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Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

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Book Review

Title: Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Author: Ransom Riggs

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

Publisher: Philadelphia Quirk Books

Publication Year: 2011

ISBN: 9781594744761

Number of Pages: 352

Interest Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent



Review

Jacob Portman is 16. He comes from a rich family, has a job in the family business that he hates, is a nerd, has only one friend, regularly has nightmares about monsters and has a beloved Grandfather whose dying request changes Jacob's life. A Jewish child during World War II, Grandpa spent the war in an orphanage run by a Miss Peregrine on an island in Wales. Jacob and his father travel Europe to help Jacob fulfill his grandfather's wish. Jacob finds Miss Peregrine's ruined house, he finds a trunk of strange old photographs of people and places, which leads him to solve a mystery about his family and himself that is unbelievably fantastic.

An interest in old photographs reportedly led Ransom Riggs to write a series of young adult books based on people portrayed in these pictures. Riggs's use of vintage photographs throughout the book effectively illustrates the strange abilities or characteristics of 'peculiar' children and lends credence to his imaginative story. This, Riggs's first book, won the YALSA-Best Fiction for Young Adults in 2012 and was on the best seller list for 63 weeks. A film based on the book is slated to be released in 2016.

*Contains violence and war.