Seventeen-year-old Julia Jaynes has the perfect life on the surface. She’s disconcertingly beautiful, athletic, and smart. However, coming from a race of highly-evolved humans, she is made to feel less than special within her exclusive circle.

So when Julia accidentally jeopardizes her family’s fragile anonymity by demonstrating her super-human prowess in public, her father banishes her to a place guaranteed to make her feel inferior: public high school. Julia tries to keep her head down, but she wasn’t counting on meeting John Ford, popular senior and rising tennis star, or discovering that she can read his mind. But as Julia’s newfound powers over John grow, so do her feelings.

When Julia discovers her father has been hiding dangerous secrets, Julia begins to question everything she thought she knew about her upbringing. Caught between the prejudices of her manipulative father and the allure of an outsider’s life, Julia must decide how she will define herself—and whom she will betray.

About the Author

Marit Weisenberg received her BA in English from Bowdoin College and her Master’s Degree from UCLA’s school of Theater, Film and Television. She has worked in film and television development at Warner Brothers, Universal, and Disney. She lives in Austin with her family.

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CharlesbridgeTEEN Readers’ Group Guide

1. What makes Julia physically different than the other Lost Kids?
2. What is the one thing Julia and her younger sister Liv have in common?
3. What does Julia do that exposes her family and their abilities? Why does she do it?
4. Why are the Lost Kids separated from the other Pura kids?
5. Why is Julia forced to go to public school after Liv almost drowns, but Liv isn’t punished at all?
6. What does Julia steal from John at the police station? Why?
7. Why do you think Novak is so controlling? What is his motivation?
8. Julia often hides in the bathroom to practice her gifts. Why? Why do you think it gives her a release?
9. What book was assigned for summer reading in Julia’s English class?
10. Did you think Julia’s attraction to John was more than a crush? If so, why?
11. What are Julia’s feelings about Angus?
12. Why does Angus choose Liv over Julia? Did you think Liv betrayed Julia by going out with Angus?
13. What event precipitates John finally approaching Julia about her abilities?
14. When the FBI calls Julia to the principal’s office, what piece of information do they reveal they have?
15. Do you believe people are suspicious of Novak and his people? Will the Pura be found out?
16. Of Julia’s family members, who first discovers that Julia has been dating John?
17. What makes Liv think that John might be one of the lost souls?
18. What does Julia draw toward her at the concert during her birthday?
19. Why does Angus expose his powers at the concert?
20. Why do you think Julia’s powers concern Novak? Why do you think she is different from the rest of the Pura?
21. What does Novak give Julia right before the family leaves? What is its significance?
22. Why do you think Julia chooses to stay behind when her family leaves?