



Mary Hades

Sarah Dalton

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Not many seventeen year old girls have a best friend who's a ghost, but then Mary Hades isn't your average teenager.

Scarred physically and mentally from a fire, her parents decide a holiday to an idyllic village in North Yorkshire will help her recover. Nestled in the middle of five moors, Mary expects to have a boring week stuck in a caravan with her parents. Little does she know, evil lurks in the campsite...

Seth Lockwood—a local fairground worker with a dark secret—might be the key to uncovering the murky history that has blighted Nettleby. But Mary is drawn to him in a way that has her questioning her judgement.

Helped by her dead best friend and a quirky gay Goth couple, Mary must stop the unusual deaths occurring in Nettleby. But can she prevent her heart from being broken?

The first in a series of dark YA novels, Mary Hades follows on from the bestselling Kindle Single 'My Daylight Monsters'. A spine-tingling tale with romance, readers will be shocked and entertained in equal measure.

Mary Hades Details

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Author : Sarah Dalton

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From Reader Review Mary Hades for online ebook

Princess Godoy says

(I got this book from the YA Spring Fling from the author herself)

I have many problems from this book, maybe it's because I read the #0.5 of this book first and it's SO different from this one or there are many things in this book that I just can't digest.

1. Why does every guy in this book/series is perfect? and every one just likes her instantly? WTH?!?!?!?
2. I don't know if my copy is missing some parts but there are a lot of scenes where I feel like it's jumping and the story is not complete.
3. I feel bored in a lot of scenes.

Overall, I like Mary's character because she's a stubborn kickass character which apparently is my weakness (somehow) but I'm not really into this series but I will probably still read the next one cause I have a copy.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author Sarah Dalton and NetGalley.)

“Standing like a scarecrow in the middle of a crop field, is one of them. Its skull shines through its face, and haunting sunken eyes stare at me, dark as night. A chill passes over my body. This is a warning.”

This was a really good ghost story, and I really enjoyed it.

I liked Mary in this story, I felt sorry for her with what she had gone through at the mental health care facility, but it was nice that she now had Lacey as a friend, even if she was dead.

“Well, that was marginally better than our last hospital stay,” Lacey says. “Mainly because last time, I died.”

The storyline in this was pretty good, and I liked the mystery element. I didn't think this book was all that scary again, but I did prefer it to 'My Daylight Monsters'. I will say though that I absolutely hate Ferris Wheels, and if I had to jump off of one of them because a ghost was trying to kill me, I would not be happy.

“We have to jump,” I shout.

“What?” Seth replies.

“Jump! Now!”

There was some romance and it was kind-of sweet. Mary's mother was an absolute nutcase though, and seemed to think that finding a boyfriend was just what Mary needed, to the point where she encouraged her to go out with anyone!

“Oh, I can tell just from looking at your face. He’s downright gorgeous, isn’t he? Please tell me you used protection.”

The ending to this was pretty good, and I liked the action. I wasn't 100% convinced by the way the romance ended though.

7.5 out of 10

Rebecca McNutt says

This was an incredible paranormal story, haunting and eerie with themes of friendship buried underneath the ghosts and dreary scenery.

Yzabel Ginsberg says

(I got a copy through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.)

Mary Hades mostly delivers on vivid descriptions when it comes to the murderous ghost, the time spent running away at night on the moors, and other scenes that are of the traditional and expected kind in such a story. I liked reading those parts, and the writing style in general, while not being exceptional, was pleasant. The novel introduced interesting ideas, too, especially the ones revolving around Lacey and what she may or may not become as a ghost: she's been dead for a short time, yet the question remains whether the gruesome circumstances of said death could cause her to turn bad, just as the enemy turned bad. This is definitely something deserving to be explored.

However, the rest of the story seemed to plod along, despite being short enough. The romance, for one, felt forced and not really useful, leaving me thinking "Yes, and?..." in the end, and nothing more. Was there really need for a romance here? I don't think so. They could've been friends, and it would just have been the same. Call me a picky reader, and unfair to the author, but I've read way too many YA books by now to still be awed by romance that doesn't have an *actual* role to play.

I also couldn't help but question the presence of other characters. Mary, Lacey, Seth, Igor: OK. The other ones, though, felt superfluous, didn't really help, didn't bring much to the plot either. I guess their main interest was to be "the gay couple next door", but then, might as well give them something relevant to do, not just hand around as wannabe ghost hunters. It smelt suspiciously of "let's add gay people to show that we like them", almost in a trendish way. (Maybe I'm totally mistaken as to the intent: it's just the way I perceived it.)

I remain torn when it comes to the part about Dr Gethen. I know the novel stemmed from a novella, and it's clear the author wanted her readers to be able to enjoy *Mary Hades* without necessarily having had to read the previous story. This is commendable, and the few reminders peppered here and there helped me piece those events together, enough that I was able to easily get what happened to Mary and Lacey and drove them

where they are now. On the other hand, it wasn't enough—or, rather, it was a shortcut to something Mary had to come to terms with, only I got the coming-to-terms part without the emotional and literary investment in it. I guess one had better read the novella before, all in all, if only to feel more invested.

Finally, while the murderous ghost was frightening enough in the beginning, I thought her demise went too quickly, too easily. She should've been more of a challenge, deserved more screen time, perhaps a death or two that the characters would have felt more deeply? (The little boy, and the guy working at the fair, are killed too early, without the reader having had a chance to get interested in them, so they're more MacGuffins than characters... if this makes sense).

Conclusion: easy to read, with potential, but not living up to it, and not very memorable. This made it barely "OK" for me.

Lindsay says

I received a free digital copy of this book from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

This is an amazing start to what I am sure will be an amazing series. This book left me breathless, and right on the edge of my seat (how cliché I know). Sarah Dalton is amazing at setting the atmosphere of a story, a way with words and characters. For any one who liked *Girl of Nightmares* by Kendare Blake you will love this book. It is decidedly creepier to me and there are some incredibly twisted dark parts that I was not expecting. Just an amazing book.

Sherry Fundin says

Mary Hades by Sarah Dalton is a creepy and fantastic tale of a girl who is able to see and communicate with the spirits, her vacation adventure that turns into a young girl's ghostly revenge and I loved every minute I spent with her and her friends, leaving me wanting more.

To see more visit [fundinmental](#)

Mary says

Mary's NetGalley Catch-Up: 5 of 80

These are the people who lie awake at night, frightened by the stars above them, intimidated by how the world keeps turning and it doesn't matter if they live or die. These are the people who attempt to stop those thoughts by painting, or writing, or reading...anything to plug up that hole in the brain that gushes out a constant stream of consciousness.

Mary Hades is a regular girl who sees "Things." These "Things" are people with skulls, shades and shadows that no one else can see. Every time she sees a "Thing", someone dies. She sees them at the start of her trip to Nettleby and a young boy jumps from a roof.

Mary's best friend, a ghost, urges her to ask this cute boy out on the ferris wheel at the nearby fair. She does

and when their on the ferris wheel, Mary sees another "Thing." And someone's about to die.

This was a very entertaining read. The plot was pretty simplistic but it stuck true to it in a way that you don't see very often in YA. Something's killing people. Let's find out what.

Mary, as a character, isn't anything great, I'm going to be honest. She had a few stand out moments, but for the most part she sounded pretty generic. Luckily, the book had a great character to make up for it; Lacey. Lacey is Mary's ghostly best friend and she delivers the best dialogue.

"Check out the rack on her. I can't believe I'm never going to squeeze a boob ever again."

I can't help it this time, the ridiculousness makes me laugh. "That's what you miss?"

"Amongst other things," she says. "Boobs are important, Mary. Never forget that." She flashes me her ever-present wicked grin.

Thank God Lacey is in this book. If she wasn't, this would be a two-star book. I'm not kidding. Lacey has her priorities straight, clearly, and I adore it. She's dead but like hell is she going to let that small detail stop her in any way, shape or form.

Mary is...nothing special, I guess. She strayed into generic-ville too often and too long for me to gain any real sympathy towards her. I liked her a lot better in the first part of the book, before the romance came along.

The romance? Meh. Meeeeeeehhhhhhhhh. No chemistry, no...anything. It was like it was added because the author thought YA needs romance to be YA. It doesn't, and Mary and her beau, Seth, could have been friends and the story literally would not have changed. The characters would not have changed. It was useless and eye-roll worthy on a few occasions. (view spoiler)

Seth, as a character, is not bad. He's got a few lines that made me laugh aloud, and he definitely doesn't stray into alpha male territory which is AMAZING. Seriously. This book gets a whole star from me for that. But I feel like Seth is only a half-way realized character. He's got strong dialogue in parts, but then is generic in others. It's like the author turned him just enough to be different, but not enough to be completely unrecognizable from a generic male love interest.

The atmosphere is great. Think *Anna Dressed In Blood* without the annoying love story and dickish main character. It definitely feels scary, even if you don't ever feel these characters were in danger. I would have liked to see more tension, but the atmosphere felt spooky enough. The climax was pretty short, though. I would have liked that finally scene to have lasted longer, or maybe even have a bigger setup. Something to make the final battle feel a bit more epic.

This book does have a really bizarre flaw though. Not one I think I've ever come across and it's weird because I like the writing but I hate the execution of it. That really flowy passage I quoted at the top? Isn't that greatly written?! I love it and there are more passages like that one in this book. But they're at the end or the beginning of a chapter. It's like those passages are summarizing what will happen or what had happened. And...they're unnecessary. I don't need them. Am I glad that I got to read them? Yes, I think they're done really well. But the fact that it acts as a chapter summary rubs me the wrong way.

Overall though? I liked it. It definitely felt like a less dickish version of *Anna Dressed In Blood* though it never quite got to that book's level of atmosphere. However, I honestly believe whether or not you like this book depends on whether you like one of the three main characters; Mary, Lacey, or Seth. Luckily, I love a ghost who has her after-life priorities straight. Boobs before death, man.

Claire (Book Blog Bird) says

This review is also on my blog: www.bookblogbird.weebly.com

I received a copy of Mary Hades in exchange for an honest review. Many thanks to the author, Sarah Dalton, and Netgalley.

It's not often I go for a ghost story, but something about the blurb of Mary Hades drew me in and I'm really glad it did! It's the story of a girl, Mary Hades, who sees ghosts. Her parents think it's a psychological problem and Mary pretends to take the medication her doctors give her, but she knows the ghosts she sees are real. All this is fine until Mary and her parents go on holiday to a caravan site haunted by a ghost who's recently stated to get a bit violent....

Mary Hades is written like a proper old-fashioned ghost story, in a kind of 'bad ghost versus protagonist whose job it is to defeat it' way. I thought it was a great story with likeable characters and a plot that kept me reading all the way through. There's a bit of romance, but it doesn't overwhelm the action. It's also kind of Scooby-Doo (in a good way): Mary has her gang of buddies and they set about trying to solve the mystery of why this ghost has been killing people. Spoiler alert: the ghost in Mary Hades didn't turn out to be the caretaker from the haunted amusement arcade.

Charlie says

****I received a review copy of this book from the publisher through Netgalley****

I read the prequel Novella to this book last week and loved it, I hope this book is as good.

Marga says

Well, first of all that cover is simply gorgeous and I was in need to read a ghost book so I requested Mary Hades. I was liking the first parts of the book...

I did not get the creepiness that I expected.

The Plot:

Mary Hades had been put into a sort of mental institution since her parents find her weird. She is weird, in a way. She can see ghosts. She met a friend in the hospital, Lacey. Then an accident happened that killed Lacey. It scarred Mary, literally. She blamed herself for it. But the thing is, Lacey never left her. She was still around her. As a ghost.

Mary's parents decided to go to a vacation. She goes because she wanted to escape The Things, as she calls these ghosts that is very scary-looking, who seems to be everywhere she looks.. But these creatures doesn't seem to want to leave her alone. Mary's so sure that Death is always coming for her.

The Characters:

Mary. I was kind of annoyed at her sometimes. I think that she liked Lacey around when she was enjoying her company but when she didn't, she wants Lacey to "move on" like she's a huge inconvenience. That is so not cool.

Lacey. Well, she was certainly entertaining as a ghost best friend. She jokes frequently but when things are serious, she's very good to lean into. She does not tolerate Mary's impulsiveness.

The secondary characters was okay. They did help make the story a little bit interesting.

The romance, although had been a huge part of the story, was not somehow the main focus of the book. It was about a ghost who wants to find her peace and had been very vengeful that it killed some people. Together with some weird friends, Mary tries to stopped it from killing the guy she liked who seems to be involved in the mystery around its death.

The Ending:

To be honest, I was kind of disappointed by how it all ends. I was expecting a huge battle but I did not get it. **It was like expecting a hurricane but only getting a drizzle.** It was very anticlimactic. It felt too rushed for my liking.

Overall, a nice horror book but it completely lacked the creepiness that I was expecting. I will probably read the next books in the series just to see how it all goes. But.. I'll re-read this book first (or read this review) because this story is just so forgettable. I wasn't very much invested in this one.

Final Rating: 2.5/5 stars

Received a copy of this book from the author and XpressoBookTours in exchanged of an honest review.

Jessica (Goldenfurpro) says

This and other reviews can be found on The Psychotic Nerd

MY THOUGHTS

I read *My Daylight Monsters* awhile ago and loved it! It was great as a novella, but I still have a few unanswered questions. So, I was ecstatic when I found out that it will be expanded into a series! And it did not disappoint! (Just so you know, it is not necessary to read *My Daylight Monsters* before reading this book, but if you get a chance to read it, go for it! It is a really great novella!)

Mary Hades sees creatures whenever something bad is about to happen and death seems to follow her. Seeing these caused Mary to be put in a mental ward, then it turns out that one of the doctors was killing patients (and killed her friend there, who now 'haunts' Mary in ghost form). After this event, Mary's parents decide that a holiday in a small village will be perfect for recovery. Until a little boy jumps off a building and dies. It turns out that there's a ghost in the village, one that likes to kill men and grows more powerful with each kill. Mary needs to find a way to stop this ghost, especially when her new friend, maybe boyfriend, may be the next target.

I love ghost stories. Sure, they scare the hell out of me, but I find them so very interesting! This book is very

similar to other ghost mysterious, but I still loved it! The ghost was very creepy and the tone of the book was dark. I actually loved the creepiness, I think it's a must for any ghost story.

The characters are really great in this book. Mary is a great main character. She has a very abnormal life, with seeing creatures, a dead best friend, and death following her everywhere. Oddly enough, I was able to connect with her. She is very strong-willed and , while she wishes she could be normal, she won't stand back and let a ghost destroy lives. All the other characters are really great as well. She makes new friends in this book and they help her with stopping the ghost. They even believe her when she talks about ghosts!

The romance was a nice addition, but more of a just there kind of thing if that makes any sense. It was just a little romance, but while it was nice, it wasn't long lasting. I did like the love interest though. And while the romance was small, I did like it. It didn't distract the plot and it wasn't annoying

IN CONCLUSION

This is a very good beginning to a new ghost mystery series. I get the feeling that each book will focus on a different ghost and I am actually very excited to see that! If you enjoy reading ghost stories, then this is your book!

♥?εσσ?ι?♥? (Krystle) says

You can read this review and more on my blog:

I received this book for free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Someone who has read fewer romances and watched almost no ghost movies, probably would have enjoyed Mary Hades more than I did.

When the book begins, it is after Mary was terrorized by her doctor and badly scarred in a fire at the mental facility she was sent to. It was like this was a sequel to another book, and I needed to read that first book in order to be invested in what was happening.

There were some spooky scenes that I enjoyed, Mary was likable enough, and I liked the last few chapters, but for the most part, the story was too rushed and disjointed for my taste. It was a short book that tried to tell a very long story.

I think Mary has been able to see ghost for a long time, and her parents sent her to a mental hospital because they thought she was crazy. While at the mental hospital, Mary meets her best friend, Lacey, and Lacey gets killed by some psycho doctor. But of course that doesn't end their friendship because Mary can see Ghost.

The real story begins when Mary goes on vacation with her parents and meets a cute boy named Seth.

I could tell you some more stuff about the plot, but it would spoil the mystery, and the mystery is just about the only thing I liked so I don't want to ruin it. Basically, Seth and Mary have a lot in common, and they team up to stop a homicidal ghost.

The mystery had me guessing, and I didn't know who the murderer was until the last couple of chapters, and Mary and Seth had a cute holiday romance.

I really think this book is better suited for someone who is a lot younger than me and isn't so familiar with ghost stories. I wanted more scary and intense moments.

If you want to read something light that has a few spooky moments, this would be the book for you.

Because of language and mature themes, I would recommend this book for ages 15 and up. There was no sexual content.

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, In exchange for an honest review.)

Mary was an okay character, but she annoyed me a few times, so I didn't love her.

Lacey was a lot better than she was in the novella. She still had her annoying moments, but she wasn't as bad.

I did enjoy a lot of this, but there were a few parts where I felt bored. Out of this and the novella, I enjoyed the novella slightly more.

The ending was a bit disappointing, but it wasn't bad either.

Overall, An okay read.

Nemo (The Moonlight Library) says

Mary's been dragged to Nettleby, a small town in the north of England, for a family holiday, but when strange accidents occur that kill people around her, she discovers she's at the centre of child ghost's vengeance, and she has to figure out a way to keep all of her new friends – and old ones – alive so they can put the serial killing ghost to rest.

Mary Hades is a wonderful book, truly spectacular. It's the kind of book that would be at home with a major publisher in their YA Gothic section. As a self-published book, it simply outshines a lot of other similarly produced work I've read. It's polished, refined, each character has its own motivations and the main character grows and changes with relevance to the clear, outlined plot. There's mysteries left unturned until the climax and it's also a good adventure ride, hanging out with Mary as she finds a summer romance, faces some demons both metaphorical and real, and tries to solve the mystery of the ghost child haunting the small town.

Mary was an excellent character. She was strong willed and smart, fighting against a horrible mental illness stigma. Her best friend is a ghost, called Lacey, and the two of them bickered and fought like any teen best friends do. I loved their relationship because of the power balance between them and I found it quite realistic. As an added bonus, Lacey is a lesbian, but it's never made a big deal of. Mary wasn't exactly a leader type who took charge, but she was capable of being on her own without falling apart, which I liked.

The other characters were great to read about as well. Seth had motivation out the wazoo and enough issues to make even the worst of the bad-boy-with-an-attitude-lovers swoon. Neil and Lamarr were an interracial gay Goth couple and they were sweet to Mary. We didn't see as much of them because the focus was on Seth. Mary's parents were suitable horrific: her mother was completely obsessed with getting Mary a summer boyfriend (and maybe even getting laid?) and her dad, obviously, hated Seth and anything that threatened to change Mary from a little girl into a woman.

Although this book revealed horrible character actions and hinted at even more sinister stuff, I still think it's a great book for teenagers to enjoy. I really liked it even though I haven't read the prequel novella, My Daylight Monsters. I think it's a phenomenal effort and it should be a book other YA readers should tackle.

Thanks to Xpresso Book Tours and the author for providing a free review copy for an honest review.

Jules says

This is a sometimes very dark, funny, and mostly enjoyable murder mystery ghost story with a little romance.

I don't often read young adult books, but the book description caught my attention, so I thought I'd give it a go, and I'm so pleased I did.

Mary is a likeable, fairly mature teenage girl with a variety of issues. **The main one being that her best friend is a ghost.**

Lacey, the ghostly friend is a funny character that made me laugh on a few occasions. There are a variety of other different characters within this novel, but Mary and Lacey were definitely my favourites. This may be because they were the most developed characters. However, I did really feel for Seth and the things he had had to deal with since his teens.

This is a fast paced, easy to follow story that is very hard to put down.

Some reviews state that the romance wasn't convincing. If you want to read a romance novel, this isn't the book for you. **However, if you want to read a ghostly novel about murder and death, which happens to have friendship and a little bit of romance in it, then I would recommend this novel.**

This is not a particularly deep novel, but it does cover some serious issues.

I would happily read more by Sarah Dalton, and would like to thank her for the opportunity to read this via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.
