



The Incurrable Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling

By Maryrose Wood

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The first book in the Incurrable Children of Ashton Place—the acclaimed and hilarious Victorian mystery series by Maryrose Wood, perfect for fans of Lemony Snicket and Trenton Lee Stewart—has a brand-new look.

Discovered in the forest of Ashton Place, the Incurrables are no ordinary children. Luckily, Miss Penelope Lumley is no ordinary governess. A recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, Penelope embraces the challenge of her new position. Though she is eager to instruct the children in Latin verbs and the proper use of globes, first she must eliminate their canine tendencies.

But mysteries abound at Ashton Place: Who are these three wild creatures? Why does Old Timothy, the coachman, lurk around every corner? Will Penelope be able to civilize the Incurrables in time for Lady Constance's holiday ball? And what on earth is a schottische?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5–8—Jane Eyre meets Lemony Snicket in this smart, surprising satire of a 19th-century English governess story. A witty omniscient narrator speaks directly to modern readers and follows 15-year-old Penelope, recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, to British country manor Ashton Place, where conniving Lord Fredrick has discovered three wild children apparently raised by wolves while hunting in his vast forest property. To Lord Fredrick, who's named them Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia Incurrible, the children are trophies and property ("Finder's keepers, what?"); to young Lady Constance they're savage nuisances who howl, chase squirrels, and gnaw on shoes. Enter Penelope Lumley, charged with taming them in time for a Christmas party, and bolstered by her top-notch classical education and an endless supply of platitudes from Agatha Swanburne. She also comes armed with a cherished book of poetry and her favorite fiction series, "Giddy-Yap, Rainbow!" There are stock characters, and there are mysteries. Most of all, without taking itself too seriously, there is commentary on writing itself, the dangers and the benefits of relying on books for moral courage, and the perils of drawing false expectations of the world from literature. Penelope shows growth, confronting issues of social class and expectation versus reality, and eventually realizing her own capacity for insight. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep children turning pages and clamoring for the next volume, while more sophisticated readers will take away much more. Frequent plate-sized illustrations add wit and period flair.—*Riva Pollard, Prospect Sierra Middle School, El Cerrito, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Three unfortunate orphans. A series of unexplained events. A droll offstage narrator. Is any of this starting to sound familiar? Well, yes and no. Although Lemony Snicket's illustrious crew does come to mind right from the start of this book, there are differences. For instance, these children were raised by wolves. Moreover, they're not even the protagonists of the *Incurrible Children of Ashton Place* series. That pride of place goes to Miss Penelope Lumley, their 15-year-old governess, recently graduated from the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females. Penny, who understands commitment, takes in stride her first introduction to her charges, with their near-naked bodies, matted hair, and indecipherable growling. Soon she has them listening to poetry and playing about with Latin, but things are not well at Ashton Place. How Lord Fredrick came upon these children is unclear; who wants them out of Ashton Place means danger; and whether there's someone living behind the staircase wall is perplexing. Then there are the questions about Penny herself. It would have been lovely if all or any of this was cleared up. It's not, so the book serves as more of an appetizer than a main course. But how hearty and delicious it is. Smartly written with a middle-grade audience in mind, this is both fun and funny and sprinkled with dollops of wisdom (thank you, Agatha Swanburne). How will it all turn out? Appetites whetted. Grades 4-6. --Ilene Cooper

Review

It's the best beginning since *The Bad Beginning* (1999) [by Lemony Snicket] and will leave readers howling for the next episode. (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"How hearty and delicious...Smartly written with a middle-grade audience in mind, this is both fun and funny and sprinkled with dollops of wisdom (thank you, Agatha Swanburne). How will it all turn out? Appetites whetted." (Booklist (starred review))

With a Snicketesque affect, Wood's narrative propels the drama...pervasive humor and unanswered

questions should have readers begging for more. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

Jane Eyre meets Lemony Snicket in this smart, surprising satire. Humorous antics and a climactic cliff-hanger ending will keep children turning pages and clamoring for the next volume, while more sophisticated readers will take away much more. Frequent plate-sized illustrations add wit and period flair. (School Library Journal (starred review))

Every newspaper and website in America is going to tell you that *The Mysterious Howling* will leave you HOWLING FOR MORE! So I'm not going to say that. But it's really good. (Adam Rex, author of *The True Meaning of Smekday*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Salvador Perez:

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Is it an individual who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling can be the respond to, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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