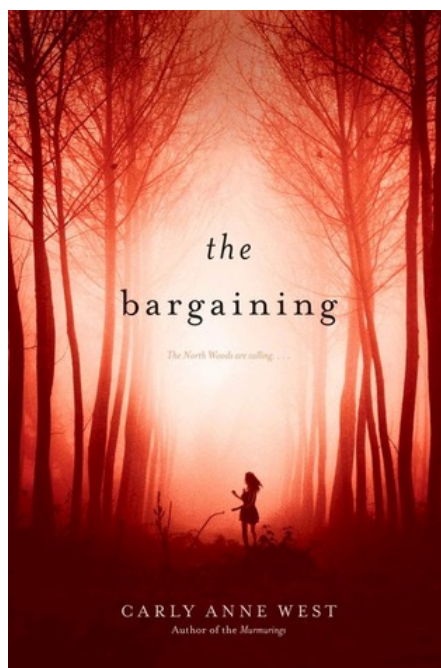




The Bargaining

Carly Anne West

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The Bargaining Carly Anne West

The fact that neither of her parents wants to deal with her is nothing new to Penny. She's used to being discussed like a problem, a problem her mother has finally passed on to her father. What she hasn't gotten used to is her stepmother...especially when she finds out that she'll have to spend the summer with April in the remote woods of Washington to restore a broken-down old house.

Set deep in a dense forest, the old Carver House is filled with abandoned antique furniture, rich architectural details, and its own chilling past. The only respite Penny can find away from April's renovations is in Miller, the young guy who runs the local general store. He's her only chance at a normal, and enjoyable, summer.

But Miller has his own connection to the Carver House, and it's one that goes beyond the mysterious tapping Penny hears at her window, the handprints she finds smudging the glass panes, and the visions of children who beckon Penny to follow them into the dark woods. Miller's past just might threaten to become the terror of Penny's future....

The Bargaining Details

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Author : Carly Anne West

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From Reader Review The Bargaining for online ebook

Lisa Cronkhite says

I loved the premise which is why I wanted to read the book. There was some interest there, enough for me to finish the book. But the ending just sucked. There was no resolution to the mystery. It just left you wondering even more. And since this is not a series, it's not a standalone that tied things up in the end. It just left you hanging.

Plus some of the phrases were confusing. Not the best choice descriptions. I started to wander a little, veering away from the story. The suspension of disbelief wasn't so believable. I wasn't spooked out or anything. Some of it just seemed cheesy. The relationship with Miller was non-existent. There was a point at the end where the author tried to make it seem like Penny was interested romantically. But the feeling was lost by then. I did however like the stepmother, April. She was the only highlight of the book. Penny, not so much. She was bitter and had an attitude problem that just became annoying. And after the mystery just kept mounting and not unfolding and resolving in the end, there isn't much to remember about the book.

Janie Johnson says

I picked this one up on a whim because I was mostly drawn to the cover and then of course the synopsis. I liked the pacing of the book which kept it moving and I loved the creepiness of the story which kept me engaged. I found that there seemed to be a lot more to the story than the synopsis tells us and I was pleased by that. The ending of the book was not what I expected, but on the other hand it would be expected to happen the way it did, if that makes sense.

In this story we have Penny who has many issues that she needs to deal with. When she finds out that she is going on a realty adventure with her stepmom, she was less than thrilled. Unexplained creepy things begin happening once they arrive at their destination. April her stepmom is drawn to the beauty of the Carver house in which she will be renovating, while Penny feels quite differently about the house and the woods that surround them.

I really enjoyed Penny, I found her to be quite smart and also very headstrong. Even though she is flawed, which I love, she is also very strong, but the one thing that I found to be a little annoying was the fact that she would really trust no one. I do find that she was well developed though, and I am sure the trust issues stem from the flawed life the author created her from. There are several other characters to like and many other to hate and some that I was even on the fence about. I did love how some of them were secretive and had a somewhat dark aura about them. I thought brought a lot to the story.

I recommend this to anyone who likes a good, creepy story. Also those who enjoy paranormal horror will like this one as well.

Rashika (is tired) says

****This review has also been posted on **The Social Potato***

This book is far from perfect but I absolutely adored it. When I first dived into this book, I pretty much

had no idea what it was about, I remembered reading the blurb and being intrigued but the only concrete detail I remembered was that this book had something to do with woods. I had thought I was diving into a paranormal book, instead I found myself amidst a horror and a well written one at that.

I am not going to say there weren't loop holes, there were but I think what really matters in a story like this is that the author actually manages to make you feel the fear the characters felt and I did. I find that I don't frighten easily (although I startle very easily) but when I was reading this book, I was SO JUMPY. Every time someone opened the door, I would freak out. I am just glad I didn't scream!

This isn't some loosely plotted horror novel. **The author takes her time to develop aspects of the story.** It isn't just meant to scare the readers but to actually make them feel more than just fear. To make them connect to the main character (as well as the other characters) and to make them cheer for her not just because someone has to survive but because they like her and want her to come out of this alive!

Penny is a very likeable character. You don't need a likeable character to make a story work but hey likeable characters are... likeable and Penny is likeable. What I think makes her character a little interesting is the way her own doubt can make her some what of an unreliable narrator. My only complaint was that we never actually find much about the 'old' Penny. We are given hints as to what she was like but we never really find out more about the kind of affect Rae had on her especially given how much the story focuses on the negative impact Rae's friendship had on Penny. That said, I did adore Penny. **She was far from perfect and that made her all the more rootable.**

This book doesn't have any romance (heck yeah) but what it does have is a heap of fantastic secondary characters. My favorite is obviously Rob (who was the stepbrother) but both April and Miller are fantastic in their own right.

April is the stepmother and she can be pushy but the one thing that strikes you about her is that she is genuinely trying to get to know Penny better. I think that's what gets to Penny too. Her stepmother isn't the best person on the planet but at least she is trying to reach out to her.

What makes Miller so interesting is how so very abnormal he is. He would be the love interest if this were any other book but he is Miller. I think it's very interesting to see how he spirals out of control over the course of the book as we find more and more about what has happened to him and the tragedies that he has to live through (and has played an indirect part in).

The author puts so much work into developing the atmosphere of the book and she does it just right. I was genuinely scared and my eyes were glued to the pages. This book is quite frankly, creepy as fuck and I am just incredibly glad I didn't have nightmares that night.

What makes the horror aspect of this book work so much is that the author actually develops the back story of the events that lead to all this creepy stuff happening. We may not get all the answers but I think in this kind of situation, it's almost impossible to have all the answers. And anyway, what fun would that be?

One of my complaints was that the author didn't actually give us any details about how they were surviving in the creepy house. Considering they were shunned by the entire town, how were they getting supplies? How were they making their food? Assuming everything works is too much of a stretch considering the condition the house was described to be in so yeah... how were they living?

Aside from that though, I thought this was a very well written story and I cannot wait to read more of the author's works.

There may be a couple of loop holes but all in all, this book is one hell of a ride and a book I'd recommend to lovers of horror and all things creepy.

Liz's Book Bucket List says

{I recieved this book from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review}

I really, REALLY wanted to like this book. I mean, look at how gorgeous that cover is and the synopsis is super creepy, but I was extremely disappointed. I HATED the first 65% of this book! It was confusing and the pace of the book moved painstakingly slow, but the ending of this book was crazy!

The writing of this book was pretty good, other than the fact that I was super confused through the majority of it. I do not blame that on the writing, but how the mystery was revealed to readers. The mystery was revealed in a very haphazardly way, which made me forget small details that were revealed earlier. I think if West would have revealed the mystery in more of a chronological order of events, it would have been easier to understand. Plus, there were a lot of things going on in this book other than the big mystery that made the plot confusing and slow moving.

Boredom was also a culprit in making this book hard to understand. I found my mind wandering a lot while reading this book, which made me question if I had missed something. The majority of this book was not enjoyable for me, but once the mystery was revealed, I began to really enjoy it, but that was nearly at the end of the book. However, even after the main character had her ahh ha moment, I still did not know what was going on. It was not until the main character practically spelt out the mystery that I even grasped the concept. This book also leaves a lot of unanswered questions, which I am not entirely sure if it was intentional or not.

I really didn't connect with any of the characters in this book. I didn't really find Penny all that relatable. It is hard to describe how I felt about Penny...I didn't hate her or find her annoying, but I did not really care for her either. I really did not have any feelings toward Miller either. I found that his relationship with Penny was underdeveloped and the small romance (?) that was happening was strange. I question the romance aspect because there really was not a romance, but then Penny would talk about how he was good looking and then she has the urge to kiss him, but that is about it. Honestly, my favorite character was April (Penny's step mother). I thought the other characters were not integrated into the story very well and was left questioning some of the relationships that began to develop.

So was this book scary? That's probably why most readers would want to pick up this book and I would have to say it is...well the last 75% of it is. I think that the confusion that I felt at the beginning and middle of the book really took a toll on how scary I perceived some of the scenes. One scene in particular would have been pretty creepy, but the entire time I was trying to decipher what was going on. After the big mystery was revealed, it became much scarier! I found my heart racing and I occasionally found myself looking around the room while I was reading to make sure nothing was coming to get me. I also thought it had a lasting effect. After finishing the book, I sat there in my room that night having a hard time going to sleep because I could not stop thinking about the ending of the book.

Honestly, I would probably not recommend this book because I really did not enjoy the majority of it. I would say that if it is at your library or you can find a deal on the book, to give it a shot, but read until the end because that is when it gets really scary. However, I would not put this on the top of my TBR shelf on Goodreads. With that being said, I do plan on reading West's other horror novel, The Murmurings, which I have already purchased. I am really hoping that I will enjoy that book better and that it will not be as confusing as this one.

Susana says

3.5 stars

Arc provided by Simon Pulse through Edelweiss

Release Date: February 17

What it felt like reading this title:

Uncovering layer upon layer of truths tightly wrapped in different time dates, never knowing exactly who was going to present them, and what I was going to find next...

Also, it was _what I guess would be _ akin to be blindfolded, with no clue whatever of what was happening, with no compass, and at the mercy of a vast number of unknown characters, who'd just make an appearance, and would immediately give it's place to another character....

Frustration may arise....and you may found yourself reading and re-reading the initial pages to see if there was something that escaped you...

That's what happened with me, but I do like uncovering a mystery, and the one in this story is gigantic as the Titanic, and also prone to take people with it when it sinks....

The beginning

I guess it depends on the reader. Some will enjoy the fact that _and once again sticking with nautical metaphors _ one has to give all it has to stay floating in this story's reality_, and others will probably DNF it.

The first chapters are simply a teaser of everything scary that will be happening in the end. And let me tell you, that what ends up happening is completely frightening.

However after that, the tale enters a more calm _although fragile _ story's depiction.

There's a heavy psychological drama underway, and that, mixed with the underlying horror that you keep waiting to jump and grab you by the throat, makes reading this at times, a nerve shattering existence.

I can't help however feeling that the story should have been shorter.

I think that that would have given it more strength, making the feeling that it was sometimes adrift, disappear.

I understand why it happened: Including the psychological thriller aspect, it was bound to give this more strength and a greater depth...however it had the consequence of derailing it somewhat from the horror department until the last third of the story.

I am afraid that those who were expecting only an horror story will be disappointed.

However the psychological drama, and all the connections that we see between the characters _the alive ones and the others _are so well done that I had to keep reading, to find out what was going to happen.

For those however who aspect a strong focus on a certain romance?

Yeah, forget about it, lol, that's not going to happen! ;)

Despite all that happens, the misery, the heartbreak, the trying to recover from what life has brought you, the scary creepy kids...the main focus of this story are family ties.

Rayne says

The Bargaining is quite possibly the most terrifying book I've read in a while. I might be in the minority in this one, but I quite liked the author's YA debut novel, The Murmurings, so I expected The Bargaining to be creepy, but this one surpassed each and every single one of my expectations by far. The horror scenes are just so spectacularly written. It's amazing what West managed to do with this one because her delivery of tension and horror was relentless and deftly written to the point that they were a full-blown sensory experience, even as they stayed locked safely within the pages of my book. This is the first time in a really long time, probably since I read White Space, that I read a book deep into the night and the story has me jumping at every sound and fearing the shadows in the corners.

But The Bargaining is a lot more than just fantastic horror scenes. The story, the world-building, the atmosphere and the development of a broken main character are all executed amazingly. It was really hard for me to tear myself away from this book. It was almost physically painful to have to put it aside because the book was riveting, mesmerizing, so utterly enthralling. West not only knows how to write creepy, she makes you crave it.

What's interesting is that this book carries the typical aspects of the recycled horror story we are all tired of reading about or watching on TV. Someone with some sort of emotional baggage is forced to live with some family member somewhere else, that place is in a small town where they are immediately given the cold shoulder because something horrible happened in that place long ago, someone warns them about the place, freaky things start happening in that place and the main character goes out of her/his way to find out the history of the place even though everyone that knows is reluctant to do so. The story of The Bargaining could be condensed in that simple and sterile summary, and we are all extremely familiar with that. But somehow, West made it engaging and original.

The delivery of horror and creepy was relentless, and even if it got just tiniest bit repetitive towards the end, I still enjoyed it immensely. From beginning to end, West keeps you hooked with it, but, truth be told, when the drama unfolded in the novel, though engaging, it was very slow paced. I didn't find it boring in the slightest, but I can see how some people might find it a bit too slow.

I love how West writes broken heroines. She makes them so realistic, it is very easy to empathize with them, and Penny is not an exemption. What's interesting about her heroines is that, although broken beyond repair, they are never weak. Penny was pessimistic, broken and hopeless, and yet she was still determined, strong and driven. She might've crossed the line into over-dramatic one or two times, but I never stopped believing her grief, her guilt and her baggage.

The rest of the characters, though they vary in exposure throughout the novel, are still very interesting. From the seemingly standard one, an energetic stepmother, to the strangest, a boy with a twisted past, a strange ability and a determination to right a wrong, the characters were intriguing and added several layers to Penny as a main character and the atmosphere of the town. Miller, in particular, was an outstanding character that I would've loved to read more about. Thankfully, there's no romance in this novel. There's the insinuation of one, but it never happens, and I think the novel benefited from the lack of romance, for its absence allowed the author to concentrate on other matters that, ultimately, made the novel all the more original and better.

I was more than willing to give *The Bargaining* 5 stars, but there were a couple of plot holes towards the end that I had a hard time overlooking, plus the resolution of the conflict was a bit of a letdown. It's still a fantastic ending, but I honestly don't see how it fits into the story, into the mythology West created for this novel, and I fail to see how such actions could possibly secure the ending West wrote for Penny. Moreover, I don't expect West to explain every single little thing, of course. That's part of the enchantment of this setting, but there were a couple of lines towards the end that I couldn't make sense of and there were some aspects of the mystery I would've appreciated more information on.

Aside from some questions about the story and a resolution that baffled me a bit, *The Bargaining* is a thoroughly fantastic novel that gets everything right, from the atmosphere, the setting and the background story, to the horror and the characters. It is a very well-written and chilling novel that excels in the YA horror genre and that leaves you craving for more. I went into it expecting a somewhat satisfying experience like with *The Murmurings*, but I got a whole lot more from it and it quickly became one of my favorite books this year.

Anna (Enchanted by YA) says

****I received the ARC eBook free as a review copy from the publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review****

Did not finish at 75%.

I simply could not get into this book. From the second I saw the cover and read the synopsis I thought it was something I'd like or even love, but after I started reading nothing stood out to catch my interest. With no expectations I still managed to be disappointed. Granted I did stick it out to 75% but I must have skim read at least half of that which is something I naturally hate resorting to.

Eventually though I put it down because I'm not one to continue reading a book I'm not enjoying when there are so many others out there I know (or at least hope) I will.

However I thought it only right to explain why. The biggest problem for me was the snail-slow pace and also as I already said nothing stuck out in the writing. There was barely any paranormal mystery happening in the first 50% and instead we got a main character that spent her time in an old house complaining. A lot. Penny didn't go so far as to infuriate me with her self-pity because I simply didn't feel anything for or about her.

There were no connections to other characters either and the supposed love interest had no chemistry with Penny resulting in no romance. The part he played was miniscule compared and left me wondering what the point was.

I probably stopped too soon to judge much on the paranormal side of it because I didn't make it to any big revelation; the mystery leading up to it however was boring and not for one second was I scared. It was a

handprint here and a twig breaking there *cough*100 pages later*cough* but that was it with no follow ups or even emotion. I could very easily put it all down to Penny being bat-crap crazy and to be honest that is enough of an ending for me.

Posted on: <http://enchantedbyya.blogspot.co.uk/>

Sarah says

It was good but I'm still so confused.

Lauren ? (YABookers) says

I received a free copy via Edelweiss.

First Impression: *The Bargaining* was a riveting, if not a little slow paced, gothic novel. The atmosphere is fantastically creepy and Carly Anne West has done an excellent job. Nevertheless, I think the slow pacing kept this from getting four stars from me.

Review: I went into *The Bargaining* with not quite so high expectations after reading some GR reviews. I soon realised that was a mistake because *The Bargaining* is a generally good gothic novel. Penny has been through something traumatic, that much is obvious, and she's trying to start fresh or at least that's what everyone wants her to do, but she's finding it hard to let go of the past. When she's handed over to her father and step-mother because her mother doesn't want to deal with her issues anymore, she's subjected to spending the summer with April, her step-mother, in an old house in the middle of the woods. As you can guess, the house turns out to be more than just old and water damaged, it's got a chilling past that involves several missing children, and the local boy Miller has more to do with it than she thought.

The Bargaining was a genuinely creepy novel and I think West wrote those scenes particularly well because they really did have the creepy factor. I didn't really enjoy the "romance" between Miller and Penny, it seemed under developed and a bit forced, but I did like the role Miller played in the mystery and that ending has me a little psyched out. Penny was a good protagonist too, though there was nothing really special about her.

The best part of *The Bargaining*, and the reason I would recommend it, is the mystery and undeniable scary atmosphere, though be warned the pacing is slow.

L. C. Julia says

3.5/4

This was better than I thought, but it kind of fell flat in the end.

Pros:

- The protagonist was good. She is hard sometimes, but she knows it and try to be better. Also, she had nice comebacks.

- The relationship between her and her stepmother and stepbrother was interesting and avoid cliches.
- It was gripping. I read it in a night.
- Some scary scenes really work.

Contras.

- A contra of having nice scary scenes: if you live some of the things that happened here, how the fuck you keep trying to sleep in that goddamn house? Matches and gasoline people! matches and gasoline.
 - The ending was a little bit confusing. I mean, a part of it is my fault because I may have been reading it way too fast, but there are some things that I didn't get completely.
-

Crystal says

This was CREEPY!!! Like The Ring, The Conjuring, and Children of the Corn creepy and I loved every minute of it! I have been on the look out for a book that puts the creepy first and everything else on the backburner and The Bargaining does this flawlessly!

Penny having just been shipped to live with her dad after another incident at school learns she has to endure a summer with her stepmom. The summer will bring renovations on an old house and hopefully a new beginning for Penny. She isn't happy about her situation, but she goes and well things get extremely strange from there. The whole town refuses to help them and before long Penny realizes things aren't what they seem. Four kids went missing in the exact woods that her new home for the summer is located. These four kids miraculously showed back up six months after their disappearance only nobody could figure out where they went and what really happened to them. Somebody knows though and through flashbacks and a terrifying mural Penny finds out just what happened in the North Woods.

I had chills pretty much the entire time I read this. It was scary, intense, spine tingling, and at times really gross. And yes I loved it! The only thing that felt off was Penny's friend Rae. I know Rae was a huge part of Penny's story I just don't get how she fit in at the end. I would have preferred a different conclusion to her part. Everything else in the story fit, but her. Even at the time I was reading I kept thinking where does she fit in and when the big bomb dropped I just felt like it was a jumbled mess. I didn't need her in that part and I felt like Penny really didn't get to resolve her feelings.

Other than that though I loved this. I really liked Rob, Penny's stepbrother, and I even liked Miller. I would love to have one extra chapter to see what Miller's life was like after his decision. I am really curious how that all played out, but I can use my imagination to fill in those blanks. I have a feeling if I did get that last chapter I would be terrified to sleep at night!

If you are looking for creepy then you have to give this one a try! Carly Anne West is a master at this genre and I am definitely going to read the rest of her books!

Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says

Not bad. Not bad at all. I probably would've given this another star but the ending was a bit unbelievable. Not the actual events so much as the trade itself. And then you get that last chapter that was just weird. It wasn't a twist or anything. It just ... was. It felt utterly random and almost not even part of the book.

But for YA horror/suspense, this was fairly good. I've certainly read a whole lot worse.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: How lonely are the woods?

Opening Sentence: The first thing I should see is Pop with his belt.

The Review:

This is why I do not like horror stories. They creep the hell out of me and give me nightmares for days (or nights, I guess). I tried to read this book as quickly as possible just so I could get to the ending. But at 400 odd pages, it took a while!

“So this is for real then?” he says.

I nod because I can't make myself say the words. I want to be casual about this, but it's hard to make light of the knowledge that you've been deemed hopeless by one of the only two people who is never supposed to give up on you.

I can't say I enjoyed this story because, as a rule, I don't like scary stories, however if you're into thrillers and horrors then you'll love *The Bargaining*. It is genuinely frightening and gave me that horrible feeling of being watched, so much so that I kept jumping at loud noises!

“And Penny,” she says just before I've broken free of the trees. I can't see her anymore. I can only hear her voice. “These kids, they aren't playing around, you know. They have something to say. But you know what my dear old mom always used to say. Not all voices deserve to be heard.”

That house near the woods. I can imagine it perfectly, with the mural that keeps moving, and the handprints on the window. The children with the silent screams and that freaky humming song, argh I'm creeping out just thinking about it!

From the beginning I could tell there was more to Miller than meets the eye. Without revealing any spoilers, all I'd like to add is that his story was sad, and the resulting effect was that Miller has a lot of baggage. In another lifetime I think he and Penny could have made a cute couple.

I try to remember anyone ever making me an offer like that. Anyone ever telling me they'd just listen. They'd just let me say it. All of it. Someone who hasn't heard the back story third-hand, who didn't know me before I came to Phoenix, who didn't know me after Melissa Corey. Who didn't need to see me as something just so they could make sense of the next something I became.

My favourite character was oddly the step brother, Rob. Although Rob doesn't have a huge role to play, I loved how supportive he was, and he just seemed like a really sweet sibling. Not my usual type of favourite but perhaps in all the horror, it was nice to have someone normal!

I also liked the dynamics of Penny and her stepmother's relationship. I don't think I've read a book where both parents are alive but can't seem to help their child, so it's left up to the stepmother to try and 'fix' her. April made an excellent stepmother and I liked how their relationship develops over the course of the story

and the horrors they face.

“What? You don’t think it’s beautiful?”

“No.”

“Well, don’t hold back,” she says. I know I’ve hurt her feelings, though I can’t imagine how she would have expected me to feel about this place that means such different things to her than it does to me. She sees the realization of a long-sought fantasy finally fulfilled, the claiming of some real estate ambition she’s fostered from her career’s infancy.

I see the bottom of a deep, deep hole.

A brilliantly written thriller, but I can’t imagine willingly wanting to read this!

Notable Scene:

“I would do a million things differently. I would’ve torn up the letters so Rae could never read them. I’d have never written them in the first place. I’d have stopped being her friend months before that. Years before that. I would’ve erased the first conversation we ever had, and I would have gone on being the freak nobody talked to, but at least I would’ve been a freak who never ruined some girl’s life for no reason or woke up in the desert with my sort-of best friend dead or hated myself so much for all of it months after I should’ve gotten over it. So yes. If I could erase it all, I would. But here’s the thing about ‘would.’ It’s the most useless word in the entire dictionary because it has no place in any point in time. It’s a stand-in for an imaginary space between what might happen and what actually happens.”

FTC Advisory: Simon Pulse provided me with a copy of The Bargaining. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I picked up this book because of the woods theme. For whatever reason, creepy dark forests that have a mind and story and life all of their own, just appeal to me.

I love the dark rich atmosphere, the creepiness and of course the mystery behind them. Who wasn't afraid to go into the woods alone at night? Who hasn't heard a good ghost story over a campfire and been too afraid to fall asleep at night?

There is just something I love about them and after combining the cover with the synopsis it was just a no brainer for me to pick this up and dive in.

I have to be brutally honest, this book wasn't quite what I was expecting. The first few chapters move a little slow and are a bit confusing. You have this great suspenseful epilogue and then...something else entirely when we flash to the present time. I hate to say it but, it moved rather slow and while I loved Penny's wit and sarcasm, I didn't quite love her. But that might be in part to the fact that I wasn't sure what was going on with her. Her past and relationship with Rae was revealed slowly over the course of the book and I am not so sure that was a good idea. I think it might have been more insightful to have had it all out in the open early on, since we already have the other mystery of the woods going on.

Which, speaking of, the woods! I loved the woods. So creepy and every bit as strange and bizarre as I was hoping they would be but again, the exact mystery behind the disappearance and reappearances of the kids was sometimes confusing and a little disjointed. I know it is suppose to be a mystery, and it was, a good one

in the end, a crazy one in fact, but I think a little more could have been done to help reveal it and explain it. Not a whole lot is said and shown until way over the half way mark and even then, the ending still left me scratching my head wondering exactly what was going on. I mean, I know what happened but why? Why were the woods the way they were? What about the mural and the connection between it and the Dodson's? Why is none of this explained in the end?

Don't get me wrong, I liked this read. It was as twisted and strange as I was hoping it would be and it was even downright creepy (although not scary) at times but it wasn't everything I was hoping it would be. It left too much undone, unsaid, and unexplained for me to truly have loved it.

I think if the ending could have been a little bit more, this would have moved up from three stars to four but with the ending left as it was, I have to rate this a little slower because of it and it makes me sad because this truly could have been a four star read.

Sara (Freedom Library) says

Actual rating 3.5 stars (May be subject to change BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO RATE IT)
