



Whispers in the Graveyard

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Solomon is full of anger: with his teachers, with his parents, with himself. He cannot bear to be at school or at home, so he hides in a corner of the kirkyard. When the spirit of a witch is released, Solomon is the only person who can fight it.

Whispers in the Graveyard Details

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Author : Theresa Breslin

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From Reader Review Whispers in the Graveyard for online ebook

Skye Glover says

When I read it at school, I thought it was an amazing book which made my heart beat. I don't want to give anything away but... There is a 12 yr old boy named Solomon who has Dyslexia (That's all I'm saying). Anyway, I thought it was a really good book which puts lots of pictures to mind and leaves you on many cliff-hangers.

See Ya All Lat3r with another book review :) Skye out x

Issy says

This book is about a boy with dyslexia. His teacher bullies him and he often skips off school and hides in a graveyard. He sits under a rowan tree. But he didn't know that rowan trees were planted to ward off evil.

Georgie says

A great, creepy little read with important stuff to say about bullying and learning to face up to your problems.

Solomon doesn't have it easy. He's dyslexic, and his struggles at school are made worse by a bully of a teacher. Life at home isn't easy either - Solomon's mum walked out a while ago and his Dad is often out of work and tends to go on benders. Solomon has one refuge - the local graveyard. But then workmen come to remove an old rowan tree. Solomon discovers that rowan trees were traditionally planted to ward off evil spirits, and once the rowan tree in his graveyard is removed, some very creepy things start to happen.

I really liked the history that went into this book, all the little details about burial practices and the smallpox epidemic, etc, it was really interesting.

I also loved the honest portrayal of a kid/teen with learning difficulties and how frustrating Solomon finds it.

'Whispers in the Graveyard' is also delightfully creepy for a book whose target audience I'd guess to be about 11-13ish.

I remember reading this book as a kid, and recently picked it up again. I think I enjoyed it even more this time around.

Lisa says

I was very disappointed after finishing this book, and I don't know on what grounds it won the Carnegie Medal.

In short, it deals with too many plots and genres at the same time, not taking any of them seriously.

It starts as a realistic novel, describing the desolate situation of a boy trying to cope with severe dyslexia. But the author adds too many problems. His mom has left, his dad is an unreliable alcoholic, his teacher an unbelievably one-dimensional bully. Out of the blue a new young teacher appears, sees the problem and sets out to set it straight. This alone would be a problematically shallow approach to serious childhood issues, but now a real ghost story is added. And it is not a story taking place in the boy's head to help him cope with his life (as *A Monster Calls* successfully does), no, it is a real, graveyard-situated ghost story with ancient treasures, curses, illnesses and sudden deaths, it is something that all characters experience together, grown-ups and children alike. No convincing reason is given why this ghost story is included in the plot to make the main character confident enough to tackle his problems. The different stories just happen. There is a curse, children are threatened, but they survive. So what? Solomon decides to work on his dyslexia. Wow, big surprise. His dad might start going to alcoholics meetings. Ok. The wondrous teacher leaves because she is so good (after a week or two), that she gets a promotion. The little child that is saved in the graveyard doesn't fill any function at all after that episode. Why is she there in the first place then? No recommendation if you want a story that makes sense on an emotional and structural level.

Gail Thompson says

This book was OK, but not as good as I expected. I loved her other novel, *The Inquisition*, but this was not as gripping. Having said that, there are some great images and lovely descriptive phrasing. This book is aimed at younger children as well (maybe 10-13). The children in the year 8 class I read it with seem to really like it.

Molly says

Solomon struggles with undiagnosed dyslexia and an alcoholic father, taking refuge in a local cemetery, or kirkyard. But when the town decides to disinter the cemetery residents, a noxious and evil presence is unleashed that will change Solomon and his father. Fun facts about medieval Scottish cemeteries are included as well.

Vassia Louka says

Το συγκεκριμένο βιβλίο το έχω από την εφηβεία μου και αποφάσισα να το ξαναδιαβάσω καθώς δε το θυμούνται. Διαβάζοντας το σ'αυτό την ηλικία δεν μπορώ να πω πολλά, διότι είναι φανερό πως αφορούν νεότερες ηλικίες. Παρολαυτό, αν εξαιρέσω το κομμάτι της «μαρτυρίας μαγείας» και του «κακού», περνάει κάποια μορφή μηνύματα σε ότι αφορά τον χαρακτήρα του Σολομών που έχει μαθησιακές δυσκολίες.

Michele says

An interesting read but like others have said rather too many things going on and the ghostly / evil goings on

rather dilute or confuse the message. Not sure it is a worthy winner of the Carnegie Medal.

Brendan says

I remember reading this in Year 6 (depressingly, 16 years ago...). It was a real step up from anything we'd read before (hearing my teacher reading the words "pain in the bloody arse, that's what I'd call it" was a highlight - naughty words!), so I had to read it again.

Solomon, the main character, still draws the same sympathy. Alcoholic dad, bullying teacher, struggling with his learning issues at school. A brilliant narrative follows his everyday problems, and delights when solutions look like they have been found. All the while, though, the 'ghost story' that runs parallel with Solomon's daily problems just doesn't quite fit. The story of Solomon's life alone would have made the book worth reading, but the supernatural events that happen throughout just don't seem to add anything - it's like the author decided half way through that this should be a fantasy/supernatural story, causing events in the second half of the book to spiral into the unbelievable. This only serves to take the shine off of what was a gritty, slightly shocking but very readable real life story. It is still very much worth a read though - who knows if you'll encounter a Solomon in a classroom in the future? Someone understanding and caring can make a whole lot of difference...

Jessica says

I read this book as a young kid, maybe ten years ago or more, and it really stuck for me, but as per I forgot the title and spent ages looking for it. I finally found it a couple years ago but hadn't got round to re-reading it, but I'm so glad it did. No wonder it stuck for me so long! This book is terrifying and creepy, and perfectly paced, I'm going to make sure every kid and every kid near me read it!

Crystal says

This is a nice "scary" book that isn't too scary for elementary. That's a tricky thing to do. I keep looking for those since we have lots of elementary students that want scary books.

Alison says

This was started by my 2nd year high school pupils before I took the class. They hated it. I found it tedious too. Did not finish.

Rachel Verna says

This book was okay. Not that fond of saying Dyslexia isn't a disability: "It's difficulty, not a disability." Those words mean the same thing. Disability is not a dirty word.

I wrote a proper review on my blog.

Jenni says

To be honest I didn't know which shelf to put this on. We had to read it in Middle School. It's a faint attempt at a horror novel, but to be honest it just ended up being a twitching mess. I didn't like it at all.

Rebecca McNutt says

Spooky and chilling, *Whispers in the Graveyard* is a middle-grade story that brings its readers on a frightening and exciting adventure with ghosts and ghouls and a young boy who has to put a stop to the spirit that has been released.
