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Zombies vs. Unicorns

Katelyn Osborn

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Book Review

Title: Zombies vs. Unicorns
Author: Various
Reviewer: Katelyn Osborn
Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry
Publication Year: 2010
ISBN: 9781416989530
Number of Pages: 415
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Dependable



Review

Do you prefer hanging out with the creepy, staggering undead, or the rare, lethal unicorns? Would you rather travel by slow shuffling, or by frenzied galloping? Are you drawn to fresh brains, or to innocent young women? Still confused? Pick up *Zombies vs. Unicorns*, and you'll find out once and for all which side you're on. Alternating between zombie and unicorn adventures, this book is a compilation of short stories written by some of today's favorite YA authors – Scott Westerfield, Libba Bray, Garth Nix, and Meg Cabot, to name a few – with narration by Holly Black and Justine Larbalestier weaving throughout. Each story provides a unique and telling perspective on the debate, and at the end you're left to make your choice. Are you Team Unicorn or Team Zombie?

There is something for everyone in *Zombies vs. Unicorns*. For instance, Meg Cabot's "Princess Prettypants" will engage readers with a fun look at how a teenager would react when given a unicorn at her 17th birthday party, while Cassandra Clare's more somber "Cold Hands" will leave them wondering what would happen if the love of their life came back as a zombie. There are 12 stories in all, ranging from light and humorous to dark and intriguing, so everyone is bound to find one they connect with. They will also find some they don't enjoy as much, which is inevitable with an anthology. The pacing of the stories is good, and the alternating of zombies and unicorns keeps it fresh and entertaining. This is a great book to pick up for a few minutes here and there, and is easy to put down and pick up again whenever you're feeling in the mood for a short story. However, most stories are darker than typical young adult fiction, and adult themes and strong language run rampant through many. This is definitely fitting for an older, more mature YA audience.

*Contains severe language, moderate sexual content, moderate violence (depending on the story).