

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

Goldsmith, Amy

## Illustrator

## Reviewer

Dameron, Holly

## Pages

406p

## Price

\$18.99

## ISBN

978-0-593-57009-8

## Publisher & Date

Delacorte, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

10 and up



## Book Review: THOSE WE DROWN

Liv can't believe her luck when she lands an all-expenses-paid opportunity to study abroad for a semester on the luxury cruise ship, the *Eos*, especially since it will allow her to spend time with Will and fix their friendship after the night that changed everything between them. But once she's aboard, Liv realizes she's in over her head with Will, the rest of the Seamester students, and the Sirens -- three glamorous and mysterious influencers who seem to run the ship. Liv receives a place on the trip because a girl disappears before Seamester begins, and no one knows what happened to her. Further disappearances on the ship and strange creatures haunting Liv's dreams have her trying to figure out what the *Eos* is hiding in its watery depths.

Amy Goldsmith writes a novel that is wholly atmospheric and immersive. Will's disappearance on the voyage's first night completely pulls the reader in and doesn't let go till the end. It was definitely creepy how Liv kept seeing all these mysterious signs on the ship (Will's mysterious illness, how the Sirens act, the magician's disappearance) but was gaslit by other characters,



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including the Seamester students, who were supposed to be the sacrifice. I'm always up for a good sea mystery, but the ending left too many questions and plot holes open. Constantine, another Seamester student, finally believes Liv. They make it onto a lifeboat, and the readers are left with them in the ocean, waiting for help. Vague endings aren't the issue, but ones where we don't have an inkling of what happens to the main characters just leave a sour taste in the mouth. While the story is engaging and keeps the pages turning, there are times when it drags on a bit too much. No one believing Liv became more frustrating than tense. The crew makes sense, as they're a part of the conspiracy, but having the Seamester students not take her at face value was a bit annoying after a while.

As a debut novel, I'd recommend it but warn people of the vague ending. There is something strangely alluring about this novel, and it will be interesting to see what Goldsmith comes up with in the future.

