



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

By Maryrose Wood

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Found running wild in the forest of Ashton Place, the Incurribles are no ordinary children: Alexander, age ten or thereabouts, keeps his siblings in line with gentle nips; Cassiopeia, perhaps four or five, has a bark that is (usually) worse than her bite; and Beowulf, age somewhere-in-the-middle, is alarmingly adept at chasing squirrels.

Luckily, Miss Penelope Lumley is no ordinary governess. Only fifteen years old and 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 help them overcome their canine tendencies.

But mysteries abound at Ashton Place: Who are these three wild creatures, and how did they come to live in the vast forests of the estate? Why does Old Timothy, the coachman, lurk around every corner? Will Penelope be able to teach the Incurribles table manners and socially useful phrases 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 Incurrable, 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 Incurrable 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

With a Snicketesque affect, Wood's narrative propels the drama...pervasive humor and unanswered questions should have readers begging for more.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dan Morris:

The knowledge that you get from *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling* may be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling* instantly.

James Sanchez:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling*, you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Eddie Bussell:

It is possible to spend your free time to see this book this guide. This *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling* is simple to create you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train and soon. If you did not have got much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Roberta Lawrence:

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list is *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling*. This book which is qualified as *The Hungry Inclines* can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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