



# The Demon Catchers of Milan

*Kat Beyer*

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## **The Demon Catchers of Milan** Kat Beyer

Mia's ordinary life is disrupted in the most horrifying way possible when she is possessed by a hungry and powerful demon--and only saved by the arrival of relatives from Italy, the country her grandfather fled many decades ago. Now her cousins Emilio and Giuliano say the only way to keep her safe is for her to come back with them to Milan, to live, to learn Italian, to fall in and out of love, and to master the family trade: fighting all demons with the lore of bell, book, and candle. Milan is not what Mia expected, but it will change her forever, in this stunningly well-written novel about an American girl who, fleeing an ancient evil, finds her only salvation in her ancestral home.

## **The Demon Catchers of Milan Details**

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# From Reader Review The Demon Catchers of Milan for online ebook

**Hilda says**

3.5 stars

If I have to describe this book in one word, I'd say that it is *strange*.

The Demon Catchers of Milan has one of the most original storylines I've ever encountered. I really like the fact that the story is set in Italy too because it's such a beautiful place. Because of the phrases and the different culture, sometimes I feel like reading a historical story. Given that the characters in the story lead a traditional, peaceful life, it's easy to think that the story is set in different period. Another thing that makes it easy to forget about 21st century is the main character of this story, Mia, who doesn't go to school anymore after living with her grandparents.

Mia, the main character of this story, is possessed by a very powerful demon. She is then saved by her grandfather from her father's side and her distant cousin, Emilio. It turns out that the demon has been haunting the family since a very long time. It's very dangerous for Mia to stay in the US, so she moves in to Italy to live with her father's family. The rest of the story takes place in Italy, and Mia's struggle to fight her demon.

I personally think that the chapters in this book seem dragged. I feel like we are given a chunk of Mia's life and we have to be satisfied with it. As much as I adore the details about Italian culture, I would have liked to have my questions answered too. The character development is too slow for my taste, but I really how genuine it is. It would be great if the pace of this book can be quicker.

Mia is a character I can't help but sympathize with. Away in a foreign land with family she has never met, it's not hard to understand her loneliness. Mia is innocent in such a way that somehow doesn't bug me. As for Emilio, the kind-of love interest in this story, I don't feel very much attached to him. He's too beautiful, too perfect. His perfection makes him feel distanced and I can't work out any strong emotion toward him. I'd like to see more flaws and secrets about Emilio, because it seems like he's good in everything. I'm sure no one, not even fictional character, is supposed to be that perfect.

Although The Demon Catchers of Milan can't be said as one of my favorite reads this year, I still hope that there would be a sequel because there are too many loose ties in the story. This is a very strange story and I'd recommend you to read this while curling up in a blanket in cool, windy autumn night. The demon part of the story can be a bit scary, so it's best to have warm fireplace near you and a hot chocolate to calm down the nerves!

*Eventually we started bouncing over cobblestones, and I will always remember the first time I heard that sound, the sound of a foreign street. Then I was led up into a dark apartment walled with books. Somebody steered me into a small room, filled with more books, and pointed me to a soft, white bed.*

*I tried to remember what to say. At last it came. "Grazie mille," I said to the blurry face, and fell down and went to sleep.*

**Read other reviews in my blog! :)**

## **Rabiah says**

(3.5 stars)

Originally posted at: <http://iliveforreading.blogspot.sg/20...>

I will be frank: While I did like this book as a whole, there were some (maybe several) parts which really didn't make me enjoy it as much as I wanted to. When I read the blurb for this one, my expectations blasted pretty high. When I read some reviews, okay my expectations were lowered a little. But I didn't expect it to be lower than what my slightly lowered expectations was. For this review I first want to point out what I liked and what I didn't–

What I liked...

Okay, I LOVED the author's writing. Beautiful, gorgeous and completely out of this world. Her descriptions of Milan made my soul crave for it, and the demon possessions, oh god, nearly scared the hell out of me. The characters little quirks. It really helped me to identify them. Nonna's cooking (yum, which made my stomach growl several times), Emilio's ability to melt women into a pile of mush, and Nonno's sudden fierceness. For many characters, they were all pretty properly developed!

The idea of the story. WOW. I have never read a book about Demons... I think. Maybe I have, but whatever, this concept is totally new. I loved how history and mythology come together in this one, with a flurry of languages and an amazing setting.

On the other hand...

What I didn't like was that there were too many characters. Too many names to remember, and you don't really connect with the main character. Speaking of which: I didn't enjoy Mia all that much. She seemed kind of plastic-y. Going along with everything, picking up on the traditions, customs and language (oh gods, at super-human speed for this one), whereas a regular person would be super confused. She just annoyed me with her general boredom and her gullibility throughout the novel.

The plot was kind of a downer for me. With such a great idea for a story, it sure didn't seem to contain much stuffing. There are only two or three big things that happen, but most of the book seems focused on Mia learning stuff, people explaining things and just a whole load of descriptions.

Overall, regardless of what I liked and didn't like about The Demon Catchers of Milan, I will definitely be picking up the second book (if there is one... not too sure if this is going to become a series!). I need to see how the story continues– I thought it ended in a good place, but oh well, demons will be demons and will try to possess someone sometime or the other. Now I really got to go to Italy, because my hearts burning for it. \*sigh\* Kat Byer, how you make me lust for Milan!

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## **Eilonwy says**

Following her possession by a powerful demon, 16-year-old American Mia Dellatorri is swept

off to Italy to live with distant cousins who continue the ancient family business of exorcism. Mia must adapt to living with a new family while learning a new language and unfamiliar history -- and must also continue to battle with a demon that still wants power over her.

The Good: This book is well-written. Mia's voice and many of the details are enjoyable and ring true. The household she joins in Milan feels lived-in, and her newly discovered relations are interesting, believable people. I enjoyed the descriptions of learning Italian and the bits of Milanese history. There are also many descriptions of delicious food (so don't read this on an empty stomach). The parts of the story that deal with adapting to life in a different country and culture are well done and hit the right notes of awkward, exciting, and occasionally touching. This is probably the best part of the story, for me, anyway.

In addition, I admired the author's willingness to make the story fairly Catholic, since most paranormal writers seem terrified of bringing any outright religious elements into their stories. Mia is specifically directed to meditate by focusing on a statue of the Madonna, and this does prove to be a useful thing by the end of the book.

But Sadly, the Meh: Unfortunately, after a very exciting beginning with Mia's possession and the demon's determination to keep after her (trying to lure her out of the airplane in-flight, for example), this aspect of the story falls too much to the wayside for my tastes. I suspect this is a case of "Trilogitis," because while this book is not listed on Goodreads with a #1, it becomes clear by the end, when virtually no questions have been answered, that additional installments are planned. So even though it's pretty short, the story suffers from a bloated feeling.

For instance, despite Mia's showing a talent for seeing and hearing ghosts, and the demon occasionally making more attempts to get to her, no one is willing to tell her anything, anything at all, about their family history or what they still do. (They just keep telling her that she has to figure it all out by herself -- which she does some, but not enough.) This got old for me real fast, since it felt like a dodge in order to make the story longer.

Another problem is that the exciting bits are few and far between, which gave the book a lack of tension, nothing to carry the reader forward and keep me turning the pages. I could have put this book down at any point and really not cared about what happened next, and that's a shame, because the mythology is fairly original compared to most of the paranormal stories I've been reading, and having a demon specifically determined to get you ought to be downright terrifying. But this book was not one bit scary for me. (In fact, I would describe as "cozy" more than anything else.) Mia describes the demon as "the terrible thing that scared me so much I couldn't even think about it." Well, I personally wish she HAD thought about it, because not a bit of the feeling described in this sentence comes across in the story. If this had been a standalone, with the events in this book condensed into the first few chapters, and whatever's planned for the next two volumes following immediately, I suspect this would be a much more exciting story.

The Kind-of-Weird: Some reviewers have complained that Mia appears to be in love with her cousin, "ew!" But Emilio, the requisite super-handsome guy character, is her third cousin, so that doesn't faze me. What did is that, according to the Family Tree at the front of the book, Emilio is nine years older than Mia, so depending on when their birthdays fall, he is either 24 or 25, compared to her 16. And I honestly cannot tell from the writing whether the author sees him as just a "crush," as Mia describes it, or as a viable love interest of some sort. He is always described as seemingly only a few years older, never as the adult I saw 25-year-olds as being when I was a teen. This is confusing to me, and not in a good way. In addition, Emilio's girlfriend makes a single appearance, and she is absolutely gorgeous, and hates all other women and girls. I

wasn't sure what this nasty cameo was supposed to add to the story.

Another slightly disturbing element is that Mia (of course) sees herself as plain, with stringy, mousey hair, no figure, and too much baby fat -- but towards the end, as she is (of course) undergoing a transformation into a swan (new haircut! better clothes! late growth spurt!), her sister mentions, "You're the only person who thought you're too fat. Mom and I always thought you were underweight." And yet, the sister has just asked if Mia has lost weight, and commented on how good she looks .... Something about this just felt jarring to me. But it's only one scene.

The Verdict: So overall, I'd call this book a pleasant diversion. It's all right for what it is, with some very good moments, but it just lacked any real tension. It has a bit of an identity crisis between wanting to be a "travelogue" contemporary novel, and wanting to be an exciting paranormal adventure, and does better at the first half of that. I may pick up the next volume, but it will be more to find out if the pacing and tension improve than because I care very much what happens next. It's a solid three-star book -- good, but it could be so much better.

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## **Krystle says**

I was in the mood to be scared.

This book started off with a fabulous bang, delivering everything I wanted. Beyer wrote such frightening and tangible descriptions of Mia being possessed by a demon and how horrifying it is. Man, I gave myself the creeps after panicking about the possibilities of that happening to me.

The first half of this book was fantastic. It sped along at a good pace and I was immediately enveloped by the wonderful world of Milan and of Mia's family. Not to mention the ever increasing presence of a scary demon intent on having her and torments her by appearing out of the corner of her eyes, multiple attempts at possessing her, and making his presence known in full bodied taunts. It becomes more terrifying when even strangers around her are subject to being attacked by this evil entity.

Until it somehow died in the halfway mark.

Things began to slow down considerably and the plot progression became stagnant. There are a bunch of long, extended scenes that don't do much to further the story. This instead became a story of Mia growing out of her shell and somehow finding her voice to find her place a demon hunter. A demon hunter which functions in a very patriarchal and sexist system in that demon hunters are always male and that women have no place in there. The men are the ones who get to go out and do the fun stuff while the women do maintenance work of caring for the house and, I don't know, watch over objects of protection?

This is supposed to seem like some great and mighty thing but Mia, herself, is a flat and quiet character. She doesn't have that spark to make me latch on to her and invest myself in her journey throughout the book. Nor did the other supporting characters strike much with me as they are only surface deep and lack much introspection or thorough development. They are always there as both guardians and protectors to rescue her in times of need or as guides to direct her down paths they see fit.

Maybe some of the detachment I felt from the text can be attributed to the fact that I was enjoying the splendors of the wonderful country Korea had to offer me.

I am so glad there was no romance in this book as it would have no place in the story. If there was romance, it would make me take this story a lot less seriously. Apart from the awkward attraction she has to her cousin Emilio, and some other boy she met at some place I forgot where who is totally not a cool dude, there was very little development in that area.

The premise is just amazing but I'm sad it didn't really live up to my expectations.

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## Emily says

1/2 star

I had medium-high hopes for this book, but it failed. There's this little excerpt on the back cover where at the ends with "After Milan, I know." This makes me think that the book will be about Mia hunting demons, with flashes back to her first trip to Milan. It wasn't, of course. And now for a list.

### All The Things I Didn't Like About This Book

Mia was never actually trained

They fought the demons with bells. Bells.

She had a crush on her cousin

The fight scene was really stupid. Mia said that there were a lot of boring parts to demon fighting, but I don't want to read about her standing there ringing a bell. (Seriously, that's all she did.)

In their version of demon fighting, every part is boring. They fight with bells and candles.

I think that's what I hated the most: the stupid fight scene. All Mia did was ring a little bell whenever she was told to, and she was all "I feel so powerful!" Are you kidding me? Get a magic sword and slice the demon's head off. Then we'll talk.

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## Kirstin Hudson says

Ok, let me first say that I REALLY thought that this book would end up in the DNF file (Did Not Finish). I usually have a 50 page rule when it comes to reviewing books. The rule is: if, by page 50, I cannot connect with any of the main characters OR I am totally at a loss of what's going on-it goes in the DNF stack. This rule worked in favor of *The Demon Catchers or Milan*, because if I didn't have that rule, I would have tossed it aside by page twenty!! I was SO confused as to what was going on in the beginning of the book that it was driving me crazy. I was so lost and uninterested in what was going on that it actually took me a couple of hours to finish the first two chapters. (I kept "finding" reasons to get up and go do other things ... like cleaning or cooking.) But, I kept at it, if for no any other reason than to follow my own rules. Guess what? My rule ACTUAL worked!!!!

*The Demon Catchers of Milan* is a dark story about Mia, a girl who is possessed by a demon. Who comes to her rescue? Some of her distant family from Italy who has a long legacy of exorcising demons. Once the

demon flees her body, she learns that the demon will probably be coming back for her. In an effort to help keep her safe, the family agrees to Mia traveling to Italy to stay with her extended family so that they may watch over her, all the while they try to figure out *who* exactly is the demon coming after her, and *what* her wants with her. While in Italy, Mia not only learns the language and the customs, she also is being trained in the art of demon exorcisms. During her journey of learning her family's legacy, she meets a handsome young man who may be after more than just her company. Mia also starts to discover *who* she really is and in turn finds a place in the family that she didn't even know really existed.

I'm really glad that I stuck it out with this book. Even though I've never really been into anything about demons and exorcisms and all that - this book may have changed my perception somewhat. I will definitely read the next book in this series as well as keep up with Kat Beyer's work in the future.

Source: My copy of *The Demon Catchers of Milan* was provided by EgmontUSA in the form of an eGalley through NetGalley. Regardless of how I obtain material, I will always give an honest opinion of all the books that I read.

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## **Kathy - Books & Munches says**

I'm going to keep this short and simple.

This book is more about Italian food than the actual catching of demons. *With a bell, chanting and lighting candles, no less.*

I say I learned a language in order to ask for breakfast; I think I learned it in order to understand gossip, too.

Our MC, Mia, has a pretty instant crush on her cousin. Her cousin?!

Also, she let's herself be pushed to the sideline all the time, accepting that they're not giving her any information. Even accepting the existence of demons without batting an eyelash. Not even freaking out about it at first. Not at all!

This world was such a strange place, if it had both gods and cell phones in it.

As for the end of this novel? There's obviously a sequel since I thought I still had at least one or two more chapters to go and then, boom, the end. It felt as if the actual action *still* had to start?!

I wanted an action-packed novel of bad-ass Mia catching demons, but that's not what I got at all.

I did like the writing however. It was fluent and I got through this book pretty quickly.

2 / 5

Kathy



I paid full-price for this novel. All opinions are entirely my own. I'm not being compensated for this in any way.

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### **Shannon (Giraffe Days) says**

Mia's ordinary life as a teenager doing her homework takes an unexpected turn one night when she is suddenly possessed by a demon. After four days of violently harrasing her family and the various priests who try to perform exorcisms, two men arrive from Italy and successfully drive the demon away - for now, anyway. Few people survive such possessions, but Mia happens to come from a long line of demon catchers: her grandfather left Italy for America to leave it all behind. The demon that had possessed her is one they've been battling for generations, and it will return for Mia. She can't even go outside without the demon catchers by her side.

After much debate, it is agreed that Mia will go back to Milan with her distant cousins, Guiliano Della Torre and the much younger, handsome Emilio. There they can protect her, teach her and, hopefully, one day, defeat the demon. For weeks, Mia stays in her room inside Guiliano's apartment, studying Italian and Italian history, listening to two disembodied voices in her room argue and criticise her clothes, and learning only small things here and there about her new Italian family and their demon catching side job. Aside from the apartment, she's also allowed in Guiliano's candle shop on the ground floor, where she studies in-between helping infrequent customers.

Slowly she pieces things together, and learns that the reason why Guiliano is keeping her in ignorance is because her knowledge becomes the demon's knowledge, should it possess her again - which is almost certain. But Mia doesn't want to sit in the wings, unable to leave the building except with a guard of cousins. The more she learns about their demon catching work, the more she realises she has a knack for it: it's in her blood, too. How can she get them to trust her, and train her to catch demons?

I don't generally read books featuring demons or possession - it's all too Catholic for me, in general - but this was something different, something *more*, and not particularly Catholic at all. The main thing that drew me into this story was that it wasn't like all the YA novels I've been reading lately. The tone was more ... mature. Intelligent, respectful, knowledgeable, yes, but also the focus wasn't on romance - in fact, Emilio has a girlfriend (who feels threatened by other women) and Mia has little more than a crush on him, though there's great potential for something more to develop. Because the story wasn't about romance, it was interesting on so many different levels.

Beyer captured the life and atmosphere of Milan well, even if Mia rarely gets the chance to go outside: it's in the little details, the emphasis on family and food (and sharing food), and how the people think differently from Americans. Sometimes Mia comments on the difference, but not enough to get annoying. It's not a surface image of Milan, either: it's the grit of Milan, rather than a visual. How the people live, what they eat. Their attitudes and opinions on things. Sometimes it would even get political. That's the kind of intelligent maturity I like to see in YA.

It can be found throughout the novel, as Mia learns and matures and starts thinking for herself more. It's in the conversations that she has, with her relatives practically forcing her to grow up and think.

"What else do the candle do? And the - that guy?" I asked.

"Think about it some, and tell me what you think, and I will tell you whether you are right," he

said.

"Why can't you just tell me?"

My words stopped Emilio dead in the street.

"When your government tells you your city is safe, do you believe them? When your mother tells you a boy is bad, do you believe her?"

"No, yes, sometimes, but--"

"But should you?"

"I don't think so, but--"

"Your government can't see everything, and your mother judges boys by the standards of her youth. This doesn't mean your government is wrong or that your mother is not wise, though, does it?"

"No."

"Yet it does mean that you don't just take their word for everything. So why should we just tell you things? Would you be wise to take our word for it? Why should you trust us more than your own senses?"

The story also touches on history, the sorrow of WWII and the internment of Italian Jews. At its heart, though, *The Demon Catchers of Milan* is about the individual, how we deal with grief and loss and rage and bitterness - and how it requires the support of others, of family and loved ones, to help us. The demon that possessed Mia is, so far, a testament to evil - but we don't know anything about it yet and I can see Beyer playing a much less black-and-white hand in the following books. Not all the souls they banish from the living are evil; some are just lost. It seems that there is something personal in Mia's demon, something that made it determined to possess a Della Torre - I sense that it was a Della Torre once, in the past, and its manner of dying will provide answers. But I'm not sure, because Guiliano seems certain that Mia's demon isn't a lost soul or anything remotely ex-human, but a true demon from hell. It got me thinking, anyway.

I liked that the story focused on Mia learning her way in Milan and the demon-catching world, with a distinct lack of big action, melodrama or romance. It's a quieter story, and in that quietness we're able to really believe in demon-catching and possession, undisguised by sparks and whistles, a more organic, less showy artistry. By anchoring it in a bit of medieval history and method, it gains a core of familiarity from which Beyer extends the imagination, adding flourishes in small increments. Because truth is, we don't know much about demon-catching yet, or how the candles and bells and chanting works, or why they do that, or why the Vatican is so against it (especially considering it works). We don't know much about demons or possession. This is the first book in a trilogy, and it's a tantalising introduction into a fascinating new world.

Mia held her own in this new world, a believable mix of moody teenager, quiet listener and observer, a girl on the cusp of adulthood who makes mistakes but learns from them, who discovers a strength inside her that's brought out in the face of this horrifying discovery: demon possession. For someone who suffered personally at the hands of a demon, and whose whole life has changed forever because of it, she handled it admirably well. The characters that flesh out her new life in Milan consist of mostly distant relatives, and we gradually learn about some of them and their personal stake in the family business of demon catching. They felt very real to me, and I want very much to get to know them better. The lack of sensationalism in the novel really helped ground it and bring these characters to life, even when we're first introduced to them and barely know them.

There are some frightening scenes, some gory moments, that remind you how high the stakes are. And how lucky Mia was to survive her own possession. Awakening to this new world, I am filled with questions and

anticipation, but Beyer writes with such calm confidence and ease that I can patiently wait for the next book to find out more. It's a tease, but a very entertaining, well-written one.

*My thanks to the publisher for a copy of this book.*

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### **Abbie says**

This felt like it went on forever.

Mia really annoyed me at first, because she wouldn't stop going on. She got a bit better as the book progressed, but i still didn't like her very much.

I didn't enjoy this one that much. It was confusing a lot of the time, had loads of info dumps, and it just couldn't keep my interest.

Overall, Confusing and full of info dumps. Not a fan.

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### **Sarah says**

This was an okay story, but I didn't think it was explained very well.

I didn't really get what Mia was on about half the time in this book. She babbled about stuff that we didn't really need to know, and then when things were actually happening that needed explaining, we got nothing. Was Mia actually possessed? Where those things she was talking to spirits? Who knows.

The storyline again wasn't explained well, I didn't really understand how or why they trapped demons in candles of all things, or why they then left said demon candles lying around in their shop where anyone could get hold of them? I also didn't understand what the whole Mia having a demon was about, or why it only attacked her when she went outside? And why was it her demon anyway? And why did it then go after people other than her? Seriously confusing.

There was a tiny touch of romance, but not a lot really, and I found the ending a little strange, and again, not explained well. I can only hope that the sequel will be better.

6.25 out of 10

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## **Vanya D. says**

*NOTE: I received this book from Netgalley to review.*

Let me say first, that I loved the book cover and that it was what made me request the book in the first place. I'm happy to say I wasn't disappointed. In fact, I can't wait for book 2 to come out. If there is going to be book 2, that is.

So, the story was pretty unique, in my opinion. I haven't read anything like it, so the concept was pretty fresh, and I liked that. It wasn't one of those typical paranormal novels where everything revolves around some love triangle with an indecisive girl and a couple of boys that surround her and fight for her attention. It was a book where there was spiritual action, and a rather slight note of romance. The story line revolved around a demon possession, a family of demon hunters, and a girl who grew out of her shell in a country far from home.

The characters were described realistically, and I felt like I was living with them every step of the way. Not many books do that, so I can honestly say that this one deserved my rating.

\*Mia was an ordinary girl, living in the US, who didn't care at all about her Italian heritage. Until a demon possessed her body and wrecked havoc in her family. She was timid, she thought low of herself, and she believed that she wasn't all that loved. But when her Italian relatives came to exorcise the demon and then take her with them back to Milan, things change. The timid girl began to grow into a secure person, who not only wanted to learn how to fight that demon, but she wanted revenge. Because that particular demon, had a history with her family.

\*Emilio was Mia's second cousin, who was also an exorcist. He's one of those gorgeous guys, that a girl can only dream for. Too bad he's related to Mia. He taught her some history and other things connected to the family business. I liked him.

\*Nonno and Nonna - Emilio's grandparents were extremely nice, though Nonno had his weird moments, when he got angry or secretive. I loved them though.

The rest of Mia's Italian relatives were also great in character, and even though one of the cousins, Anna Maria, was much too selfish at times, she wasn't too bad either.

I recommend the book to readers who like the spiritual battles, exorcism stories and such.

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## **Shelley says**

\*Rating\* 2.5

\*Genre\* Young Adult

\*Review\*

I'm disappointed in this book and can't believe for one single moment that this is a standalone, and not part of a trilogy of sorts. Especially the way this book ends and you're left wondering what is next for Mia and her new family. It had the potential to be so much better if things were better explained and laid out for the readers to follow along.

While I could understand Mia and her struggles to understand a new language and new life and a new history, she wasn't much of a character to cheer for until near the end of the story. I lay blame on the writer for not putting enough character building into her story before releasing this book. While the first part of this book was interesting enough, it just didn't hold my attention until things sort of picked up after 3/4 of the book was complete. Then, of course, the ending just left me hanging without giving any indication that there would be more of Mia's story in the future.

I found myself grabbing for more information that just wasn't there. Mia comes from a very large Italian family and yet she knows pretty much nothing about them or what they do for a living. I'll repeat another reviewer's thoughts on this as being not likely. As an Italian myself, there would have had to be a huge blow up and break up of the family tree in order for Mia's ignorance of her own family tree.

Things I did like:

1. I liked Milan's history and the setting a lot. As an Italian I can tell you that the history of Italy and their cities is phenomenal. I would love to go back there before I kick the bucket down the road. I also appreciated the fact that the author uses some actual history about Italy to fit into her story line to make it more realistic.
2. I liked that Mia isn't a shy sort of person. After all is said and done, she slowly realizes that being a Demon Catcher is her new calling. I also liked that she kept in touch with her family back in the US and didn't just write them off now that she's found her calling.
3. I liked how the writer got the Italian family aspects pretty much down to a pat with some exceptions I mentioned above. I loved the get togethers, the food, and of course, learning about the family's history over generations of Demon Catchers.

Complaints:

1. Mia goes from being possessed by an UNKNOWN demon in the USA to a demon catcher trainee in Milan. We never do learn why the demon has decided to go after Mia except for possibly some sort of family ties that may go back generations.
2. We never find out what really happened to a possible love interest for Mia. We do know that she's got a crush on her cousin, which in some cultures is tolerated and encouraged. Yet, one minute Mia finds someone, and the next he is taken out of the picture and never returns.
3. Pacing was absolutely horrendous. Again, not attacking the writer, but allowing for personal preference in what I like, and don't like in my reading preferences. I struggled to read this book and was glad that I was stuck in the hospital with nothing better to do while I read this book.
4. The ending was abrupt and we don't learn who the ghosts are that Mia is able to talk to in her room. We get one ghost's name, but the other goes completely ignored. We also don't find out why the demon has targeted Mia instead of another family member like her sister. Is it because of some psychic sense that Mia has that the demons are attracted to? What is the point of being a target of a demon possession and not

understanding why?

In the end, I am hopeful that there will eventually be a sequel to this story. I can't see how Beyer can leave this alone and not fully explain Mia's adventures now that she's decided to join her new family's endeavors.

\*The Demon Catchers of Milan was kindly provided to me by NetGalley for Edmont USA\*

\*The Demon Catchers of Milan releases August 28, 2012\*

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## **Isabelle says**

Ah, I enjoy auto approval.

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## **Nafiza says**

I started reading this novel hoping that it wouldn't be too terrible and I finished it hoping that it wouldn't end. I mean, you guys, this one wasn't even on my radar. This is a 2012 debut novel that should be on everyone's radar because it is just that good. Okay, so excuse me not so coherent review. It's 1:03 am and it's Ramadan (not that I'm using that as an excuse, okay maybe I am.) (Okay, it WAS Ramadan when I wrote this so it counts!)

Let me begin again.

The Demon Catchers of Milan is a breath of fresh air on the flailing paranormal YA genre. Beyer manages to create a world in which demons are not beautiful creatures who sparkle and tempt with their beauty but are inhuman, scary creatures that evoke primal fear in human beings. If you are into being scared, The Exorcist style, this is the book for you. In fact, in one of the first scenes, we totally have the famous Exorcist scene. And it is CREEPY! Heart racing, eyes wide, breath fast scary! Not something that is dressed up as scary but not really scary but as in I mean business scary.

Mia is a great protagonist but more than that, she has a relatable narrative voice and tone that a reader can't help but empathize with. This book actually pays attention to the language barrier and Mia's gradual learning of the language is detailed just enough that it feels real and logical. And yes, Mia does have some issues where her looks are concerned but this does not become a consuming issue and is addressed and resolved later in the book. Also, the pacing is a bit slow in the middle but it doesn't detract majorly from the narrative so I am not going to complain too much about it.

What I really loved about this novel is how the paranormal is approached. It is an unknown entity, these demons and their possessions, it is innately evil and Beyer does not try to explain that and make it more palatable in the form of pretty demon boys. Whatever is gunning for Mia is an evil ugly being and it remains so. I also loved the emphasis on family in this novel. Usually the main character is pretty much isolated in her observations and her actions but in this novel, family is a big part of the proceedings. They are there and they are important – each relative is important and this works to create a cohesive narrative.

Also, the whole focus on food? I approve so damned much. Then there's the romance – or the lack of it. I'm

sure it will follow in the next couple of books but I liked how in this book, there is a glimpse of it, there is a potential of it and there is a promise of it but there's no heavy romance where there are soul mates and leave me never and love you forever bits that actually always leave me feeling a bit nauseated. The novel is an exploration of Mia's growth from the timorous ungainly girl she is at the beginning to the confident beautiful woman she is at the end. I love how assertive the ending is and I simply cannot wait to read the next one in the series. Strongly recommended.

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## Katy says

2.5 stars - I totally LOVED this book because it was dark and creepy, but I absolutely HATED it because I don't feel like I got anything out of it.

Let me start by saying this book was weird - as in its eccentricity will probably be a huge turnoff for many. Beyer has built **a world that strangely gothic yet hauntingly stunning**. There's really no way to explain it other than say Beyer has managed to craftily write in horrifying demons that take possession over people and in a sick and twistedly violent way, and all of this is taken place in a beautiful, unsuspecting city like Milan. Somehow, it worked, and it was very well written.

I was **really sucked into the story from beginning to end** - how Mia just had this sixth sense that there was more to her world that meets the eye, her traumatic episode of almost being possessed by an evil demon, having to leave her family after her father tried so hard to shield her from this world and her journey as she tries to find the strength in herself to not let the demon get the best of her.

**Mia possessed this innocence about her**, and even though she did some stupid things sometimes, I found it rather enduring than annoying. And yes, she was portrayed as the helpless damsel that required everyone's protection, but at the same time, she didn't have that overly angsty "let me take care of myself because I'm so tired of everyone protecting me" type of attitude.

There were **some things that I didn't really understand why Beyer wrote what she did**, like (view spoiler); or why she names a character Francesca and Francisco and even points out that there is only one vowel difference but there's never a reason why she couldn't have just picked another name; or why she chose to write everyone related to everybody else - an uncle or cousin twice removed or whatever. Still, I guess it doesn't really matter, but they were just a bit distracting.

But despite being totally sucked into the story, I have **absolutely NO idea what is going on**. What I mean is I understand what is happening as it is happening, but I don't understand why things are happening and how it ties in to the whole scheme of things. I **absolutely HATE books that keep their main characters in the dark**.

I know it's your typical storyline for your hero/heroine to be shocked that their whole life was not what they have always thought it was, and they have to learn about their heritage and their history to make a difference in whatever apocalyptic situation fate has given them. But the thing is the character usually learns a little at a time as they grow as a person and find it within themselves to fulfill whatever destiny is stored.

However, I just finished the book and **have learned absolutely NOTHING**. Everyone keeps telling Mia

they are keeping her in the dark to protect her, and we have some saying it's not wise, and we have Mia finding out a little bit for herself. **But even at the end, she tells everyone "teach me," and we have yet to find out the point of the whole story.**

What is going on? Why are these demons possessing people? What is so special about her family that they decide to be demon catchers? What is the deal with her demon? Why her? I mean, she even asks him, but we never find out. So many questions. So many things left unanswered. I just feel like I wasted the last few hours reading a lot of words and not understanding a thing.

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