



The Door to Lost Pages

Claude Lalumière, Paul Di Filippo (Introduction)

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Step through the door to Lost Pages and escape a life you never wanted...

On her tenth birthday, Aydee runs away from home and from her neglectful parents. At first, surviving alone on the streets is harsh, but a series of frightening, bewildering encounters with strange primordial creatures leads her to a bookshop called Lost Pages, where she steps into a fantastic, sometimes dangerous, but exciting life. Aydee grows up at the reality-hopping Lost Pages, which seems to attract a clientele that is either eccentric or desperate. She is repeatedly drawn into an eternal war between enigmatic gods and monsters, until the day she is confronted by her worst nightmare: herself.

The Door to Lost Pages Details

Date : Published May 3rd 2011 by Chizine Publications (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781926851129

Author : Claude Lalumière , Paul Di Filippo (Introduction)

Format : Paperback 200 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Short Stories, Horror, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Door to Lost Pages for online ebook

Chris Gloom says

The world building in the beginning of this book is insufferable and the prose is narcissistic to the point of being ridiculous but there are good moments in here and the further in you go the more rewarding the experience. The silly and long-winded art prose gets in the way of the interesting ideas and locales here. Many of the character's motivations seem abstract or nonsensical, it's hardest to empathize with the misanthropes among them and their unrealistically scathing hatred for the world around them for its daring to not accommodate their rarified tastes and lust for adventure. This comes off as cheap and forced even to an introvert who you'd think would be the perfect audience for that sort of fare. I can't even imagine how others must take it.

I have a suspicion that most of my points against this book come from it reading initially like a mockery or weird doppelgänger of my own writing from high school, sexually charged and laced with abstract imagery, strange items and monsters and places that are unhinged in time and space yet often lacking direction or cohesiveness. It is to the author's immense credit that after all this strange prejudice and distaste, I came away from this book smiling and feeling like I'd really gotten something from it. The only way to treat some of the most over-the-top prose is to laugh but laughter isn't so bad and where this book succeeds in making compelling creatures and mythologies it does so rather brilliantly. I'd recommend finding a sample of this novel's prose somewhere and reading just a sentence or two. You'll know absolutely immediately if it's for you because of the wry grin creeping across your face, if not, you'll probably grimace in disgust. It's just that kind of book I guess.

Jason says

4 Stars

I enjoyed this novella more than I thought I would. It is a book of stories linked through an old book shop, The Lost Pages. The themes in each of the stories is quite apparent even though none of them have any real plot or much world building or character development. They are however filled with magical prose and imagery. They are what dreams and nightmares may be. This whole novel is reminiscent of a Catherine Valente novel, almost like an adult fairy tale. It is also probably the closest thing to an erotic novel that I ever read.

Lalumiere has crafted an art piece in this collection of short stories. RecommendedM

Mike says

Claude Lalumiere's The Door to Lost Pages is a short novella of interwoven stories patched together to form a fascinating and entralling pastiche that orbits in and around a bookshop known as Lost Pages. It offers brief snippets of the worlds and mythologies housed in the mysterious bookshop and gives readers a tiny taste of the lives and souls of the people who have encountered its book lined, dog filled interior. The novella doesn't really offer a standard plot structure, though there is an overarching story to a certain extant, instead

examining how the lives of everyday people are affected in startling ways by the smallest things.

I should say to start that if you are a fan of books, if you've ever willing explored the dusty corners of bookshops and libraries for no other reason than the shear joy of it, you should stop reading this and go grab a copy of *The Door to Lost Pages*. Likewise, if you have ever been enchanted by the interwoven mythologies with a fictional world, particularly if you've enjoyed *Mythos* tales so often linked by the arcane text of a certain mad arab, you should go grab a copy of *The Door to Lost Pages*. If, as a child, you have ever been transported by a book to somewhere else, either as an escape from something or just as an exercise of imagination, you should go grab a copy of *The Door to Lost Pages*.

For me the story that enchanted me the most, that resonated most deeply, was that of young Lucas. As Lucas himself says, “Looking at me now, you'd think I'd dropped form my mother's womb right onto a messy pile old, lurid paperbacks and arcane leatherbound tomes. Except in the fourth grade there was an incomplete set of an old battered encyclopedia on told of an old filing cabinet in the back of the classroom” an encyclopedia that “...hinted not only at alternate parts of the world but an altogether different way of apprehending reality.” While there is a more fantastical meaning to that in Lalumiere's novella it is also a fairly accurate description to how I feel about my earliest encounters with the written word. In Lalumiere's world books are magic, literally, and he cleverly uses children to convey that pure and unadulterated response to what is written between their pages.

If the books in *The Door to Lost Pages* are magic and Lost Pages is the place that collects them. It is the repository of things the world has chosen to forget (or ignore) and it exists in a nebulous state across time and worlds. Those things that it collects aren't just books, they are people too. Aydee, neglected and all but ignored by her drug addicted parents, and Lucas, a bit fey and intelligent drawn to the shadowed corners of the world, are both children who don't quite fit in the world we know. These two characters who form the foundation of the novella are in many ways themselves lost pages (in the library world the people that shelve books are sometimes called pages, a fact I found amusing and appropriate while reading this book) collected by the book store. Several times throughout the novel either Lucas or Aydee will serve as a means through which a new story is told becoming the means through which the knowledge they steward is shared with the world.

The Door to Lost Pages is 224 page love letter to books and stories. It's a book about being lost and all the varied meanings that simple word can espouse. It's about the fear of being lost in an uncaring world and about the wonder of being lost in a sea of knowledge. It is a meaty collection, despite its diminutive size, of lush imagery and stories that are by turns touching and unsettling. If you're looking for something to read that falls a bit off the beaten path you should definitely take a walk through *The Door to Lost Pages*.

Note: I sorry about that last line, I couldn't resist, I have self control issues. By way of apology I'll leave you with the opening lyrics to Audioslave's “Like a Stone” which *The Door to Lost Pages* called to mind:

“On a cold, wet afternoon
in a room full of emptiness
by a freeway I confess
I was lost in the pages
of a book full of death
reading how we'll die alone
and if we're good we'll lay to rest
anywhere we want to go.”

Dreadlocksmile says

First published in April 2011, Claude Lalumière's novella 'The Door To Lost Pages' was constructed and complied from a sprinkling of previously published segments, which once woven together, became the lucid and mesmerising offering of surreal and highly imaginative fiction that is this dreamlike tapestry of interconnecting stories.

DLS Synopsis:

After tolerating her drug addicted parents for ten the first ten years of her life, Aydee finally decides to run away from home. The cold concrete of the streets soon envelops her, until out of reality comes a giant lioness to offer comfort and warmth. Waking up the next day ten-year-old Aydee witnesses a battle between two winged creatures that appear outside of the vision for everyone else on the crowded inner-city pavement.

From the wounded skeleton angel, Aydee is sent in search of both help and answers to which she is directed to a mysterious bookshop known as Lost Pages. There she is given a new life, amongst the crammed and overcrowded bookshelves. And over the years that follow, she too will meet those that too come in search of answers to those questions that have always troubled them. Through the shop door will come customers from all walks of life, each baring their own story and their own demons.

Lost Pages is where the books that tell the tales of forgotten and lost histories can be found. A corner in the universe where the threads of time collide. A place with answers. A place where many eventually see their true home...

DLS Review:

The novella begins by leaping through an open door into a mindboggling world of gods and monsters, demons and angels; all at war with one another in the chaos of dreams and multi-layered timelines. Confusing and daunting to say the very least, the reader claws through this early onslaught of godly warfare to re-emerge the other side of this short but arduous prologue in a stupefied state of disorientation.

The calming waves of a reality that appears somewhat normal to us is waiting in the next segmented section of the novella. From here a sense of slow understanding can be gradually (and rewardingly) pieced together. For with Lalumière's delightful prose comes a fluid and instantly accepting storytelling that so effortlessly draws the reader into his dreamlike world.

Unrestricted imagination twined with the sheer enjoyment of storytelling bring together what is essentially a patchwork of tales; each one stemming from the inspiring seed that is Lost Pages. This is a book that is so unashamedly by and for book lovers. Around every corner is the fantastical escape of books. On every shelf lies another secret to be uncovered between the pages of a forgotten book. The love and passion for books and the mysteries that they hold constantly envelops the reader throughout each one of these miniature tales.

Parallel universes , multi-layered timelines and histories that contradict each other open up a whole world of magical possibilities. The limitless scope for entertaining the author's unquestionably excitable imagination is breath-taking, if not utterly refreshing. Leave your worries at the door and walk on into the fantastical world where magic and mystery lie hand-in-hand with the beating heart of humanity and the limitless questions within the universe.

For all its easily enjoyable storytelling, 'The Door To Lost Pages' does shift and lightly stumble across perhaps too broad a landscape to allow the reader to remain part of the puzzle. The briefness of the novella may have driven too much of a restricting stake through the overall tale. The looseness of the individual story segments may be too untameable to be woven into a whole. However, what it lacks in its completeness, it certainly makes up for in its imaginative adventure.

This is a novella to become quickly and unconsciously lost within. Its open expanse of lovingly created passages into dreamlike stages of life, immerse the reader in the unobstructed enjoyment of storytelling. And that's what it always seems to come back to here. The utter and unashamed enjoyment of storytelling. And that pretty much sums up the book - the sheer enjoyment of storytelling...

Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says

In truth I barely know where to start with this review so bare with me.

The Door to Lost Pages is a series of short stories that all revolve around the bookstore Lost Pages and the dark god Yamish Lot. These have apparently been published separately before and are now in one novel. I found this to be a really cool idea and was really looking forward to seeing what fantastical world Lalumiere had created. They are surprisingly complex short stories and from the description of the novel I wasn't quite expected what I received. I was expected more fantasy based storyline but instead there is a sort of gritty realism to the novel as a whole. There are of course fantastical elements that are linked to the worlds mythology and parallel universes but it's somewhat over shadowed by the straight forward manner in which the author describes the human interactions.

I enjoyed the stories Bestial Acts, Let Evil Beware!, and Lost Girls. Mainly because these are the three that deal directly with Aydee and I enjoyed the near straight forward plot of them. But the other three stories I wasn't very fond of at all (Dregs, Dark Tendrils, and Coda). I found these to be confusing and far too blunt to be enjoyable. I can admit that this is impart my fault as I was expecting what I was giving in the first two books which follow children, but instead of that same childish fantasy I got graphic scenes of sex. I found it tad misleading. The writing of these three are choppy and confusing, and at times downright frustrating as you try to figure out exactly what is going on. The short stories also do not offer anything in the sense of a normal plot structure so don't expect to transition smoothly from one story to the next, it will not happen and it might only confuse you more.

I'm giving it a three because those stories I did enjoy were wonderfully written and hint at deeper meanings, though it may take more than one read through to pick up on them. The author clearly has talent and a vast imagination, but I feel that overall this was just not for me. I really only recommend this to those who enjoy gritty fantasy that do not necessarily have to have a plot structure. Also it's probably best if this were read by adult as it does tend to be fairly graphic at times.

Laura says

I was drawn to The Door to Lost Pages because among other things it sounded like a wonderful bookstore, one you'd like to find on a little side street and explore. The chapters in the book are really more short stories that are loosely strung together with Aydee and the store as common elements.

Bestial Acts introduces Aydee as a 10 year old leaving home and encountering supernatural beings that in turn give her comfort and lead her to the store. The other chapters have different main focuses, though through it all Aydee continues to grow up. Then in Lost Girls Aydee must confront herself, her own worst fear as it turns out.

Perhaps especially intriguing is the tale marked Coda which appears after Lost Girls. It seems to be from the author's perspective and talks about the weird building across the street from him that is changing appearance and aspect daily. He is tempted on more than one occasion to enter the building, but ultimately only one visage will truly tempt him.

The book is well written and the writing is varied from easygoing stories like Let Evil Beware! to erotica and coming of age in :Dregs to horror that reminded me of H.P. Lovecraft in Dark Tendrils. Lalumiere shows that he has a wide range of writing that he is capable of and that he can do it well.

I would recommend this book to adult fans of urban fantasy and sci-fi/fantasy. It's not a long read, but it is a good read.

I received a copy of this book in order to provide an unbiased review.

Andrew says

Lost Pages wasn't the only bookshop I frequented, but the books I found on its shelves were... unique. I never saw any of these books anywhere else. Bizarre Bestiaries. Dictionaries of dead, obscure languages. Maps to lands that may never have been. Essays on religions with unfamiliar names. Obscure mythologies. Accounts of wars no history teacher had ever mentioned. Such were the wares of the bookshop that fed my teenage dreams.

Claude Lalumiere's The Door to Lost Pages is a strange meta-exercise in writing, and for the creative process of book publishing. Lalumiere uses short fiction, some of which has previously seen publication, to construct a tenuously linked novella of surreal encounters, bookended by a fourth wall-shattering dissection of the writer's process—which, on a conceptual level, holds a mirror to the nigh-mythical Lost Pages bookstore and the dark god Yamesh-Lot, whose tendrils infect the world with fear and nightmares: one is a source for inspiration and salvation; the other is a bestial devourer of creation.

As was evident in his collection of short stories, Objects of Worship, Lalumiere writes with a delicate-yet-perfunctory sense of style, playing simple colours to high effect, as with the recurring uses of green blue and brown—life, sky, and earth respectively, representing an earthly realm apart from the heavens. The Lost Pages bookstore, a salvation metaphor for both the characters and for the avatar of the writer-as-self, as depicted in the coda, is North on a compass—a point of grounding for those who need it, for those who seek to lose themselves in the fantasies of possibility, because the admission of one's reality as truth would be more disastrous than they'd care to accept. It's existence is a questionable fact, appearing when it is needed most to defend against the nightmares that encroach upon the world.

The takeaway from the mythology these loosely connected tales provide is that salvation will not come with ease. It must be fought for, and an understanding between one's desired self and a past or present more closely tethered to reality must be earned through confrontation. It absolutely cannot be won hiding from one's nightmare vision of the truth amongst the stacks of a fantastical bookstore, no matter how tempting that may be.

As an exercise in creating a universal theme through short fiction—simultaneously crafting a book that is equal parts surrealist fiction and subjective first-person authorial examination—The Door to Lost Pages succeeds more on the merits of its structural experimentation than it does the implementation of its skin-thin fantasy that exists beneath a surface scraped raw.

Trista Siegel says

I have to say I was disappointed. On NetGalley it said that it was 200 pages in paperback but my e-reader said 95. Did I get the entire story or part of it? Because to me it felt like this was unfinished. There was no time to connect with characters or even understand. Whatever this author was trying to get at he didn't get there. The writing wasn't that great either. The beginning grabbed me and had my attention but the farther I got into the story the worse it got. Especially the last chapter. It looked like something a child wrote.

The thing that upset me more than anything was the deceiving synopsis. The only thing that was mentioned was the child that we were going to be following when the story didn't seem to be about her. It was about The Lost Pages the story was about. They only put the girl in the synopsis but didn't add in the fact that there will be adult content and basically story about everyone's sex life. I don't like being deceived. I have nothing against adult books but I do have something against an adult book with a synopsis that makes you think it's about this child and her life.

Full review here: <http://tristasiegel.blogspot.com/2011...>

Andrea Blythe says

Lost Pages is a bookstore unlike any other. Inside are books that can be found no where else, histories from alternate Earths and alternate worlds, encyclopedias of the impossible, and tomes presenting varied versions of reality. These books are written in a multitude of languages, some forgotten, some not even human.

Many people find their way to Lost Pages, such as Aydee a young girl who abandoned her neglectful parents and Lucas who came to run the store after seeking solace in the strange tales found its books. It is Lucas who invites Aydee into the world of Lost Pages and gives her refuge. Though that doesn't even scratch the surface of the story, which is also wrapped up in a primal battle between ancient and terrifying gods. Aydee remains central to the novelette, though others find their way to Lost Pages; some are saved, some not.

The collection of stories that make up The Door to Lost Pages are creepy, sensual, weird, mystical, erotic, horrifying, moving. It's really a wonderful and strange book, one so visceral in its oddities that it would not appeal to everyone. I, however, loved it.

Sophie says

The Door to Lost pages is a collection of connected short stories, all written with a mix of the weird, sci-fi, bizarre, horror and fantasy genres. There are a handful of experiments with meta-fiction as well. Many of the stories left me with a kind of sharp heartache, a bittersweet hope that the fanciful dreamy parts of the novel are real and that the indications of a grim reality are the only fiction the author intended.

The book pulled me in easily. The prose is very simple and kind of alluring. I don't know if that is due to the writing style or the subject matter. Maybe both. For example:

"Aydee had to control herself so as not to scream with excitement. Here was a story she needed to read: an opportunity to learn how other people, besides Lucas, besides herself, had been affected by their contact with Lost Pages. A chance, maybe, to better understand this strange life and her place in it. She bundled herself in her reading chair, enraptured." p74

Everything about it forced me to keep reading, even when I was afraid of what I would find on the next page. All the stories are connected by an original mythos, each tale adding to your knowledge of it, slowly building another world in the background. A mythos of gods, protective beings (that include grade school boys), strange beasts, curses and spells, all kinds of magic and dimensions. The shifting sense of reality is a feature of the whole book; once you think you have a handle on the world, Lalumiere changes it with a sad twist. It is left up to you as a reader to decide which reality you believe to be real.

It isn't a difficult or long read, but neither is it light reading. I would suggest it if you want something bizarrely engaging and maybe a little raw and bittersweet.

Emma says

I chose this book for a Friday the 13th promotional ChiZine Publications was doing earlier in the year, and decided to read it since the description alone seemed to parallel two other series I've been working through -- Cornelia Funke's Inkheart trilogy and Stephen King's The Dark Tower series.

The Door to Lost Pages is a surrealist book with a very loosely connected short story narrative, drawing together characters who have encountered the mysterious multiversal bookstore known as Lost Pages, which contains books you can't find anywhere else.

The story also draws frequent references to a mythology that involves a war between the gods that explains why we dream nightmares. This mythology also references a sex demon who preys on young men, as the source for why we dream nightmares.

On a first read through, the story can seem a little choppy, since the narrative is interlinked, but also separate and the separations between each short story aren't exactly easy to flip between.

A few things of note are that one of the central stories is moderately explicit male/male erotica and throughout the novella there are frequent references to substance abuse and/or a variety of abusive

relationships.

Overall, it's a very good story if you're fond of surreal fourth-wall breaking and loosely interlocked narratives.

Heidi Gonzalez says

Very strange and hard to follow I'm not sure I can say I actually liked this book. It is a series of short stories that all seemed to blend together. This was quite disappointing since the first few stories were actually quite good and related to the quirky bookstore Lost Pages which I was much more interested in than some of the other stories. Not all of the stories were horrible though but the later ones do come with a caution since many of them were very sexual and erotic but not over the top. There was however a varied mix of sexual encounters that might not be suitable for younger readers.

I first picked this book because something about the book store reminded me of the Cemetery of Lost Books in Carlos Ruiz Zafon's books but then it seemed to twist into something else. Some readers might find a bit of Neil Gaiman in this author since some of it did remind me of American Gods, which I wasn't particularly fond of (and I think one of the only people who feels that way). There is a battle going on throughout the book between darkness and light, nightmares and good dreams, Angels and Demons but its all sort of vague and the Lost Pages bookstore is at the center of it. I would say if your a Gaiman fan you might really enjoy this book.

Donald Armfield says

First off I want to thank the publisher ChiZine Publications for letting me read this over at Netgalley. Yamesh-Lot is the dark God. Ruler of dreams. The Lost Pages the bookstore.

The story evolves around a bookstore called "Lost Pages" What dreams are nightmares. Lucas the book store owner sees hallucinations just like Aydee who comes from a drug addiction home. Mother & father showed no love for her. She finds her way to an alley way. Other characters come along with the same visions of Yamesh-Lot. They have nightmares of bizarre events, visions of really strange things that seem real. Outstanding writing a story in its own league. A new favorite for me.

Anncleire says

According to an old folktale, nightmares once covered the night sky, blotting out the stars. When those creatures of darkness invaded our dreams the night sky opened up, and the stars reveal themselves.

The door to Lost Pages è un libro strano, affascinante che ti trascina tra le sue righe senza darti la possibilità di sfuggirne. Sembra una raccolta di brevi racconti tutti collegati da un unico argomento.

In realtà racconta la storia di Aydee una ragazzina di dieci anni che fugge dalla casa dove ha abitato e inizia a vagare per le strade fino a ritrovarsi in questa libreria, Lost Pages dove il proprietario Lucas la adotta, come era successo a lui tanti anni prima.

Tutto il libro si sviluppa attraverso i racconti dei vari clienti e alla crescita di Aydee che si ritrova alla fine a gestire il negozio da sola.

Il nucleo centrale però è rappresentato tra una mitica lotta tra Yamesh-Lot una creatura leggendaria che comanda gli incubi, e the Green Blue and Brown God che si impegna a lottare contro la notte e il male, cercando di proteggere l'intera umanità.

La cosa che più mi ha colpito del racconto è proprio questo rimanere sempre organico nonostante l'alternarsi dei punti di vista e degli espedienti che Lalumiere utilizza per rappresentare al meglio le situazioni.

L'ambientazione resta sempre piuttosto vaga anche se sempre concentrata sulla libreria che offre rifugio e risposte a chiunque capiti nelle sue vicinanze.

Non sempre è facile riuscire ad immedesimarsi nella narrazione, ma in qualche modo Lalumiere riesce sempre a tenere desta la narrazione catturando l'immaginazione del lettore con particolari fantastici. Sembra quasi una fiaba ma in realtà gli incubi sono molto reali e l'autore gioca tantissimo sulle debolezze dei singoli personaggi.

I vari protagonisti si distinguono sia per età che per background ma alla fine sono tutti accumunati dalla lotta contro il male, da questa battaglia epica che divora qualsiasi cosa al suo passaggio. Non sempre il finale è quello che ci si aspetta e Lalumiere è bravo proprio in questo nel rendere memorabile ogni pagina costringendo il lettore a rimanere sospeso per conoscere l'effettiva entità del male. Non si è mai al sicuro si deve sempre lottare per proteggersi.

Un particolare che mi ha colpito molto è la spregiudicatezza con cui Lalumiere scrive, ci sono dei pezzi in cui l'erotismo è molto spinto, ma rimane sempre funzionale alla storia e ha un preciso significato nello svolgimento. La precisione delle descrizioni, nonché la possibilità di vivere certe situazioni nel contesto idealizzato della storia ci permettono di entrarci pienamente. E devo dire che la mano maschile si sente. E non per l'ovvio, ma perché in qualche modo si va dritto al punto, a volte una donna è più soggetta a perdersi nelle sue razionalizzazioni.

Consiglio la lettura di questo libro, che seppur breve è molto denso, passionale e estremamente piacevole. Ringrazio moltissimo Netgalley e ChiZine Publications per avermi dato la possibilità di leggere questo libro in cambio di una mia recensione.

Joanna Paula Cailas says

I'll never look at a rooster the same way again. :D Green, blue and brown.

Ignore that. There are no pastoral scenes here, and no mentions of roosters at all. There's magic, all sorts, and self-discovery, all sorts. No shortage of gasp-inducing scenes and sentences. I love the lioness! Rawr! I cheered when she swiped at that couple (and then shuddered when she did more than swipe). There's this girl. One moment, she's a starving and abused little waif. The next, she's a ward of the lioness Goddess of Lost Children. There's also this boy. One moment, his parents thinks he's nutters, the next he's in the bookstore of his dreams, surrounded not just by books that open to worlds upon worlds and the very real myths and gods behind our dreams and nightmares, but also dogs. The friendliest, fiercest and cutest mutts he ever wanted. It's like Lalumiere listed irresistible stuff and threw them in a blender along with his talent and this breathtaking mishmash of interconnected stories is the result.

Girl's and boy's lives, along with many others', converge in Lost Pages, now neck and neck with the Cemetery of Lost Books (Zafon's The Shadow of the Wind) in my list of Places I'd Sell My Soul To Visit for A Lifetime (right up there with Hogwarts and Golden Age Narnia etc.).

The author's coda is inspired. Lost Pages is always there. Like the Talamasca. Heh.

Readers would either be tripped up by the erotica/same sex inserts or not. For me, the magic and the language and the humanity prevailed.
