

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

Sambury, Liselle

## Illustrator

## Reviewer

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## Pages

504p

## Price

\$21.99

## ISBN

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## Publisher & Date

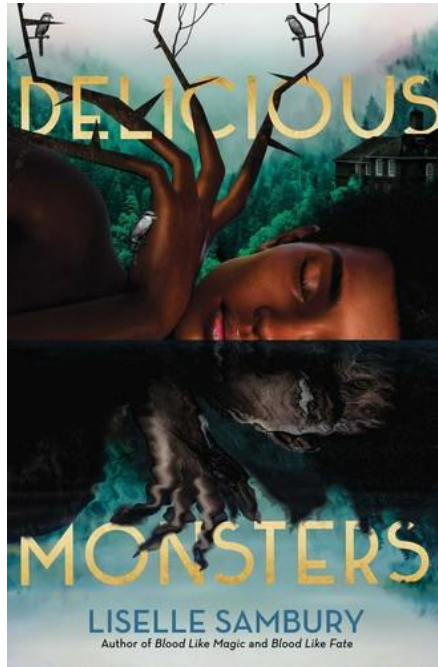
McElderry Books, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

10 and up



## Book Review: DELICIOUS MONSTERS

In a similar vein to The Haunting of Hill House, DELICIOUS MONSTERS is an evocative and psychological thriller following two teens navigating the treacherous past of a mysterious mansion ten years apart.

Daisy comes first in the book and is probably the real star of the novel; she sees dead people. She is struggling with the fact that her boyfriend broke up with her. Luckily, her uncle recently died and left Daisy and her mom his mansion—a mansion Daisy cannot enter and one her mom barely enters.

Brittany is a host and co-creator of a popular web series, Haunted, and is interested in featuring the property owned by Daisy's family on her show. Brittany's sections are randomly interspersed amongst Daisy's sections. Brittany has been interested in the mansion ever since her mom went there one weekend with her boyfriend of the week. Afterwards, Brittany's mom wrote a book that became an instant bestseller about her struggles as a



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single mom and how she overcame everything. However, behind closed doors, her mom is still as manipulative and abusive as before the weekend at the mansion. As the action escalates with Daisy's time line, everything speeds towards a violent and tragic ending where eventually the two time lines merge, and all is revealed.

I was blown away by Liselle Sambury's writing. It's beautiful without being too flowery, while also being emotional and dark, not shying away from difficult topics. This novel is definitely chock full of difficult topics. There is child abuse, child sexual assault, and grooming just to name a few. The main focus of the novel is, of course, the mother-daughter relationships: Daisy/Grace, and Brittany/her mom. I loved how both relationships weren't black-and-white regarding who was in the right and who was in the wrong. They are complex, like humans are. The moms weren't evil for what they had done to their children, but they weren't angels either; they made choices. In the age of figuring out how to deal with toxic parents and overcoming generational trauma, this book excels at exploring these difficult topics. The ending was definitely harrowing when everything came together, but it was also completely satisfying in its resolution. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone who loves young adult horror stories or haunted houses. Please be aware of the content warnings, which are listed at the beginning of the book, and take care of your own mental health.

