

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

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## Illustrator

## Reviewer

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## Pages

318p

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Fiction

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9 and up

## Book Review: THREE DROPS OF BLOOD

As an actress, Kate is no stranger to drama. The cancellation of Kate's show throws all her carefully laid plans out the window. But Kate is willing to work a tedious office job at her best friend's father's law firm to get her acting career back on track. Rather than living life on the big screen, she's stuck filing mundane contracts and watching the people in the office across from her. Kate finds a source of entertainment in the woman across from her and her assistant, but everything takes a turn for the worse when Kate witnesses a double murder. Now, Kate's fighting against the clock, trying to get anyone to believe her and find out who this mystery woman is to get answers before she gets away with murder.

I don't know when books started having a lot of build-up before the murder happens, but either authors must stop writing this way, or publishers should write the summaries better. For *THREE DROPS OF BLOOD*, the voyeurism doesn't even occur until a third of the way into the novel, and then the murder is committed over halfway through. The setup takes up way too much time and needs editing. There is so much background until the murder happens that I forgot what I was reading. It was great to see fat representation, especially a fat character who wants to be an actress, but I could have let go of the drama. I'm reading this for the murder, not the teenage girl drama. There's tension between Kate and her parents because she wants to commit fully to acting while her parents want her to go to college as a backup. Kate's parents' actions would make more sense in the early 2000s, not in a 2023 novel where a college degree no longer means anything; there are scenes where they go a bit too far in trying to make a point that it's borderline abusive. Kate and her best friend, Rowan, are dealing with the reality of growing up and maybe growing apart. Kate only receives the role on the show because Rowan is going to the audition and



needs Kate there for support. Since Kate hasn't been there because she's been working on the show and cramming in school simultaneously, keeping in contact is difficult. Rowan feels left behind, which isn't helped by the fact that Kate is living out the life Rowan wants. While this feels relatable to the realities of growing up and finding that friendships fall apart when we don't see them daily, it wasn't something I prepared for before reading the novel.

By the time the murder happens, everything else moves quite quickly. My only issue is I would like to know what happened to Belle Masterson. I would hesitantly recommend this novel. Again, if readers know how long it takes to get to the murder and the drama in Kate's life, they'll probably enjoy it more.

