old girl was not allowed friends or any recreation. and one day her parents disappear. that is the crux, the whole turning point of the family. one witch, for her own malicious needs, chose to ruin a whole family's life, starting from a changeling's husband and her daughter, to her sister and niece, her brother in law and her remaining niece. the true struggles of losing and finding oneself made it an interesting read. Lilly loses her parents and is sent to Canada to her paternal grandfather where she starts a new life. she finds out the truth about herself and her family and learns about love. she falls for Oliver, a 16 year old boy but their romance is short lived due to the fact that he can't accept Lilly's changeling nature. on the journey to see the elders with her grandfather she faces everything thrown her way with determination and courage.

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**Laurie says**

Wow. I think this might just be the worst book I've read in my life. I read the sample and felt doubtful, but figured all those good reviews had to mean it got great later. I struggled through until just past the half way point, hoping it'd get better, but when I was ready to throw my e-reader at a wall, it was time to stop the misery. Unrealistic, cardboard characters. Shallow, undeveloped 'instant' relationships. Boring plot, poorly constructed. Badly written. Very poorly edited. No depth.

Raven is one of those self-published nightmares. Not worth a minute of your time. Run, do not walk, far away from this one! 99¢ was too much to pay for this. I'm thinking the 5 star reviews HAVE to have come from the author's friends, or reviewers paid by the star who didn't actually read the book. (Lucky them for avoiding the pain). I want the two hours back. Read the sample. It gets worse, much worse. Save yourself. It's too late for me.

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**Angela Oliver says**

I found this story an entertaining enough way to fill in a few hours of my time, but ultimately not enough to persist with it. I gave up about the bit where a 17 year old boy starts professing his interest in a 13-year old girl. Lily is seriously too young. I mean... I said to myself "I'm going to pretend she's fifteen" to force myself

to continue with it.

She's also rather dull, and Turner's writing style is rather lacking (very much a this happened, and then this happened and here's why that happened - tell not show) and the conversations are unconvincing and stilted. It just feels awkward.

Lily deals with everything in a sort of meandering fashion, taking everything in her stride - from the neglect she experiences under her mother, to the disappearance of her parents, to being transported halfway around the world from the UK to Canada and being forced into a major social situation with more relatives than you can shake a stick at. Given her upbringing, I would suspect she would be severely socially retarded, but no, for some reason everyone likes her and she only gets tongue-tied when faced with the most gorgeous boy she has ever seen. Given she's only really gone between school and home, and doesn't watch tv, I can't imagine she's really seen much in the way of boys in general.

And then he announces that he is feeling drawn to her - for reasons we can only imagine. And I stopped reading and proceeded on to the next book in my reading pile. I might finish this at some point, but judging by the other reviews, it's not really worth the effort.

Was a free kindle book when I acquired it, so it's not like I'm not out of pocket anyway. I was only reading it because I finished the one I was reading (on my kindle) and didn't have my next (proper paper) book with me. I chose it randomly cos the author's surname started with T. I'm reading through the alphabet in order and it's time to read U.

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### **DoodlePanda says**

At the start of this book I thought it seemed very interesting. And the idea behind the story does indeed have promise. But the more I read, the more I wanted to stop reading.

I think my main issue with the book is the way **everything** is explained. Sometimes it would be nice to experience what happens, maybe some subtle comments instead of having it spelled out all the time.

The main character seems a little bland to be honest, and I don't think she acts her age (13 years) at all.

There is **a lot** of insta-love here (apparently that's how it always happens in this family?). I'm not a huge fan, and especially when it happens several times in one book. Not to mention that the boy she falls in love with is 17, and she is 13, which seems unlikely to happen... And a little off-putting to me to be honest.

I managed to finish (barely), and because of that (plus I got it for free on Kindle) I give it 2 stars.

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### **Pauline Barclay says**

Raven is Suzy Turner's debut novel and is written for teens. If you love YA fantasy, you will love this book. The sequel follows later this year...!

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## **Missy LaRae says**

Here's the deal. I started reading this book, and honestly didn't like it from the first few pages. The writing is terrible. The editing is non-existent. In the beginning of the book Lilly is shoved out of her house by her mother, and goes to school. We learn that Lilly has been "abused", if neglect can be abuse, her whole life. She rarely sees her father, and her mother. They stay cooped up in one of the rooms in their flat and never come out. Okay, fine. Then they disappear, and she takes it in stride. Meaning, the author did a lot of telling us about things, and not showing us.

I also have a huge issue with the way this supposed 13 year old girl speaks. No slang, even though she goes to school, and she has only been allowed to wear yellow, her entire life. Very implausible.

She gets taken in by her grandfather in Canada, and this is where it just gets stupid. Two days in to being at her new home there's a party held for

GASP

THE HOTTEST BOY WHO HAS EVER LIVED WHO MAKES HER TUMMY DO SUMMERSAULTS.

Oh, and he's in LOVE with her.

They spend two pages together, literally, before he's confessing his devotion to her and asking her if she feels the same.

A GORGEOUS 17 YEAR OLD BOY IS TELLING A 13 YEAR OLD CHILD HE IS FALLING FOR HER.

I'm sorry, but this is just wrong, and terrible. While I'm sure the older man, younger girl thing is sexy in some books, this one fails to be that way because Lilly is a CHILD. She has NO experience in anything, and she's giddy when he says he LIKES her.

I'm stopping reading this book.

My suggestion to the author is that she hire a professional editor and get her manuscript cleaned up, and change either Lilly's age to make her older or the love interest's age to make him younger. That is all.

I am not adding a star rating to this book because it is a dnf for me.

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## **Shawn Bird says**

First, what I liked: 1. this is a very effective cover. 2. I am in awe of Suzy Turner's marketing that has this book all over the place at the moment. 3. I also like the premise, but I'm sad that it wasn't edited into anything.

A major irritation was the "telling not showing" issue. As a reader, I can tell what a raised eyebrow or a wink means. I don't need several more sentences to explain it. I would have liked to have seen dialogue used to advance the plot. For example: to show HOW characters are bonding, rather than to be told they 'talked into

the night and bonded.' Dialogue is the best way to reveal characters and plot events, and it was sorely lacking. I found the characters quite stilted and uni-dimensional because they couldn't reveal themselves.

I would probably have liked it more if I wasn't an English teacher. The average 13 year old is probably not going to notice that there were mechanical errors on almost every page. Between spelling errors, incorrect verbs, and poorly wielded commas, I was frustrated enough to have to put the book down several times. I usually read a book in one or two settings, so that is huge for me.

I did not believe the instant love interest between Lilly and Oliver. She is 13. He has graduated from high school and has been working, so he's 18 or 19. I have taught both age levels. Trust me: never the twain shall meet! Any 18 year old interested romantically in a 13 year tends to be seriously slimy. I just kept wondering what was wrong with him. Then, just as quickly as he fell in, he falls out of love and has to leave the community. That didn't work with the set up. I presume he'll show up in the later books, but frankly, I don't really care.

The biggest concern I have relates to the fact that I live in BC. This book is set in BC and it is plain that there was not a Canadian editor checking accuracy. At the beginning, I was sharing some of this in the nail salon and had staff and clients laughing at the errors. FYI- here soda is pop, a beanie is a toque, a rucksack is a backpack, and the likelihood of a scone showing up as a packed lunch is very, very low. A muffin or some bannock, on the other hand, would have fit.

I was also really irritated by the fact that Lilly's family is introduced as the Tulugaqs. My first thought was "Why does her family have an Inuit name, if they're from around Vancouver?" I double checked to be sure. Yes, 'tulugaq' is Inuktitut for raven, so Turner got that right. However, Powell River, where Lilly's family lives, is the land of the Sliammon people- a Coast Salish tribal group, not the Inuit. In Sliammon language, raven is 'poho.' (It took me about 45 seconds to check that information). I waited all book to hear the back story of why the family had moved 2000+ km from the Inuit lands of the North to come live in Powell River, but it didn't happen. This is equivalent to setting the Scottish Picts in North Africa without explanation! Rather a huge error. I will grant, however, that it is unlikely to be spotted by anyone from outside Canada.

Another error that made me grumpy: The end of January she has just gotten her cast off. Lilly says she wore it 2 months, which means her implausible log crushing accident was the end of November. During her time in a cast she celebrates Thanksgiving and Christmas. If she was in the USA, she might just have made Thanksgiving, but in Canada, our Thanksgiving happens the second Monday of OCTOBER- 5 or 6 weeks before the accident.

I believe an author needs to be responsible about setting. Not everyone will notice your errors, but it is important to be respectful enough to the 'host community' to get it right. It's the difference between an okay story and a great one. These significant issues made it very difficult for me to enjoy this book.

What is quite sad is that most of the problems should have been dealt with in editing.

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**Robin Morgan says**

Being a Book Reviewer is not really easy as it appears to be as a considerable of effort goes into writing each review. Regardless of whether I've bought the book [cost not coming into play] or have won it in a giveaway, if I can't give a rating of at least THREE STARS, I don't post a review.

I had anticipated to get more from the book than had been realized when I got to the last page. What ruined the book's storyline the most for me has been the age difference between the protagonist Lily, age thirteen; and the guy she got smitten by, aged seventeen. Come on now, she hasn't even had her Sweet Sixteen birthday, the age for most girls where an interest in boys takes off. Lily is far too naïve to truly understand what love is all about and for this to happen so quickly between these two individuals. Perhaps being my age, I'm too old-fashioned to "appreciate" all this.

What makes all this even worse is that sexual relations with a prepubescent child, which I believe is what we have in the pages of this book, is generically called child sexual abuse or molestation, and is typically treated as a more serious crime. Given this, I feel a classification for this book as being one for young adults [YA] is definitely out of line, as is a classification of new adults [NA].

Don't get me wrong; the book itself has a wonderful paranormal, page-turning storyline and had the ages been 17 and 21, the NA classification might be more appropriate for the readers it would attract.

Be advised the author has used British English in the writing this book, so the spelling and word usage might seem strange to those not familiar with it.

With the current ages of the two main characters in place, the dialogue being used, and the incorrect identification of the non-human characters in the book; the best I can give this book is 3 STARS.

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### **Laura says**

I've been persistent in the past, and even when I haven't enjoyed a book, I've ploughed through to the end. Evidently, however, my willpower has weakened and I found that I just could not carry on reading this book.

Lilly was a bit like dirty dishwater as far as characters go. She was dull and lifeless and I felt no qualms about pulling the plug on her.

Here is an example of the dialogue in the book. I think it indicates fairly well why I just had to put the book down:

"Lilly, that is so sad. I wish you had grown up here with us. We would probably been the best of friends from the day you were born. You know, for someone that never really had any friends or a loving family, you're very grounded. If I had to guess, I would have said that you grew up happy and loved, judging by your personality." (p56)

This is just one example of how heavy-handed and unrealistic the dialogue is. Whatever happened to "show, don't tell"? It gets worse when the love interest gets involved. Lilly and whatever-his-name-was see each other once before they're talking about "falling" for each other. It was predictable and cheesy.

Now, I gave up on this one so I have no idea if it got better. Perhaps after the first third of the book, it developed into something astounding and original. But I was just too bored of clumsy writing to be forgiving any more. For me, this was a one and a half star read, at best. Maybe someday I'll try to finish it... but when there are so many good, well-written books out there, who has time to waste on sub-par efforts? Life is fleeting after all.

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