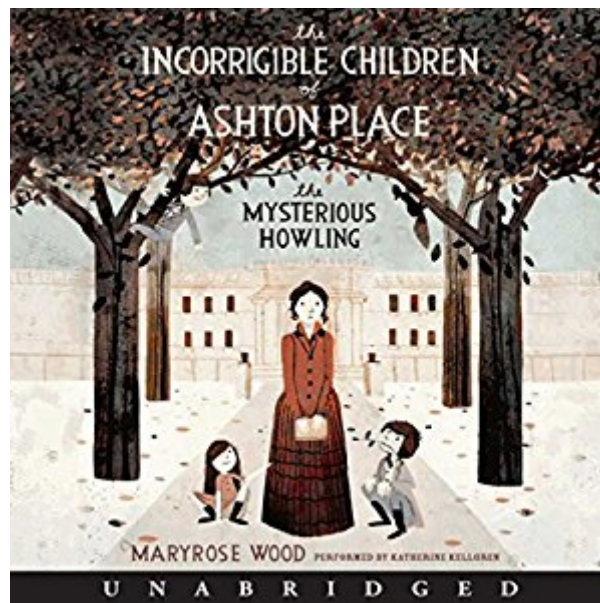




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The Incorrigible Children Of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling



Synopsis

Of especially naughty children, it is sometimes said: "They must have been raised by wolves." The Incurrible Children actually were. Discovered in the forest of Ashton Place, the Incurribles 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 Incurribles in time for Lady Constance's holiday ball? And what on earth is a schottische? Penelope is no stranger to mystery, as her own origins are also cloaked in secrecy. But as Agatha Swanburne herself once said, "Things may happen for a reason, but that doesn't mean we know what the reason is—at least, not yet." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This hilarious cross between *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* and Lemony S. has all the stock characters: the poor but plucky governess, the kindly housekeeper, the spoiled lady of the house, the shifty judge, and three adorable orphans. However, the twists include the inconvenient fact that the little ones tend to howl when they get excited, and the sight of a squirrel throws them into a frenzy. Then there are the fortune cookie like sayings of the governess' idol, founder of a school for Poor Bright Females. These pearls, along with the author's shrewd but skewed observations about

the difference between literature and reality, both uplift and convulse the reader. Don't miss this series; it's a hoot.

Kudos! I started reading this series while on vacation in early January. I found it charming and entertaining as well as a bit mysterious. The characters were refreshing and funny. I loved the British-style chattiness of the author's style. I raced through it to get to the end; imagine my surprise when I learned that there was a third installment due out the end of March. I was pretty disappointed, but of course, now that I've read it too, I'm satisfied. And is there a fourth one in the works too? I still do not know the entire mystery surrounding the three Incurable Children and Miss Lumley, but it's an adorable set of books that I can recommend to everyone who loves the middle-grade reader category of books and especially the British style of this genre.

We do lots of read alouds for our homeschool and all my children, from the teens to the four year old enjoyed this series. I admit, I judged this book by its cover when I first heard about it (as Agatha Swanburne would say "A book is always judged by its cover until it is read"), thinking it would be some kind of horror novel. I couldn't have been more wrong and so pleasantly surprised. The writing is witty and refreshing, interesting enough for even adults to be kept interested. We read all four so far, and can hardly wait for the next one to be released this year.

This book is incredibly charming and funny. I appreciate that the author is able to take a serious and a ridiculous subject (feral children and the idea of hunting them) and make it funny and lighthearted. The characters are quite loveable. Miss Lumley is a great governess. I had a hard time believing she was only 15! You could definitely tell she loved the children and her job. I'm a bit of a sucker for cute kids so I quickly fell for Alexander, Beowulf, and Cassiopeia. Much like "real" kids, they are so desperate to please so they were able to learn the basics of civilized living quick enough. They still had the tendency to howl and a love of squirrels but those are only small problems, right? ;) To be honest, my favorite "character" is the narrator. He/she takes the story very serious even though it's hilarious. I loved the little side notes sprinkled in the story. The story moves quickly along. It was the perfect amount of mystery for a children's book. It was mysterious enough to keep you reading but there weren't major bombshells being dropped. Some of the mysteries were solved but the big one (why the kids were in the woods to begin with) wasn't. I hope that gets resolved in the other books in the series. That seems to be a major thing to forget or overlook. The

bottom line? Very enjoyable. I'll need to pick up the next book in the series!

It was a cute little story, but I felt as though everything came too easily for Penelope. She never failed at any of her tasks so it was a bit boring.

A fabulously fun middle-grade series. *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling* is the enchanting first book in *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place* series. This book is a delightful middle-grade read. Miss Penelope Lumley, fifteen year old graduate of Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is thrust into her first position as governess at the manor house of the wealthy Ashton family. The children who are put in young Penelope's care, however are not the progeny of Lord and Lady Ashton, but orphans that have been recently forced, at gunpoint, to leave their home in the woods on the Ashton estate grounds. Fortunately for the children, Penelope has a large heart and an even larger desire to take her role as governess quite seriously. Armed only with her wits and the anecdotes of her former school mistress Agatha Swanburne, Penelope faces the challenges and mysteries of the incorrigible children. Maryrose Wood weaves a lighthearted tale that will appeal to young readers and readers who remain young at heart. I highly recommend *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling* to readers of Victorian mysteries and middle-grade fiction. *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling* may appeal to fans of *The Agency* series by Y.S. Lee. Note: I read much of this book out loud to my corgi and she *loved* it! Wood's lyrical prose and the howling dialogue of the incorrigible children make this a fun book to read to others.

I have been reading the whole series (now in its fourth book) by Maryrose Wood, and the storyline and characters keep growing on me. The satire is clever, the children and their nanny being the most well-bred, well-read, and intelligent persons in the story, despite being "the underprivileged" among those in the high society of the England of earlier times. There are many things skewered in Wood's books--education, the class system, the way many adults view children, perceptions about poverty and wealth. There are so many ways to be rich when one is poor, and so many ways to be poor when one is rich. In addition, there is a good mystery to solve along the way. I suppose the satire in these books could be understood by children who possess the keen intellect of the Incorrigibles of the story. The humor will not escape them, and the mystery will hold their attention, but it's we adults that need a dose of Ms. Wood's view of reality.

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