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The Boy From Tomorrow

by Camille DeAngelis

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Discover the middle-grade debut Kirkus Reviews calls "spellbinding" by an award-winning author Booklist says "has crafted a definite winner." Josie and Alec both live at 444 Sparrow Street. They sleep in the same room, but they've never laid eyes on each other. They are twelve years old and a hundred years apart. The children meet through a hand-painted talking board—Josie in 1915, Alec in 2015—and form a friendship across the century that separates them. But a chain of events leave Josie and her little sister Cass trapped in the house and afraid for their safety, and Alec must find out what's going to happen to them. Can he help them change their future when it's already past?

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About The Author

Camille DeAngelis

Camille DeAngelis is the author of Immaculate Heart (St. Martin's, 2016), the Alex Award-winning Bones & All (St. Martin's, 2015), Petty Magic: Being the Memoirs and Confessions of Miss Evelyn Harbinger, Temptress and Troublemaker (Crown, 2010), and Mary Modern (Crown/Shaye Areheart, 2007), as well as a first-edition guidebook, Moon Ireland (Avalon, 2007). Her book of practical philosophy, Life Without Envy: Ego Management for Creative People, was published by St. Martin's Griffin in September 2016. She is a graduate of New York University (B.A. in Fine Arts, minor in Irish Studies, 2002) and the National University of Ireland, Galway (M.A. in Writing, 2005). A longtime vegetarian, Camille went vegan in April 2011, and in June 2013 became a certified vegan lifestyle coach and educator through Victoria Moran's Main Street Vegan® Academy. Originally from New Jersey, Camille now lives in Somerville, Massachusetts. She is a board member of the Writers' Room of Boston.

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What We Say

A lonely girl in 1915 suffers under the cold indifference of her mother, a psychic who makes money by communicating with the dead. A lonely boy in 2015 feels adrift after his parents divorce when he and his mom move to a new town and a rambling old house. Josie, the girl, keeps an eye on her little sister and tries to keep suspicions about her mother's "gifts" to herself. Alec, the boy, is alone and feels it, awkwardly trying to make friends with a kid at his new school and wondering if life will ever get better. What connects them? A ouija board and the fact that they both sleep in the same bedroom in the same home, just one hundred years apart. Talking to one another becomes their only comfort and soon, a way for Josie to

escape her prison and Alec to make a friend for real. This modest middle grade novel begins simply and engagingly. But author Camille DeAngelis piles on the melodrama and doesn't play fair. If Josie's mom is a fraud, why isn't she more astonished upon discovering her daughter is talking with a boy from the future? Alec's dad on the other hand seems to have done nothing worse than divorce his mom, but Alec is overwhelmed even though divorce is not usually the trauma it once was. So while Josie deals with her mother's creepily suspicious assistant, a staff completely indifferent to the almost brutal treatment of Josie and her sister AND a snoopy schoolmate who just wants to pry out secrets about her mother, Alec simply makes trips to the library and has a school pal who behaves decently from the start. The excitement is decidedly weighted to the past even though the chapters alternate between them. Worse, DeAngelis plays fast and loose with the magic taking place. When the ouija board becomes inaccessible, Josie and Alec simply switch to a phonograph playing wax cylinders so they can chat away, which feels awfully convenient. And while one doesn't need an explanation as such for every strange goings-on, what the heck is up with that possessed doll anyway? With lazy magic rule-making, a confused jumble of elements and a climactic plot twist that feels too easy, "The Boy From Tomorrow" wears out its welcome long before that creepy doll loses an eye. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"You will fall in love with DeAngelis' characters and root for their impossible friendship across time. Perfect for fans of historical fiction, this spine-tingling paranormal novel is impossible to put down." --Marika McCoola, author of the award-winning and New York Times-bestselling *Baba Yaga's Assistant* (Marika McCoola) "In *The Boy From Tomorrow* Camille DeAngelis creates an atmosphere of comforting nostalgia without falling into old-fashioned cliches. It's a carefully paced and lovingly crafted book that will draw readers for many years to come, and I enjoyed it ever so much." --Mackenzi Lee, author of the award-winning and New York Times-bestselling *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* (Mackenzi Lee) "Josie and Alec's story is an unusual ghost tale. Through an odd warp in time, the pair, who both live in the same house 100 years apart, can speak to each other through a Ouija board, the wax cylinders of an old record player, and a cache of letters. As they grow closer, Alec (in 2015) begins to fear that Josie (in 1915) and her younger sister, Cassie, are in danger from their mother. The glamorous Lavinia Clifford is a wealthy spiritualist who communes with the dead. She also keeps her daughters virtual prisoners in their room, and often punishes Cassie cruelly. Alec is shaken when he finds a local grave, engraved simply Clifford, that appears to be a child's. Can he convince Josie that she needs to contact her old governess and escape? Can Alec change the past, and therefore the future? Creepy and intriguing, DeAngelis' middle-grade novel will appeal to readers who enjoy chills as well as puzzles. The Alex Award-winning author of *Bones & All* (2015) has crafted a definite winner." -- Karen Cruze (Booklist) "The narrative is excellent... An immersive read oozing with cross-genre appeal for realistic, historical, mystery, and scary fiction readers." --School Library Journal (School Library Journal) "The delicious possibilities of time travel burst vividly in this beautifully crafted tale." --Martha Brockenbrough, award-winning author of *The Game of Love and Death* (Martha Brockenbrough) "Spellbinding." --Kirkus Reviews (Kirkus Reviews) "Camille DeAngelis's *The Boy from Tomorrow* is a complex and beautiful puzzle of times and places that comes together in a way that is a little bit eerie, a little bit sad, and a little bit hopeful... a thoroughly enjoyable fantasy that will appeal to a wide range of readers, all of whom will find it difficult to put down." --Foreword Reviews (Foreword Reviews) "Fans of historical fiction and ghost stories will devour this title, and those new to either genre will find it a heady introduction." --The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

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