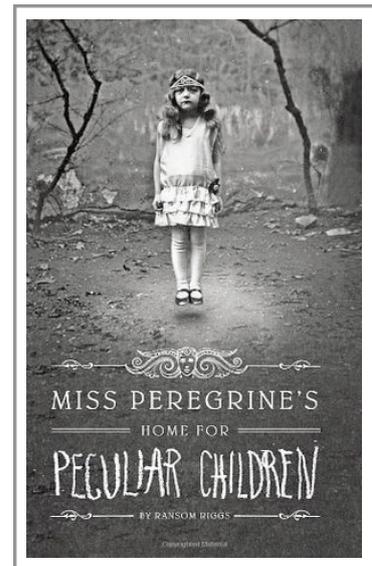


Book Review by Kosana Pilling:

Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

Stephen King, arguably one of the most renowned modern fantasy authors, once said: 'Books are a uniquely portable magic.' Now magic can be perceived in many different ways but for me it is being whisked into a whimsical, fantastical world, where not knowing what is going to happen next is part of the adventure. When reading Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children that is precisely what it is like: magic.

Although the New York Times bestseller is probably targeted at adolescents, I maintain that a good book can be enjoyed by anyone. The story follows a teenage boy who, shocked after his grandfather's curious death, visits a quaint island just off the coast of mainland Wales to decode his grandfather's dying clues about his mysterious past. This impeccably described island is home to what is presumed to be an abandoned orphanage, but the protagonist, Jacob, soon learns it to hold a much more astonishing secret that exposes life-changing information about him and his grandfather.



Personally I find the style of writing of the novel one of the best in it's genre. The author, Ransom Riggs, creates vivid imagery and not only likeable characters, but ones with such depth that it is amazing they are merely words on a page. However he manages to do all of this whilst effortlessly making the narrative seem easygoing and informal enough for it realistically to be a teenager speaking (as oppose to some young adult fiction today where the dialogue feels laboured and unnatural.) Another unusual aspect of the book is the integration of vintage photographs into the chapters, which furthers the intrigue and quirkiness of the story. My only critique of the novel (and it is a small one) is that it takes a few pages to get going, however once you have got passed the first few chapters the storyline picks up and promptly becomes an addictive adventure.

All in all, I would deem Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar the perfect novel for any young adult who is searching for something different to imitations of Twilight or The Hunger Games. Refreshing. Quirky. Brilliant. It gets 5/5 from me.