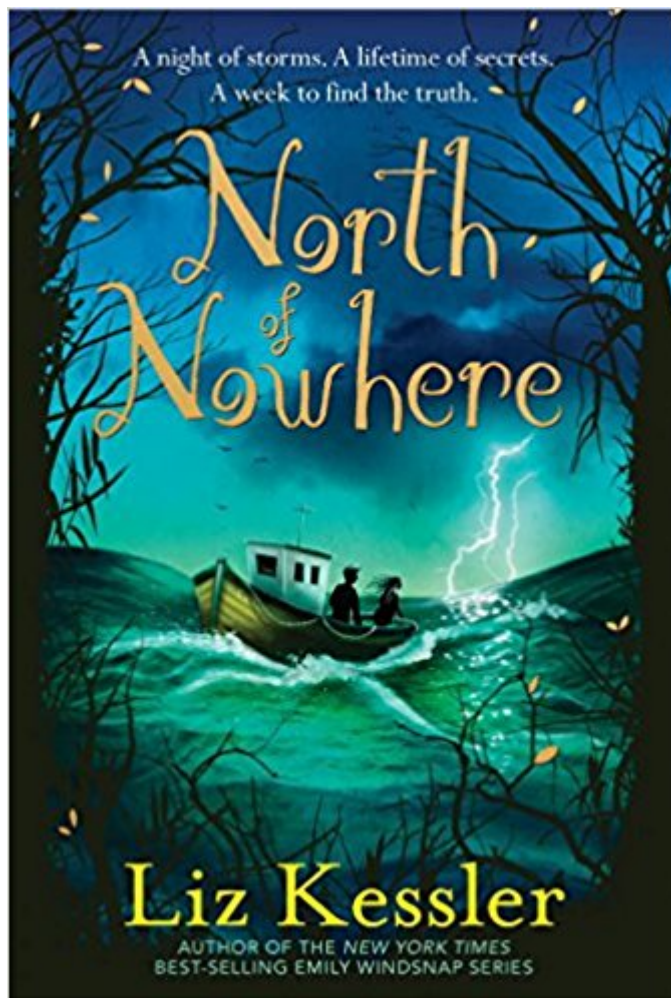


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North Of Nowhere



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of the Emily Windsnap series comes a captivating adventure about family, friendship, and the bonds that bridge time. The sleepy seaside village of Porthaven hides a mystery: Mia's grandad has vanished, and nobody knows why. When Mia and her mom rush to Porthaven to help her grandmother, Mia imagines long dreary days with no one to talk to except for the old-time fisherman at her grandparents' pub. But that's before Mia finds a diary on an empty, docked fishing boat and starts exchanging notes with a local girl named Dee, a girl who seems much like her. Mia is excited about having a new friend, but why do their plans to meet each other never materialize? And why does Dee claim to be stuck at home due to violent storms when Mia sees only sunny skies? Will Mia be able to solve the mystery of where and when her grandfather and friend might be before time and tide forever wash away their futures?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

After reading and enjoying Liz Kessler's, "A Year Without Autumn", this book popped up on a recommended reading list, so I dove right in and wasn't disappointed. A girl named Mia and her mom must rush to the seaside village of Porthaven where her grandma lives, upon finding out her

grandfather's gone missing. At first, Mia thinks her summer is going to be a gloomy washout, until she discovers an old fishing boat with a diary on it. Using the diary as a pen pal letter, she begins communicating with a mysterious girl named Dee, who has a lot in common with Mia. But when Dee's messages of danger and violent storms don't match with Mia's calm and sunny home, the girls realize they got a much bigger mystery on their hands. In time, the pen pals will finally meet...and Mia will connect with her grandparents in a way she never imagined. Much like, "A Year Without Autumn", this is another story involving time travel, and how the bonds of family can stand the test of time, Mia was a nice character to get to know, and is written like a real kid (and not a mini adult). Her relationship with her grandma starts off strained, but over time, they grow closer over their united worry about the missing grandpa. And while time travel will always have its paradoxes, there wasn't any big holes in logic that I could find. If you've read, "A Year Without Autumn", just replace the time traveling elevator for a time traveling boat. But the "magic" really isn't that important, so much as the real point is to show that even despite a time gap, there's some things that never change. If you're into time travel and/or family drama, give this story a look. If anything, it sounds like it could've been an episode of the Twilight Zone.

Time travel, storms, compasses, and awkward family trees! This book was everything I love and had a delightfully unexpected plot twist. I read this whole book in one night (oops, a school night) and loved it! It was complicated enough so I had to get my brain in gear, but not impossible to understand. I had to go back several times just for references (my favorite thing in a book is referencing back.) If you love complicated time travel stuff, you will love this. Seriously Doctor Who here. :D

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Mia, and her life was about to be changed forever. When her grandfather goes missing, she and her mom must go to the town of Porthaven to help her grandmother. While taking a walk on the beach, she finds a mysterious boat, and on the boat is a diary. She begins to trade messages with the diary's owner, "Dee". They begin to be friends, but their plans to meet up never catch on. Who-and where-is Dee, really? Then, she meets a nice boy named Peter. But the next day, he disappears! A night of storms, a lifetime of secrets, and only a week for Mia to find the truth. Liz Kesler's *North of Nowhere* will glue you to your seat, your head spinning, and your fingers turning pages. I'd recommend it to anyone. If you like it, also try her other novels, *A Year Without Autumn* and *Has Anyone Seen Jessica Jenkins*. Or try her series, *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* and Philipa Fisher's *Fairy Godmother*.

I do realise as I write this review that this book is intended for a younger audience, but I could not help but fall in love with it. I think this is a story that all ages may be able to appreciate. From the very first few sentences, the reader is aware that this story is going to be interesting. The main character is likable and one of those innocent types that you want to get to know more about. I found that as her story unfolded, it was easy to put myself in her place and feel what she was feeling. I loved the dog in the story (Flake.) He was the type of addition that made the story complete and showed the compassion of the main character. As the book progresses, the main character discovers a journal that belongs to another girl and begins conversing with her through the pages. This was not the usual seen it and done it before journal that shows up in a lot of stories. Everything about this novel is magical. I liked the unusual, emerging friendship of the main character and the owner of the journal and it kept me turning pages. The missing grandfather aspect of the story was also very well written. There is so much mystery and beautiful description in this story that it is very hard to put it down and walk away. I did see a few plot stumbles in the time travel aspect of the story, but Time travel is difficult to write and it did not interfere with my overall enjoyment of the story. If you are looking for a book for your young adult, or for yourself, may I recommend this one. Beautifully done and what a lovely cover as well. This review is based off of a digital ARC.

I choose this book because I have read a lot of Liz Kessler's books. I absolutely loved this book! I was a mystery that really had my mouth open. If you liked this book then I would recommend a book called Green by Peyton Laura Roberts and the willow falls series by Wendy Mass

"North of Nowhere" by Liz Kessler is a fascinating and descriptive book. It's about a girl named Mississippi. Her grandpa is missing, she finds a mysterious diary on a boat and she tries to find the girl who wrote the diary. Meanwhile she meets Peter who also wants to find the girl. The mystery is, where is the person who wrote the diary and how are her and Peter related. I think other kids would enjoy it because you can really get a picture in your head of what's going on. Normally I can't, but I can now with this special book. If you enjoyed reading Emily Windsnap, you won't be disappointed with Liz Kessler's new book. My favorite part was when they were on the boat and they were trying to find the girl who writes in the diary. This author was very successful with this book. Yea! I rate this book, drum roll please.....5 stars! ***** Hooray for Liz Kessler! Reviewed by Sofia H., age 8, Denver Mensa

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