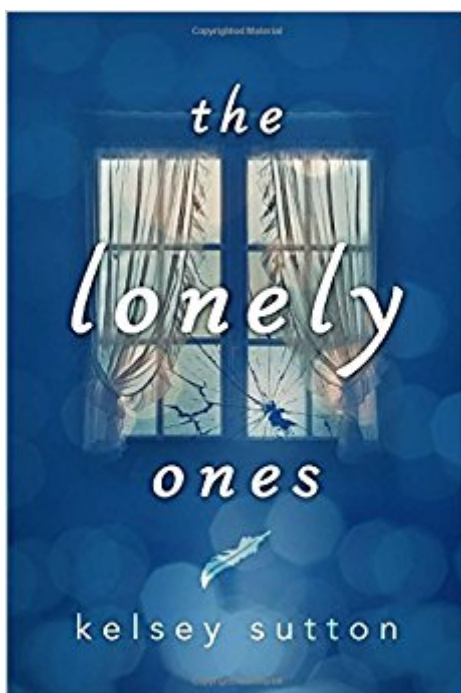


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# The Lonely Ones



## Synopsis

When your only friend is your own endless imagination, how do you escape your mind and connect to the world around you? ã With parents too busy to pay her attention, an older brother and sister who would rather spend their time with friends, and peers who oscillate between picking on her and simply ignoring her, it's no wonder that Fain spends most of her time in a world of her own making. During the day, Fain takes solace in crafting her own fantastical adventures in writing, but in the darkness of night, these adventures come to life as Fain lives and breathes alongside a legion of imaginary creatures. Whether floating through space or under the sea, climbing mountains or traipsing through forests, Fain becomes queen beyond--and in spite of--the walls of her bedroom. In time, Fain begins to see possibilities and friendships emerge in her day-to-day reality . . . yet when she is let down by the one relationship she thought she could trust, Fain must decide: remain queen of the imaginary creatures, or risk the pain that comes with opening herself up to the fragile connections that exist only in the real world? ã Told in breathless and visual verse, THE LONELY ONES takes readers through the intricate inner workings of a girl who struggles to navigate isolation and finds friendship where she least expects it. ã Praise for ã The Lonely Ones:\* "Spare and poignant, every word of this haunting and elegant novel in verse feels painstakingly selected....Fain's story is simply a brilliantly crafted coming-of-age novel that will appeal to the hearts and minds of all readers who have ever felt alone."--Kirkus Reviews ã \*STARRED REVIEW\*"The lyrical free verse style moves the narrative swiftly along....Gorgeous writing distinguishes this short, but not shallow, read."--School Library Journal ã "This novel in free verse is exactly what a poetic novel should be...an immersive novel, like any good tale in which readers can take any individual poem and examine it in depth for word use, rhythm, and meaning."--VOYA

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9-On the brink of adolescence, Fain Fredericks escapes from the painful realities of home and school. By night she fantasizes about going on journeys with monstrous creatures whom she rules as queen, and by day she seeks solitude at an abandoned quarry where she can brood and write. Her father is unemployed, her mother is tired and bitter, her older siblings are caught up in their own lives, and her best friend is gone. Fain feels invisible and bereft of the inner resources to cope with taunting schoolmates and uncertain boy/girl relationships. When her writing talent is recognized by a kindly teacher who enters her story in a contest, she gets the chance to shine, but circumstances overshadow her triumph. The challenge of new relationships, a disastrous party, and a crisis with her little brother converge as Fain struggles to find the courage to leave fantasy behind and embrace change. The lyrical free verse style moves the narrative swiftly along, and readers should be able to recognize Fain's nocturnal fantasies as a metaphor for her longing to escape her confusing feelings. VERDICT Gorgeous writing distinguishes this short, but not shallow, read.-Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Praise for *The Lonely Ones*:\* "Spare and poignant, every word of this haunting and elegant novel in verse feels painstakingly selected....Fain's story is simply a brilliantly crafted coming-of-age novel that will appeal to the hearts and minds of all readers who have ever felt alone." —Kirkus Reviews, **\*STARRED REVIEW\***"The lyrical free verse style moves the narrative swiftly along....Gorgeous writing distinguishes this short, but not shallow, read." —School Library Journal"This novel in free verse is exactly what a poetic novel should be...an immersive novel, like any good tale in which readers can take any individual poem and examine it in depth for word use, rhythm, and meaning." —VOYA "[Readers will] respond to the accessible poetry and concrete symbolism of this verse novel. Finely wrought images and lyrical language evoke the challenges of dealing with unwelcome change and the pain of feeling

Like everything from Kelsey Sutton, *The Lonely Ones* was a great read.

Fain is lonely. Her parents are too preoccupied with their own misery to pay her any attention, her siblings have their own lives and Fain doesn't have any good friends at school. At night she has a lot of friends though. When she's supposed to sleep she spends her time outside with monsters and other fairytale creatures. Fain finds solace in her writing. She has a vivid imagination which always pulls her through no matter what happens. When she's being betrayed by someone she likes very much she has to make a decision. Will she keep being lonely or will she make an effort to make people notice her again? *The Lonely Ones* has been written in free verse. It's a beautiful story about a lonely girl who lives in a fantastic imaginary world. Fain's days are a lot less spectacular than her nights. Her story is heartbreaking and I shed several tears while reading this book. The writing is brilliant. Even though a story in verse has less words there are plenty of layers. Kelsey Sutton can say a lot in just a few sentences, which is a big strength. The verses are all fantastic. I was impressed by their quality. They seem so effortless while it's clear Kelsey Sutton worked very hard to find the exact right words and rhythm at the same time. *The Lonely Ones* is a book to read again and again. It's very impressive and an absolute must-read.

This review originally appeared on [herestohappyendings.com](http://herestohappyendings.com). Middle grade novels are special pieces of literature. If written correctly, these books can inspire a love of reading in older children and teenagers that will last a lifetime. These kinds of books are hard to come by, but every now and again you find a true gem that you feel the need to introduce others to and share your love for. *The Lonely Ones* is one of those special types of books that will have an effect on anyone who reads it – even adults. It delivers a wonderful message of family and belonging, and it is a book that I believe everyone – both young and old – should definitely try to pick up and read at least once. That being said, I've read the eARC for this book twice now, and I loved it even more the second time around. This is one of those books that I will definitely be getting a finished copy of and sharing with my daughters when they get a little older (and of course, so I can read it time and time again because it's just that amazing). Imagine feeling absolutely soul-crushing loneliness every day – your family is too busy to know you're around, your friends are pretty much non-existent at this point, because everyone you thought you could rely on does nothing but hurt you or end up

leaving you behind. That's what our main character, Fain, feels every day. It's a sea of loneliness and emptiness, and like she doesn't belong anywhere. She doesn't bother talking to her family much these days, because she doesn't see a point. No one ever pays attention to her, anyway. "At first I thought the people in my life were too busy to respond to the sound of my voice. Eventually I realized that they didn't hear me at all." Fain goes to school, she comes home, spends time alone because everyone is too busy for her. Her dad is too busy looking for a job, her mother works all kinds of hours as a waitress to make ends meet, her brother is too busy with his own life, and her sister is too focused on friends and parties to notice her. However, at night, Fain has special creatures (that she calls monsters) who come to see her and take her on all sorts of adventures to the ocean, the jungle, even the moon or you name it, and they've shared it with her. They claim to come to her because she is lonely, and they want to try and fill in for everyone else and make her life feel more complete. At first, Fain loves these nighttime adventures, but eventually she starts to long for real, human companionship. Friends at school, a boy she likes, and most of all, her family. With drama at school, loneliness at home, and depression starting to sink in, Fain's only escape from the world lies with her nighttime visits from her monsters and the strange adventures they take her on. When a crisis strikes Fain's family, they must learn how to either pull together and start noticing one another more, or risk losing everything. The Lonely Ones is a different type of book because it is written entirely in verse. I don't read too many books like this, so I wasn't sure how I was going to like it when I started it, but now I can't imagine this book being written in any other way. It was simply perfect, and I loved everything about it. It's such a powerful story that will speak not only to middle graders and teenagers, but to everyone. It will remind you of how powerful family and friendship is, and the value of spending time together and making memories that will always be important. I simply cannot recommend this one enough. Since it's written in verse, it's a fairly quick read. It only took me about an hour, and was simply one of the best books I have read in a while. It's definitely one that won't be forgotten. Note: I received an eARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley.

"I want to inform them that I am not silent because I have nothing to say. I am silent because no one

is listening." \*The Lonely Ones was not quite what I was expecting but in a very surprising way. Some how I missed that The Lonely Ones is written in verse. I cannot remember the last time I have read something written in verse but it worked for me. I devoured this middle grade book in one sitting. The verse not only makes the writing beautiful but it also pulls the reader into the lyrical world until the story ends. Fain is visited by monsters during the night, monsters that visit the lonely ones. Fain's feels isolated from both her peers at school and her family at home so her adventures with the monsters are her escape and her adventure. Throughout the course of the book, Fain slowly makes friends and begins to need the monsters less and less. The beauty of this book is the elegant verse used to describe the sometimes hard family situation Fain has to live with and the personal journey Fain is going through. As I was reading I kept highlighting different passages where the emotion and thoughts were so real it was hard to not stop and pause and stare at the words. I am not typically drawn to verse but am glad I picked up The Lonely Ones. If you are willing to give verse a try then I am sure you will enjoy this powerful and beautiful story of a lonely young girl who finds the happiness in herself and others.\* Quote taken from uncorrected proof

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