

The Floating Island (The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme)

By Elizabeth Haydon

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The Floating Island, the first volume in Elizabeth Haydon's critically-acclaimed The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme series for middle grade readers, is now available with a stunning new cover
Charles Magnus Ven Polypheme?known as Ven?is the youngest son of a long line of famous shipwrights. He dreams not of building ships, but of sailing them to far-off lands where magic thrives. Ven gets his chance when he is chosen to direct the Inspection of his family's latest ship?and sets sail on the journey of a lifetime.

Attacked by fire pirates, lost at sea and near death, Ven is rescued by a passing ship on its way to the Island of Serendair. Thankful to be alive, little does Ven know that the pirate attack?and his subsequent rescue?may not have been an accident. Shadowy figures are hunting for the famed Floating Island, the only source of the mystical Water of Life. They think Ven can lead them to this treasure and will stop at nothing to get it?even murder….

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The Floating Island (The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme) By Elizabeth Haydon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 5-9–Ven Polypheme, a young Nain explorer, traveled much of the known and unknown world. Recently discovered fragments of his journal are the inspiration for this exciting and imaginative tale. Ven, a short, hobbitlike fellow, is celebrating his 50th birthday (he's approximately 13 in human years). He's the youngest of 13 children, has yet to sprout a single whisker, and can't seem to find his place in the family boatbuilding business. On its inspection cruise, their newest vessel is ambushed by pirates. In trying to set the attackers' ship on fire, Ven destroys both vessels. Saved by a mermaid, he ends up onboard the *Serelinda*, where he is befriended by Captain Oliver and Char, the galley assistant. Several adventures later, Ven and Char find themselves at the Crossroads Inn, which is filled with orphans, any number of fairies and ghosts, Murphy the talking cat, and Captain Oliver's wife, Mrs. Snodgrass. Mysteries abound. Mr. Whiting, the snooty owner of a nearby inn, has the youngster thrown in prison for stealing, but then shows up to rescue him. The crossroads near the inn are haunted by evil spirits, and the Living Water and Floating Island have magical powers. Haydon's fantastical universe, originally created for her adult novels, is filled with fun details, interesting characters, fast-paced adventure, snappy dialogue, and plenty of humor and heart.–*Mara Alpert, Los Angeles Public Library*
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From Booklist
Starred Review Ven, the thirteenth Polypheme child, has grown up in his family's ship-building business and tried his hand in every department. On his fiftieth birthday (the equivalent of a human's twelfth), he draws the short straw and is sent out to inspect his family's new ship. When the ship is attacked by Fire Pirates, who are known for leaving no survivors, and the youth is ordered to scuttle the ship, he figures out a way to do in the pirates as well. After surviving, he is helped by a mermaid and by a kindly captain, who sends him to an inn run by his wife. It turns out that the captain's wife has peculiar rules intended to keep people safe from evil, and the inn is filled with interesting boarders--among them, a talking cat and a ghost. In her first book for young people, Haydon, a popular author of numerous fantasies for older readers, uses journal entries interspersed throughout a fast-paced narrative to help bring Ven to life. Her world building is as successful as her characters, with Helquist's occasional loose sketches providing some visual distraction and additional atmosphere. A delightful epic fantasy that will attract a readership both older and younger than the target audience. *Diana Herald*
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Review

“A delightful epic fantasy that will attract a readership both older and younger than the target audience.” ?*Booklist, starred review*

“Haydon's fantastical universe [...] is filled with fun details, interesting characters, fast-paced adventure, snappy dialogue, and plenty of humor and heart.” ?*School Library Journal*

“Haydon spins a story both warm and thrilling.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Cluck:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that concern above. Every person has various personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Floating Island (The Lost Journals of Ven Polypheme). All type of book can you see on many resources. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Stanley Roman:

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Amy Mueller:

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