



Voiceless

Caroline Wissing

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Voiceless is a coming-of-age novel with a twist: it features a teen runaway who has no speaking voice. Nicknamed Ghost, runaway teen Annabel's interaction with her world is limited to how well she can convey her wants and feelings to others. Danger lurks in many places and she faces harrowing situations when she leaves her foster home with a tough and messed up boy and hitchhikes to the city. Once there, the danger intensifies as she confronts a rounder who expects sex in return for shelter.

In her quest for love, Ghost finds Mary who rescues her and other runaways, just as she rescues abused horses. It is Mary who gives Ghost a chance to rediscover the peace that can be found in nature and allows her to discover a love of horses.

Voiceless Details

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Author : Caroline Wissing

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From Reader Review Voiceless for online ebook

C. says

I would give this book, Voiceless, 10 stars. It is a story that pulled on my heart strings. I thought that could have been my daughter or my granddaughters, but for the grace of God. Who knows how many Ghosts are out there needing a hand up and just a little love from someone. I hope there are many more Mary and Bobbys out there to find them.

Janet Ursel says

Wissing writes beautifully, evoking a powerful sense of place. She is a master of the telling detail, making a setting click into place with one or two sure strokes. Her characters are also drawn with a sure hand, their different voices and personalities clear on the page.

If there is any quibble I have with this book, is that it is perhaps too realistic... Complete review here

But Ghost and her story are bound to live in your head for a long time after you put the book down, and Voiceless is a fine example of the excellence that can often be found in the Young Adult category. Bleakness and beauty, horror and hope, undeserved suffering and unexpected grace come together to stir and challenge us.

Kris says

3.5*

Kelly Lalonde says

This is a heart-wrenching story told in beautiful prose and experienced through complex and intriguing characters. Classified as a Young Adult book, I believe Voiceless will deeply satisfy readers of all ages and both genders. As an adult, it will remind you of how tumultuous adolescence is, and show you the dark alleyways of the world that surrounds us. Too often we look away from the disturbing and harsh reality the street people of our cities endure because we feel so helpless to fix it. Ghost, a fifteen-year-old runaway, faces this underworld—along with her personal demons—with the kind of grit and determination you'll leave this story admiring and striving to find within yourself. A touching story from Caroline Wissing, an author destined to reveal the intricacies of humanity with grace and candour. Her characters inspire us to face the world with perseverance and hope.

Kevin Craig says

This review from my review blog at <http://www.trythisbookforsize.blogs...>

Voiceless is a gripping story. From the moment the reader is introduced to the non-talking narrator, and the group of foster children in her company, they will be drawn to discover what becomes of this band of misfits. There is, first and foremost, Annabel, our narrator. She is also known as Ghost, a name given to her by her beloved foster mother, Mary. The other children are a sorry cast of unwanted that includes a hooker (Char), a little person (Tully), a native (Jerome) and a mystery boy who appears at the story's onset...a mystery boy whom Ghost is drawn to like a moth to a flame. Even his name is exotic—Graydon.

From the beginning, we see an intricate inner world through the eyes of our non-speaking narrator. She is thoughtful, caring...good. She is also lost in a world where her mother chooses drugs and the wild life over her. Ghost reflects on her early childhood with her grandmother...and from these reflections we realize the extent of the trauma she has suffered in her life. But at her foster home with Mary and Bobby, she finds a kind of peace. Her foster mother not only has a heart big enough to shelter the misfit children in her life, but she also extends that shelter to include the neglected and forgotten horses of the world. It is the horses that bring out a passion in Ghost...especially her love for the sway-backed Jett.

From the moment Graydon Fox appears at Noble Spirit Farm, Ghost is intrigued. It is just a matter of time before Graydon zeros in on her—possibly just as intrigued with Ghost's inability to speak. The reader gets a sense that, as mysterious and bad-boy as Graydon appears, he also has redeeming qualities. He is nice and gentle to Ghost. But there is never a moment where the reader won't let their guard down. Something will nuzzle at them throughout the story—a warning not to take their eye off the boy. It's remarkable how well Wissing weaves this notion into the story. Even when he is at his best with Ghost, there is still that warning. Watch out.

After an 'accident' on the farm, Ghost agrees to flee Noble Spirit with Graydon. Things start to unravel from there. As a reader, I so wanted Graydon to redeem himself. As the warning flags became more flagrant, there was still that sense that he really did care for Ghost...that he just didn't know how to undo what he had already put into motion. Was he a good kid drawn into bad circumstances? I devoured this book in my need to know the outcome. And though it felt near the end that certain loose ends were being bow-tied...it never took away from the story's flow. I was satisfied from the first word to the last. Ghost and Graydon, and the rest of the sad-sack crew that made up the ensemble of foster kids on Noble Spirit, will haunt you long after you finish reading VOICELESS.

Wissing's use of language is impeccable. Simply put, she has a beautiful way with words. Combine this with her ability to weave such a unique story of sadness and overcoming and you have an instant classic—Voiceless will be one of those books you just know you'll want to revisit time and again. The maturity of Wissing's lyrical prose boosts it beyond its market of YA...to that of literary. But it's a story with mass appeal. It's a unique combination when a story can transcend its niche and crossover into multiple categories of interest. I think Voiceless does this. Though written for the young adult audience, it would certainly speak to any reader who picks it up. This is a book you will want to read. I guarantee satisfaction.

Therese says

Thank you to GoodReads First Reads for this novel.

"Voiceless" takes us into the life of a girl from whom everything is taken, even her voice, on her journey towards what we all seek and long for, a place where love can live, a safe place, a home. I appreciated the addition of the horses to the story, something so beautiful that no one who is sane would ever harm, and yet what is ugly in the world still tries to destroy. In the end both "Ghost" and some special horses find their sanctuary, in the home that Ghost herself establishes. This is an extremely well written and realistically gripping story.

Anne says

"Voiceless" is the gripping story of Annabel, who loses the ability to speak after her drug addict mother's boyfriend murders her grandmother, who is also Annabel's guardian. Annabel is fostered to Mary and Bobby who look after both hurt teenagers and horses and she becomes "Ghost". Very confused and unhappy and wishing to make sense of what has happened to her, Ghost's life becomes entwined with that of another mixed-up abused teenager in the group and she runs away to Ottawa with Graydon Fox and unbelievably, her life becomes even more horrifying. Caroline Wissing has created a totally credible character in this young woman who cannot speak and the reader truly aches for her predicament and her desire to belong and be loved.

Allison Baggio says

There is nothing better than reading something written by an author you know and like and actually LOVING his or her book. This is the case here. I read Voiceless at the cottage and got totally captivated by Ghost's story. I was rooting for this girl so much. Adults and young adults alike will enjoy Voiceless and its cast of interesting characters. I came away with a better insight into what might lead a child to end up on the street, and more compassion for homeless youth as well. Bravo.

L.M. Justus says

I read this book several months ago, and it's the kind of story that stays with you long afterwards. I loved it so much, I had to write a review for it! Ghost is a teenage girl who has led a tough life, and she is slipping through the cracks, unable to get the social assistance she needs. Her story is heart-wrenching and intriguing, and will appeal to readers of all ages. There are plenty of important messages within this book, and the writing itself is fantastic - every sentence is crafted to perfection. Amazing book!

Finola says

I loved this book and couldn't put it down. It's a young adult novel, but I enjoyed it as any novel I've read recently. The story was gripping, the writing was beautiful. I will pass this book on to my 11yo daughter, but recommend she wait a year or two before reading it.
Wonderful wonderful book.

Naomi says

Annabel witnessed the death of her Grandmother when her drug addicted mother and boyfriend come to visit and Grandma gets killed in a struggle. Annabel loses her voice so people call her Ghost. Annabel is moved into a foster care home with Mary and Bobby who treat her well. Other children at the home have various issues: Char-prostitution, Jerome - slower and fear issues, Tully is a dwarf but a good person. Then Graydon

comes to the home he is sexually involved with Char and Ghost catches them in the act, but he is fascinated with Ghost. Book gets stronger throughout the novel and the author resolves the problems after Annabel is hit by a car. Well developed plot and characters. Written for older kids - mature content but very realistic in today's society.

Robyn says

I liked this book because it was about a girl from foster homes who does not speak. I gave it 3 stars because it has a very predictable storyline.

Jenna says

This book was amazing

Orla Hegarty says

Gut wrenching.

The mediocre rating is due to the unimaginative ending.
