



2013

### Splendors and Glooms

Nicole Davis  
coley30@gmail.com

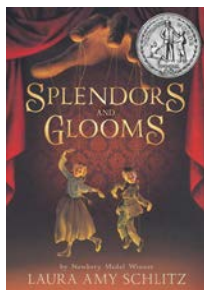
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Davis, Nicole (2013) "Splendors and Glooms," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss1/9>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).



Author: Schlitz, Laura Amy

Title: *Splendors and Glooms*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Candlewick Press

ISBN: 9780763653804

# of Pages: 384

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Middle Grade; Young Adult

Keywords: Puppets; Puppeteers; Orphans; Kidnapping; Witches; Fantasy; Mystery

Review:

Gaspare Grisini, puppet master, brings his wards Lizzie Rose and Parsefall to perform their puppet show for the birthday of Clara Wintermute. All turns to horror when Clara goes missing the day after the party. Grisini disappears a few days later leaving Lizzie Rose to look after herself and Parsefall. They receive a letter addressed to Grisini from a woman named Cassandra who claims to be a wealthy benefactress hoping to leave her fortune to Grisini's wards. After journeying to Cassandra's home they find that she is suffering with the weight of a dark magic and hopes one of the children will take her burden upon themselves. Grisini returns to threaten the children who discover he also practices dark magic and has turned Clara into a puppet. All three children fight to defeat the magic and magicians who have kept a dark hold on them. In the end the children are victorious and find a new strength and home in each other.

*Splendors and Glooms* is a book filled with dark magic and it deals with some difficult themes for children such as death, abuse, and poverty. The target age is young adult but a more sophisticated middle grader could probably handle the themes as well. The writing is wonderfully descriptive and the characters are well developed. The story is original and offers some surprising twists. The author creates a darker world without becoming gruesome. Fans of magic, both male and female, will enjoy this mystery.

Reviewer's Name: Nicole Davis

Text © 2013 The Children's Book and Play Review