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The Haunting Of Ashburn House



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Synopsis

There’s something wrong with Ashburn House.... The ancient building has been the subject of rumours for close to a century. Its owner, Edith, refused to let guests inside and rarely visited the nearby town. Following Edith’s death, her sole surviving relative, Adrienne, inherits the property. Adrienne’s only possessions are a suitcase of luggage, 20 dollars, and her pet cat. Ashburn House is a lifeline she can’t afford to refuse. Adrienne doesn’t believe in ghosts, but it’s hard to ignore the unease that grows as she explores her new home. Strange messages have been etched into the wallpaper, an old grave is hidden in the forest behind the house, and eerie portraits in the upstairs hall seem to watch her every movement. As she uncovers more of the house’s secrets, Adrienne begins to believe the whispered rumours about Ashburn may hold more truth than she ever suspected. The building has a bleak and grisly past, and as she chases the threads of a decades-old mystery, Adrienne realises she’s become the prey to something deeply unnatural and intensely resentful. Only one thing is certain: Ashburn’s dead are not at rest.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wish I could share in the love the majority of reviewers have expressed for this book. The story just didn’t work for me for a variety of reasons, which I’ll do my best to clarify without spoilers.First, I think it’s important to note that this is far more of an ’undead’ theme than a haunted house or ghost story. I love ghost stories, but zombies and the undead don’t interest me. Had the title and description better reflected the content, I wouldn’t have read the book at all.I felt the pace was painfully slow. We walk around the house with Adrienne, open a cupboard, find a cup, boil water in

the kettle, make tea, walk around some more. In other words, we spend a lot of time doing uninteresting things in a house that should have held all sorts of allure.And that brings me to the next issue. Adrienne had so little curiosity about the house she'd inherited that I found myself internally yelling for her to look around and discover what might be behind all those doors and inside those drawers she never opened. Her claim in the narration was that she didn't want to invade Edith's privacy. An absurd claim, to me, at least. The woman - whom Adrienne hadn't even known existed - was dead and the house belonged to Adrienne now, yet she didn't seem at all interested in the contents. We were well past the 3/4 point before Adrienne even looked in Edith's room.The entire story is told from Adrienne's perspective. We spend most of our time with her, in that house, alone with her cat, yet I never got much sense of Adrienne as a person. She was supposedly a freelance writer, but I have no idea what types of articles she wrote or what subjects appealed to her. She sat around at night doing absolutely nothing, yet barely acknowledged all the old books Edith had left behind. I found her timid and uninteresting. Her character lacked depth. The only character I found all all interesting or likable was Wolfgang, Adrienne's cat.Little details also bothered me throughout. For instance, she had nothing but time on her hands, complained constantly that the windows were so grimy she couldn't see outside, yet she never once thought to wash them. She had an attic full of candles, yet complained about not having light and never considered bringing some of those candles down and dispersing them throughout the rooms. She also managed to move into a home with working electricity and running water, while never putting utilities in her own name or showing any sort of proof of ownership. This might work differently in England, but there is no way you could do that (legally) here in the US.The detail that most irritated me was the second floor hallway's lineup of portraits hanging on the wall. Adrienne hated those portraits, mentioning how they creeped her out every single time she went upstairs, yet she did not do the simple, logical, intelligent thing a person would do in a home she now lived in and owned, which would be to take those portraits off the wall.A little beyond the halfway point, when things actually started to happen, it all became too silly and predictable. I did like the cat and the intriguing setting, but the rest never came together in a way I could enjoy.

I received a copy of this book in return for leaving an honest review.One thing is certain, the description of this book doesn't do it justice. Its kinda like the kindergarten Cliffs Notes. But it works because anything more would give to much away. I loved Adrienne aka Addy right away. She is super relatable to all of us kinda loner folks. Her cat Wolfgang is super awesome and not only does he play a pretty big role in this story but he also seems like the kind of cat you would want to curl up

with and read. This book had me going back and forth on trying to figure out if the recently departed Great Aunt Edith was the big bad of the book or not. And then of course trying to pinpoint exactly what the big bad was exactly. Darcy kept me guessing and didn't let the picture be complete until she was ready. I was close but I still got it wrong. I feel the main characters of the book are Addy and Wolfgang. Edith of course plays a pretty big role both in the beginning and towards the end. We get to learn about her quirks throughout the whole story. Just don't be quick to judge. The sub characters are just as important as the main characters. Instead of just being filler, each and every one of them play important roles in completing the picture. One of my other favorite things about this book, and all of her books for that matter, is that you can't discount any of the small details. They are all important. And when the story finally reaches the super climatic end, it's all those little details that bring it all together. I absolutely adored the ending of this book. It was wrapped up nicely even though I could defiantly read more about Ashburn House. So woo-hoo for no cliffhangers. Also, I love this cover pretty hard. This house is pretty spot on for how I pictured Ashburn House in my head.

A strange event flashes through the beginning of the story, one that later becomes a childhood memory. A frantic mother whisks her child away from an old house standing proudly in the distant background. As the motherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s car speeds away, the child watches from the window. The houseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s front door opens slowly, revealing a tall, female figure dressed in black and lurking in the doorway. This is the first hint that Darcy Coates is well-practiced in the art of abrupt and spine-tingling horror.Years later, Adrienne has inherited Ashburn house from a cousin named Edith, a woman who never existed, according to her mother. The house, remotely located and situated on a mountain top, is said to be haunted. Years ago, members of the Ashburn family were brutally murdered, except for young Edith, a mystery that remained unsolved. But Adrienne is a young, struggling writer. Owning her own home will alleviate much of her obstacles. She moves into Ashburn house with her illustrious cat, Wolfgang.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Haunting of Ashburn HouseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is well-crafted and draws the reader into the story. Adrienne is a likeable and intimately perceived character. The story is slow and often draws us back to square one over and over, yet Darcy CoatesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ writing is wonderfully hypnotic and well worth the wait. The lull could be the result of the fact that Adrienne, as the soul main character, absorbs much of the book. The reader waits for the entrances of more characters to fill the story.The faces of those who were murdered years ago stare back at Adrienne from their painted portraits. The paintings are haunted, causing visions of the past, and allowing Darcy Coates to show off her extraordinary talent

at horror. The climactic twist is delivered perfectly. A secret is revealed, allowing the reader to understand exactly what happened all those years ago, and what is happening now as Adrienne becomes a prisoner in her own home.All readers of the paranormal should gladly look forward to more by Darcy Coates.

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