



## Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind

*Darlene Foster*

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## **Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind** Darlene Foster

Amanda Ross is on a school trip to Taos, New Mexico to collect material for writing projects. She is travelling with Cleo, a classmate who believes in ghosts and insists she keeps seeing them. Amanda doesn't believe in ghosts and is determined to prove there is no such thing. When weird, unexplainable things start to happen to Amanda, she questions her denial of the supernatural.

Join Amanda as she visits a typical hacienda, an ancient pueblo, a painting that changes dramatically and a spooky hotel with the ghost of a murdered cowboy haunting the rooms. Can Amanda escape from the eerie wind that follows her everywhere she goes?

## **Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind Details**

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Author : Darlene Foster

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## From Reader Review Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind for online ebook

### Literary Soirée says

Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind finds student Amanda Ross on a school trip in Taos, New Mexico. While there, her classmate Cleo thinks she sees ghosts. Amanda feels anxious too, sensing that something or someone is watching her. An engaging adventure ensues during their visit to the Land of Enchantment in this sixth book in the fun and educational series for early middle grade readers. 5/5

Thank you to the author, Central Avenue Publishing, and NetGalley for the review copy. Opinions are mine.

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### Rachael Bookfairs says

6th grade school trip to New Mexico - there are some fun bits of history here - but a lot is glossed over. It is couched as a ghost story rather than an exploration of the history or of the kids' experiences as they travel together for a week.

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### Patricia Tilton says

Darlene Foster has written another lively adventure story for young readers who enjoy traveling, exploring and solving a good mystery. Fans of the Amanda Travels series won't be disappointed with this fast-paced book which will keep them on edge with a spooky plot and unexplained events.

The story is character driven. Amanda is a fun, upbeat, curious, caring and memorable character that readers will want as a friend — especially since she has keen radar and is always ready to solve a good mystery. And, Amanda can't resist a good mystery — even if it involves ghosts, cold breezes brushing her shoulders and unexpected incidents. Her friend Cleo is more sensitive to the presences around and finds it safer to sketch the sites they visit instead of explore. Caleb is more pragmatic, the group photographer and a good balance for Amanda.

Readers will learn about history, geography, architecture, artifacts and shiver at the presence of ghosts that are rumored to be haunting many of the places they visit in Taos — the Mable Dodge Luhan house, the Governor Bent Museum, the Taos Pueblo, the Rio Grande Gorge and bridge, Ojo Caliente hot springs, the Palisade Sills, the St. James Hotel, and the Enchanted Circle Pottery. They will have an opportunity to attend the Day of the Dead celebration. Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind is the sixth book in the Amanda Travels series.

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### Sue says

This is the latest installment in a series about a 6th grade girl who is lucky enough to travel, this time with many in her class on a school trip to Taos, New Mexico. They are all students who are artistic, write blogs, take photographs or express themselves in other ways that they are producing each evening after their

sightseeing. Taos is a place I have visited and enjoyed so I find it exciting to see it used for the setting of a young adult novel. I also read mysteries when I was young and enjoyed the opportunity to see what is being produced today in this area, and with that hint of the paranormal.

Amanda's character seems likable to me, smart, but not off-putting. She is also friendly and able and willing to be friends with an outsider. She is adventuresome but also loves learning. I enjoyed the way the author sprinkled the elements of education carefully throughout this novel, providing information on Taos Pueblo and the people who live there. There are also tidbits on cowboys who populated the Southwest and their culture as well as elements of the lives of the many current residents.

Were there ghosts in the Taos area? Did Amanda or her friend Cleo actually see or experience one or more? Well that's a difficult question to answer. This story combines a good young adult adventure story with hints of the paranormal while also providing some well placed educational material lightly in the text and great ideas for other young people to aspire to.

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

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### **Michelle Mallette says**

Amanda and her new friend Cleo are part of an artistic Grade 6 class group from Calgary, Alberta that will be visiting New Mexico to take in the history and culture of the area, documenting the trip through drawings, photographs, and words. Neither Amanda nor her photographer buddy Caleb believe in ghosts. But strange occurrences lead Amanda to wonder if ghosts really do exist. Foster's meticulous research means readers will learn a great deal about the history and culture of the Ancient Puebloans, early settlers, and modern American natives in the area. The kids get into mischief, largely by accident, and young readers will enjoy the story, though it does feel rather formulaic for an adult reader. I don't think I'll be trying any others in the series, but it's possible the book will have more appeal for readers already familiar with Amanda's adventures. My thanks to Central Avenue Publishing for the advance reading copy provided through NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

See my full review at <https://mmbkshlf.wordpress.com/201...>

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### **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

Sixth-grader Amanda Ross is a girl who loves to travel, so she's pretty excited about her class trip from Calgary, Canada to Taos, New Mexico. But no sooner does their plane land in the Albuquerque airport than Amanda's friend Cleo begins to tremble, wishing she were home, and asking if Amanda believes in ghosts.

Staying at a famous Taos hotel, the Mable Dodge Luhan House, Amanda and Cleo share a room, but Cleo is still anxious. Even their room feels spooky to her, and she believes she saw someone when she opened the closet. Nevertheless, Amanda is determined to make the most of this trip and enjoy their short stay, learning as much about the history of the area as possible and recording her impressions and stories on the school's Kidblog.

As the class visits sights such as the Governor Bent Museum, the Hacienda de los Martinez, the Taos Pueblo, where they also stopped to try some wonderful Fry Bread, the \*Rio Grande Gorge and Bridge, the Ojo Caliente hot springs, Palisade Sills, the St. James Hotel, and the Enchanted Circle Pottery, and ending with a Day of the Dead celebration, Amanda and Cleo hook up with another classmate to go exploring together.

Cleo, however, is still anxious about ghosts, insisting she keeps seeing the ghost of young girl in a white dress, and it seems that everyplace they visit is haunted. After a while, even Amanda begins to feel unsettled and begins to question her own beliefs about ghosts and the supernatural.

Then, on a visit to the historic Ranchos de Taos Plaza and the church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Amanda, Caleb, and Cleo run into a very angry man named Jim, when Cleo gets injured in an empty building, where once again she thought she saw a ghost.

And indeed, strange things seem to be happening to Cleo on this trip. It seems everywhere she goes, she sees the ghost of the same young girl who appears to be trying to tell her something. But who might this girl be? Is she really a ghost or just Cleo's imagination playing tricks on her? And what does angry Jim, whom they run into more than once, have to do with it all? Can Amanda solve the mystery of Cleo's ghostly companion.

Ghosts in the Wind is the second Amanda Travels book I've read, and I found it just as interesting as Amanda on the Danube: The Sounds of Music. Everywhere Amanda travels to seems to have a mystery just right for a curious 12 year-old to solve. And Ghosts in the Wind is no different. I lived in the southwest for four years and there is a certain kind of atmosphere there that does carry a bit of a supernatural feel to it, and Darlene Foster has captured that feeling and infused it throughout the places Amanda and her school mates visit.

I have to admit that I did find Amanda a little annoying, going off and doing what she wants even when told by the adults around her not to. She's also a little impatient with Cleo, a relatively new girl in school and one that Amanda doesn't really know much about. She really upsets Cleo when she posts a story about Cleo's ghost in the closet for everyone to read on Kidblog. Cleo has her own backstory that eventually does help Amanda understand her better when she finally talks about her life. Cleo likes to draw and records everything she sees by illustrating it, including the ghost in one of her scenes. Caleb is very much fun character. He carries a camera everywhere he goes and records his adventures that way. He also provides some comic relief when things get serious and some help when Amanda needs it.

The Amanda Travels series is a really nice way of introducing young readers to different places around the world through the eyes of girl around their age and it's perfect for kids who like a good mystery. Each mystery surrounding each story is built around the particular place that Amanda is visiting so readers learn about the history, the food, famous sights, celebrations, and the geography, including the landscape.

Amanda in New Mexico: Ghosts in the Wind has a lot to offer readers and just might wake up the wanderlust in some.

This book is recommended for readers age 9+

This book was an EARC received from NetGalley

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## **Bette Stevens says**

Amanda and her sixth-grade class are on an educational field trip from their hometown of Calgary, Canada to visit, explore and document their experiences in New Mexico, USA. As the class tours Taos, New Mexico and the surrounding area, their trip is interrupted by ghosts present and past. In "Amanda in New Mexico—Ghost in the Wind," Foster has written a contemporary fiction story through which middle grade students will not only learn about the region's geography, architecture, and artifacts—they'll learn invaluable life lessons along the way. Students and teachers are sure to want to follow Amanda through further

adventures in this well-written series. ~Bette A. Stevens, author of award-winning children's picture book "AMAZING MATILDA, A Monarch's Tale" and other books for children and adults

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### **Shannon says**

Amanda is an adventurous little girl who is fortunate enough to travel to New Mexico to learn about the history and culture of the area. While there some unusually events have her wondering about the existence of ghosts. Now, I am obviously not a kid and so my opinion is affected by my age. However, I thought the book was missing the spookiness of the ghosts. Some strange happenings occurred, but they are not described enough to feel like they are genuinely spooky. Maybe some children would feel they were, but I don't think my own kids would have. I also thought there were some issues that might be more difficult for younger readers and might need a bit more explaining. There is a brief mention of suicide and one of the characters has some anxiety issues and believes she is and has in the past been haunted by ghosts. For the old range of readers in this series those subject are not so much an issue, but for the younger range might need a bit more support. Or maybe I am just overreacting.

In closing, I thought Amanda in New Mexico was a fun story and as part of a series, it might fit well. I won this book in a Goodreads' giveaway, thank. This did not affect my opinion.

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### **Bookworm LLC says**

This book is #6 in a series called Amanda Travels. This story had rich history and facts about New Mexico that were both new and interesting to me. What I didn't care for was the poor writing. It did not flow well with run on sentences and uncomplimentary words side by side. It was amateur writing at best.

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### **Bonnye Reed says**

GNAB I received a free electronic copy of this children's novel from Netgalley, Darlene Foster, and Central Avenue Publishing, Children's Fiction, Travel in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me.

Amanda is a 6th grader in Guy Weadick Elementary School in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She and her friend Cleo are on a school field trip in Taos, New Mexico, USA in this excellent travel tale. The northern parts of New Mexico that we natives know and love shine bright in this travelog. And Cleo and Amanda are sweet girls who also shine. You will visit the Mable Dodge Luhan house, the Governor Bent Museum, The Taos Pueblo, the Rio Grande Gorge and bridge, Ojo Caliente hot springs, and see the Palisade Sills, the St. James Hotel, and take a tour of Enchanted Circle Pottery. Peek into Day of the Dead celebrations.

And then if you have time, you should choose to head south and west! New Mexico is a varied and colorful mosaic of life and life styles. We can keep you busy for a long time.

Netgalley

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Central Avenue Publishing, Children's Fiction, Travel

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### **Serenity says**

This is the sixth book in the series but the first I've read. I am intrigued and I'm going to try and find the first book. I think my students might like it. I requested this book from NetGalley because it can be tough to find middle grade novels set in NM. I am not a big ghost story reader so I can't compare this to other scary books, but aside from Wimpy Kid and Minecraft scary books are my most requested. I will probably purchase this for my library.

Amanda seems like a pretty nice kid. She tries to be a good friend, gets along well with her peers, and is a good student. The kids in this book have a lot of freedom considering they're in middle school, but they're also pretty responsible and generally do what they're supposed to. This book touches on mental illness, grief, and compassion.

\*I received an eARC of this book from the publisher through NetGalley\*

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### **Anita says**

An enjoyable read. I wasn't previously familiar with the authors work however she is from Alberta ( as am I) and related to a friend of mine so I had a chance to buy a signed copy . This was a bit of a ghost story , and set New Mexico- a place to which I always wanted to travel. Age wise geared toward someone younger than myself but it's a well written, intriguing book. I could certainly see myself reading it in my younger years as well.

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### **Molly Ringle says**

New Mexico is indeed an enchanting place, and Darlene Foster brings it to lovely, haunting life in this installment of Amanda's adventures. Sixth-grader Amanda is a brave traveler, up for anything, and definitely doesn't believe in ghosts...but even she starts getting spooked and wondering if she needs to change her mind when she goes on a class trip to Taos and vicinity, with all its Old West locales with turbulent pasts. Delightful armchair travel, as ever from Darlene's books, as well as enticingly spooky ghost stories--what's not to like?

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### **Liz says**

In book six of the Amanda Travels series, this book follows Amanda and her class on a school trip from Calgary to New Mexico. Their exploration of different parts around Taos, New Mexico, is interrupted by a ghost. The most amazing aspect of this book is Ms. Foster's description of the New Mexico geography, architecture, and artifacts. Ms. Foster brings New Mexico to life for readers as she details Amanda's travels. A good story with a beautiful backdrop!

I received an advance reader copy of this book in exchange for my unbiased review.

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## Alex Lyttle says

I've now read 2 novels from this series and have really enjoyed them both. I think this one is my favourite so far. It reminded me of a Goosebumps book but with more educational value. It will teach children about a new place and culture, all in a very exciting and reader-friendly way. I've never been to New Mexico, but now I feel like I have. My daughter will be going next (through this book of course... at 9 years-old I'm not quite ready to put her on a plane by herself). So yeah, as a pediatrician and a father, I would definitely recommend these books.

Alex

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