



Her Dark Curiosity

Megan Shepherd

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Inspired by *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, this tantalizing sequel to Megan Shepherd's gothic suspense novel *The Madman's Daughter* explores the hidden natures of those we love and how far we'll go to save them from themselves. Perfect for fans of Libba Bray.

Back in London after her trip to Dr. Moreau's horrific island, Juliet is rebuilding the life she once knew and trying to forget her father's legacy. But soon it's clear that someone—or something—hasn't forgotten *her*, as people close to Juliet start falling victim to a murderer who leaves a macabre calling card of three clawlike slashes. Has one of her father's creations also escaped the island?

As Juliet strives to stop a killer while searching for a serum to cure her own worsening illness, she finds herself once more in a world of scandal and danger. Her heart torn in two, her past bubbling to the surface, and her life threatened by an obsessive killer—Juliet will be lucky to escape alive.

Her Dark Curiosity Details

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Author : Megan Shepherd

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From Reader Review Her Dark Curiosity for online ebook

Starr says

2014.... a whole year? After that ending I have to wait so long for the next??? I think I may die from the anticipation omg T_T

Lindsay Cummings says

haunting. gorgeous. a PERFECT sequel to book 1, and I am literally DROOLING for book 3. this is one of the best series ever! so creepy, so well written and imaginative, yet so believable. the author's writing style makes me want to die, it's so beautiful. I LOVED THIS BOOK!!!

Basically, book 3 starts out shortly after Book 2 leaves off. Juliet and her group is on the run, after the events that went down at the very end of book 2 (will not spoil it for those who haven't read book 2 yet! But it's BIG stuff, people!).

HER DARK CURIOSITY takes place in the most gorgeous, haunting setting, in the moors in Scotland! With OUTLANDER being a huge hit recently, fans of that show/series are going to adore this third book. Juliet and her friends, along with a very sick Edward, (and sexy Montgomery), find their way to their friend Elizabeth's castle. It's a rainy, cold night, and the second they get inside, they realize things are just...off. There are dark secrets within the walls of the estate, and things aren't what they seem.

The estate is full of young girls and women, and everyone acts very strange. Juliet picks up on key elements to each girl/woman that give away little hints about the secrets. It wasn't overly hard to figure out what was going on in this estate, but that didn't really matter to me.

This is, to be short, a retelling of FRANKENSTEIN--if you read book 2, you figured that out towards the end of the book--but don't think this story is going to turn out the way you expect. HER DARK CURIOSITY totally throws you for a loop several times. Once Juliet and her group start discovering the secrets to this estate, things get pretty dark pretty quickly.

Lucy, who I just LOVE as a side character, does some pretty crazy things that the reader doesn't expect. It's wonderful to see her develop more, and of course, we get some amazingly swoon-worthy moments between Juliet and Montgomery. (sigh, I just love them together)

Balthazar, one of my all time favorite characters in any series, gets lots of "page time", and I just love him to pieces. He's adorable as he has been throughout this series, and Sharkey, the little dog, is always by his side. We need a ship name for Balthazar and Sharkey...Barkey. Yepp. That's the one.

We also finally get some answers about some things that happened back in book 1, on the island where Juliet first connected with Edward/Montgomery, and those loose ends are tied up quite nicely for readers.

Overall, amazing ending to an amazing series. I'm sad to see it end, but I know Megan has a new series releasing in 2015. THE CAGE. Look out for that one, readers!

nick says

Last year, I absolutely loved *The Madman's Daughter*. It was dark, atmospheric and suspenseful. It also ended in a brutal cliffhanger that had me raging and at the same time dying to read this second book. I had high hopes going into *Her Dark Curiosity*, but it ended up being so disappointing and I felt like it suffered from second book syndrome.

Juliet was someone I admired in the first book, but in *Her Dark Curiosity* she plain out annoyed me with her poor decision making skills. It was frustrating seeing her fluctuate between Edward and Montgomery. To be honest, it's not her fault. It's entirely the fault of the stupid love triangle. Juliet did things in this book that had me raging. At one point, despite being completely unsure of herself, she gives up her virginity to Edward right after he kills someone and is still drenched in blood. When she wakes up, she pushes him away and acts like a heartless bitch and tells him, she regrets everything and that she still has feelings for Montgomery. The next night, she meets Montgomery and begins making out with him and realizes that she still has feelings for him. Soon after, Montgomery proposes to her and he misunderstands her answer for a yes and doesn't bother correcting him. Her actions made me furious and I wished she wouldn't keep thinking about the two love interests so often.

Juliet's character left a bad taste in my mouth, which made it hard to enjoy the book in it's entirety. In the beginning, it felt like the romance and the love triangle suffocated the story line, but things did start to get better towards the end. Because this one had a different setting than in the first book, I also felt like the world-building wasn't as fascinating as it was the first time. *Her Dark Curiosity* lacked that intense and atmospheric nature that *The Madman's Daughter*. I was also quite disappointed with one of the twists being entirely too predictable. Regardless of all the issues that I've mentioned, I'm convinced that Megan Shepherd is a talented author because I did enjoy parts of the book. My only wish was that she didn't focus so much attention on typical YA tropes. She has the possibility of being one amazing author.

For the reasons mentioned above, I felt like *Her Dark Curiosity* paled in comparison to *The Madman's Daughter*. I'm still going to read the final installment because this did end on a fairly positive note.

Blythe says

And that's my review.

That too.

Full review to come closer to the release date (**EDIT:** LOL yeah no just kidding about that), but if you need something to hold you over, Mel and I did a thorough discussion review for Her Dark Curiosity on the blog, full of rants and snark. Enjoy!

Jamie says

So many thoughts are still swirling inside my head after finishing this book. Where to begin? Well, let's start with the obvious. I loved it! It has all the best of the first book but with some darker plots in motion. More danger, suspense and intrigue than The Madman's Daughter. While the first book is a retelling of The Island of Dr. Moreau, this book brings us a twist on the famous tale of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde! And during the blending of the tales, Megan Sheppard doesn't miss a beat!

***Warning: If you have not read The Madman's Daughters plot and character spoilers may be mentioned in this review. Turn away now if you have not read the first book and don't want anything revealed.*

This book takes place a few months after Juliet is set adrift from the island. She has been found and taken in by the wealthy and caring Professor Von Stein. While her life may seem to have taken a turn for the better, they have not. She is ill. The serum she was taking is no longer properly working. She is hurt over Montgomery's betrayal to send her off alone and guilt is nibbling her about how she aided in the death of her father. Then former wrongdoers unto her are found dead and murdered!

Talk about a lot to take on at her age! Sheesh. Double (triple?) lives, secrets and then murder?! It does not help when she knows who the murderer is....

Edward and Montgomery are also in the city for this book. Edward needs help, Montgomery has become a hunter and there are other dark secrets roaming the city streets. This book has a lot of great suspense and intrigue. It is darker and more violent than the first in my opinion. And more mature.

The love triangle once again takes effect but it is so much more than just a triangle now...

Lucy plays a much larger role in this book than the first. At the beginning she seemed like nothing special. Just your average, rich girl of the age. But as the story progresses, she proves she is much more. Elizabeth is a new character we meet and I really like her. Compassionate and independent. And Balthazar is back too! I love him! He is a favorite for this series. He is so sweet and heroic.

Moving on to our leads... Juliet. While I love her for her on one hand she also gets a bit annoying with how she is constantly comparing herself to her father. I get it, especially for the time setting, but I also wanted to shake some sense into her. Edward seems sweet enough but when he is not, look out! And then there is Montgomery. I cannot make up my mind about him. I like him. He has done well for himself and cares for Juliet it seems but he has his secrets still and those secrets have me leery of him...

Overall, I am very impressed. The author has done a fabulous job recreating worlds and sharing them in a

bold new way! The characters are all fantastic and well-written. The writing is engrossing and compelling! Hints are given to keep you going but nothing is given away. While the end does give you an idea for the theme of the next book, I have no idea what to expect. Potential theories yes but there are many ways to go. Now I must wait impatiently for the third book of the series...

I received a free copy of this book from Balzer & Bray via Edelweiss, in return for a fair, honest review. All opinions expressed are strictly my own.

Sophia Sardothien says

THIS BOOK IS UTTERLY MAD a stunning sequel to The madman's daughter :D I ABSOLUTELY ENJOYED THIS BOOK maybe like 0.1 star more than the first one which is extremely rare as I tend to enjoy the first books in series a lot more :D This book continues to question my moral beliefs :) highly recommend, can't wait to read the last one!

Erin Arkin says

Her Dark Curiosity is book 2 of The Madman's Daughter series. Because it is a while yet until the book releases, I won't give anything away. I enjoyed this book and thought it was a solid second book to the series. If you liked The Madman's Daughter, definitely check this one out when you can.

This book picks up with Juliet back in London after Montgomery sent her away from the island and Shepherd did a great job of sharing the things Juliet went through on her journey without making us start the book there. She definitely didn't have an easy trip and even when she did get back, some old problems found their way back to her.

With the support and help from Professor von Stein, a former colleague of Juliet's father's, Juliet is slowly making her way back into the upper crust of society. He decided to step in and help her since he failed to help her father when he could have and it has become Juliet's safety net. Because of him, she has a nice house to live in, warm clothes, and her reputation back (mostly). At the same time, Juliet has not given up her quest for a cure. She continues to suffer from the pain and side effects of what her father did to her. She keeps a hidden apartment in a less safe area of London and goes there to create the serums.

As if all of that isn't enough to deal with, another problem has hit the area. People are being killed and the police think it may be a mass murderer. Juliet ends up linked to the case due to the fact that all of the victims happen to be people Juliet knows/knew. The killer leaves the victims torn apart like an animal and this is the thing that forces Juliet to try to find out just who the killer is before Scotland Yard and Detective John Newcastle does.

A lot happens in this book and we get to see some great new characters as well as some of my favorite old characters. If you follow me on Twitter or saw my Goodreads updates you may have noticed I had some comments....only a few. There were things that occurred in this book that made me a bit ragey. I actually like Juliet's character – she is strong and smart but she does something that actually made me stop and think:

Ok – don't hate me for that teaser...trust me when I say that once you read the book, you will know exactly what I am talking about.

I loved how Shepherd used Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde as inspiration for the book – it fit well and gave the story some great layers. The way Shepherd intertwines the characters and brings all their stories together was great and I am definitely looking forward to the next installment. If it isn't there already, add this one to your "to read" pile and grab it as soon as you can.

Bookaholic (reads every mortal thing) says

As far as second books go, this one is right up there. A tight plot, good suspense, awesome pacing and great writing.

Juliet has grown on me. She has her moments of pure frustration, but in the end, you'll come to love her. She is ashamed of her unnatural curiosity towards all things bloody, but she does embrace it in time of need. She is repulsed by how alive she feels when she feeds her curiosity, but she is unable to stop, which makes her a very sympathetic character.

Its amazing that the romance isnt the sole focus of the book. The last book didnt have much and neither did this one: **For once, the heroine thinks more with her brain than her heart when its needed the most.** For big decisions, she took everything in account. Rationality, use and whether there was a better option or not. She does sometimes overestimate her own limitations, but you what? **She tries.** And not that pathetic *'Boohoo, I tried reviving him, but my half-hearted, two penny efforts failed. I shall stop now and only continue when I feel like it.'* She goes out of her way to do something the majority of people said is impossible.

So my last question is: **When is the last book coming out and where can I get it?**

Saniya says

HOLY FUCKING SHIT. That Cover.

Expected publication: January 21st 2014

Kassidy says

I loved the drama in this book, there was so much going on! The plot has so many twists and turns, it was hard for me to put the book down. I also love the thought-provoking ideas in this story revolving around

science experimentation and morality. I just found the story fascinating and I love the setting. I also really enjoy Juliet's character and reading from her perspective. With that said, her internal struggles can get aggravating and repetitive at times, but she definitely has reason to be confused. The love triangle development in this book is very interesting and it surprised me. I am so excited to see how this trilogy concludes!

Sarah says

“I stumbled back against the empty table, stunned. The thread slipped from my fingers, along with the spool of my sanity.

The murderer was the same. Somehow, even though I’d thought him dead, Edward had done this.”

This was a really good sequel, which this time turned into a real ‘Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ kind of story!

I really liked Juliet in this story, and I felt sorry for her in the way her illness was taking over her life, and the fact that she had been abandoned by Montgomery. I did think she made some crazy decisions at times, and really pushed things at points, but it seemed clear that she was once again doing this to help other people. I knew that we’d definitely have at least one of Juliet’s beaux turning up in this book though, and yay(!) they both did!

“What secret?” I asked. When he didn’t answer I let the fork clatter to the floor and grabbed his suit lapel a little roughly. “What other secret was Montgomery keeping from me, Edward?”

“It doesn’t matter. You loved him, and he left you. I’d never do that to you. I’d sooner cut off my own hand than do anything to cause you pain.” My fingers were still coiled in the stiff fabric of his lapel, and he whispered, “If only you’d give me a chance...”

The storyline in this was really good, and we got quite a few twists and surprises! I liked the murder/mystery part of the story, I liked not knowing who would pop up next, I liked the little twists we got thrown with regards to Juliet’s father’s work, who Lucy’s new Beau was, as well as the question over what Juliet should do about Edward.

“I leaned my head back against the worn wood of the stairwell, eyes closed, uncertain if I was making the biggest mistake of my life by helping a murderer, or if I had found the one person in the world who understood me.”

I really liked the romance in this story too! The love-triangle certainly escalated in this story, with Juliet’s chastity a thing of the past, and even a proposal!

“I want to be just a man, that’s all, who isn’t marked with bruises, who can walk the streets without worry

that he'll kill someone." He swallowed, as his hands again closed over mine. "Who can love you as you deserve to be loved."

"Before I knew it, his lips found mine. He tasted of blood and sweat, and it twisted my insides into sharp angles. Tears started down my face but he kissed them away, cupping my cheek, trailing rough fingers along the smooth skin of my neck.

"I was so afraid I'd be too late," he whispered into my hair. "I'd have torn him apart if he'd hurt you.""

The ending in this was so good! There was plenty of action, gunshot wounds, death, and once again it was time to flee! Really looking forward to book 3 now!

"Come with me," I whispered, "I need you."

The tensed muscles in his back eased. "You know I'd follow you anywhere. Though I fear we'll both end up damned."

"You wouldn't have abandoned me, and I'm not going to abandon you."

8 out of 10.

Jean Menzies says

This review was originally posted on my blog:

<http://www.jeanmenzies.blogspot.co.uk...>

Probably the only book I was in any sort of true state of anticipation for this year was *Her Dark Curiosity* by Megan Shepherd, the sequel to *The Madman's Daughter*. I read the first book in the series only days after its release, quite by chance based on a goodreads recommendation, so this book has been an entire year in the waiting. The first in this series was based on *The Island of Dr Moreau* and this latest instalment in the series is based on the infamous *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Set in the 19th century Shepherd creates a modern twist on some gothic classics whilst maintaining a desirable amount of authenticity.

Of course, in this review, I must skim over any details concerning the plot line out of fear of spoiling the first book in the series. Although, in general, this review is directed at those who have read *The Madman's Daughter*. In comparison the mystery, suspense and fear factor was not quite as prominent in this sequel but personally I feel that was due to two reasons: one being the setting, which was London and did not quite possess the same mystery as a secluded island; and two I am much more familiar with the plot of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* than I was with *The Island of Dr Moreau*. This did result in slightly more predictability,

however the author still surprised me on multiple occasions; Shepherd has a real knack for plot twists and conspiracies. All on all this book definitely fulfilled my need for a Madman's Daughter fix and in particular set me up for the third book in the series set to come out in 2014. This book will be set in the secluded Scottish highlands, eery check, and will be based on Frankenstein. I can not wait; I guess I will just have to though :).

If you have not read the first book in this series and enjoy thrillers in a period setting, well, what are you waiting for, get on that!

Heather says

Oh my gosh! The first one was based on The Island Of Dr. Moreau and the second one is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde??? And I am *pretty* sure who is going to be playing the title role! AWESOME!!!

UPDATED THOUGHTS AFTER FINISHING

Well, well, well-- what a deliciously creepy, no down-right horror filled, sequel! Now I had some issues-- namely with a few of the characters. Some annoy me, some anger me, some I just plain don't trust AT ALL. But others were AWESOME. And this story-- the tie in of The Isle of Dr. Moreau with Jekyll and Hyde is so darn good that I can look past most of my grievances.

And you know what the icing on the cake is? I think the last book in this series-- and yes, we do find out by book's end which third piece of classic literature will be re-told-- I think is going to be the most kick ass of them ALL. Just as I felt after finishing THE MADMAN'S DAUGHTER, I get chills just thinking about it:)

Full review very soon!

UPDATED, UPDATED REVIEW

Last year, after tearing through Megan Shepard's The Madman's Daughter, I was beyond excited to check out the sequel, which I knew was to be based on Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. I thought Shepard did an amazing job tackling the classic The Island of Dr. Moreau, translating and expanding it into a wholly original young adult novel. And with The Madman's Daughter ending on a bit of a cliffhanger (well, maybe MORE than a bit) I already knew exactly who would be playing the title role in her Jekyll and Hyde re-imagining. So a big thanks again to Harper/ Balzer+Bray for letting me read Her Dark Curiosity—in many ways it totally lived up to my high expectations.

Anyone who hasn't yet read The Madman's Daughter might want to stop here because I'm about to spoil some major plotlines from that book (but don't worry, I'm not going to spoil any of Her Dark Curiosity.)

When last we left Juliet Moreau she had discovered that she was one of her father's first experiments and that he saved her life by transplanting animal organs and tissue inside her as a child. Juliet played a role in bringing about the destruction of her father's compound on a remote island. In addition she was a participant in her father's death when she allowed Jaguar (what a great character) into the burning lab to finish him off. Believing that she and her childhood friend and love interest Montgomery were going to escape together, Juliet was taken completely by surprise when he sent her off by herself, saying that he couldn't leave the other islanders behind while Moreau's experiments reverted back to their animalistic instincts and laid the

compound to waste. The final scene depicted Juliet, alone and adrift in a rowboat, headed for the international shipping channel and subsequent rescue.

But wait! I'm leaving an important person out of this recap. What about Edward, Juliet's other love interest—who was revealed to be one of Dr. Moreau's most sophisticated and human-like creations and was also responsible for murdering countless inhabitants on the island when the beastly side of him took over? Well, Juliet thinks he's dead—but you know how it goes, no body, no proof of death. In other words, I never thought he was dead. And when the next book was revealed to be based on Jekyll and Hyde—I definitely knew who was going to be playing the title role.

Flash forward a year and Juliet is back in London. It seems that her circumstances have changed dramatically since she last lived in the city—a former colleague of her father's has taken her in as his ward and her days of scrabbling to survive appear to be over. She has renewed her friendship with London socialite Lucy. But the sins of her past won't let her go. She has nightmares about her role in her father's death. She has fitful dreams of Edward and Montgomery. And most distressing, the serum her father developed for her to keep her body from rejecting the animal tissue seems to be failing. Juliet is desperate to develop a new serum—and hopeful that she can find a lasting cure in the pages of her father's journal that she secreted from the island. Unbeknownst to her benefactor, Juliet works on a new serum at a shoddy flat she has rented out. And while Juliette inwardly relishes the chance to put her scientific skills to work, she also worries that her animalistic side will overtake her human side and she will ultimately descend into madness just as her father did.

Ok, so like Jekyll and Hyde there is a murder mystery at play in *Her Dark Curiosity*. Bodies are turning up around London bearing three distinctive slash marks in the chest area. Juliet realizes that these wounds are exactly like those that Edward inflicted on his victims back on the island. Bingo—you guessed it—Edward did not die and has somehow made it off the island and followed Juliet back to London.

Ok—so here is the thing about this book. There were parts that I really, really loved. And there were also parts that drove me crazy. Overall the good outweighed the bad—but I'm not going to sugarcoat it—there were times when I was reading, especially in the middle part of the book, when I was ready to toss it out the window. But I stuck with it and I'm glad. It's not a perfect book, it tested my patience, but I'm intrigued and invested in it at this point and dying to see how the final installment plays out.

So, what didn't work for me? Well I always like to start with the negative first and end with the positive, so here goes:

[Read the Full Review](#)

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

“Compassion?” he hissed. “Why would you have sympathy for a monster?”
“Because we’re not so different!”

minor spoilers for the first 1/3 of the book

The main character makes some dangerous, questionable choices.

She is desperate for answers. She makes some extremely risky decisions.

There is romance.

There is a love triangle.

I REGRET NOTHING. NOTHING, YOU HEAR ME?! Call me a hypocrite. I don't care. I freaking loved this book. The writing is fantastic. The characters are wonderful. The mystery kept me guessing.

This would be one of those situations in which enjoyment trumps sense. This is by no means a perfect book, but I loved it, anyway. What can I say? It's chemistry. Sometimes it just strikes. If the previous book in this series was a retelling of *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, this book is a retelling of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

I could barely put this book down. It was packed with action from the first moment to the last. This book has a Jack the Ripper-type murder in an awesomely creepy Victorian gaslamp era setting. The main character is strong, she makes mistakes, but she is strong, she is determined, and I am solidly on her side.

There is an awesome supporting cast of characters, including strong female friendships. There is no girl-on-girl hate in this book. Can I get a motherfucking yeah? YEAH.

I know there are people who hated this book because of the love triangle, because of the sometimes TSTL actions of the main character. I know that, I recognize that, but it did not affect my enjoyment of this book.

I regret nothing.

The Summary: It is a year after Juliet left her mad scientist father's island, the island with the creatures, crafted from bits and pieces of other creatures---Frankensteins, if you will. Edward is presumed dead, Montgomery has abandoned her. Her father is dead, she is alone in the world.

Her new life is a good one. It is far beyond what she could have ever hoped. She is now a proper young Victorian lady, living a sheltered life. By a twist of fate, her father's childhood friend, Professor von Stein heard about her plight. He takes her in, acts as a guardian. He is a gentle, quiet, compassionate man. Professor von Stein is the father Juliet wishes that she had. It is a good life, but unbeknownst to the professor and all who know her, Juliet is leading a double life.

By night, she sneaks out of the house to a suite which she rents with her own hard-earned money grafting flowers. She uses her alternate home to conduct experiments to save her own life. Juliet is sick---she has the symptoms of diabetes, gout. She suffers from shakes, pain. The serum that her father made her has decreased in its efficacy as she has grown older. Juliet is desperately trying to create a new serum that will save her life.

It really is not a bad life at all, until Juliet's past comes roaring back to the present.

People have been getting murdered on the streets of London. The murders appear to be connected. The bodies have been shredded to pieces by what looks like claws."

"They're calling him the Wolf of Whitechapel on account of how he carves up the bodies. One of them had a purse on him and a gold watch, but the murderer didn't touch it. Wasn't interested in anything but tearing that man apart like an animal."

There's something strange about the murders. The murderer has left a tropical flower on every body he kills. But Juliet knows there's something more to the murders, something that connects her to them.

*Four. I knew all four victims.
And in turn, I realized, I had been victim to each of them.*

The victims all had wronged Juliet at one time or another in the past.

It is Edward. Only it is not Edward. Edward has a dual personality, himself, and what he calls The Beast. Edward is a gentle, kind man. The Beast kills.

The Beast writhed on the floor, caught somewhere between man and creature in the midst of a transformation. He was doubled over in pain as claws slid into his bloody joints and then out again. His back buckled and strained as the two sides of him fought for control. In one instant he was the Beast, snarling and furious; in the next he was Edward, reaching out a hand toward me and trying to form words, and then back again.

Edward's Beast is getting harder and harder to control. He is no longer able to hold back his need to kill. **Edward needs Juliet's help to find a cure, and she is sympathetic to his cause, for she knows the feeling of desperation. Of loneliness.**

"We'll find the missing ingredient, and we'll get rid of the Beast." I realized how desperate my voice sounded. Desperate for him, or desperate for me, now that I had someone in my life who shared my secrets?

But Edward's secret is not all that's at stake. Old friends, old lovers come back into her life. Her father's past comes to haunt her; Juliet has more enemies than she knows.

The Characters: **Juliet is not perfect, I would venture to say she is TSTL at times, but I found her to be such a convincing, sympathetic person.** She is desperate. We hear that over and over, and I understand it. She is so lonely, she carries so many secrets from the past that she can share with no one, because really, would anyone believe her? "Hi, my name is Juliet, my father is a mad scientist/Dr. Frankenstein wannabe who craft humanoid creatures from animal parts on a deserted island." Not exactly the sort of stuff you go telling people about at tea parties, is it?

She holds so many secrets, and it is those secrets and her loneliness that drives her to sympathize with the monster that is Edward/The Beast. She knows perfectly well that Edward is a monster, but she sympathizes with him anyway. She sometimes feels like she is a monster herself. Juliet sometimes has urges...but unlike Edward, she keeps those violent tendencies bottled up.

*This is what had fascinated me about him—monster and man sharing the same breath—and now it terrified me.
Well, I could be a monster, too.*

Juliet is fucking dumb sometimes, but she realizes it. Her stupid choices are made out of desperation, and sympathy for Edward, and I forgive her for it.

I leaned my head back against the worn wood of the stairwell, eyes closed, uncertain if I was making the biggest mistake of my life by helping a murderer, or if I had found the one person in the world who understood me.

She is strong, and she is willing to do what it takes to rid London of a murderer, even if it goes against her nature.

If we couldn't strangle the Beast out of him, if there was no way to separate the two, then I'd kill him myself.

Edward himself was such a well-rounded character, his split personalities well-drawn. The jealous, murderous, raging, seductive Beast versus the gentle creature who wants nothing more than to be a man.

You've always had that animal inside you, stirring, since you were an infant. It's been more of a friend to you than any of those girls who titter behind their fans in church. You're afraid that if you rid yourself of it, you'll be hollow. A shell of a person content to let the days pass in boredom and chores, never really feeling, never truly living. Not like how I live."

I loved the supporting characters in the book. They feel real to me; I understand them and I like them.

There are other female characters in the book besides Juliet, and both Lucy (her best friend from the first book) and Elizabeth are very well-rounded, strong female supporters. I loved that about this book. There is no hate on any of the female characters.

The Setting: Dark, dank Victorian-era setting. We are caught between upper-middle-class tea parties and the slums, as Juliet lives her other life. It is a beautiful setting, just detailed enough not to be intrusive, and I really loved it. There were some inconsistencies and some unbelievable parts in the book, like the use of fingerprints, and the shipment of flowers from other countries (come on, this is Victorian England). But other than that, the setting felt fitting for the atmosphere of the book.

The Romance: Love triangle. It was well-done, **I felt that the love triangle played a good role in the plot, and dare I say, I enjoyed it?**

It really did play a part in the plot. Edward's jealousy, more specifically, The Beast's jealousy, was vital in the plot.

*"I won't let anything, or anyone, come between us."
His pupils were already starting to elongate. In moments the Beast would fully emerge. He leaned close enough that his lips grazed my earlobe. "I won't let you go."*

Seriously, I regret nothing.

Giselle (Book Nerd Canada) says

Juliet's back in London, and her new guardian is a kind and gentle man who is in turn a great father figure for her. Then dead bodies that are murdered in the same fashion as the island murders are showing up around the city. Juliet can't help but wonder if the beast escaped and has targeted her as its next victim.

What can I say about this book? Intense. Dramatic. Shocking. Thrilling. That's a good summary of what I believe this book to be about. Not only did Megan write a well written second novel, she made me more

interested in her character's lives. That's something that's very hard to do and something I know lots of people will do. The mystery surrounding the murders fueled my need to know WHY. It was incredibly brutal how they were killed, and what goes on in the final scene is just so gruesome, I don't even like to think about it.

Now to the characters. I love how different Juliet is in this one. Her thoughts are just so incredibly dark and vindictive that I couldn't help but gasp at certain parts when she thought of them. She's also struggling with her thoughts only because she doesn't want to become as mad as her father. Yet there's that tiny part of her that relishes and it's scary as heck! Love for Montgomery is still there in her heart, but he's keeping secrets and I was dying to know what they were. I also enjoyed reading about a certain other lover of Juliet's, but I won't name him because it could be a potential spoiler. I just liked their banter and wit when they were talking to one another. It also helps that he understands her better than she understands herself. And lastly, my favourite character..Balthazar the sweetheart whom I find just so huggable and kind.

Overall, this book is easily devoured and there's also a hint to what retelling is next for this trilogy. More please?
