



The Darkling Curse

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Stanley's claim on Candlestick Hall (the old house that his Great Uncle Bart left to Stanley in his will) is being seriously questioned by a creepy family named the Darklings. They are obviously up to no good, and Stanley knows it, but how can he prove that Candlestick Hall is truly his?

The Darkling Curse Details

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Katie says

????????? for Something Wickedly Weird: The Darkling Curse by Chris Mould. Stanley's claim on Candlestick Hall is under question. The mansion was left to Stanley by his Great Uncle Bart. Stanley and Daisy have a mystery to solve to save Candlestick Hall.

Stephanie says

Stanley and Daisy face the Darkling family, who make a claim on Candlestick Hall and move in. Stanley has to prove legal ownership before the dastardly Darklings kill him!

Another entry in the Something Wickedly Weird series, this one opens with Stanley and Daisy discovering the secret to the Silver Casket and its contents. They are all ready to begin their next adventure when a knock at door brings them face to face with the Darkling family. We don't learn any more about the silver casket or its contents because Stanley and Daisy have to contend with other problems first.

So I guess I won't find out what happens. I think there are a few more in the series but I don't want to go find them. One thing I really liked very much about this series is the artwork. The cover art is all in silhouette which is what initially caught my attention and the drawings in each book are very cute. I recommend these for 4th and 5th graders.

Emma says

I really liked the book. The Darkling Curse, because it was a mystery.

Lisbeth Avery {Domus Libri} says

Oh my god, THE DARKLING CURSE is made out of adorableness. I don't usually pick up children's books but my 7 year old brother was reading it and he absolutely loved it - which is a lot coming from a kid who hates fiction books (he prefers to read history books - no I'm not kidding).

Though, admittedly THE DARKLING CURSE has a lot of flaws, I adored it. It's like Mould put all the things I love in children's lit in THE DARKLING CURSE - creepiness, morbid descriptions, and very very weird pictures yet lovable pictures.

Though it lacked in solid pacing, it made up with creepy, very child-lit-like descriptions. For some reason, if there is one thing that MG/children's lit has that YA doesn't, it's world building. World building is a very essential part of children's lit, which such authors seem to adore doing.

Descriptions in children's lit always make me really giddy for some reason. I just adore reading the adorably

slightly dark descriptions of THE DARKLING CURSE. That's really the best part of the book.

Characters

Stanley, the main character, was the standard MG/children's lit character. I don't think that's really a problem since the standard character of MG and children's lit is very different from the standard character of YA. In YA lit, the standard main character is super pretty, reliant on the other characters (both male and female - contrary to common belief), and very... undefined I suppose.

The standard main character of MG and children's lit is brave, intelligent (but not too intelligent), nosy, and obviously loves a good mystery. This is very much the kind of character I enjoy, and obviously many other kids adore it since things don't get called "standards" for no reason.

Stanley and Daisy, his sister(?) were just GAH

They're just adorable. This *book* is adorable. It's *all* adorable! I I bet ya'll are getting really tired of me saying "adorable" to describe just about everything but that's how it is. The whole book is pretty much an amalgam of different types of adorableness, which sounds weird but it's entirely possible.

Plot and Writing

Plot

The lowest part of the book had to be the actual story - or maybe it was just the pacing but I'll discuss why in the next mini segment.

The story was just adorable. Stanley, 11-year-old heir to a mansion Candlestick Hall, receives some unwelcome house guests. The Darkling family says that they own the mansion - that someone stole it from them. Stanley has to try and make sure that they don't get hold of the Hall since he can tell that something is obviously up with them.

It's a very very MG plot but when I read it, it was exactly what I needed. A cute little story where good defeats bad and everything ends one a happy note. Sometimes, MG is extremely effective when you don't want to read something that has a chance to be depressing.

The story, while unique and entertaining, felt very disjointed. It sort of felt like there were odd breaks in between all the plot important aspects, while in actuality the plot had no unimportant, unnecessary moments. I don't exactly know the reason for this but I have a suspect - pacing.

Writing

Let me repeat what I stated above, the writing was mostly perfect except for this one thing - pacing. The pacing was all weird. It didn't alternate from slow to fast and back again, like most books do with pacing problems.

THE DARKLING CURSE has a big problem with pacing. I can't really explain it but something is off with how the book is paced. It's not... right. It isn't a huge problem and maybe it was just how I was reading it, but I feel that the pacing was off and

Likes and Dislikes

Likes

- characters
- plot
- writing

Dislikes

- pacing

Conclusion

I love love love this book. It's just so adorable. I have really one reaction to this book and it can be summed up with a handy gif:

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Rosie says

It was a little confusing to me since I hadn't read the other books in the series. I thought the story was a little thin, without much substance or character development. Nothing special.

Go says

I liked the mysterious Darkling family. They were creepy and devious, even the little children. Upon their arrival I liked how the crows darkened the mood at Candlestick Hall giving it a sense of foreboding. My favorite line in the book was by Victor Carelli in regards to the Darklings trying to redecorate the house with their belongings. While ownership of the hall was in dispute Victor told them they could not make changes; he said "I'm afraid you'll have to take the picture of the little dog down from the wall." It maddened Mr. Darkling because it was in fact a portrait of his son. I had to snicker at that moment. The ending was an unexpected suspenseful cliffhanger. A fun read.

Mira de la curiosithèque says

Un excellent tome. Alors que Stanley commence à apprécier la vie à Candlestick Hall, voilà qu'une sombre famille, les Darkling, conteste la succession et prétend être les véritables propriétaires du manoir. Voilà Stanley contraint de cohabiter avec eux.

Pendant ce temps, la carte découverte dans le coffre en argent conserve tous ses secrets.

Chris Mould démontre un talent certain pour entretenir une atmosphère sombre et inquiétante et offrir différents rebondissements.

Ruben Valdez Escobedo says

Of all the five books in this series, this is the one i enjoyed the most. Bought it for my eldest kid but found it somewhat interesting

Sharon says

More More More

Mindy says

Seth and I are completely caught up in this series!

Manecita says

Muy entretenido

Jennifer says

I was a little disappointed with the quality of the writing overall in this instalment of Something Wickedly Weird. I know it is written for children but some of the word usage was just wrong and overall it was merely OK. What redeemed it was the change in focus so that The Curse of the Wolf didn't involve ghostly gruesome pirates but a legal battle for the ownership and residency of Stanley Buggles' beloved Hall on Crampton Rock where we are in doubt ourselves about Stanley's entitlement. There were also some genuinely exciting passages that I read holding my breath. By, but that snake was scary. I was almost bashing my own bedclothes.

Robin says

Mystery and foul play continue when the sinister Darkling family lays claim to Candlestick Hall.

Heidi says

I still like this series, but each installment seems to contain less story than the last. It took me an hour to read it, and I don't feel a need to pick up the next one.

Miss Ryoko says

This one was a bit more slower paced than the others, but I still enjoyed it! The ending was pretty fun. I was at the edge of my seat for about the last 40 pages or so. Once again, fantastic writing and illustrations by Chris Mould!

On to the next! I can't wait!
