

*For Those Who Are Lost* by Julia Bryan Thomas

It is June 1940. On the island of Guernsey, in the English Channel, islanders are recognizing the imminent arrival of the Nazi troops, and the venerable situation for all living on Guernsey. Recognizing there will be no rescue or recourse for the citizens of Guernsey, parents are given the option to send their school age children to England to escape the Nazi invasion. Once in England, the nearly 5,000 children would be housed with families or in dormitories with Guernsey school teachers acting as escorts for the children. Families had hours to make the decision on whether their children would leave or stay.

Included with the children leaving Guernsey is nine- year-old Henry Simon and his four-year-old sister, Catherine. Technically Catherine is too young to go, but their parents take them both to the bus to leave with Henry's teacher, Helen. The plan changes however after the children arrive at the bus. Helen's sister Lily is desperate to leave, and as the bus is boarding she and Helen trade places with Helen staying in Guernsey and Lily taking charge of the Simon children. Lily has no experience with children, and soon Lily makes a decision to send Henry on by himself, keeping Catherine with her.

The story weaves between the lives of the characters involved, Lily and Catherine, Henry, and the parents of the children, Ava and Joseph Simon who remain on Guernsey and must learn to live among the Nazi troops. *For Those Who Are Lost* is a thought-provoking novel exploring a time of difficult decisions and the impact those decisions would have on all involved.