



Here There Are Monsters

Amelinda Bérubé

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The Blair Witch Project meets Imaginary Girls in this story of codependent sisterhood, the struggle to claim one's own space, and the power of secrets

Sixteen-year-old Skye is done playing the knight in shining armor for her insufferable younger sister, Deirdre. Moving across the country seems like the perfect chance to start over.

In their isolated new neighborhood, Skye manages to fit in, but Deirdre withdraws from everyone, becoming fixated on the swampy woods behind their house and building monstrous sculptures out of sticks and bones.

Then Deirdre disappears.

And when something awful comes scratching at Skye's window in the middle of the night, claiming she's the only one who can save Deirdre, Skye knows she will stop at nothing to bring her sister home.

Here There Are Monsters Details

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Author : Amelinda Bérubé

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From Reader Review Here There Are Monsters for online ebook

Wendy says

Just wait until you get a hold of this creepily & brilliantly written YA novel from Amelinda Berube. I could fill an entire page with my ravings but will wait until it's released to avoid spoilers!

Jackie says

This book asks the question, what would happen if Ivy brought the monsters with her as she traveled outside of 'The Village'?

"Here There Are Monsters" tells the story of consequences as one gets too caught up in their own fantasies and the nightmare you can create when trying to be someone you're not. Skye was tired of her little sister constantly dragging her down and into her imaginary world but when she goes missing Skye finds that she might have to travel further than she thought possible to be the hero Deirdre always believed she was.

This has such a creepy atmosphere but plays it off in this kind of unreliable narrator way that for a good portion of it I wasn't sure if some of the more scary elements were actually happening or rather something Skye had conjured up in her mind to cope with her sister's disappearance and her role in alienating Deidre leading up to that moment.

There's so much here with our MC and how she presents herself as one thing but the more we read the more we peel away at her character to find that there's something that's both dark and twisted as well as pure and heroic as she's willing to go the distance even if it leaves a bloody path in her wake as she tries to bring her sister home. Her friends were interesting too as we see their take on what's happening and in my opinion some of the more realistic responses to this kind of behavior and the ending of their stories that leave you wanting more but also feeling satisfied if that makes sense?

This was such a strange read and as someone who was hesitant to start this because I didn't care for the author's previous attempt at this kind of style I have to say I was really impressed.

special thanks to the publishers and netgalley for providing an arc in exchange for a fair and honest review

Acqua says

That cover!! AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

The Dark Beneath the Ice was one of my favorite books of 2018, I need this

Amber (The Book Bratz) says

The full review + more can be found at **The Book Bratz**

Thank you so much to Sourcebooks Fire for approving me for an eGalley!

I been working with Amelinda the past couple of weeks for an interview on Here There Are The Monsters so I was really excited when Soucebooks had approved me on NetGalley for an eGalley. Here There Are The Monsters was brilliant and memorizing. But as where Amelinda's writing was beautiful the story was also bone chilling and thrilling.

Skye has been Deirdre's protector for as long as she can remember, but now with a move across the country and a fresh start Skye has washed her hands of being the protector. Deirdre's is thirteen now, it is a fresh start for her to make friends and be normal. Only she isn't. Deirdre lives in these make believe worlds with make believe characters, but soon becomes obsessed with the woods behind their new home. Where Skye is thriving and making friends Deirdre is withdrawing. But one night, Deirdre doesn't come home.

The first half of the book was slow but incredibly interesting. It alternates between when they first moved to their new home and to the now when Deirdre's missing. But Amelinda uses this time to build her characters and show the complexities of their relationships. Deirdre's character is complex and in the alternating chapters you can see the codependency that Deirdre has for her older sister, but Deirdre also acts a lot younger then her actual age. In the first half of the novel we see the subtle but quick changes in Deirdre's personality. Her desperate need of protection from Skye, the with drawing, her disdain of William and the other "invaders." Deirdre wasn't normal to begin with but seeing her decline was haunting.

I loved Skye's character. The complexity of her relationship with her sister is a big focal point of the whole novel. Skye is done with Deirdre's childish games and she is over having to be the knight in shining armor all the time. Her sister is old enough. Skye is thriving in their new home: making friends, going out and even hanging out with her charming neighbor William, learning how to shoot a bow. We watch Skye make challenging decisions and sacrifice so much in the span of the second half of the book. At the end of the day Deirdre needs Skye's protection and Skye realizes that and will stop at nothing to find and bring her sister home.

I'm going to brush over the monsters and creatures that take up the second half of the novel so I don't spoil anything for anyone: but they were creepy as hell. I went back and reread the introduction of them a couple of times to make sure that I fully understand what I was reading because they were twisted as hell. They really gave this book the spooky horror feel that Amelinda was going for. The ending of the book really gave me a run for money, I had convinced myself that it wasn't going to end on a certain note and it didn't. At all.

Overall I really loved Here There Are Monsters and I can't wait for the world to get to experience the horrors that are waiting with in the pages of this novel.

Brittany says

3 stars!

???

"What is it with you guys and the end of the world?" I asked. "It's just interesting," William said. "Like, everyone has to show their true colors. Everyone knows who they really are at the end of the world. No more bullshit."

Here There Are Monsters was gripping from the very start. This was a story about how easy it can be to get wrapped up in your own fantasy, and have trouble deciphering what's real and what's not. How nightmares can become reality if you allow yourself to go there.

Skye is the older sister to Deirdre who likes to make everything a fantasy land. As Skye gets older, she realizes she doesn't want to play the games Deirdre plays anymore. One day something happens to Deirdre and Skye's race to find her begins.

This book reminded me a lot of a messed up version of Bridge to Terabithia. That's the best way I can sort of describe it. The story was creepy and dark. We follow MC Skye as she tests her limits of reality. The plot was a little confusing especially towards the end. The pacing was good, but the climax failed to deliver fully for me. It was still decent and I enjoyed the read, I guess for as engaged as I was- when the time came for a reveal - I was scratching my head a little. With that being said, I was still impressed by the authors ability to hold my attention and her writing was simple and smooth. Overall I think people will enjoy this if they are looking for something fast paced with a Creepy Atmosphere.

Special thanks to the publishers and Netgalley for providing an arc in exchange for a fair and honest review

Tesha Ham says

While I think that the book's plot is intriguing and unique in its own way, I personally wouldn't want to read this book a second time. I do think many people will enjoy it, and that it would be good to read it at least once, but something about the writing seems awkward and rushed in many places. It creates a feeling of having details thrown at you for the sake of them being there. I do think it is a decent book, just not one that would be at the top of my reading list.

I received a free ARC copy of this title through NetGalley in exchange for a review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Kara Fuerholzer says

Dierdre is missing. Gone into the woods without a trace.

This book had SO many good things in it that I loved. The first half of this book was a solid 5 stars for me. But then, it nose dived in a different direction that somewhat fell apart for me.

Skye is our main character. A high school girl that moved to a new town and just wants to be normal, maybe

even date her cute neighbor? What stands in her way is her 13 year old sister Dierdre. Deirdre is weird, she's creepy and she refuses to grow up. She's the constant target for bullies. Dierdre created kingdoms for the two of them as children. She weaved stories and adventures for her and her sister. She casted herself as a queen and Skye as her protector, both in their fantasies and in real life. But after Skye was pushed too far in her role as the Queen of Swords, she decides to hang up her sword for good as they move across the country.

She stops playing games, she makes friends. Deirdre is no longer holding her back. But Skye soon realizes that nothing was holding Dierdre back either after she disappears.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part of this novel alternated between the night and days after her disappearance and events that happened that led up to this point. The chapters in the past reminded me of a darker Bridge to Terabithia. It also invoked the creepiness found in Alexandra Sirowy's recent novels. It hinted at something more supernatural while still be rooted in the mundane.

That all changed midway during the second part. The subtleness was gone and we were thrown into the middle of a Blair Witch Project like story. The shift was just a little too jarring for me. In Sirowy's novels, she keeps the creepiness and supernatural elements sprinkled throughout, leaving you guessing as to what is real and what's not. This doesn't happen here. I'm not sure if the author was going for the unreliable narrator approach, but if so, I had a difficult time finding the unreliability. Skye quickly drags her new friends into her sister's world and there is no question as to if this is really happening or not. Skye questions it a few times but, with others there to confirm it's happening, it takes that thrill out of it. And in all honestly, some of the creepiness bordered on cheesy the farther we went along. I'm still not sure what to make of the ending. You expect it, but still I was left wanting more.

One of the many strength of this novel though are the two sisters and their relationship. Deirdre is a complex character. Through Skye we see how Deirdre went from an imaginative child to something much more twisted. Skye both resents and loves her sister and it's not hard to see why. Skye herself was a very interesting character. As the book go on, it becomes apparent that maybe she's not so different than the sister she's been trying to distance herself from. There is a darkness in her that I feel a lot of authors never allow their characters to have. It's refreshing to see, because it's real. There's a little bit of darkness in all of us. We make bad mistakes, we can think terrible thoughts. And that's what this novel is about really. It's about that darkness in all of us and whether you should unleash it or not. And if you do, then you'll have to deal with the consequences that follows.

All in all, I thought this was a worthwhile and exciting read. While I was personally left a tad disappointed in the direction it took, I know there are a lot of others that will absolutely love it. And the strength of the first half and the themes it deals with, is enough for me to recommend it! 3.5 Stars

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<https://kfuerholzer.wixsite.com/mysit...>

Bunni says

received an ARC from netgalley in exchange for review

WHERE. DO. I. START.

Okay, the cover. LOVE IT! Title meh.

This book really grabbed me and I loved it! I feel like the synopsis is a little misleading, because I thought we would start at the move and see Deirdre's gradual withdrawal from everything, but it starts off right away with her missing and the rest is told in flashbacks. Sometimes flashbacks do take away a little bit because we aren't really experiencing these things for ourselves; we're only seeing through the lens of the past.

This book really shows the complicated relationship of siblings (sisters in this case). I really had 0 sympathy for Deirdre, probably because I'm an only child and it really really made me glad I don't have siblings. Deirdre was crazy though - sorry. She really didn't have any redeeming qualities and it seemed as though it was only Skye's unconscious love for her that made Skye search. I especially felt this way toward the end.

I very much enjoyed the evil in the book - no spoilers - their descriptions/appearances and sounds. Very interesting. Would definitely like to see more, get some background? The ending is a little vague on the evil's history.

Sorta reminded me of Beware the Wild but I'm not saying it's similar necessarily.

Things I enjoyed about this book: take-charge female lead (definitely flawed, raw, and human), and her no-nonsense attitude toward William (love interest).

ALSO THAT KISS DAYUM. You'll just have to read it to know what I mean.

Anyway, Skye's attitude. Kicking ass and taking names. She doesn't want William to tell his friends about what they saw in the woods because no one would believe him. But he's stubborn, of course, and she fires back with: would YOU have believed me?

Naturally he had no response and I thought: FINALLYYYYY! Point 1 to Skye. Would it kill anyone in a book to believe some weird stuff once in awhile? I digress; that isn't a comment on this book.

Then jerkwad friend is like, who would you choose, your sister or William? And Skye's like, since you know everything, why don't you tell me? And he can't answer that. POINT 2 TO SKYE with the comebacks!!

Spoiler alert: no one believes her until they see for themselves.

Also really really liked William standing up for Skye against Sophie. Oh, Sophie. "There are more things in heaven and earth" you get the quote.

The background characters did feel, well, background'y. Stereotypes, caricatures. They are revealed to have more to themselves than that, but we don't really get to know them enough for that stuff to flesh out. Even the parents and they do have a big role in the book.

Ending is wrapped up only a bit. There's definitely a resolution - I have no complaints - but not EVERYTHING is resolved. I don't think there could be a sequel, just that the author left too much in the air. For example, what exactly does William remember?

Would love to have read this from alternating POVs with Skye and Deirdre.

Definitely would recommend this and will read something else by this author.

Kara Fuerholzer says

3.5 stars.

Dierdre is missing. Gone into the woods without a trace.

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Skye is our main character. A high school girl that moved to a new town and just wants to be normal, maybe even date her cute neighbor? What stands in her way is her 13 year old sister Dierdre. Deirdre is weird, she's creepy and she refuses to grow up. She's the constant target for bullies. Dierdre created kingdoms for the two of them as children. She weaved stories and adventures for her and her sister. She casted herself as a queen and Skye as her protector, both in their fantasies and in real life. But after Skye was pushed to far in her role as the Queen of Swords, she decides to hang up her sword for good as they move across the country.

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half and the themes it deals with, is enough for me to recommend it!

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Bee says

3.5 stars

I really enjoyed it. The writing and the atmosphere were excellent. I loved the creepy vibes, the messy relationships and flawed characters. I did feel like there's some things unresolved in the end. I'm left with so many questions, but I don't mind it so much?

But I did enjoy it a lot and it was hard to put down.

Tucker (TuckerTheReader) says

YASSS! GIVE IT TO ME!!!!

megs_bookrack says

THIS COVER!!!

I need this 5-minutes ago. Sounds so darkly delicious!

Meghan says

This book was received as an ARC from Sourcebooks Fire in exchange for an honest review. Opinions and thoughts expressed in this review are completely my own.

Just by the cover, I knew this one was going to be very interesting for our young adult patrons. I remember the success of the Blair Witch Project but as I was reading this book and the so called “monsters” I could not help to think Goosebumps’ The Haunted Mask which was one of their most popular books in the series. I know this book if added to our YFantasy collection will have its followers and they will be begging for more info or having this book become a series. As far as the plot and storyline is concerned, there were parts that jumped off on tangents and it really was somewhat difficult to keep up so the not so avid readers will have some difficulty getting through this book but those that are hard core scary/thriller/mystery fans will find this book very exciting.

We will consider adding this book to our YFantasy collection at our library. That is why we give this book 4 stars.

Tammie says

A solid 4 stars. *Here There Are Monsters* was a creepy/dark read. The book centers around teen sisters Deirdre and Skye. After moving across the country for a fresh start, the family settles in a house located in a remote neighborhood. Things seem to go well at first-Skye makes new friends at her school and Deirdre enjoys being outside, enjoying nature. However, Deirdre, considered the “weird kid” for most of her life, withdrawals from her family and starts spending most of her time outside in the swampy woods. Deidre spends her time in the forest by building creatures/monsters out of sticks and bones and creating an elaborate fantasy world. Deidre goes missing one night and no one can find her-even after extensive searches conducted by local police. Skye wakes up one night to something scratching at her window and realizes that maybe Deidre’s fantasy world is real after all. Skye is now on a mission to find and save her sister from whatever may be lurking in the woods!

Here There Are Monsters was an interesting and enjoyable book. Highly recommend to fans of YA and horror/dark books. Thank you NetGalley for providing me a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Mariana Calderon says

With utterly skin-crawling horror, *Here There Are Monsters* forces readers to confront who exactly we are expected to call monstrous.

With cold and sinister imagery of exactly the sort of magical forest you DON'T want to wander into, and a slow unwinding of secrets that will leave you tense with anticipation, this story of sixteen-year-old Skye and the lengths she'll go to forge a path away from her missing sister will stay with you long after you reach its conclusion.
