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Jill Baguchinsky

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Violet Addison can chat with the dead, but what really frightens her is starting her sophomore year at a new school. Still reeling from the loss of her mother, Violet is about find herself in the company of ghosts . . . both playful and deadly evil. Standing at the threshold to an unseen world with newfound friends at her side, only Violet can uncover the truth behind her mother's death and save the family business--paranormal investigation.

Spookygirl Details

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From Reader Review Spookygirl for online ebook

Jessica-Robyn says

Spookygirl: Paranormal Investigator is an easy to read standalone novel in the much beloved genre of teen-girl-sees-ghosts. If that's something you love then this should be a no brainer from the concept alone. I wasn't surprised that I ended up enjoying Spookygirl, but I feel like I can't totally praise it. There were a lot of things in the story that could have been improved upon that I'll be mentioning in this review, but these things didn't really affect my enjoyment because this delivered what I was looking for.

Spookygirl impressed me right off the bat with it's unique take on ghost mythos. The plot is centred around Violet and her first foray into paranormal investigation. In this world paranormal investigation takes on a more legitimate spin then the "reality" TV shows I normally relate the term to. In Spookygirl it's a combination of Ghostbuster science and medium abilities. Not all ghosts are created equal and being able to see them doesn't come with a vast understanding of what they are, what they can do, or why they do it, which makes room for the classic voice recordings, temperature gauging, and EMF readings. I found this concept really interesting and would love to see more ghost YA take on the paranormal investigator angle.

Over the course of the story Violet has a lot of interesting ghost encounters of a vast variety. We have everything from the jock who's back from the dead, to the killer in the haunted mansion, to the ghost that just loves it's squeaky hamburger, to cemetery ghosts, to violent locker-room hauntings. There is a lot of ghostly action! Although it may sound over-crowded, each encounter worked well in the story and kept things moving. This is mostly because the writing knew how to handle it. Although I wasn't always a huge fan of the themes in the book (more on that later) Baguchinsky's writing was very engaging, especially for a debut. I'll definitely be on the look out for whatever she writes next!

Something else that I give Baguchinsky some major credit for is that Violet is a teenage girl who sees ghost, but doesn't fall in love with one! YAY! It's a very nice change of pace to have a YA novel almost devoid of romance, where the main character doesn't for a second think about boys, and instead focuses on more pressing issues. This only makes Violet a better character. Despite having all the social worries most teenagers do, she wishes to embrace her abilities more so than hide them. Although she's not a huge fan of the spotlight she isn't afraid or ashamed of her "Spookygirl" status. It was refreshing to not have a character constantly trying to hide or lie about being able to see ghosts. She's not worried about fitting in when she knows that what makes her special is a good thing. It makes her stand out among these sort of characters.

Even though I enjoyed Spookygirl it for what it is, there are things that should be noted for the prospective reader on the negative side of the spectrum.

For all it's originality, Spookygirl can come across as rather standard. The characters and plot lines are all pretty predicable and the lack of ghostly rules are sometimes used for convenience sake. This wasn't a problem for me because I went into this expecting something light and easy, but for people looking for something more this might not be it.

The overall theme on the book was one of my pet peeves. This is very much a representation of those high schools where the jocks and cheerleaders are evil and the outcasts are just so darn special because of *reasons*. It was all rather stereotypical and they were only ever used as characters for Violet and friends to hate rather than anything interesting. These jock characters garner so much scorn, despite only collectively having a estimated total of six or seven lines of dialogue... and one cheerleader's name is *Cherry*.

Side note: When people wonder why athletes look down on reading, one may be able to make the argument

that it's because they're generally represented as one-dimensional and evil. The book had more sympathy with a murdering ghost than the popular crowd. ... I'm just saying.

The only real complaint I have was the occasional sense of déjà vu, which I found to be a bit distracting at first. If you're a fan of the genre and you've read the Mediator series by Meg Cabot recently, you may have a similar experience when comparing The Mediator's Suze and Spookygirl Violet. I love both of their characters, but it would be very easy to confuse one for the other. Which can be seen as either a good thing or a bad thing.

But these are all minor nick-picks. With all that being said, Spookygirl: Paranormal Investigator should be a go-to for fans of the teen girl sees ghosts genre. It was a lovely read that would, indeed, be a great follow up for fans of the Mediator series (Shadowland) or The Ghost and the Goth and are looking for more of the same.

Greer says

Violet can see ghosts or feel them or just plain *Ol* sense them. After moving in with her dad in his place of business which happens to be the morgue. Violet enrolls in her new school and is instantly pegged as the Spookygirl, Violet's mother a Paranormal Investigator aka Ghost Hunter, was well known and is also well dead. A hazard of the job but rumors are that it was murder. Violet meets a pack of emo shoe gazers and ensnares them into her plans to investigate her mother's mysterious death. Along the way she solves the paranormal activities which seem to be linked to one of her new emo friends. Oh, we also get to meet Buster.. Yeah wait until you meet Buster!

Gypsy Madden says

After too long of a stay at her aunt's house, Violet is finally moving in with her dad after he has completed his training and gotten his funeral home business off the ground. And predictably they live in a tiny apartment just above the funeral home itself. Normally it would be nice and cozy, but it feels a bit cramped with Violet's pet poltergeist tearing through the place like an enthusiastic new puppy. In fact, Violet has been able to see ghosts her entire life, and now that she's moved home with her Dad, she wants to get a hold of her mom's old ghost investigation equipment and explore the former family business. And her first project is to figure out what evil lurks in the girl's locker room.

I picked this up because I had taken part in ABNA, too and I remember when this won. Though I love the idea of a somewhat goth girl at the center of this story with an ability to see ghosts, I was rather sad that it turned into yet another investigational. Even within the book itself, she ended up doing several investigations. I absolutely loved Buster and his squeaky burger and how she used him as her guinea pig several times and his reactions to things were priceless. In fact, I loved all of the ghosts. They were far more fascinating and had more character to them than the normal people. I even liked her school, though I'm rather sick of high school dramas (at least this one didn't have the stereotypical bullying that is so prevalent in the indie books right now), and the stereotypes that were presented here did break out of their molds at points. One problem I did have with it was that there were things that contradicted each other. Like that her dad was anti-ghosts and trying to get his daughter to be normal and hoped that she had grown out of seeing ghosts, but he didn't seem to have any problem with her playing with Buster the poltergeist or cleaning up the ghosts from his work room. And there was the point where she worried she wouldn't be able to transport

Buster, but she had mentioned that she had taken him with her to her aunt's house which would have obviously involved transporting him. Still, this was a fun light-hearted read and rather humorous at times, with a plucky, determined young heroine not afraid to show off her true colors.

Giselle says

Ahh! Morbid humor! :D

I have to admit, I almost didn't pick up Spookygirl because of its title. I was afraid it would be a bit too cheesy for me, so I'm happy to say that this wasn't the case. Sure there are some... less than mature moments, but overall the humor is very clever and witty: What you would expect from a teenager who has been seeing ghosts her whole life.

Initially I found myself debating between a 3 and a 4 star for this novel. It has quite the predictable plot and parts of the ending are a tad underwhelming, however I can't deny that it's a fun, enlivening novel -- exactly what I was in the mood for -- that I thoroughly enjoyed regardless of its debilitating factors. With Violet's ability to see and communicate with the dead, her father being a mortician, her mother's mysterious death, and friends who go along with her dangerous antics, how is it possible to not get absorbed in this story? Violet's fantastic sense a humor is incredibly amusing, and you can expect to get creeped out a time or two. She's dealing with something evil, something that may actually contradict what her mother has always told her - ghosts can't you you. The secondary characters range from the half vampire (or so he thinks) best friend, to the goth, to the poltergeist pet; all quite charming and unique in their own way, they become good, loyal friends to Violet that, though not notably developed, are great accessories to the story.

Fair warning for romantics, there is a complete lack of romance in this novel. I, for one, found it quite refreshing. There is plenty going on inside this plot that a romantic side story is not required. I never felt like there was something missing, nor did I hope for any romantic developments between any of the characters -- to be honest I didn't even make note of it until I wrote this review. It was a great change to have no distraction from the main plot which was plenty interesting on its own. My one complaint is that it's a little underwhelming when it comes to conclusion of the hauntings. I was expecting something much more sinister from the vibe they were emitting.

All in all, with a great equilibrium of humor and fright, Spookygirl is a quirky, yet creepy read that is bound to entertain you fully.

>An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

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Erika Hébert says

When you ignore the stupid title and the ridiculous cover, this is actually a pretty good book. Even though it's about a girl that hangs around with dead people, it is still very light-hearted and witty. The characters are incredibly loveable and the story is easy to follow. For those of you who like romance, I will tell you that there isn't really a love interest. There are a couple instances of romance, but they don't involve the main character. One of the things I like most about it is that aside from the main focus of the book (her mom), there are a bunch of little adventures on the side to keep your interest. I would definitely recommend reading

this book.

Jess says

Spookygirl: Paranormal Investigator sounded promising, but didn't live up to my expectations. I'm usually a big fan of ghost talkers and this just didn't do it for me, plotwise or characterwise. It seemed like the author had trouble deciding which haunting plot she wanted to make the main storyline and there was a lot of clunky exposition to deal with. I also don't think it was ever explained why Violet, who can see, talk to and sense ghosts, needed to use ghost hunting equipment to, you know, verify that ghosts were at a location or what sort of haunting it was. It seemed particularly redundant since Violet herself is essentially a piece of ghost detecting equipment. Baguchinsky's universe's rules about the ghosts and the afterlife were ill-defined and particularly convenient for all the characters too.

I also wasn't a big fan of Violet, who was incredibly judgmental about everyone, even her friends. For all these "outcast" characters who complain about the evil popular jocks stereotyping them, they sure do a lot of stereotyping and judging themselves. YA authors, if you're going to go with the typical douchebag jocks and cheerleaders as your character's main schoolyard antagonists, actually *make* them jerks and don't just say they are because they were a letter jacket. I mean, calling the popular people "the void" because they're all so stupid? Hur-dur, how original. Violet mentions she catches the jocks shoving Tim into lockers as evidence of their douchebaggery, but then she plots to and does successfully injure someone in gym class so she can go investigate some ghosts. Plus there was the d-bag move when she erased Emerson Bean's name on a list because it sounded nerdy and stuck-up because *oh my god*, she just hates gym soooooo much and her pain at having to exercise is more important than whatever dumb reason Emerson put his name on the list first OKAY. Hypocritical much, Violet?

I really did like that *Spookygirl* had absolutely zero romantic interests for Violet and that there was no love triangle in sight. That was completely refreshing for a paranormal YA novel. I loved every second of having a book actually focus on paranormal stuff instead of having it as the backdrop for a ridiculous romance. The haunting at the end of the book was sufficiently creepy and there was some great suspense build up there. I think Jill Baguchinsky has some potential to grow as an author, once some of the obvious first book errors and style issues get cleaned up and edited out.

Darian Starr says

A friend of mine bought this book for two dollars and we were both shocked at how amazing the story line was for such a cheap read! Yes it is a bit of a teen read but is still very good. :)

Liliana says

Reviewed on Lili Lost in a Book

I love a good "I see dead people" sort of ghost story—I just love them! And *Spookygirl...* it was fantastic!

"Show school spirit? No thanks. I had enough school spirits to deal with already."

--Violet

I guess I should mention that this wasn't just one ghost story. There were a couple of different ones going on at once. And no, it actually wasn't overwhelming! The book was so well written that the couple different storylines intertwined perfectly without feeling like there was too much going on. There was the case of the haunted girl's locker room, the lost painting, and just helping out other stray ghosts along the way... like the one that haunted her dad's funeral home at the beginning of the book! All this in preparation to tackle the big one—the ghost who killed her mother.

You see, Violet's mother could also see ghosts and actually started a paranormal investigation company. Violet wants to follow in her footsteps, thus all the ghost hunting/ghost helping. It's too bad her dad won't even talk about her mom, like, *at all*. I guess she'll just have to go at it herself... but with the help of some new friends, of course!

Speaking of, I loved the secondary characters! All the fun, random ghosts Violet encounters on a daily basis, the cute poltergeist pet, the quirky half-vampire (or, you know, that's what he thinks), and the goth girl who I was actually iffy about at first but started to grow on me once Violet started looking for the Black Rose.

As for the climax... it was crazy, but at the same time made me go, "wha?"

I don't understand how Violet did a thing her mother couldn't even do. So simple of a thing, really. It was kind of disappointing. But the ending itself was interesting and wrapped things up very nicely.

Spookygirl was a very enjoyable read, overall! It was fun, creepy at times, and even had some humor thrown in for good measure.

"I skipped out of English," [Tim] said, holding up a bathroom pass.

"How long have you been out here?"

"Ten minutes."

"Your teacher's going to think you have some kind of horrible problem."

He shrugged. "If she asks, I'll tell her I went out for Mexican food last night and the refried beans tasted weird."

(The faux seance scene was my favorite! SO funny!) It had fun ghosts, creepy ghosts, and just plain great characters! I very much recommend this! Can you believe I found this at the dollar store?!

Rachel says

This was one of my favorites!

Justin Maupin says

Main characters are Violet, her friends, her mom, and her dad. The story is that violet can talk to ghost. Her mother can also, her mom dies on a mission to make a ghost go wherever ghost go. Violets dad will not tell her what happened so she finds out her self. I think that she will help ghost still even though it's a dangerous job.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Kind of a cute read but it felt more middle grade than YA, but still, a fun little ghost mystery.

Chelsea says

I picked this book up right after it was released, when I was much younger and not as proficient of a reader. **I've had it on my shelf for years, so I decided to give it a reread since I barely remembered anything about it.**

This is the story of a teenage girl named Violet, the daughter of two paranormal investigators, her mother having died mysteriously on one of the investigations. Violet can see ghosts, which makes her life rather complicated. The book starts after Violet moves in with her father and must navigate a new high school.

Though Violet is in high school, this book has a very distinct middle grade feeling. It's light, silly, and doesn't take itself too seriously. Aside from the occasional curse word, the dialogue feels rather juvenile.

The best part of this novel by far is the paranormal aspects. **I have never read another book that centers on traditional paranormal investigation, and I absolutely loved all of those aspects.**

Another great thing is that this book has strong friendships and no romance whatsoever.

Violet is this book's biggest weakness. For someone so set on being an outcast, **Violet is incredibly judgemental and shows extreme girl hate and popular-people-shaming.**

"Cherry looked almost agitated enough to cry—not a good idea, considering the gobs of mascara she wore."

And then Violet four pages later: *"I'm not emo, I'm not punk, I'm not scene, I'm not any of that. I'm just me, and I don't like being stereotyped."*

The stereotyped characters here are the worst. I hate when novels rag on characters for being "popular" or whatever other high school trope.

"See, everyone thinks Dirk was dating that Cherry skank his junior year. She spread that

around...but really he couldn't stand her." Keep in mind Cherry is an irrelevant side character who has done nothing to warrant being called a skank other than being popular.

Those few bits definitely impacted my enjoyment of the novel, but I definitely think younger readers have the potential to get a lot out of this. I would also recommend checking it out if you find paranormal investigation as intriguing as I do.

Erin says

Spookygirl is a wonderfully "not fitting in" story for highschool girls. Violet Addison ends up at a new school. She becomes known as Spookygirl because she lives in a funeral parlor with her father. Her secret is bigger than most people can guess, though. She, like her mother, can see and communicate with ghosts. After Violet's mom died seven years ago during an investigation, her dad refuses to talk about ghosts. Violet finds herself in the middle of more than one paranormal investigation and hopes to end up solving the mystery surrounding her mother's death.

Shawna says

This was an entertaining story about a young girl named Violet who lives in an apartment above a funeral home with her father. Violet has inherited her mother's ability to see ghosts, the same ability that was responsible for her mother's early death.

The book was full of fun: a pet poltergeist named Buster, ghosts roaming the high school, cemetery pranks, but overall I felt like there were just too many storylines branching off from the main quest. It was like the author couldn't decide which ideas to use and which to leave out so instead threw them all.

Most of the story I found slightly juvenile (younger teens would love!) but the ending was gripping! I would have liked to have spent a little more time on Riley Island, but alas, the conclusion and explanation came too quickly and I was left feeling unsatisfied and hungry for more.

Eden says

Like her mother, Violet can communicate with the dead. And Violet's mother was teaching her about the paranormal until she died one night during an investigation. Violet was still a kid when this happened and doesn't remember much about her mother, but she knows she can see the dead like her mother did.

After the night her mother died, Violet's father hasn't wanted to talk about it nor did he want anything to do with the paranormal anymore. Between that and partly living with her Aunt, Violet has just had to hide that part of herself.

But now Violet is living with her dad and she's decided to pursue her dream: be a paranormal investigator. And Violet knows she can't go to her dad to learn so she'll just have to do it on her own.

I love reading paranormal books and I think it is neat there are fiction books coming out about teenage paranormal investigator. I became a paranormal investigator when I was 14. I read the first book in the ghost huntress series last year, which is about a teenage who investigates the paranormal. However, I didn't like that one very much. I think this book is so much better.

I like that the character knows not to mess with Ouija boards. They are dangerous. But the whole orbs are just dust thing was brought up. It's a big thing in the paranormal community. Many people that 99% of orbs are dust and if you take pictures of orbs, you're pretty much made fun of. But my group and I have done our experiments of taking orb pictures and we have found it is actually very hard to get dust orbs. Therefore, I believe that most orbs are actually spirits.

As for ghost hunting itself, I don't believe it is dangerous. But you should be careful and know what you're doing. Research the places you want to investigate and don't go to places that are haunted by something bad. Those places need to be left to people who know what their doing and how to take care of things like that.

I like the story in the book and I like the characters. I hope this is just the first in a series because this book was a pretty good start. I think this could become a great series.
