



Girls & Monsters

Anne Michaud

Download now

Read Online ➔

Girls & Monsters

Anne Michaud

Girls & Monsters Anne Michaud

This dark but uplifting collection of five Young Adult novellas includes:

Death Song: Liz is in love with Joe, but the monster of the lake has other plans for them.

Black Dog: Scarlet is engaged in a struggle for her sanity, but according to the voice in her head, she may be too late.

A Blue Story: When Katherine's beloved dog goes missing, she fears her strange new neighbor might be involved.

Dust Bunnies: Christiane faces her childhood arachnophobia and ends up confronting even greater fears in this test of sisterhood.

We Left at Night: Brooke and her family must abandon their home and their lives to make it out of a disease-plagued town overrun by zombies.

Girls & Monsters is for everyone who has ever been brave enough to confront their childhood fears...and lived to tell about it.

Girls & Monsters Details

Date : Published April 30th 2013 by DarkFuse (first published April 9th 2013)

ISBN : 9781937771843

Author : Anne Michaud

Format : Paperback 194 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Horror, Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal

 [Download Girls & Monsters ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Girls & Monsters ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Girls & Monsters Anne Michaud

From Reader Review Girls & Monsters for online ebook

Books says

I'm not a huge fan of novellas and much less compilations of novellas, but I found Girls & Monsters to be quite riveting. The cover played a big role in my decision to request it for review, but so did the title of each novella which got my curiosity working overtime. I wouldn't say any of these short stories are "uplifting", as suggested by the blurb, but they were entertaining in a macabre sort of way.

Death Song: Vengeful mermaids aren't something you read about every day, and as interesting as it was to read about a mermaid terrorizing a community and stealing people through water pipes, the ending was confusing for me and I didn't know what to make of it. If there was a double meaning to the end of the story, it went way over my head.

Black Dog: I must admit, ever since being attacked by a black dog when I was six-years-old, I've had a paralyzing fear of dogs in general, black dogs more than others. The author effortlessly tapped into my fear of canines by creating a story about a girl hunted by a black dog everywhere she goes. Is it real, or is it only her imagination? A riveting read, yet my least favorite of the five novellas. It was too dramatic for my taste.

A Blue Story: Here is where the book really picked up and got a solid hold on me. If you love your dog, cat, parrot, whichever pet you have, this novella will probably make you view your neighbor differently. I enjoyed A Blue Story and it did freak me out somewhat.

Dust Bunnies: Undoubtedly my favorite of all five these short stories. Are you afraid of spiders? You are? Then you definitely don't want to read this novella. But for those like me whose fear of arachnids isn't in the top five things that would instantly guarantee a heart attack, Dust Bunnies is an unexpectedly sweet story. I absolutely adored this story since I never imagined it could be possible to love a cuddly, human-sized spider.

We Left at Night: I've read many zombie apocalypse novels and novellas and am at that point where they're all starting to sound the same. Surprisingly, the author managed to write something a little different to the usual zombie-theme, and at the same time keep me on the edge of my seat and nervously chewing my nails while the characters in this novella run for their lives. Out of all five stories, this was the only one in which I found the characters to be fleshed out and I actually felt a connection to them.

Overall, I'd recommend this compilation of dark novellas to sensitive readers new to the horror genre; readers who enjoy stories that prey on their fears, and those who like to journey into the darkest parts of the mind. It is blood-, guts- and gore-free and the author didn't succumb to shock techniques to give this book a voice. Five well-written novellas that are sure to keep you awake for a while makes Girls & Monsters a great read.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Anne Michaud says

Unique tales with dark twists, an awesome collection of novelettes from an amazing writer...

Oh wait, *I* wrote it. Oops ;)

Jenny says

I've been following Anne Michaud for a few years now. This is some of her best work. The stories build in mood as the book progresses until the reader has a hard time sitting still, antsy for the climax which never fails to deliver. Each story is masterfully crafted to be taut with intensity and full of vibrant characters. Each set of characters a little different, a little strange.

Death Song is a new twist on the origins of mermaids. The tale weaves through a few years in lives of best friends and a small town that has dark secrets buried in its waters. The ending left me breathless and wishing for a film adaptation.

Black Dog was the most difficult of the bunch to read but only because of its tough subject matter. It is a very eerie and bittersweet story following a couple days in Scarlet's trip abroad with the hope of re-inventing herself. She's unhealthy in many ways and possibly being followed by a large black dog whose intent is unclear.

A Blue Story, the story of a girl who notices that, along with businesses, pets are disappearing at an alarming rate in her town. This didn't seem to fit in this group as well as the others and is the reason I gave the book 4 stars instead of 5. It felt awkward and sometimes the passage of time wasn't clear. It was, nevertheless, deliciously dark.

Dust Bunnies gave me the shivers. It's a short glance into two sisters visiting Germany to pack up their recently deceased Grandmother's belongings in an apartment that holds a very large, very bizarre secret. The spark of romance in this added just the right touch but I read it with the lights on.

We Left At Night was the best story to end this book with and my favorite of the five. Ever the zombie-story-lover, I was drawn in immediately by the urgency and fast pacing set up from the start. I wanted to understand everything that was happening and go on the journey with the family. A couple places were a written a little fuzzily so that I couldn't quite picture what was actually happening but it added to the fear factor of a zombie laden tale.

Overall a fantastic effort on the part of Ms. Michaud. I'd recommend this to all horror lovers, especially those who love female protagonists and don't require a happening ending every to single story.

Julie-anne says

I figure I'll do a wee review of each short story.

Death Song: *Killer mermaid living in a small town's lake, she takes a tourist every year - they're bodies don't appear for a month. But then she changes her style and starts taking residents - the residents have always been out of bounds, and then she goes for Jo and Liz fights back.*

I enjoyed this one. Mermaids are usually painted as "Ariel" types so I like it when authors change it up and make them evil and bloodthirsty.

Black Dog: *Scarlet goes to London to try and be a new person, but the voice in her head persists in its annoying her and finally convinces her that she is actually insane.*

Another good one, I liked the hints at Scarlet's past rather than a flat out long flashback. One minor thing was the author says at one point the drinking age in UK is 16, it's 18 - no bearing on the story, it just bugged me.

A Blue Story: *Katherine takes a job at a pet shop then discovers how many local pets are missing - soon her dog, Sweet Sally, joins the ranks. She hunts for Sally with her new boss only to discover Sally was closer than she thought.*

One of the "meh" stories of the book. I found this one a bit boring and didn't really like the main character much.

Dust Bunnies: *Christiane has to go with her sister to clear out her grandmother's old house only to be confronted with her childhood monster, but she soon realises the monster might not be a monster after all.* This one hit more to home 'cos I always hated spiders (still do, a little). I liked the setting for this one and the fact that there was really a monster under her bed when she was a kid, but the best bit is when she finds out the spider's origins.

We Left At Night: *Brooke sees some strange men in her garden, strange things have been happening for a while now and then the army show up at her door and tell her and her family to evacuate within the hour.* I liked the whole family-sticking-together theme in this one, also the immunity to the zombie-ism. This one has the potential to carry on given the ending.

Samantha Young says

Girls & Monsters is a collection of five short YA stories written in the dark and macabre voice of Anne Michaud. The collection kicks off with the surreal "Death Song" a grim tale of mermaid lore, where a small town mayor makes a deal with the mythological Linnade to sacrifice tourists to her every year in exchange for a prosperous community. Atmospheric and eerie, "Death Song" has a quality to it that reminds me of Angela Carter shorts.

The second tale is "Black Dog", a disturbing story narrated by Scarlett, a young American girl who is haunted by a voice that spurs her to hurt herself. During a trip to London a black dog follows her, a manifestation of the voice? And is it really a monster or a symbol of something real and far more complicated? This is probably the darkest of all the shorts perhaps because of its allusion to reality within the fantasy, but also the story with the most interesting and vivid prose.

"A Blue Story" is an unexpected twist on the folk tale Bluebeard told from the protagonist Katherine's point of view. As she goes in search for her missing dog she uncovers her new neighbor's creepy little secret. It's an original take on the old tale and is accompanied by feisty heroine a reader can root for. My second favorite of the stories!

The fourth tale "Dust Bunnies" freaked me out the most because I'm arachnaphobic *shudders*. Despite that it's actually has lighter elements to it than the other stories as Chris travels from California to Berlin with her sister Vee to deal with the loss of her nan and to overcome her childhood fears.

And the final story "We Left at Night" is my favorite of the collection. You all know I like a bit of good old-fashioned post-apocalyptic fare. I certainly got that in this tense tale of Brooke and her family's escape from her zombie-plagued town. In true zombie apocalypse form, "We Left at Night" is bloody, unrelenting and

un-reassuring. Loved it!

Overall, inside the pages of Girls & Monsters are unforgiving creatures and worlds without answers. It's a refreshing break from the norm in YA paranormal and definitely only for readers who can handle the reality that sometimes monsters win...

Ashley Ehlers says

Originally posted on Paranormal Sisters <http://www.paranormalsisters.blogspot...>

Death Song: This one was okay. It turned out different than I thought it would and I really didn't see where the story was going either. I also kinda don't see the meaning behind it. These short stories are about girls conquering their fears and I really didn't see the main gals fears. Yes, an evil mermaid is scary and she did conquer it but who wouldn't be afraid of that kind of monster. What I didn't see was a fear within herself. The only fear I think was only to end up as friends with the love of her life *shrugs*.

Overall I did like the tale to a point. In the beginning it was good and the action was just starting to pick up then it changed in a blink of an eye. So it started to slow down a bit for me. The story felt off and then the action picked back up again. But still something felt off and I just couldn't fall completely into this tale. But beside the disconnect I had with the characters and a bit of the tale, I did enjoy the description. The description of when the beast was around, the small town they lived in, and the way certain characters acted when trouble was around.

Individual rating: 3/5 Hearts

Black Dog: Hmm, another one where I don't really see what she actually conquered. Like I know she had another voice in her head, telling her what to do and she finally stood up to that voice but the ending made me feel like the only way she could truly stand up to that second voice was for her to die. So if that's the case, I don't really like the ending. Are all of them supposed to not end well for the main girls?

I did too like this for the creepy detail. This young female cuts herself and because of this she lost the people she cared about. So she decides to go off and away to try to become a new person. However this voice in her won't let her go and if she gets too close to someone they might get hurt. Seeing behind the eyes of a cutter is crazy, brought chills to my arms on how she thought. I mean, she wanted to throw herself down the stairs just to get the thrill of the adrenaline. That's crazy and scares the freak out of me that people out there actually think this way. So because of all of that this short gets a 4/5 hearts

A Blue Story: I felt no connection. I really liked the story but I felt no connection. No connection between the characters, no real connection of the mystery, just no connection. Short stories and mysteries I don't think they go super well together. They can yes but I don't think there were enough pages to make this one a good one. I feel bleh at the end and again, what did she really conquer? I liked the detail when she found out who was taking the pet animals but other than that it was just okay. The story I think just moved too fast for me to really enjoy it, though I do like the darkness creepiness in this one too.

Individual rating: 3/5 hearts

Dust Bunnies: Oh boy, when a friend on Goodreads wrote a review for this book of anthologies I just had to see what she said about it. Then at the ending of her review she forewarned everyone that might be afraid of

spiders to walk away from Dust Bunnies. Guess what guys? I am deathly afraid of them. Just thinking of them just makes my skin crawl and yeah, I have yet to conquer this fear like the young adult in this short. But did you think my fear made me turn away from this short? Nope. Instead I was ever the more intrigued now. I know I'm strange that way haha. But come on, these story are supposed to scare you. To make your skin crawl and to make you want to hide beneath the covers. So to get the best result of that then why not read what scares you most in the dark. Yeah, this was a favorite and started to turn my opinion around on this book.

Individual rating: 4 1/2 hearts

We Left At Night: I thought Dust Bunnies would have been my favorite but then I got to reading this one. This one was the absolute best. Not only did the zombies make me want to run and hid but when the government, our own people, turned against us that always makes my skin crawl. Like serious, that is like the freakiest thing ever and so much more scarier than a bunch of brain eating zombies. This small tale reminded me of the movie The Crazies (2010 version, sorry folks that like the original. I've only seen part of that one haha). You know how in that movie they go to that gas station and find all those shells from the billions of bullets that were fired at the people, well it was like that but throughout this shorty. This tale was great and was about a family trying to survive that zombie apocalypse. The ending was great and totally surprised me.

Individual rating: 5/5 hearts

Overall if you happen to fear evil mermaids, big black dogs, creepy taxidermy, giant human hugging spiders, or crazy zombies and government turning against us then pick up this book. I mean, who doesn't like to get crept out once in a while. Anne, the author, wrote with great detail and it was all pretty much smooth, the one that was just too short didn't feel right to me a bit. However I believe 4 out of 5 shorts were great in length and I was really able to fall into the stories. A great book if you're looking for some dark horror. Though I'd not read it before bed, it may creep you out to the point that you can't go to sleep. This book will play on your fears and have your mind over imagining things in no time. So cannot wait for more from this Author!

Sweet Readings!

Imran Siddiq says

I've been wanting to try writing some chilling horror, or to at least see how it can be done. And then along comes Anne's Girls and Monsters. The cover caught my attention and the snippets of dark horror within made it a definite to-read.

Girls and Monsters is a collection of tales rather than one, but don;t let that put you off, because what we get are 5 well constructed tales with great beginnings and even better endings. The tales are there to tingle your spine, but unlike others they don't want you to feel like despair has fallen upon you. Instead, they deliver courage and hope from the female protagonists. I really liked that - because if I want to read about doom and gloom (and let's give up), I can watch the local news, but to have characters trying to overcome the danger was refreshing.

Blue Story, and Black Dog (2 of the 5 tales) were great to read. In one way, I cringed (with empathy) at the content regarding a missing pet (because I own 2 cats), but appreciated what the author was trying to tell us. And the use of schizophrenia in Black Dog reminds us of the challenges that people with mental illness will have.

The final tale regarding Zombies gave me insight into how to thrust the reader into a situation where everyone suspects anyone, and no-one can be trusted.

All in all - this was a great read, and I'm looking forward to what other sinister tales Anne will create.

Kim says

More of my reviews can be found here on YA Asylum.

Please note: I got this ebook from the author in exchange for an honest review. And an honest review I will give. For more information refer to my Review Policies & FTC Disclaimer.

OVERALL:

I loved this collection of short stories. They were all beautifully written and creepy in all the right ways. World-building is done fabulously in each of the short stories, along with character development. I really liked all the main characters and each of the concepts are really interesting.

DEATH SONG

This is the first short story to appear in Girls & Monsters. I would say it's a fusion of YA & NA. The characters are seventeen, then later nineteen in the story. To be honest, I've never held an interest in mermaids before. They've always seemed cuties and whatever -- just not my thing, this might have to do with the fact that the first (and only time) I saw the Little Mermaid, my aunt's evil freakin' Chihuahua bite the crap out of me. Since then, I've been pretty sour towards the idea of mermaid anything. When I saw the opening for this story: Limnade: Greek mythology, mermaid living in fresh water. My reaction was: uh-oh.

Luckily, I really enjoyed this short story. Mermaids are best like this, in my opinion. Evil, disgusting creatures. I loved the way the Limnade mythology warped the town of Lakeside View. Elizabeth, the MC, was a really relatable character that I felt for and I instantly got attached to the Jo/Liz relationship. There were authentically creepy moments in this story. I have never enjoyed open bodies of water, particularly lakes and rivers, and this just justifies that dislike all the more. Who's to say the next lake someone begs me to go to doesn't have a Limnade?

The ending broke my heart a bit.

Horror Level: I would say this is horror-esque. There are generally creepy things going on in this story and the atmosphere is set right for a horror story. There's nothing gory or grotesque about this story though -- so if you're reluctant to pick up a gory horror, don't worry.

BLACK DOG

This story can be interpreted in a few different ways. It could be a dark paranormal tale of a girl trying to find herself, only to be hindered by the spirit of a black dog that won't leave her alone. Or it could be the story of a girl battling mental illness, trying to find a way to fix herself. It depends on which you prefer and what you take out of the story, which is something I really like. I love stories that have double meanings, that you can twist to fit what feels right for you.

Scarlet is a protagonist I can really sympathize with. She knows something is wrong with her, that she's

different, and wants to badly to be normal. She's not one of those girls that keeps thinking: Oh! If only I can be normal! and goes off and laments about it in a quiet corner. Scarlet puts herself out there. She goes, alone, to London for a group tour. That's a really scare situation to place yourself into, if you're an introvert like Scarlet (and me, and I know how scary this can be because I've done it myself, in London no less).

My favorite part of this story was the voice. It's third person present tense with some flashbacks in first person past tense. Usually switching up POV like that bothers me, but not in this case. The voice was so dark and vivid in the third person present tense -- I was thoroughly impressed with this. I also thought it was really clever for the evil voice to nickname Scarlet Scars.

And the way this story ended? Yeah, that's how I like 'em.

A BLUE STORY

This is a Bluebeard retelling. I'm not a huge fan of this fairytale. Generally speaking, the girl who is supposed to stay away from a certain room is always so stupid. Every retelling I've ever read, I figured the girl kinda got what was coming. If you're dumb enough to find yourself in that situation, am I going to care when you finally do the equally dumb thing of going into that room? Particularly when ever Bluebeard in the retelling is a huge creeper? No. I'm not going to care. Please knock yourself out. I enjoy a good character death.

Hence why I was so relieved this wasn't the usual Bluebeard retelling. The MC, Katherine (I'm partial to this name to start out with), isn't an idiot. There's twists in this story that are a different take on the fairytale. I must warn you there is animal deaths. I know that's a deal breaker for some people. This might sound horrible, but I generally care twice as much for an animal that dies in a movie or book than when a person does. How can you not love a dog? Seriously? And what could that poor puppy ever have done to anyone else?

I'm off topic. The writing was really good in this story. There were two or three lines I could've lived without and this ending wasn't my favorite out of the Girls & Monsters collections. But I still liked this story.

DUST BUNNIES

I love that this story takes place in Europe (Germany, to be exact). It's always interesting when the characters are in a different environment. This story was a little bit like a sci-fi fairytale, if there could be such a thing. The main character, Chris, lost her parents and now lives with her older sister. One day, they lose their only living relative, their grandmother, who lives in Germany.

They have to go clear out her place, which is the very last thing Chris wants to do. In fear of the monster she knows that lives under her grandmother's bed. It's an interesting story and there are some creepy moments. Girls & Monsters as a whole is a collection I really enjoyed, but this wasn't my favorite story. It seemed to rush together at the end. Plus: bugs. I just really don't like them.

WE LEFT AT NIGHT

Zombies. Need I say more? I suppose. I love zombies and this short story was put together so very well. The tension and the wtf is going on moments. Brooke comes alive as a character, as does her family. Her dad is kind of useless, since he breaks down and says some pretty harsh things and her mom is kind of crazy in my opinion. She's a nurse so she goes out of her way to help people, which made me feel sorry for Brooke and her little brother, Rory. (And, yes, Whovians, I thought Rory Williams too.)

This was probably my favorite short story in the collection. Brooke's voice was vivid, the tension was

brilliantly executed, and there are zombies.

J.A. Campbell says

Overall this was a really great, well written anthology. It's described as dark, and it is. A few of the stories have threads of hope running through them, a couple have very dark endings, but the stories are quite good. All of the main characters are female teens, as you may have guessed from the title.

Death Song is probably one of my favorites. (The other fave is Black Dog.) It's about a girl and boy, young love, and a lake monster that "protects" a small, prosperous town. It's a really fun and creepy story, but don't eat while you're reading it. Some of the descriptions of the lake monster are so well done they turned my stomach while I was trying to eat dinner.

Black Dog is a powerful story about a girl trying to overcome mental illness on her own. There's a moment of hope where you think she might make it, and that part of the story makes the rest of it that much more powerful. Being in this character's head is an interesting ride and to me really captures what it could be like to have schizophrenia.

A Blue Story is probably my least favorite, but it's still quite good. It's a terrifying tale of missing pets and the sadistic bastard who is taking them. It has an interesting resolution and the MC kicks butt and takes names. It is horrific and any pet owner dreads the day their beloved one goes missing.

Dust Bunnies... Spiders... big ones... creepy, very creepy, but another interesting story with a really neat twist. It also involves childhood friends who could potentially turn into something more, especially brought together by this creepy frigging spider.

We Left at Night—Zombie apocalypse. This story really captures the terror of not knowing what is going on, having your neighbors and the military turn on you, fleeing in the night, and the loss involved with any sort of apocalypse, leaving things and loved ones behind while you flee to safety and an uncertain future.

I would recommend this to anyone who likes dark tales.

a_tiffyfit says

This is a compilation of a few short stories about coming of age girls finding inner strength in a time of crisis. Just when they believe they cannot, they find the resolve necessary and overcome the situations at hand. All five stories are incredibly compelling and capitivating.

In "Death Song" Liz Burton faces the Limnade, the lake's mermaid, and saves the guy she is in love with, a guy she has grown up with since childhood. Liz discovers the the town she has always lived in, Lakeside View, has a hidden secret. And worse, its people have made a trade-off so that they may prosper. Essentially all alone, Liz battles this evil.

"Black Dog" is a story of a young girl's fight with an inner demon. The story gives an insight to how the mind works in a person afflicted with this demon: her mind. The Black Dog tells Scarlet, the protagonist, many negative things about herself which of course is not the truth. But the mind's power over Scarlet is

great and tells her that the only way she'll get relief is by cutting herself. It is a powerful story about the workings of the mind of a girl trying to feel like she is present in the living and that she has control when everything around is spiraling out of control. The Black Dog is a symbolism for Scarlet's illness, it is her mindfuck. She runs away to London hoping to rid herself of her illness and to have fun. She meets her love and with the powerful strength of that love, she is able to overcome her demon.

The final story, "We Left at Night," is keeping up with the modern obsession with the Zombie Apocalypse. It's a short but heartpounding tale and incredibly enjoyable.

This book is a fun collection to have at hand when you're looking for short, thrilling reads!

Meg says

The strength of Anne Michaud's Girls & Monsters comes from blending dark and disturbing monsters with relatable, honest teenage moments. The first story of Girls & Monsters involves a flesh-hungry mermaid, but the weirdness of the premise is mitigated with the detailed believability of an unrequited teenage crush in a tiny tourist town. A story about a giant spider is mixed with a long-distance crush and sibling conflict, which is all suitably awkward and teenage. (Via Anne Michaud's 'Girls & Monsters' on Yahoo!)

Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/mini-rev...>

Girls and Monsters is a short story collection, all featuring stories by Anne Michaud, and all stories have something to do with girls and monsters. The writing is of great quality overall, and the stories are original enough to entertain. "Dust Bunnies" was my favorite story, mostly because I'm scared of spiders, and this story played on that fear. Overall the stories offer unique twists, but I found "We Left at Night" to be a bit of a letdown.

Todd Russell says

In my early teens, besides reading, I was a huge Dungeons & Dragons RPG fan. The general feeling I got from reading these stories was sort of a modern telling of D&D-like adventures. I couldn't identify with the girl protagonists except that they seemed like girls I might have encountered in a modern D&D setting (which was neat to me). I enjoyed the monsters and the use of domiciled pets in several of the tales. For a thematic collection, there are a couple stories ("Death Song" and "Black Dog") that stayed with me for a bit after reading. I think more in theme and by being curious what the author was doing rather than the stories themselves. While that might not sound like a significant compliment, it is. Writers that make me think are usually onto something I find worthwhile.

I rarely seek out and/or read many YA stories these days and, being honest, I was least excited about reading this DarkFuse collection of five stories over anything else they've published in 2013. However, I think the writing style was more adult than YA, with only the younger characters presenting this as a YA read. Also a plus was the atmosphere in the tales, which was done really well. I liked the first two stories considerably more than the final three stories, but they kept my interest. The biggest plus for me was that the author was

able to engage me with characters that I found difficult to identify with and stories that were very modern day fantasy. I don't know who I'd recommend this to (hopefully my review is clear enough to point some interested readers the right way)--this was an unexpected change of pace for DarkFuse from their typical novellas or novels (although they are planning to begin publishing anthologies of short stories from different authors quarterly in 2014)--but I enjoyed reading this for the most part. 3 stars. 2,573 Kindle locations.

Kate says

3.5* (rounded up to 4*)

A YA collection of five stories about women and horror.

Death song - A town's prosperity is linked to tales of a deadly mermaid. I didn't think much of this story when I read it but it has stayed with me long after I finished it.

Black Dog - One of my favourites, this atmospheric story centres around Scarlet who has taken a trip to London and starts seeing an ominous black dog everywhere. This is the darkest story in the collection and Michaud does a great job creating an unsettling atmosphere.

A Blue Story - Katherine notices pets in her town are going missing, including her own. She soon starts to think the culprit may be her next door neighbour. This was supposed to be a reworking of Bluebeard folklore but for me it didn't work well.

Dust Bunnies - Chris and her sister arrive in Germany to pack their Nan's possessions after she has passed on. Chris soon has to confront fears from her childhood. I quite liked this story but I found the ending a bit sappy.

We Left At Night - The other of my favourites, a great zombie story that is told through the eyes of Brooke and her family.

Whilst this collection was not quite to my taste it was well written and Michaud creates some nice atmosphere in most of the stories.

Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says

This is a collection of novellas with a dark Young Adult theme running through. Each story plays on a childhood fear, and one or two explore the theme of madness as well.

I am not a huge fan of Young adult books so I surprised myself by thoroughly enjoying these short stories. Anthologies have always appealed to me, as you can dip in and out as suits. For me it was an excellent way to take my YA in little bites! I would recommend this to ages of sixteen and over as some of the themes are quite dark and horrific. Indeed one of them, I shall be checking under my bed before I go to sleep for quite some while!!
