



## 13 Days of Midnight

*Leo Hunt*

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When Luke Manchett's estranged father dies unexpectedly, he leaves his son a dark inheritance: a Host of eight unique, powerful, and restless spirits. Unfortunately, Luke has no clue how to manage them, which the ghosts figure out pretty quickly. Armed with only his father's indecipherable notes and a locked copy of *The Book of Eight*, Luke struggles to adapt to his new role as a necromancer. Meanwhile, the increasingly belligerent Host mutinies, possesses Luke's mother, and forces him out of his own house.

Halloween, the night when ghosts reach the height of their power, is fast approaching, and Luke knows his Host is planning something far more trick than treat. With the help of school outcast Elza Moss, who knows a bit about ghosts herself, Luke has just thirteen days to uncover the closely guarded secrets of black magic and send his unquiet spirits to their eternal rest.

And if you thought it was going to be easy, you'd be dead wrong.

## 13 Days of Midnight Details

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Author : Leo Hunt

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## **From Reader Review 13 Days of Midnight for online ebook**

### **Amber says**

Luke is 16 years old and has to care for his mom who is very ill with his dog Ham. When his father passes away and he inherits money as well as a Host of malevolent ghouls, Luke doesn't know what to do. Can he learn to control his father's ghoulish Host before the leader of the ghouls known as the Shepard helps them to break free of their service from him and cause chaos on Halloween night? Read on and find out for yourself.

This was a pretty good read for Leo Hunt's first ever book that I discovered at Barnes and Noble a while back and finally got a chance to read it. I enjoyed checking it out and I thought it was cool that the author was inspired by Stephen King and H.P. Lovecraft when writing this novel so if you enjoy horror stories and ghost stories, definitely check this book out. It is available wherever books are sold and see if it is at your local library too.

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### **K. says**

Trigger warnings: death of a parent, parent with an illness, animal cruelty.

A colleague recommended this to me as the start to a really enjoyable paranormal trilogy. And maybe I've read more paranormal trilogies than her, but oof.

This was just...boring, to be honest. And it shouldn't have been. Like, it's about a sixteen year old boy who inherits a shit ton of money and eight ghosts from his newly dead estranged father. That should be a sure-fire hit. Instead, it took Luke about half the book to actually accept that he was seeing ghosts - **WHEN HIS FATHER HAD A FREAKING I-SEE-GHOSTS REALITY SHOW!!** - and then he spent the rest of the book basically being the dumbest kid on the face of the earth.

Honestly? The MVP player here for me was Luke's dog, Ham.

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### **Heidi The Hippie Reader says**

I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads. FTC guidelines: check!

13 Days of Midnight is an enjoyable thrill ride through the world of Luke Manchett, a boy who is about to become a necromancer even though he didn't know that those existed. It is classified as a young adult novel and it has enough teen angst and non-graphic violence for that to be true, but I enjoyed it on its own merits, which is something that not all YA books have going for them.

The best part about Hunt's book is that the reader gets to discover the world and its magical rules along with Luke. You don't know what the spirits are capable of or what the necromancer's book is going to reveal- it's exciting! I kept coming back to the story because I just had to know what was going to happen next.

The only issue that I had with 13 Days of Midnight was the premise that Luke's father didn't teach his son the magical methods to protect Luke from what went down after his father's death. The story cleared up that question for me towards the very end, but I spent most of the book not buying into it. There's something primal in the parent/child bond that would never allow such a thing to happen. At least, there is for me.

If you enjoyed this book, I'd recommend *Shutter* by Courtney Alameda (YA horror) or *The Engelsfors Trilogy* by Mats Strandberg (group of teens discover that they have magical powers and have to save the world).

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### **Arif Zulkifli says**

Actual rating, 3.5 stars. A slow start, then it became very fast-paced, but when it reached the end, it became slow again.

Anyhow, quite decent read for me.

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### **Donita Luz says**

This review is also available here.

*"I am an alpha male with testosterone leaking out of my sweat glands. Ham, my loyal and subservient pack member, is looking to me for guidance in this situation."*

**Reading *Thirteen Days of Midnight* was a blast, pretty good for a debut novel!** Last time I read about necromancer.. Well, let us just say that the experience wasn't so good that I'd rather not reminisce, but in this book I'm happy to say that I had a great reading experience.

Luke Manchett, is an ordinary 16-yr old highschool guy whose only problem is to survive school without anyone finding out that he is a son of the popular ghost-buster weirdo guy in the TV.

*"To survive Dunbarrow High you want to be as normal as possible, and that means no ill mum, no ghost-hunter dad, just ordinary Luke Manchett who likes football and rugby and doesn't like schoolwork."*

Then everything changes when he received a letter delivering the news of the unexpected death of his father.

The truth is he feels nothing at all with the loss since he's been MIA most of his life. Nothing should really change now, except he worries about money. His mother doesn't really have a stable job that can support both of them, so he thinks that his father must still handle the money issue. So what happens now that his father is dead?

Turns out he doesn't need to worry anymore as he's the only sole beneficiary of his father that will inherit all of his properties. All he has to do is to sign some papers and alas! He can be a multi-millionaire in no time. He was a little suspicious at first when he needs to sign a letter written in Latin in a goatskin, but happily signed them in the end. I mean, that is literally the only thing that is hindering him from being a multi-

millionaire, how much harm can it cause? Not really smart if you ask me.

Soon Luke learned that he had not just inherited properties and money that can make him a multimillionaire. He also inherited a host of eight vengeful ghosts from his dad.

*"You're dead?" I say. "You're telling me that you're both dead? I'm talking to dead people right now?"*

*"Well alright," says The Judge, "Touchy subject, that. No need to rub it in"*

Unfortunately, a full Host of eight that he inherited can make him a powerful necromancer, only if he can stop those ghost from revolting- and killing him first, and he's got until the Halloween to stop the ghosts from breaking free of his control and turn on him.

The book got awesome and hilarious MC's and side characters that made me laugh out loud in the middle of the night. You see, I was expecting to get scared, to have a goose bumps while reading it, that's why I decided to read it on the middle of the night-*to get more on the feels*, instead I got a laugh and entertainment, which wasn't so bad really.

There's not much of a romance happen, but when you've just survive a scary shit ass hell nightmare with someone, there is a 75% chances that you'll appreciate the person more.. and eventually fall as a default.. or not? I don't know, at least there wasn't awkward **the-world-around-us-is-in-danger-now-is-the-perfect-time-to-realize-our-mutual-attraction-and-make-out** scenes here.

*"I take a moment to appreciate the Elza-ness of Elza, whole and alive; appreciate the sharpness of her gaze, the dark curve of her brow."*

This might be a series, but really, Thirteen Days of Midnight can do well as a standalone novel. Overall, this was an awesome book.

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## Yzabel Ginsberg says

*[I received a copy through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.]*

3.5 stars. Entertaining and somewhat funny at times, while still conveying a sense of danger—alright, maybe not terribly frightening per se for me, as I don't frighten easily when reading books, but I think it has the right potential nonetheless. Half the Host at least was creepy in more ways than one, from the Shepherd with his glasses to the Prisoner with his shears... and even the Innocent, for the questions he raised (who would leash a \*baby\* as their pet ghost, really?!). The Host wasn't a bunch of good guys, apart from a couple, and even those remained on the fence and never said the whole truth, only intervening at a "right" moment that could've been just a tad bit sooner for good measure.

As I'm a sucker for necromancy in general, of course I couldn't help but look for the questions it raised. And there were several. The baby I mentioned, for starters. Why Luke's father turned to such a type of magic, and why he bound such a large Host, when nothing at first indicated he even needed one (this is explained later in the book). Whether Luke would accept this part of his inheritance and be lured towards a desire for power, or try to remain who he was and have a normal life. Choices to make, and forgiveness. This wasn't just about getting rid of a bunch of ghosts, but also choosing to protect or to condemn other people.

I liked the dynamics between Luke and Elza—there's a smidge of a budding romance in there, one that doesn't detract from the plot, and develops slowly: good! Luke realised he couldn't clutch forever to his little life as one of the "popular" crowd, in the face of something much bigger and dangerous. Elza was resourceful, and overall a nice person, trying to help people who had been treating her like an outcast just because she didn't want to fit their mould. Holiday, too, was a bit of an ambiguous person: picking her friends among the popular ones and discarding the others, but not to the extent of becoming a mean girl. She was barely more than a crush, yet at least she was a believable one. As for the lawyer, well... Even though you don't get to see him much, he was perfectly cast in his role.

Oh, and Ham. Ham the deerhound. A very short part of the novel is actually from his point of view, and that was quite funny. It would've been annoying if it had been longer; kept to a few paragraphs, it wasn't, and definitely made me smile.

Other characters were less defined, unfortunately: Mark, Kirk, even Luke's mother, who remains ill/asleep for most of the novel. That last one was a bit of a letdown, as in turn, it was difficult to properly get to know her and to share Luke's worries for her for any other reason than "she's his mom".

Sometimes Luke's reactions made me cringe, as he seemed to switch from one to the other real quick. It didn't happen that often, and it could be explained by panic and worry; only it made me wonder why he'd get such reactions. (For instance, when it's been made clear that you're haunted by ghosts and that those have put a certain person in a coma, dragging that person to a hospital won't be very useful, especially not considering all the people who die in a hospital.) A couple of times, too, I picked some absolutely obvious clues that totally eluded the characters (re: the familiar); on the other hand, all things considered, maybe that's a case of being too genre-savvy on my part, so I can't very well hold it against characters who were either totally new to the supernatural, or barely fledglings (Elza admitted herself she was self-taught).

There was a slight lull in the middle while the characters were powerless and trying to figure out what to do—not that Luke's father had been very helpful to begin with. They came up with an interesting idea in the end, so I forgave them.

The writing was OK, nothing exceptional, nothing blatantly annoying either. It should flow nicely enough for the intended audience. (Also, my Kindle copy was a bit oddly formatted; however, this is an ARC, so likely to change.)

Conclusion: 3.5 stars rounded to 4, because in spite of the points I mentioned, I pretty much enjoyed it. The story is also self-contained, yet open-ended enough to leave room for a sequel (someone's bound to come back and collect their dues here, not to mention what may or may not happen between Luke and Elza, and how their fellow pupils would react to it).

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## **Dani says**

THIS WAS NOT SCARY AT ALL. What the hell. How do you have a story about suddenly having eight pissed-off ghosts tethered to your existence, and have it be completely not at all scary ?!?!?!? And one of them is a flaming skeleton! Who burns for all eternity and endlessly recites the Lord's Prayer in Latin! How ??

There was just no scary in this book whatsoever!

I don't get it!

I'm not sure why I still felt compelled to know what happens.

I mean, other than the complete and total absence of scariness, it was a reasonably good story, and well-written. But it's just kinda like, why. I came here for the ghosts to scare the shit out of me. What is this??

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### **Abbie (boneseasonofglass) says**

I enjoyed this book a lot. I wasn't expecting to like it as much as I turned out to. Different to books I've read before and I look forward to seeing where the story goes in the sequel!

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### **Claire (Book Blog Bird) says**

This review and others can be found on my blog: [Book Blog Bird](#)

The title of this book should really be, *Why You Should Never Sign Things Without Reading The Fine Print...*

Luke Manchett lives just outside a small town in the north of England. He plays on the school rugby team, has a mum who believes in healing crystals and he harbours a huge crush on one of the girls at his school. When he receives a letter one day to tell him that his absentee father has sadly passed away, he is sad but not devastated.

When he's called to the offices of his dad's solicitor and discovers he's inherited millions of pounds, all he can think of is the flashy sports car he's going to buy to impress the girl he fancies. He happily signs the documents the solicitor flashes in front of him (even though one of them is made from goat-skin vellum, which, frankly, should have sounded some alarm bells). Soon Luke discovers he's inherited more than money from his dad: he's also inherited a Host of eight vengeful ghosts. Now he has just thirteen days to solve the riddle of his dad's necromancy notes to keep the spirits from revolting.

I thought this book was awesome and has the triumvirate of a five-star book: great characters, great plot, great writing.

Luke and Elza were superb MCs and sparked off each other nicely. Mr Berkley is sly and slippery and exactly how you'd expect him to be. Horatio is weaselly and snivelling and the Host are great - well rounded, spooky, but you can still see their human aspects coming through. The only character I didn't connect with hugely was Holiday. She was okay, but really she was just the object of Luke's crush, one of the markers of his previous life as a normal kid. Having said that, it would have been really easy to cast her as the Pretty Mean Girl as a foil for Elza and the author avoided this, so I was glad about that.

The writing is hugely enjoyable and the author strikes a good balance between dry wit and spookiness. There are some genuinely tense, prickles-on-the-back-of-the-neck moments and the last quarter of the book where the action really ramps up had my heart thudding. I did that thing where you try to read slowly to spin the book out, but you can't help reading really quickly because you've just got to see what happens next.

The plot rockets along at a fair old pace and left me quite breathless at times. It slowed down a bit in the middle where Luke and Elza basically spend a lot of time clutching each other, going, 'What are we going to DO?', but even this part was still a lot more interesting than a whole bunch of other books I've read this year.

Thirteen Days of Midnight would work just fine as a standalone, but it's also been left wide open for a series. I'll definitely be keeping an eye out!

**I received a copy of Thirteen Days of Midnight in exchange for an honest review. Many thanks to Hachette and Netgalley.**

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### **Nery says**

3.5 más bien.

El principio se me hizo lento, pero luego coge mucho ritmo y es adictivo.

Elza y Luke son OTP.

Nada más que añadir, pronto reseña en mi blog e.e

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### **Eric Novello says**

Tradução terminada! Falta a revisão.

É um young adult... de terror! Escocês.

E o autor é uma figura. Se você gosta da ambientação de espíritos, pactos, livros com feitiços, é bem provável que você curta. Quando o livro for publicado aqui no Brasil, escrevo uma resenha digna.

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### **Marta Álvarez says**

3.5

El argumento es interesante y está bien desarrollado, al igual que la voz de su protagonista, Luke. Aunque se echa en falta alguna subtrama que le de una vuelta de tuerca a la historia, [i]13 días a medianoche[/i] es una curiosa mezcla de terror e ironía a la que merece la pena dar una oportunidad.

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### **Liviania says**

Luke Manchett's father left him and his mother. Luke hasn't even spoken to him in years. However, he has just received news of his father's death - and a rather large inheritance. Tempted by the money, Luke doesn't pay too much attention to the papers he's signing. But then the ghosts start showing up.

I thoroughly enjoyed 13 DAYS OF MIDNIGHT. There's a nice balance of horror and humor. I found Luke sometimes frustrating, since he takes a ridiculous amount of time to clue into the danger he's in. He might not have intended to inherit a host of ghosts and dark necromantic powers, but he had plenty of opportunity



to notice everyone warning him that things could go horribly awry. Luckily he finds help with Elza, the school weirdo who just happens to have second sight and be a low-level witch. With her, Luke isn't completely hopeless.

I did like that the reader figures out what is going on and how the necromancy works along with Luke and Elza. All is revealed at the end, but it takes time since the reader is thrown into the deep end with Luke. I love books that let you put together the pieces on your own. I also liked that the adventure in 13 DAYS OF MIDNIGHT wrapped up neatly while still leaving a wicked hook for sequels. I hope there are more books coming, because it looks like Luke has more terrifying things lurking in his future.

While 13 DAYS OF MIDNIGHT is a horror story, it's not a scary story. It's a ghost story, and a creepy one, with some macabre imagery and heroes forced to use awful measures to prevent worse things from happening. It's a kind of horror that I enjoy very much.

13 DAYS OF MIDNIGHT is a book that will remind you to always read the fine print before making a deal with a lawyer.

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### **Karen Barber says**

3.5 stars would be more like it, but this wasn't what I expected.

The novel begins quite slowly. Luke Manchett discovers his father-a television star famous for his necromancy skills-has died. He will inherit his father's fortune if certain conditions are met. Unfortunately, Luke signs his acceptance of these conditions without reading the finer details and ends up with a lot more than he bargained for.

Luke's gradual realisation that his father has handed over control of eight ghosts determined to get revenge was humorously dealt with. As Luke struggles to work out how to master this group of spirits, he has to rely on the friendship of Ezra-someone he's barely spoken to.

What follows has elements of horror, but it never really strays into horrifying (unless you think too carefully about some of the things we're told Luke experiences). I felt this was because Luke doesn't have a clue what he's doing a lot of the time, and when it comes down to it he resists the final temptation.

Part of me wanted to see him act selfishly...

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### **Cielbert says**

4.5/5

GUYS! 2ND BOOK is tentatively called EIGHT RIVERS OF SHADOW!

AWESOME STORY! I'M OUT OF WORDS RIGHT NOW.  
FULL REVIEW COMING SOON.

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