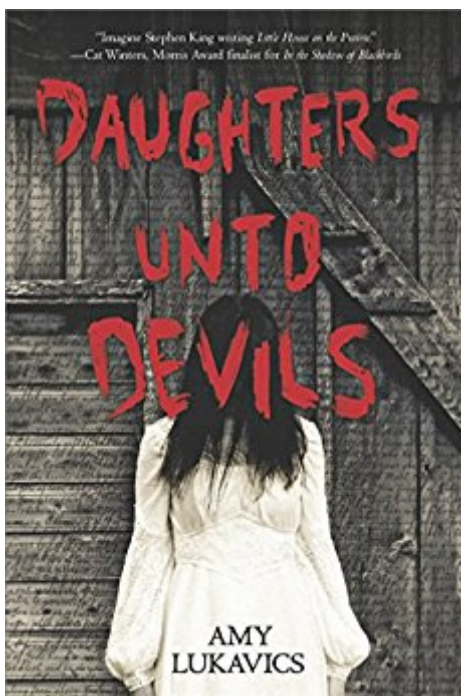


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Daughters Unto Devils: A Chilling Debut (Harlequin Teen)



Synopsis

God bless the little children. When sixteen-year-old Amanda Verner's family decides to move from their small mountain cabin to the vast prairie, she hopes it is her chance for a fresh start. She can leave behind the memory of the past winter; of her sickly Ma giving birth to a baby sister who cries endlessly; of the terrifying visions she saw as her sanity began to slip, the victim of cabin fever; and most of all, the memories of the boy she has been secretly meeting with as a distraction from her pain. The boy whose baby she now carries. When the Verners arrive at their new home, a large cabin abandoned by its previous owners, they discover the inside covered in blood. And as the days pass, it is obvious to Amanda that something isn't right on the prairie. She's heard stories of lands being tainted by evil, of men losing their minds and killing their families, and there is something strange about the doctor and his son who live in the woods on the edge of the prairie. But with the guilt and shame of her sins weighing on her, Amanda can't be sure if the true evil lies in the land, or deep within her soul.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Daughters Unto Devils • By: Amy Lukavics - Book Review This book intrigued me

immediately by being described as "If Stephen King wrote Little House on the Prairie". I think the cover is very beautiful and the story was written exceptionally well. While this was a horror, I don't think I would personally go as far as to say it is as scary as Stephen King. The book was published under Harlequin Teen so it is written for teens and young adults and while as an adult novel, it is pretty mild, I am giving it the four star rating because I feel it is fantastic for the desired age group.

Amanda Verner keeps counting her sins. Ever since the horrible winter last, she has had an uneasy feeling and senses God has left her. She saw the devil in the woods that winter and her mother had caught a fever so severe it deafened and blinded the baby in her womb. The baby's name is Hannah and ever since she has been born, Amanda has prayed for the infant's death if only to stop the screaming. She doesn't tell her family of her thoughts, not even her sister Emily, with whom she was once very close with before the last winter. Her only escape from her thoughts and fears is when she is with the post boy, Henry. It is a sin to lay with someone before marriage. It is a sin to lie. But she doesn't feel sins matter that much when God has abandoned her. Clearly, the Lord has forgotten all about me, and therefore I would no longer be following his rules. "When I die, I will see Hell," I whispered after we were through with our sins of the flesh, but the post boy did not hear me over the sound of the water from the creek. "The devil has claimed me already." I wished that the boy would turn over so I could study his face. I didn't know it very well yet, wasn't even sure if his eyes were brown or blue, to be honest, but I wanted that to change. This boy had saved me from my hell on earth with the wonderful distraction that was his body. I should have known his name. Henry, I remembered. His name is Henry. She keeps Henry her own secret not telling anyone of him and sneaking off to see him when the time allows. Winter will be coming soon and is terrified what another one will do to her and her family being trapped in the mountains during the harsh conditions. Henry ends up betraying her and breaking her heart and she doesn't know what to do. Her sister Emily knows she hasn't been being honest so she is angry with Amanda, leaving her feeling even more alone. When their father announces they will be moving to the prairie to hopefully have an easier winter. She is hesitant. She's never lived anywhere besides the mountains, but her father isn't giving them a choice. I am bombarded by the memory of Emily and me playing with each other as children, whispering secrets and singing songs and telling ghost stories around the fire pit outside. Dearest friends forever, we'd promise each other. Forever and a day. Resettlement or not, those days are over. Emily will never think of me as her home again. I think of the part of me that died here last winter, the part that will dwell inside the cabin, like a ghost and wait for Emily to come back. But she never will, of course. The ghost will be

forever waiting. Goodbye, I whisper to the memories, to Henry, to the cabin. Goodbye, I whisper to the lost part of myself. They travel to the prairie and find a large abandoned cabin large enough for them all to fit comfortably. When they get closer however, they find it is in ruins. Blood covers the walls as if an ox had been slaughtered inside. Her father is not deterred though, and cleans the place right up. They meet their neighbors from the forest and while Amanda and her father are skeptical, the rest of the family is smitten with them. As time passes strange things begin to happen and Amanda begins to fear she will never escape her torment. What is happening on this prairie? Is there evil within it, like the place in Henry's story, torturing me from afar until the time comes to claim its prey? Is my whole family doomed to death after all? Or is it, all of it just me? This would be a fantastic read for the fourteen to eighteen age group. I would have been obsessed with this book in high school. I am a huge dark romance reader and live for the trigger warnings, so I read some pretty disturbing stuff and that may be why this just didn't seem super terrifying or messed up to me, but that doesn't mean it wasn't an enjoyable read for me. One thing I am like about horror that I don't like in my romance is the unhappy endings. It's what you want when reading a horror and I think this book met the major requirements for a great novel.

It seems, based on the Goodreads reviews, that people either love or hate *Daughters Unto Devils*. I LOVE it. So yes, I'm firmly on the side of love. I didn't expect some of the chilling, disturbing scenes that would show up during this book. Amanda is sixteen years old, and just survived cabin fever, seeing the devil, and getting stuck in a cabin for several months while a snowstorm raged outside. She doesn't like herself very much, especially since she often wants her kid sister, Hannah, a baby who cries all the time and was born blind, to die. So Amanda is complicated, and flawed. Her parents decide, with another harsh winter in front of them, to move to the prairie, especially since there are apparently abandoned cabins there they can just move into. Except, when they move into the cabin, it's covered in blood, and they hear tales of an ancient evil haunting the prairie, an evil that might be similar to one Amanda already faced once. This book gave me the creeps, but in such a good way. The characters were haunting, the writing was spot-on without disappearing into endless descriptions, and the author just manages to magically throw a reader into the creepiest scenes imaginable and just make it work. The pacing was fast yet I got the sense I knew every single character, from Ma and Pa to Emily to Amanda. The conclusion put me on the edge of my seat, and it ended in a way I hadn't imagined at all yet makes perfect sense. With the slow build up, the creepiness rising on every page, and then that

climax of an ending, I can only describe this book as amazing. If you love horror books, please, please, please, for the love of God, go read this one.

The book was an excellent debut horror novel by a very promising writer. While not perfect (as most books rarely are - especially debuting authors), *Daughters Unto Devils* gave me chills and I have found myself not only recommending it to many of my friends who also love horror, but I'm now reading Lukavics's other novel. For those who grew up in a very religious background in particular, this book was scary. It gave me a sense of isolation and hopelessness that I couldn't shake. I slept with a light on in my closet for a week after finishing the book.

I love this book. I only read horror fiction, and this is one of my favorite books. This book was recommended to me with the description being "Little House on the Prairie meets the Exorcist." If you love reading horror I definitely would recommend this book! I purchased this book as a gift for my 16 year old niece that likes reading about the paranormal. This is classified as a Young Adult book, but I'm in my 30's and I really enjoyed it. FANTASTIC READ

I read all the reviews before buying the book and I had high expectations. Granted, it is a YA book so I knew what I was getting myself into but I expected something that will scare the s*** out of me. It was scary but not that scary and even then most of the scary parts weren't until the very end. The story overall is good but I think it sounds more like something that can be made into a short story for reddit.

Review: DAUGHTERS UNTO DEVILS by Amy Lukavics An exceptionally well-plotted, tacitly woven and imaginative novel, DAUGHTERS UNTO DEVILS has much to recommend it, even to audiences other than its YA appeal. Ms. Lukavics is a fine author, creating a world all its own, both the terrible mountain winter, and the autumn prairie stretching to the mysterious forest. The characters are well-fleshed, and the author's subtlety in cleverly building the very real horror is worthy of a writer many times published. In addition to the provision of terrors both otherworldly and human, the very real spectre of mental illness is a chord well-strummed. In this historical setting, it goes unrecognized in favor of possible demonic influence. DAUGHTERS UNTO DEVILS is an engrossing novel with the power to linger long in the mind.

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