



## The Cellar

*A.J. Whitten*

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Meredith Willis is suspicious of Adrien, the new guy next door. When she dares to sneak a look into the windows of his house, she sees something in the cellar that makes her believe that Adrien might be more than just a creep—he may be an actual monster. But her sister, Heather, doesn't share Meredith's repulsion. Heather believes Adrien is the only guy who really understands her. In fact, she may be falling in love with him. When Adrien and Heather are cast as the leads in the school production of *Romeo and Juliet*, to Heather, it feels like fate. To Meredith, it feels like a bad omen. But if she tries to tear the couple apart, she could end up in the last place she'd ever want to be: the cellar. Can Meredith convince her sister that she's dating the living dead before it's too late for both of them?

## The Cellar Details

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Author : A.J. Whitten

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## From Reader Review The Cellar for online ebook

### Sandy says

A.J. Whitten's The Cellar is supposed to be a mix of zombies and Romeo and Juliet. I could have done with more Romeo and Juliet and less zombies. The horror in this book isn't very "I'm going to have nightmares for weeks because of this"--it felt more just gratuitous. However, for the segment of young adult readers who enjoy horror lite with a smattering of Twilight, this will be enjoyable.

Personally, I would have liked if this story stayed with a third-person narrative. The switch between first-person and third-person narration felt jumpy and interrupted the flow of the novel.

Additionally, the dialogue felt forced--like it was trying too hard to sound like teenagers (which is strange since the author's teenage daughter helped her write this). It was like the author felt that if she said Facebook and Hollister enough, the writing would seem more young adult. To me, it just felt unauthentic. I mean, I think I was in junior high the last time I heard someone say something and then end it with "not", and this book did it more than once.

However, The Cellar does offer some unique twists to today's tired young adult storyline. Although it's another "love at first glance from across the school hallway" story, the hot stalker guy...really truly is a baddie. Usually, it turns out he's misunderstood and trying to overcome the evil of his species, but Adrien really truly is a baddie. When he left Meredith in the cellar near the end, I knew he hadn't really reformed. You can expound about how his love for Heather redeemed him at the very end, but when he didn't save Meredith and wanted to FEED MEREDITH TO HER SISTER, he was every bit the selfish, creepy, obsessive baddie we met on his first day of school. He tells Heather not to judge him and to see him for what he wants to be, but then he didn't even free her sister. Yep, I'm going to judge him right there.

And can we please stop telling 16-year-olds that it's okay to be engaged and obsessive about marriage...as a junior in high school??? What was Heather thinking? (And wouldn't it be so gross to kiss a zombie? I mean, he eats people with that mouth. I couldn't stop thinking that every time he drew close to her.)

So, fans of horror have a nice, sanitized young adult horror novel that will appeal to many teens. There's nothing in this book to give you crazy nightmares--just a lot of zombies eating people again...and again...and again, but it just feels so detached that it's not even scary.

And Meredith? Points for NOT falling for the creepy guy. That's my favorite part of this book.

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### Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

The reason I wanted to read The Cellar was because it advertised itself as Romeo and Juliet with zombies, only not in a Quirk classics way. That sounded like it could be hilarious. It wasn't for an assortment of reasons. 1: It took itself way too seriously. 2: Having the school do a modern version of Romeo and Juliet does not make this a modernization of said play; the story has to back it up. 3: These zombies are totally not following the rules and are, perhaps, other fantastical creatures. All in all, some seriously false advertising. Now I will expand on these points.

The Cellar is supposed to be a horror, sweet romance and tragic romance all in one. Whitten wants you to go 'Ack!', 'awww' and 'boohoo.' I did none of these things. There were no joke attempts. How can you have the premise of Romeo and Juliet + zombies and not think it should be hysterical, especially if you're completely changing the plot until its unrecognizable as the original play anyway? I think part of why Whitten (another mother/daughter writing team) wrote this book was because they thought it would be awesome to write a story about a sexy zombie. Here is an excerpt of Adrien (totally a zombie) meeting Heather for the first time:

"You look lost,' a deep voice said from behind her. 'Like me.'

Heather turned, about to blast whoever was bothering her this time. She stopped. Stared.

At the very guy who has moved in next door to her. From far away this morning, she hadn't seen any details, but now—

Oh, now she did.

Up close, he was...gorgeous. Dark hair, a bit long in the back, just enough to curl over his collar, long dark jeans, a black suit jacket, something no other guy would have dared to wear, very A&F-ish, over a white T, untucked. He wore sunglasses—not Ray-Bans, but something very similar and very...mysterious. They reflected back her face, the shock in her eyes." (9)

Holy misuse of punctuation, Batman! These ladies are definitely from the Twilight/Lisa McMann school of writing. Also, is this guy supposed to sound like a stud? Because what he sounds like is a pompous asshat.

In this book, the school is performing Romeo and Juliet. Conveniently, Heather is Juliet and Adrien is Romeo. Because of this, they decide that they are exactly like the bard's star-crossed lovers, especially since her family is against them. Oh noes! Only not really, because of everyone but Meredith ends up supporting them. Mostly its just Heather thinks everyone wants to keep her from happiness. The frame of the story doesn't fit at all, nor does the fact that they don't both die. Fail.

Most disconcerting perhaps were the 'zombies.' Adrien and his 'mother' Marie are obviously something else altogether. Marie has to get herself a new skin with magic and soul-sucking every so often. So, basically, she's a witch from Stardust. Adrien apparently looks perfect and doesn't smell like decay; the only sign that he's not human are the worms in his eyes. Umm, what? For some reason, he really reminded me most of the Oogie Boogie man, thus the song. I think it was the way he commanded legions of creepy crawlies and the way he criticized all of his enemies/prey. Even the regular zombies did not necessarily act like zombies are supposed to. One of them was able to focus on more than commands from its maker or its hunger. Weird and out of character for how the others were. It was a necessary plot point, but I'm not buying it.

So yeah, I kind of hated it. However, fans of books like Cryer's Cross, another incomprehensible horror fantasy, will probably enjoy this.

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### **Merideth Jenson-Benjamin says**

<http://meridethsays.blogspot.com/2011...>

Summary: Meredith lost her dad months ago in a car wreck caused by her sister Heather. Now, Heather has become an emo poster-child and Mom is a shopoholic. But when the amazingly handsome and charismatic Adrien St. Germain moves to town, Heather falls instantly in love. Meredith however, senses something not right about Adrien, and seeks answers in the decrepit house next door. But, can she believe what she sees?

What Worked: The writing here is atmospheric; the death and decay of Adrien's world is well communicated.

What Didn't: (spoilers ahead) Where to start... Although I'm sure this isn't the worst book I've ever read, it is certainly the worst book I've read this year.

I'll start with my biggest gripe: halfway through the book, it comes out that Meredith has a condition, Fuchs' disease, that causes her to "see things that aren't there". However, five minutes on Google proved that Fuchs' doesn't cause hallucinations. While there are macular diseases that do cause visual hallucinations, it is very unlikely that a healthy 16 year old girl with no other symptoms would start to hallucinate. Basically, the condition is used as a all-too-convenient excuse for why nobody believes Meredith's suspicions. Sloppy research and bad writing make me Hulk-out.

Honestly, I am a pro at suspending disbelief. I read a lot of sci-fi and fantasy. But what this book asks me to swallow is just too much.. Let me count them down.

1. Adrien, the undead guy, is wicked hot. He's a sexy zombie. Yes, you heard me. "Zombie" and "sexy" are two words that should NEVER be put together.
2. The undead guy wears sunglasses all the time. Because he has no eyes. Just maggot-infested holes. Nobody really comments on this, or it's seen as being "hot". Yes, rotten parasites are so appealing!
3. The undead guy has Cullen-like psychic powers. He can bring people, particularly women, under his spell and make them do whatever he wants. And he does. Repeatedly.
4. The undead guy also has powers over animals. He also has a host of carrion eaters – beetles, vultures, hyenas, piranha, doctor fish, and crows – that obey his commands. Again, nobody seems to notice this, because hyenas are common in Massachusetts.
5. The undead guy doesn't just rely on his persuasive abilities; he has a whole medieval torture chamber set up in his basement. Which he uses. Repeatedly.
6. The undead guy has a slowly rotting mother with whom he's engaged in a century long power struggle; however, that doesn't stop them from feeding on the populace. Together.
7. The wicked hot eyeless psychic carrion-whisperer torturing brain-eating undead guy is the romantic lead.

Honestly, I could go on, but this whole story is one big contrivance. Obviously, Adrien finds the damaged (literally!) Heather. Naturally, he chooses her as his "forever love". Certainly, they're cast as the leads in Romeo and Juliet. And of course, it all comes down to a bloody and unbelievable zombie showdown, including the dead dad.

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## Seanean says

<http://librarytalker.blogspot.com/201...>

It's only been a few months since Meredith and Heather lost their father in a horrible car accident when Heather was driving. Things haven't gotten better for them. Heather still blames herself. Meredith still doesn't know how to talk to her. Their mother spends every free moment using "retail therapy" to try and make the pain go away. And an aunt has moved in with her twin sons to try and keep the family running.

Now the decrepit eyesore of a house next door has been rented out by an extremely reclusive boy and his mother. The mother is never seen in public. The windows and doors are always closed tight even in the

hottest weather. The boy is always wearing sunglasses. There are bugs, vultures, and piranhas at the house. People who enter don't leave... alive.

Heather is completely in love at first sight.

Meredith sees right through him even though every female around thinks he is amazing.

Mom doesn't care as long as she can spend money.

Things are wrong and no one but Meredith seems to see it.

And something is going on in the cellar that's too horrendous to consider.

Final thoughts: UGH! This was a horrible attempt to mix Romeo and Juliet with zombies and it is one of the most horrendous things ever written. It's only slightly better than R. L. Stine books (though that's not hard, since those are complete trash). Are zombies mindless undead dragging limbs around to eat humans or are they intelligent creatures who can manipulate minds? Even that can't be answered since there seem to be more than one type of zombie, though it's never explained why. The authors (a mother/daughter team) can't make up their minds about if Adrien is evil and manipulative or completely lovesick. There is a LOT of detailed descriptions of torture, eating of humans, tearing of flesh, etc... Don't read if you have a weak stomach or recently ate. Boys who love horror books will probably love this, but it's poorly written. This could be a step between Stine and almost any other author of horror who is a better writer, but it really should just be avoided.

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## Logan says

**First impressions:** The book opens with a tense scene where Meredith's sister, Heather, blurts that she wishes she had died instead of their father. This family is falling apart after a car accident that killed their patriarch, and this bombshell of a statement sets up a very complicated relationship between the sisters that really sucked me in.

**Lasting impressions:** Unfortunately, there were not enough likable elements in this book for me to recommend it.

**Conflicting impressions:** For me, the book was overly graphic with characters I didn't like or didn't care about. I didn't understand who I was supposed to be rooting for or against, particularly in light of the misleading tag line from the cover.

**Overall impressions:** Okay, deep breath. This is the first one star review I've given out on the blog. Usually if I dislike a book enough to give it one star, I've stopped reading, at which point I consider it a DNF, delete it from Goodreads, and don't write a review. So what makes this book different?

For one, I actually wanted to finish it. As stated above, the opening has a good hook, and by the time I got to the midpoint I decided I just had to see how it was all going to tie up. I can't say I regret reading the book, but I would certainly not recommend it to others - thus the one star.

Let me try to break down my feelings. First and foremost, I was really excited about this book because A) it's

a horror tale, which I love, and B) it's based on Romeo and Juliet. Or so the cover, and to a lesser degree, the blurb, would have you think. I quickly discovered that the R & J link is not really there, other than the fact that Heather and Adrien take part in the school's production.

The first point of confusion for me was whether I was supposed to be focused on Meredith or Heather. The story alternates between their perspectives, as well as Adrien's. Meredith is told in first person, Heather and Adrien in a close third person. Adrien is the boy who moves in next door, and is some kind of zombie looking for eternal love. His primary motivation to find love is his loneliness, and so he can get rid of his fellow zombie/maternal figure, Marie. He decides he wants Heather, so he starts using his magical effects to make her fall in love with him.

The only problem is Heather's sister, Meredith. She sees right through his charms. They don't have an effect on her. This isn't really discussed, just mentioned. Meredith spends most of the book getting more and more suspicious of the creepy guy who never takes off his sunglasses, seems to be brainwashing her entire family as well as the town, and who she sees burying things in the back yard.

It felt like that old Tom Hanks movie, The Burbs. In that way, I kind of liked it. However, while that movie was scary and suspenseful and creepy, this book quickly became just plain gross. Chapter 7 takes us inside Adrien's house, where we witness him and Marie torturing a man they kidnapped for food. It's very graphic, very disturbing, and almost made me physically ill while reading it on the train to work. I ended up skimming those pages because I couldn't get through them.

The thing is, I'm not against violence or disturbing imagery in books. I read and have read a lot of crime and horror books. I like things scary and dark and eerie and yes, even sometimes gory. Here there was a lot of violence that seemed to pop up out of nowhere, and then beat you over the head with it. There was a lot of flesh-eating, a LOT of bugs, and most of it was truly grotesque. This book is not for the faint-hearted, I promise you. That said, it seems like the kind of gross-out material that would be really popular with adolescent boys.

Once we become aware that Adrien is a Bad Man, the story focuses on his quest to steal away Heather, and Meredith's half-assed attempts to stop him. Heather refuses to think this guy could be bad and thinks that Meredith just doesn't want her to be happy, so bats away Meredith's attempts to reason with her. Meredith, despite being convinced Heather is in real danger, never does anything other than try to talk her out of it. I found this ingenuine, as I can guarantee that if my sister were hanging around with a suspected serial killer, I'd physically restrain her if need be. On top of everything, the horrifying things Meredith sees (that spellbound Heather can't) are explained away by an eye disease. Silly old Meredith, just seeing things again. It didn't quite work for me.

At times it felt like we were supposed to think Adrien was really in love with Heather, whether because he was truly lonely or used to be a good person/zombie, I don't know. He never seemed motivated by love until the last few chapters, but his insistence on being with her throughout most of the book wasn't written as purely psychotic or obsessed. Adrien, more than anyone, could really have benefited by some fleshing out. In my mind, you can't have it both ways. Adrien is either a good guy who wants to find love and happiness, or he's really as awful as he is depicted here, in which case he shouldn't care at all about Heather's fate. When he pulled a complete 180 in the final scenes, it felt contrived and contrary to his character.

In the end, it seemed like the point of the book was for Meredith to stop Heather and Adrien, but the climax of the book involves intervention by a third party that, while leading to some resolution for the girls, ultimately deprives our heroine of the chance to tie up the story for herself. It confused the plot more than

enhanced it, and it disappointed me as a reader.

Thank you to NetGalley and Graphia/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, but this just wasn't for me.

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### **Maria says**

What I Can Tell You:

I loved it! It's a mystery. It's horror. It's young love. It's young adult. It's everything. A.J. White does a great job of creating an interesting story about sisters Heather and Meredith, who are high schoolers who recently lost their loving father. When neighbors move into the old Victorian house things start getting weird.

New neighbor "living dead" Adrien and his "mother" Marie are interesting. All the girls in school find Adrien super hot but Meredith is convinced there is something up with him and she is going to prove it. Why did she see him digging in the back yard at night? Why is his mother never seen? Why are there bugs all over the house? Ravens? Flesh Eating Fish kept in tanks?

The correlation between Romeo and Juliet and Heather and Adrien really works.

I think young adult fans will love this. Perfect book for ages 14+

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### **Bewitched Bookworms says**

The zombies in this book aren't your standard shuffling along, not thinking or communicating zombies. They are in the vein of Haitian voodoo zombies and it's interesting to see ones that can act like normal everyday people. But they do have to replace their host bodies as they decay.

I give this book a 5 out of 5. It's a very interesting and fast paced read. Plus it's a little gorier than most young adult fare.

Read the full review [here](#).

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### **Cheyenne says**

Also see the review on my blog.

Let me begin by telling you how many horror books I've ever read: zero. I don't even watch horror movies because they freak me out too much. But while *The Cellar* was, in fact, a horror, it wasn't overwhelmingly scary. The author (I know it's not just ONE author, but it's easier to say *the author* than saying it the drawn out way.) focused more on the creepy aspects, like bugs and bugs and more bugs. BIG bugs. Lots of them. There was also lots of human torture (they *are* zombies,) and explicitly described dead bodies.

I liked Whitten's version of zombies. The first thing that comes to mind when you think "zombie" is those brain-hungry mindless ones. But not this time! These zombies can think for themselves, use mind-control powers on people, and even make various creepy animals and bugs do their bidding. This take on zombies

was very original and enjoyable.

I like how even though Adrien was the antagonist, you could really understand his side. He wasn't purely evil, he was lonely. He found his true love – Heather – and wanted to spend his eternity with her. He wanted her to be happy with him. You could almost root for Adrien to win because he was just trying to "live" his own life in the only way he knows how.

What bugged me the most was that the author kept repeating the same things constantly. The problems Marie caused. Heather couldn't stop thinking about Adrien. How badly Adrien wanted Heather forever. Meredith thought there was something wrong with Adrien. Etcetera. It was as if the author ran out of things to say at that point, but did not want to end the chapter so soon. The story was good, but the repetitive paragraphs got very old.

The story never fully explained some things, and that was frustrating to me. Like why wasn't Meredith batting her eyelashes along with her sister and the rest of the school? She was not affected by any of Adrien's powers, but we don't know why.

I think *The Cellar* deserves 3 stars, because it was good, but not remarkable. It was enjoyable, but at the same time forgettable. I wasn't hanging on the edge of my seat, and I didn't really feel too sad when it was over. It was a fun, dramatic, dark read, but nothing to go crazy about. I *will*, however, keep an eye on this author in the future. Oh, and last thing: You don't mess with Ben & Jerry's. Ever! I will never look at Chunky Monkey the same again. ;-)

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### KWinks says

Meredith and Heather Willis are sisters dealing with the recent death of their father, and with the new kid who has moved in next door. Check it out on goodreads. Or read my review, and then decide whether you want to bother or not.

What is good about this book... hmm. Well, there exists this genre of horror for people who don't like horror. This is one of them. The Cellar reads about one level up from a Goosebumps story, so this is not a real horror story. So, there is the good. Now, everything else.

To begin, the dialog. The characters in this book talk exactly like an old person thinks teens should sound like. Example, "Maybe it's his cologne. Eau de hunk." ... "Maybe I should try some. Think they sell that at Hollister?"(egalley pg 117).

An actual line from pg 157: "He would have his forever bride." And, because they are teen girls, Heather and Meredith say "Oh, my God" every other line on every page! OMG! All teens talk like that all of time! Like, wow!

Adrien, the creature/lover boy is so 1980's lame with his permanent sunglasses and red Camaro that he is laughable. Heather is not fleshed out at all, all she gets to be is depressed (and to say OMG!)

The thing that really drove me nuts was the constantly changing POV. We are with Meredith, then in Heather's head somehow, and then we are with Adrien-with no transition, and all in the same section of the same chapter. I was so confused at one point...

After an incident with smell, we are informed that our main narrator has an eye condition and that may make her unreliable. What that has to do with smelling her dad's cologne is beyond me. I have never heard of an eye condition that could explain giant bugs crawling up your leg either, but these authors have. The same eye condition explains away bugs in Adrien's eye sockets as well bodies hanging on chains in the basement. Hmm.

A.J. Whitten is the pen name for Shirley Jump, a grocery store romance novelist (you know those romance novels they sell next to magazines, but not next to the bestsellers? Jump wrote *The Cellar* with her teenage daughter.

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## **Darkfallen says**

**This ARC was provided from the great folks at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt via Netgalley, and I thank you!!**

So WOW this is a scary, horror filled, creepy skin crawl inducing, not to be read alone in the dark, version of Romeo and Juliet.....and I LOVED it!!! This book will creep you out and drawl you in faster than you can say "boogieman." You don't even have to be a big Romeo & Juliet, or Shakespeare fan to enjoy this book.

### **First the Tragedy**

Due to a tragic car accident sisters Heather and Meredith are left without a father. It's been almost a year since the accident and the grief of his death is tearing their family apart. With every one choosing to handle their grief in different ways you almost instantly feel how separated everyone is. Meredith is the strong one, bottling it all up, never allowing herself to cry, because you feels like she has to for her mother and sisters sake. Her mother is Dr. Phil's dream patient, because her method of coping seems to be with her trusty credit card in hand, and endless shopping sprees. And then there is Heather, who is taking it worst of all of them. Heather blames herself for her father's death. She doesn't eat, talk, participate in school, or anything she used to do. Meredith and Heather are only 10 months apart in age and have always been close. First losing her father, and now losing her sister, how much more can Meredith take?

### **Then There is Adrien**

Adrien is the new kid at school. Every guy wants to be his friend, all the girls want to date him, well almost everybody. While the whole school seems to orbit around this hot mysterious, sun glass wearing boy, Meredith isn't buying it. It isn't long before Adrien sets his sites on Heather. But his interests in Heather go a whole lot further than a high school fling. His hunger for her is growing. Will Heather love him despite his secrets? Will she give Adrien everything he longs for, or will Meredith be able to stop him before she loses Heather for good?

You can't help but feel sorry for these girls, and has the story unfolds about their fathers death your heart will ache for them. While this story handles some pretty heavy family issues, it is an easy and quick read. A.J. Whitten leave no stone unturned in this tragic love story. It will chill you to the bone, give you nightmares, make your heart ache, and at times even make you laugh. I love being in Meredith's head. Getting to really know her snarky sarcasm. She made me LOL on more than one occasion.

*"Proof in the pudding. The neighbors hated muffins and basketball. Start a witch hunt and run them out of suburbia."* lolz That's just one of many sassy comments that made this funny.

A.J. Whitten took a historic love tragedy, added some horror, sprinkled in laughter, a heap of heartache, and tie it all perfectly in a modern twist. I even love how she lines all her ducks in a row at the end. Leaving you feeling completely satisfied. This my friends is a must read!!

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## Rosa says

This review is also published at <http://living-for-books.blogspot.com/>

Again, many thanks to NetGalley and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for letting me read this book!

Romeo and Juliet meet the living dead...

There's something strange about the new guy... That would be fine if "strange" meant that the new guy had an obsession with frogs or that he reads his books backwards, but nothing's that simple anymore...

After Meredith Willis' dad dies in a car accident, she's the only one who's kept it all together, the only one that is "normal" in her family; her sister Heather blames herself for causing the car crash and won't let herself be happy and her mum has become a shopaholic in order to deal with the stress and grief.

So when a new neighbour in sunglasses and a red hot Camaro moves into the old, run down home next to Meredith's and becomes the non-stop talk of the school... Meredith can't help but be suspicious.

Unexplainable things happen to her whenever she's around Adrien St. Germain, bugs crawling up her legs, vultures following her to school...

So in order to find information on the mysterious Adrien, Meredith sneaks a look into his windows and discovers in the cellar a deep dark secret that could destroy them all...

Unfortunately, Heather doesn't feel the same way about Adrien as Meredith does, she argues that Adrien is the only person that understands how she feels. With every step that Heather takes towards Adrien, the more danger that she is putting her family in, can Meredith stop her before it's too late?

I found The Cellar very enjoyable, the characters were strong and the story had romance, but not a sickening amount of it. And combined with the mystery and horror, it was an absolute blast! I found the character Heather slightly annoying, she was selfish and too trusting! But of course she was a huge part of the book, without her, The Cellar would have been very different. I also liked the fact that living dead in this novel had actual emotions and could actually think, it's different compared to other novels where all the zombies are mindless corpses running around trying to eat people, it was a pleasant surprise!

4 out of 5 stars!

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### **Emily S. says**

I've always been on the fence about horror novels, and zombies in particular. While I kind of liked this one a little bit, it reminded me why I generally steer clear of zombies. They're just gross. These ones were no exception. Except that maybe they were a little grosser than usual because of the bugs.

When Adrien first showed up at school, I'll admit that I had a major crush on him. I knew there was something up, but come on. Who DOESN'T like a guy who marches to the beat of his own drummer and does it spectacularly? Plus there's the fact that he wore a perfectly tailored suitcoat with jeans. That's just hot. (men, are you listening? Perfectly tailored suitcoat with jeans = HOT.) And he wore sunglasses all the time. That bit seemed a little Don Johnson in Miami Vice to me but it worked for the mystique of the character.

After about half a class period with him though, I didn't like him at all. Not even one little bit, and his hotness totally evaporated. He just became creepy. The author didn't keep us in suspense for very long about him, so I had almost the whole book to hate on him. I liked that. :P

See, I just don't buy a zombie with a conscience. So maybe we're looking at a revamping of the breed, but it didn't work for me. Kind of like the Twilight vampires don't work for me. Give me Count Dracula any day. Maybe it's just that I'm so used to the mindless eating machines of old to give a little on this; I don't know. But I wanted "BRRRRRAAAAAAAIIIINNNNNSSSS" and all I got was "I love her. I want her for eternity. I don't want to eat her."

I just don't buy the zombie love story aspect.

There's some redemption at the end though. I'm not going to spoil it entirely, but it did go nicely with the "I love her" bit. Not saying I bought it, but I \*get\* it.

Marie is definitely mostly your stereotypical zombie type. The mostly comes into play because she's not entirely controlled by her desire to eat. (BRRRRRAAAAAAAIIIINNNNNSSSS)

I did like Meredith a lot. She's scrappy. Poor thing is just trying to hold her family together and seeming to be a colossal fail at it. But she persists. I think the strength of her character is the reason that Adrien had no power over her. (oh, and these zombies can have supernatural mind control too.)

I like that she got what was coming to her in the end. I'll let you read and see what that is.

Overall, the book was fine. Lots of elements that I just didn't care for, but some that I did. I can definitely see a niche for it, and I think that fans of teen horror will like it a lot.

For me, it's a meh.

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### **Claire says**

Like Darren Shan meets Stephenie Meyer. Double euwww.

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### **Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says**

Ok. So Weird boy moves in next door. Sister falls in love with him. See a Dead body hanging in the neighbors basement: body is being eaten by neighbor and his mother...."brains are the best".... All the girls are acting weird at school. Something is def. going on!

This book not only had an incredibly smart Zombie (which is unusual because they are always brain-dead flesh eaters), but also a love story. (\*ahhh\* right?)

It really is...who would have thought that a zombie would make a swoon worthy boyfriend?

This is THE FIRST book I have ever read that I immediately re-read. I seriously read this book through 2 times in one week! I fell in love with Adrien...and kinda wanted Meredith (the main character) to leave him alone, because of his awesome swoonworthy-ness. There is a lot of action and romance in this book, but guess what...they never even kiss! This is the type of romance zombie story that will fill your hearts with affection and infections...ha ha. I would def. recommend this one L.O.V.E.D it!

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### **AtenRa says**

I love me a good zombie story! Especially one that is not about the stereotypical goofy-stupid kind of zombies.

The Cellar was a book that started very strong but I am afraid had a somewhat disappointing second half.

The writing was pretty good, very funny and witty. I admit it, the detailed and very gory descriptions gave me quite a scare when I was reading the book in the middle of the night. Regardless of that, though, first 200 pages went by without my even noticing it, it was that good!

Then, the rest of the book happened. Which was not necessarily bad, but not what I was expecting, either. Even though the characters were mostly OK, likeable enough, there was definitely no lead you could connect with, even a little bit. You see, the narrative was divided into 3 POVs, that of Meredith, Heather and Adrien. Thing is, only Meredith's POV was in the 1st person and the other two were in the 3d. So inevitably, I found myself siding more with Meredith and less with her sister Heather. Now I know that that was there for a reason and to make a point but I found it a bit unfair because I believe that they both were right in their own way.

Also, as much as I found Adrien beautifully disgusting, I felt that his romance with Heather was forced. At first I thought that what he was doing was for a specific purpose and he was just being his monstrous self and I would totally have loved it, if that was the case. Making him see Heather like something more than a prey, would also have been great if it had 200 pages more to develop. Unfortunately it didn't have, so it just wasn't believable enough.

All in all, The Cellar is a book with a great potential, if you're into gore and living dead, which even though I liked a lot at the beginning, kinda fell flat for me right around the end.

This book has been given to me by NetGalley, free of charge.

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