



A Fate Totally Worse Than Death

Paul Fleischman

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"This takeoff on teen horror novels is funny, mocking, and a surefire hit. . . . Should have teen-horror fans screaming with laughter." — SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review)

In Paul Fleischman's hilarious parody of teenage horror novels, Danielle and her friends from Cliffside High's cruelest clique — the Huns — set out to crush a ravishing exchange student from Norway. Will they go as far as murder? They have before. But as they plot and plan, they start to realize that something ghastly has started to happen to them, something they would no doubt describe as a fate totally worse than death!

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death Details

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Author : Paul Fleischman

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Heather says

When exchange student Helga shows up and threatens the social world of Danielle, Tiffany, and Brooke, the girls begin a campaign to destroy her using any means necessary up to and including murder. The mission for social supremacy hits a snag when the girls begin to suspect that Helga isn't quite mortal. Infinitely nasty and funny, this little book deliciously targets the mean girls and gives them a sufficiently unpleasant payback for their murderous scheming. Beware the raspberry truffles.

Brittany says

"A Fate Totally Worse Than Death" is a humor novel about a group of high school seniors. Last year, a girl name Chastity committed suicide. Her peers, Danielle, Tiffany, and Brooke are all trying to get boyfriends this year of school. However, the new exchange student, Helga, puts a wrench in their plans. The girls try to get the attention from the boys, but fail miserably compared to Helga's European physical features. The boys fall for Helga while the girls fall in physical appearance. The girls being to notice that their individual appearance is decreasing. When they share their struggles with one another they come up with the idea the Helga is Chastity coming to haunt them. The book is a story of the girls trying to stop Helga from taking their boys and also from ruining their lives.

I really didn't care for this book. I thought it was silly and I wouldn't read it again. However, I think that younger girls would really enjoy this book. I think I am just too mature for this book and the things the characters do seems immature and not intelligent.

Callie says

This book is a humorous book meant to be a satire on young adult horror novels. It is about three girls in high school that belong to a group of the rich and popular known as the Huns. The girls are very possessive over the Hun boys and believe that no other girls are allowed to be with them. Prior to the start of the book, the girls ran a classmate--who was not a Hun--off a cliff to her death because she was dating a Hun boy. When Olga a new girl from Norway shows up and all the boys begin to fall for her, they feel like they need to do something. As the girls attempt to formulate a plan, they slowly start to notice things with their bodies are changing--they are getting old! The more this begins to happen, they come to the conclusion that Olga is the ghost of the girl they killed prior to the novel. The story has an unexpected twist in the end. The book is definitely humorous, but in a very weird way. Had I not known prior to reading it that it was a satire on young adult horror novels I probably would have thought it was just a really poorly written underdeveloped story. I liked the humorous elements in it, but the satire was very subtle so it seemed like the plot was just ridiculous. I didn't love it, but I didn't hate it either.

Cathy Houston says

strange story too sad to be funny; too funny to be sad

Diane says

This is a parody of teenage horror books in which a group of popular kids, known as *the Huns* rule Cliffside High and protect, with a vengeance, their exclusive membership. Danielle, Tiffany and Brooke protected it when they killed Drew's girlfriend, Charity Chase, because she was not a *Hun*. So when Helga, a Norwegian foreign exchange student, has all the *Hun boys running after her*, *Danielle, Tiffany and Brooke think its time to take action again. But this time they may have a more capable adversary.*

Kayla Go-Oco says

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death is a great book and instantly became one of my favorites. I wanted to read something short, so I thought this was the perfect book. The plot was so mysterious yet funny, which was a plus. The author made the book so intriguing that I always wondered what would happen next. The book is about three girls in high school named Danielle, Brooke, and Tiffany. They murdered one girl who attracted all the boys, named Charity. Afterwards, another girl named Helga came to their school, now being the boy magnet. There are more details in between that made the story more interesting and fun. I usually don't like to read, but this was one book I never wanted to put down.

Cheryl says

Yeah, it was funny, I guess. But it doesn't transcend to universality at all, imo. Just not special for me. And I wonder what the target audience gets out of the descriptions of what it means to be very old and frail?

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Me for TeensReadToo.com

For anyone who enjoyed Scary Movie with it's over-the-top humor, sarcastic wit, dry parodies, and unrestrained juvenile one-liners, A FATE TOTALLY WORSE THAN DEATH is a must read.

The plot revolves around three girls, Danielle, Brooke, and Tiffany, who are members of the Huns--the absolutely only clique to belong to at Cliffside High. The Huns believe in one rule above all else--the Hun boys belong to them, and them alone. When Helga, a Norwegian exchange student, shows up, the girls begin to feel threatened, and decide to take matters into their own hands.

They've had to take drastic action before, you see, when the boy Danielle is in love with, Drew, started dating Charity Chase, a girl who was definitely not a member of the Huns. The group of three committed an unspeakable act of horror--and now they're beginning to pay for it, in the form of Helga. Because once Helga showed up, and Danielle, Brooke, and Tiffany set about ruining her life, bad things began happening to them instead.

As the girls struggle to get through the day, unable to understand why their bodies are betraying them, they come to the conclusion that Helga isn't a girl at all--but the ghost of Charity, come back to haunt them and exact revenge.

A FATE TOTALLY WORSE THAN DEATH is definitely funny, outrageous, and a very quick read. For anyone who likes a dash of humor with their horror, this book is for you.

Susie Homa says

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Paul Fleischman

3.0

adventure, romance, suspense, horror

i recommend this book because it has a very good story line and has an amazing ending it is the best book i've ever read.

A foreign exchange student from Norway named Helga takes all the attention and gets the attention of the boy in school that everyone likes and they become jealous and say Helga is a ghost because of her white skin and light hair while trying to get their attention back the girls think up many ways to torture Helga but every time the girls try to mess up Helga in some way, a strong force holds them back

Amber says

Amber Randol

Humor

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death involved three girls who were the most popular in their school: Tiffany, Brooke, and Danielle. The girls had murdered a former classmate who was attracting the attention of one of their boyfriends, but no one knows about it. A new girl, Helga, from Norway, comes to the school and all of the girls' boyfriends like her, so the group sets out to get her to leave. They try cutting her hair and attacking her mentally but it backfires and Helga says they will pay for it. The girls then start to age very quickly, getting gray hair, poor vision, arthritis, liver spots, weak bladders, etc. They think Helga is the ghost of the girl they killed because they believe she cursed them, and they set out to kill her too. They get caught trying to murder her in the process, but they end up needing to be hospitalized instead of put in jail because they keep aging more and more rapidly. Tiffany meets a woman who is the grandmother of the girl they murdered, and she slipped a drug into the chocolates the girls stole from her that ages the body so she could get revenge. This book had an ironic humor for the most part, but it was also funny with the aging that they experienced. It was harder to relate because the main characters were the popular girls, and because of the aging that they suffered.

Delaney Bella says

I thought I would like this book at first, since the author is a pretty good author, but I couldn't get past chapter 4. I couldn't stand the mean girls! Not one bit. Mean to elderly, mean to friends, They even purposely killed a girl because she was with a guy that they think they can claim as theirs. Bottom line: I didn't like it,

but if you wanna hear about mean girls being so full of yourself, check this book out, because now it's checked back in...

Natalie says

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death by Paul Fleischman was definitely worth the read. It first attracted me towards it because I was looking for a quick read that I could finish in just a few days. It was one of those books that you kept turning the page wondering what would happen next. You felt like you were apart of the book and felt sympathy for the characters.

If you enjoy a mystery yet humorous book, I would totally recommend this book. Now don't get me wrong, the first few chapters lacked interesting parts but it became one of those books you couldn't put down. The transitions into each chapter were smooth and did an excellent job.

There were 5 main characters. 3 snobby rich girls who drooled over a cute boy named Drew. In their past they killed Drew's ex, Chasity, because they were so jealous of her. But after a foreign exchange student comes to town and Drew starts going for her, the book takes a sharp turn towards crazy. The girls become convinced that she is Chasity's ghost and that she is going after them. They become determined to then kill Drew and get back to "normal" living. A Fate Totally Worse Than Death is a great hilarious book. If you want an interesting yet quick read, I would choose this book.

Allison says

Eh, I read the book because I watched the movie. Neither were great but I my expectations weren't that high either. It's not horrible and would probably be better to people in the book's appropriate age group

Pop Bop says

A Book Totally Better Than Expected

Snarky privileged mean girl YA dramas are usually so over the top that it is hard to imagine what room is left, exactly, for parody. Well, Fleischman has the answer.

This book isn't manic and it doesn't go for overblown, broad parody. It is almost surgical in the way it focuses on all of the little tics and tells of mean girl high school stories and YA horror, and then exaggerates them just enough to really bring the joke home. The book opens with a tracking shot of mean queen bee Danielle as she heads to community service at an old folks home, and there is not a wasted word as we follow the most exquisitely self-involved, entitled and repellent girl ever.

The book doesn't really mock other books so much as it takes all of the high school drama and horror conventions and refines them and then distorts them so that they seem fresh and funny all over again. With witty descriptions, sharp dialogue and clever plotting this book turned out to be a very rewarding and amusing read. What a nice find.

Please note that I found this book while browsing the local library's Kindle books, and downloaded it for

free. I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

Angel says

So yes this is like almost any R. L. Stine Fear Street I ever read, but that i believe is the point of this parody. I like the twist at the end. I should of see it coming, but i didn't. It was a nice quick read, perfect for when I wasn't feeling well.
