



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

The Lost Child Of Lychford By Paul Cornell Reviewed by Ariel Whitman

Name: Ariel Whitman

Grade: 12

Book Title: The Lost Child of Lychford

Author: Paul Cornell

Number of Pages: 133

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 4/5

Character List:

- **Lizzie** – Lizzie is a vicar from St. Martin's, a church in the English village of Lychford. This year is special for her: it's going to be her first Christmas as reverend for her church, which means she's going to be busier than ever! However, while attending to her duties in the church, she is startled by a young boy who appears to be alone, and he turns out to be a ghost.
- **Autumn** – Autumn is a young woman who had received witchcraft training from her "master" so-to-say, Judith. She longs to have a rom-com-like scene in her life, and hopes to have it before Christmas time comes along. Always under the wing of Judith, she learns to take matters into her own hands when things in town become a bit funky.
- **Judith** – Judith is an older woman from the town of Lychford and the employee at Autumn's witchcraft shop. She has a stigma revolving around her image because she is a modern day "witch." She's always been unbothered by others' remarks, and is one tough cookie. But like every tough cookie, she has a weakness that will break her.
- **The ghost boy / Jamie Dunning** – The ghost of a living boy named Jamie Dunning, he is lost with himself, and reaches out to Lizzie for help. He doesn't speak much as he is a "weaker" ghost, but he proves to be a lucky charm for the three "witches," Lizzie, Autumn, and Judith.
- **Finn** – Also known as the "Prince of the Blood" in the book, he is from the fairy land, which is beyond the border of Lychford. He doesn't make many appearances in the book. However, his role has a great deal of importance: he visits Autumn through an email and notifies her of a peril that would eventually reach her town.

Review:

As Christmastime is steadily approaching, the newly appointed reverend at St. Martin's church, Lizzie Blackmore, is preparing herself and her church for the many people who would soon come for mass, or the ones who show up to pray just because "they have to." Not to mention, she has a wedding to officiate on Christmas Eve with a couple from Swindon, whose ceremony is going to be far from traditional. One day, while Lizzie is tidying up the church, she notices a small child waiting in the church, as if he had lost his parents. When approached, however, things aren't as they seem to be: that child in question is a ghost, and his eyes scream with pain. Not too soon later, Lizzie's friend, Autumn, is notified

with news that a great peril will shortly be coming to their town. The two girls, plus Autumn's master, Judith, must take matters into their own hands; is the boy a sign, or merely a coincidence?

I believe that this book would appeal to teens because of the content it contains. Its genre, for starters, is a mixture of a teen comedy and romance combined with mystery, and fantasy because the main characters are modern day witches. The main characters, as well, are pretty compelling, and once you get a couple dozen pages into the book, it becomes hard to put down, which is a feeling everyone loves. If you do read this book and enjoy it, I'm sure that you would like other titles such as *Harry Potter* and *Frogs and French Kisses*.

The Lost Child of Lychford, which is a novella written by British author, Paul Cornell, contains a lot of what readers look for in a book: compelling characters, an even more compelling story, and witty humor. Okay, well, some of the humor may be a bit inappropriate, but, hey, it's still humor. However, despite the fact that there are some examples of inappropriate humor throughout the book, I do believe that this book is suitable for teens, especially in high school. The fact that Cornell took an ancient tradition of witchcraft and warped it into modern day society is great to me, and, with a touch of small-town mystery, sign me up! The book itself is a decent read, so keep an eye out for all minor bits of information in the story: something that may seem insignificant to the timeline could possibly add up to something greater. With that said, I'm sure that you all, especially teens, could appreciate what this book has in store; so get your cauldron and reading glasses ready, and prepare for this great story to come!