



The Extincts

Veronica Cossanteli , Roman Muradov (Illustrations)

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George is looking for a job in order to raise money for a new bike, so when he sees a help wanted ad for Wormestall Farm, he goes for it. Before long, he's embroiled in a madcap adventure involving creatures both (supposedly) extinct and (previously thought to be) mythological, a new friend (a *girl!*), and a maniacal taxidermist who wants the animals of Wormestall Farm in her own private collection . . . stuffed, of course.

The Extincts Details

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Author : Veronica Cossanteli , Roman Muradov (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review *The Extincts* for online ebook

Jannie says

So funny!!!!!!

Barbara says

When George Drake takes a job at Wormestall Farm, he quickly comes to realize that he'll be working with animals that were once thought to be extinct or made up, and he falls in love with Mrs. Lind and all the marvelous creatures that live on her property. Of course, George is sworn to secrecy about the animals with whom he will be working. Although at first he resents Prudence, a new girl who is curious about the animals and his job, partly because he's afraid that she will replace him, eventually they become friends as they try to outwit her cruel stepmother, Diamond, who is determined to follow the clues to the lingerlings and cryptids and add them to her personal collection of stuffed animals. Although she is creepy and persistent, suffice it to say that she gets exactly what's coming to her in the end. Although the likelihood of such animals is low, I still enjoyed the possibility of them being real and could easily imagine someone like Diamond who would have no problem taking the very last example of a species simply for her own selfish pleasure. The illustrations are terrific, allowing readers to glimpse what these animals might look like.

Elizabeth says

This was a cute story with a fast-paced plot. I loved that all the "extinct" creatures included were either once real or literary allusions—I had to google a few and learned about a couple new ones (i.e. the Ping Feng). The main character's voice was especially strong and likeable. Nothing ground-breaking, just fun.

Liz Friend says

The story: George was just looking for a job so he could save up for a bike--little did he know that working at Wormestall Farm would do more than lead him on a wild goose chase...try a basilisk chase! (Or maybe a unicorn chase--or a dragon chase!) Together with Prue, George must work to outsmart the evil taxidermist Diamond Pye, who's determined to stuff every last mythical beast on the farm. But they'd better be careful of the basilisk: it's hard to save the day when you've been turned to stone.

June Cleaver's ratings: Language G; Violence PG; Sexual content G; Nudity G; Substance abuse G; Magic & the occult PG; GLBT content G; adult themes G; overall rating G.

Liz's comments: I'm always on the hunt for a book that makes me laugh--and even though this is actually a fantasy story with a hefty dose of action, George is a funny narrator and there are a bunch of laugh-out-loud moments. Probably too young for the Lonestar list, but definitely a good choice for middle-grade readers!

Paula says

George Drake needs cash desperately to buy a new bike. His mother has fallen on hard times and cannot help and his older sisters aren't forthcoming, except one does offer him money to do her bidding. That venture doesn't last long. So George answers a mysterious help-wanted sign that reads "Help Wanted / Interest In Wildlife Necessary / Must Be The Right Person." The sign and his curiosity take him to Wormestall Farm where he meets eccentric Mrs. Lind and her curt assistant, Lo. After successfully trapping a Triassic mammal, George lands the job. He soon realizes that the farm animals at Wormestall are unlike other farm animals. There are extinct and mythical animals on this farm and it is George's job to care for them. Soon after his hire, pets in his town start disappearing and a real mystery is afoot. Add to the mix the farm's missing basilisk Mortifier. George and his new friend Prudence, are on a mission to find the missing basilisk, stop Prudence's evil stepmother and restore harmony to the town. This British import is a fun read, although some of the British idioms may perplex readers. The quirky characters and imaginative plot are enhanced by sporadic monochromatic illustrations. Fans of fantasy, adventure and mystery will enjoy this imaginative tale.

Jessica says

****I received this book as part of the Goodread's Giveaway program.****

This idea of this book was very unique. I read it with my 9 year old daughter and she seemed to enjoy the story. The characters were not very enjoyable, with the exception of Diamond Pye and Ms. Lind. Their voices were easily found, everyone else fell flat.

Christiane says

George needs money to replace his stolen bike so when he sees a mysterious Help Wanted sign he goes right out to Wormestall Farm to apply. Little does he know quite what sort of animals the farm is sheltering! I loved this story of extinct animals, evil taxidermists, and non-stop adventure. Recommended! Kids who like this may also like the Imaginary Veterinary series by Suzanne Selfors.

Justine says

The Extincts was an enjoyable read but after laughing genuinely in the first chapter, I wasn't really struck by the humour of the book. The plot was a bit too much with all the legendary/magical creatures and though the story was fast-paced, the repetitive scheme made it drag on most times. The characters were sweet and flamboyant, but sometimes far too cliché. A good read but not as fun as I expected it to be in from the first pages.

Brandy Painter says

Kids who get part time jobs working at a farm for extinct animals have many adventures. How cute is that? This is one of those zany madcap short fantasy adventures perfect for kids transitioning from early chapter books to MG novels. It isn't my particular cup of tea, but it is perfect for its target audience and a definite must have for elementary libraries. Every kid who loves books about animals will gobble this up.

Andrew says

Looking for an after-school to pay for a new bike, George winds up helping out on Wormestall Farm, home to creatures that either time or reality forgot. When a crazy taxidermist starting hunting for super-rare creatures to stuff to win a prize, George and the rest of Wormestall family must save the day. Oh, the comeuppance is good, well not for the taxidermist.

Sharon Tyler says

The Extincts by Veronica Cossanteli is a middle grade novel which is currently scheduled for release on February 9 2016. Although, with a little research I have found that it was previously published by Chicken House back in 2013.

George is looking for a job in order to raise money for a new bike, so when he sees a help wanted ad for Wormestall Farm, he goes for it. Before long, he's embroiled in a madcap adventure involving creatures considered extinct and or mythological. He has gained a almost-friend with problems of her own and her stepmother, who just happens to be a maniacal taxidermist who wants the animals of Wormestall Farm in her own private collection.

The Extincts is fast paced and fun. George is a character with an odd and imperfect home life, but one that allows him freedom and the knowledge that he is loved. Prudence's family is much less healthy. I liked the characters that inhabit Wormestall Farm, as well as those that tend to the creatures. The combination of oddities and actual learning about extinct and mythological animals is entertaining and interesting. I think the book has a nice balance of action with character development and world building. Some books fall too heavy in one area or another, but this seemed to have a nearly perfect balance. The big bad, Prudence's stepmother, is over the top crazy while the good guys are just wacky and friendly enough to find the right solutions, sometimes by accident. the addition of information about the creatures included at the end of the book is an extra special treat. I would highly recommend this read to middle graders that like animals, monsters, great characters, or high action. The illustrations will even grab the attention of some of the more reluctant readers. I hope that there are more books to come, since more could be done with the characters and the collected creatures.

The Extincts is a exciting and entertaining read for the middle grade set. George and Prudence are creative characters that will draw in readers and have them looking for more. Animal and monster lovers alike will get a great deal of enjoyment from this adventure.

Karlee Rayman says

There was a lot of figurative language used within this book, specifically similes and metaphors, that will interest young readers. The pacing of the story, however, may turn readers away because the story starts off fairly slow which does not lead all readers to become engaged as they view it as boring. The author used this chance to build and develop characters so that when the action and adventure started to build, the reader knows what they need to so that they can process and analyze why a character may be acting the way they are or made the choices they did. There is a lot of conflict within the book ranging from George and Diamond to George and the DAD. This type of conflict and action can be very appealing to the intended audience to pull them into the book, keeping them actively reading. This is a book that I wish to include into my classroom library as children from a variety of reading levels would be interested in reading and potentially could read this fun and imaginative book!

Helen says

The author is a member of my local goal-setting writers group, but I have to say this hasn't influenced my opinion at all. This is a brilliantly funny and exciting story about a boy called George who lands an after school job with a difference - helping out on a farm of extinct and mythical creatures. Meanwhile, an evil taxidermist and her henchmen (with more than a whiff of a modern Cruella Deville about her) are worryingly close to finding the creatures, and it's up to George and his friend Prudence (the taxidermist's stepdaughter) to stop them. This is laugh out loud funny, as well as being a great introduction to creatures such as the kraken (who lives in the bathtub and loves fish fingers) and the basilisk (who is partial to a good curry.) I would love to see this made into a film as it is so visual. Highly recommended!

Emily Andrus says

2.5 stars. This was one of those I spot on the library shelf and was curious. But...I wanted it to be so much more fun than it was. In the end, it was pretty flat and cliché. Or perhaps I should say Flat and Cliché (yes, be prepared for the Random Capitalization writing style). There's some pretty snarky and dark humor with some things gross and other things violent. Perhaps I was hoping for something like Fablehaven, but got a twisted 101 Dalmatians instead. There's not much to be said of the characters--they are quirky, fun, and pretty much what you'd expect (e.g. the villain is quite villainous, with no redeeming qualities). The extra half star, though, for an exciting ending and for Lo (best character, easily).

Oh yeah, and the illustrations...well, they're there. Not much to celebrate or complain about. Anyways, I'm not in a rush to recommend it, but if this sounds like your cup of tea, then go for it.

McKenzie Richardson says

I picked this up from the Little Free Lending Library, because I liked the cover. I am so glad I did. This is such a fantastic idea for a story. I loved this book.

I really enjoyed Cossanteli's writing. It was humorous and easy to relate to. She did a very good job of expressing George's character.

The plot was a bit slow in the beginning, but the world-building was fantastic so the book was never dull.

I love how Cossanteli incorporated extinct and mythical animals into the story as well as fairy tale elements such as the evil step-mother.

Awesome read. It is quite the adventure.
