

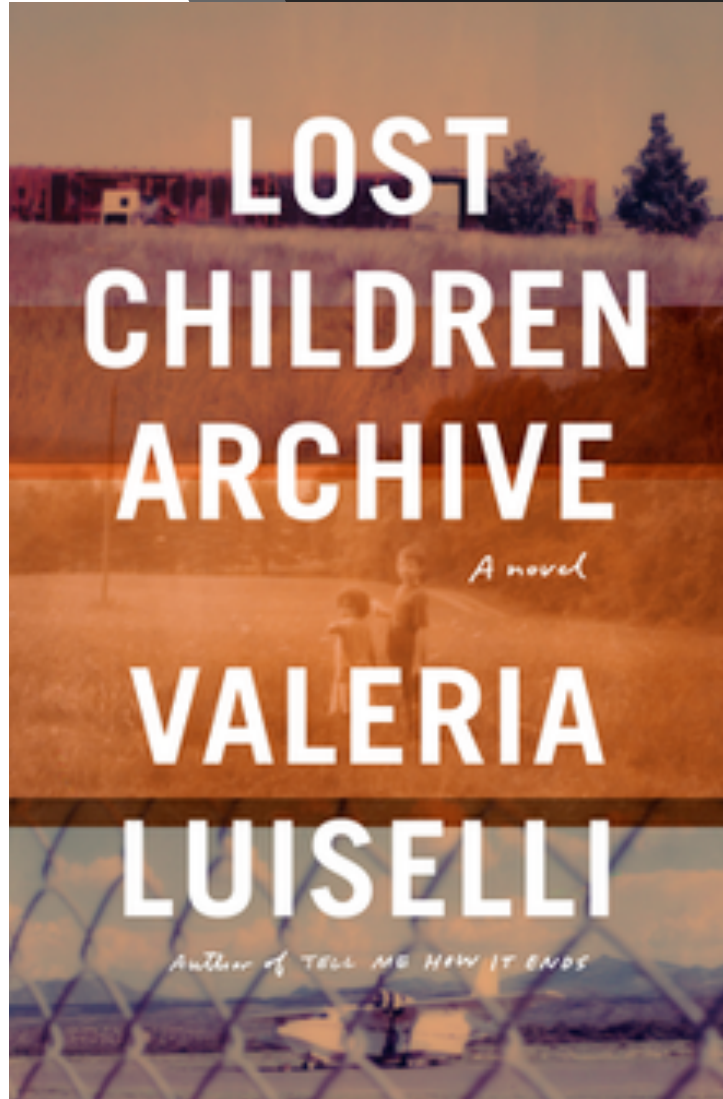


SPAN322: “North of the Río Grande” US Latino/Chicano Literature

Lost Children Archive II
April 7, 2020

LOST CHILDREN ARCHIVE

Lost Children Archive



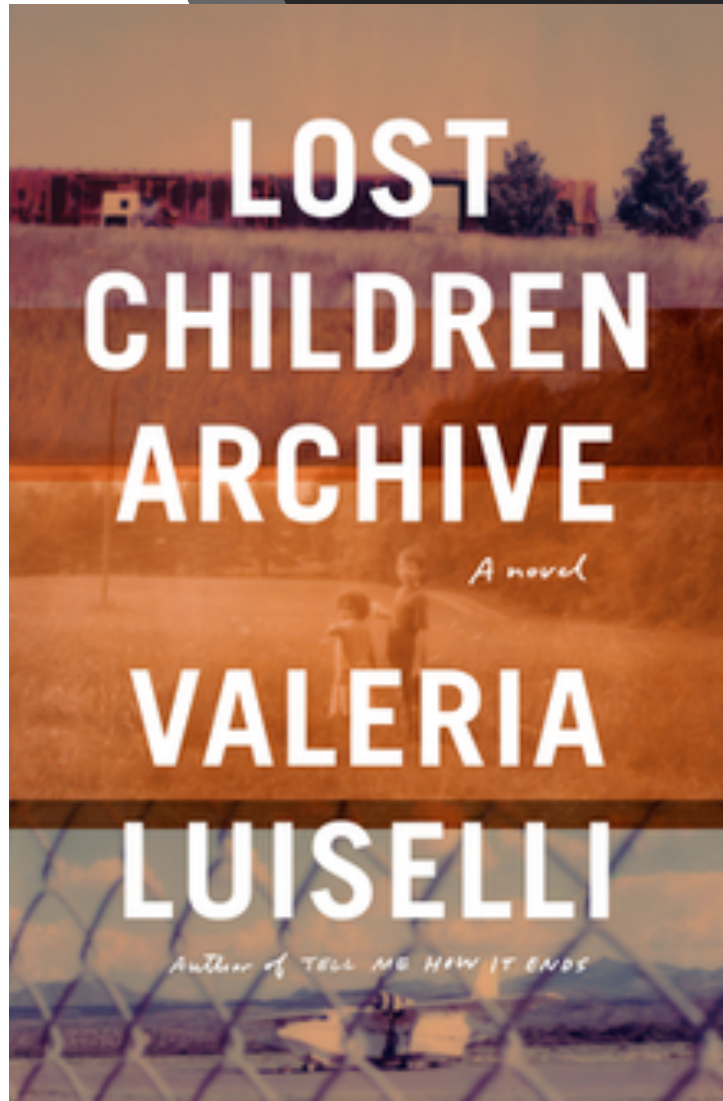
- By Valeria Luiselli (1983-)
- Based on Luiselli's experience as a translator for migrant children in the US court system; published 2019
- Also a road novel, and the tale of a dysfunctional family
- "A fascinating demonstration of the interplay between fiction and nonfiction"

Lost Children Archive



- What is the place of children in this book?
- How does the family's story relate to the larger story?
- What is the effect of the switch of narration from mother to son?
- How is the second half of the book related to the first half?
- What is the place of the *Elegies for Lost Children*?
- What is the effect of the repetitions?
- What's up with the one-sentence chapter?

Lost Children Archive



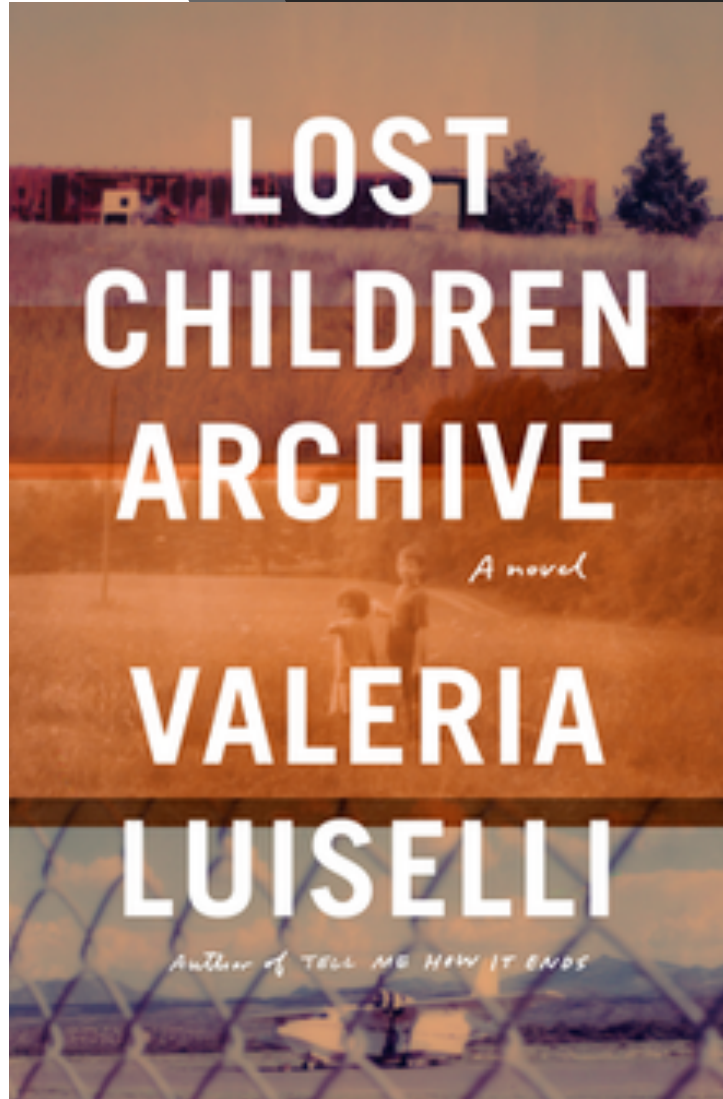
- What does the book have to say about time (and history)?
- What does it say about space?
- What does this book say about relationships?
- What does this book say about archives? And memory?
- What does it say about sound?
- About images?
- And about stories?

Lost Children Archive



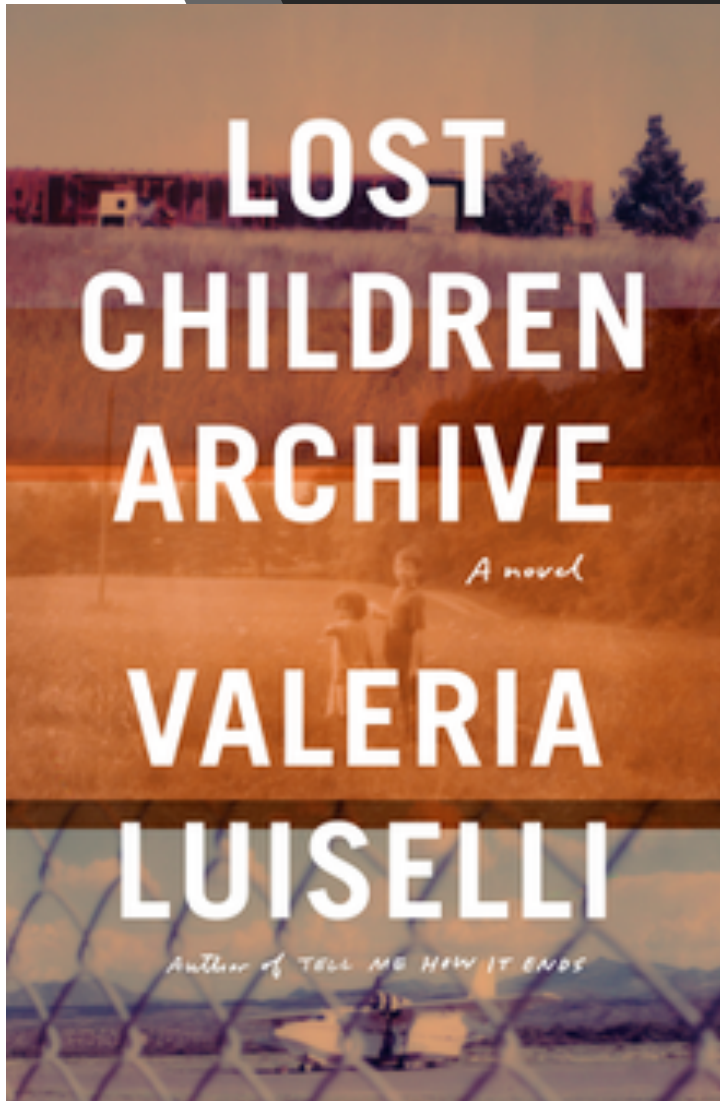
- This is a book about communication. About listening, recording, looking, picturing, reading.
- We need to re-read, listen again, and even then we may not understand until some time in the future.
- Sometimes what we hear is our own echo returned. Even then, however, it is always different, however subtly.
- Sometimes that echo is not an echo; it is someone else's voice, and we should pay attention to it.
- Every voice has echoes, traces. Nothing is ever fully erased, if we can learn to listen and look.

Lost Children Archive



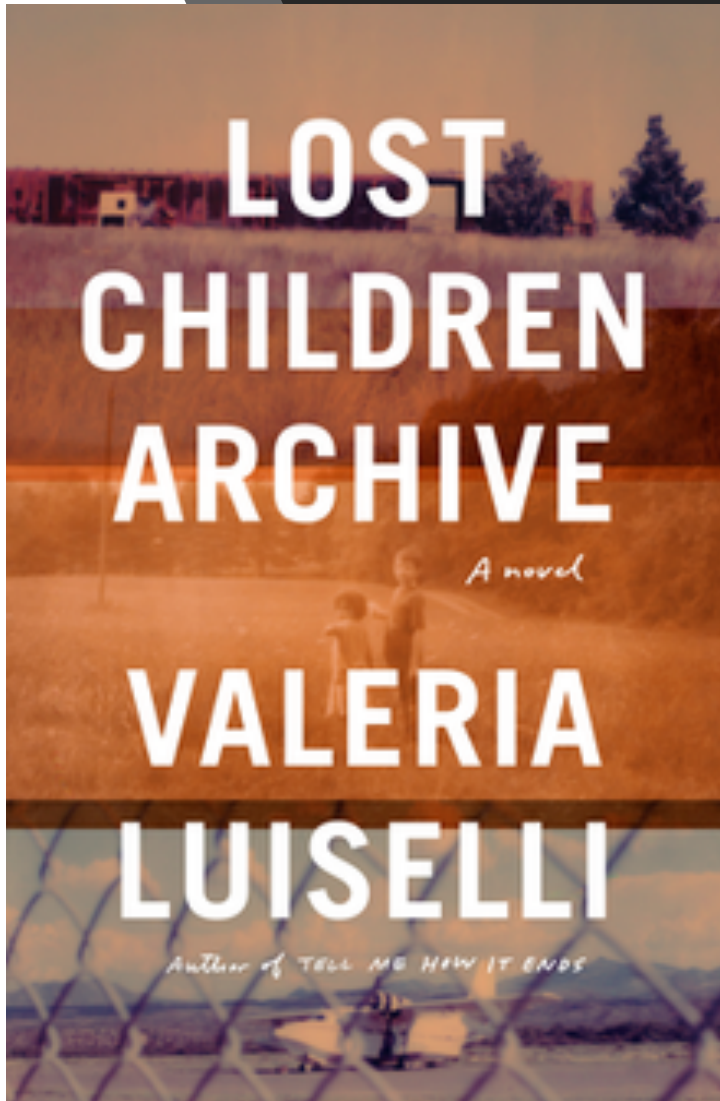
- What is the role and status of the border here?
- There are borders everywhere: within the car; between the car and the outside; between Anglo and Latino; between the USA and Mexico.
- All of these borders are fraught, and offer obstacles; they are not easily crossed, not without some sacrifice.
- These borders also have echoes, resonances, and ramifications.

Lost Children Archive



Lost Children Archive

- What are the “kinks” in this book?



Questions

- How do we do justice to (not flatten out or ignore) the “kink” at the heart of Latino / Chicano literature?
- What are that kink’s effects on its environments?

NEXT STEPS

For the Future

- Keep an eye on Wikipedia articles, for Good Article Review. Revise, improve, and copy-edit.
- Keep thinking, keep reading, keep open to new ideas and other people's points of view.
- Value kinks. Let your kink flag fly! Don't let your kinks get flattened out. What's straight and smooth is rarely interesting.
- Respect and acknowledge other people's kinks. They are always there and are what make us all remarkable and mysterious.
- Don't forget. This has been a very special class.
- Wash your hands and stay safe.