



2018

A Taste for Monsters

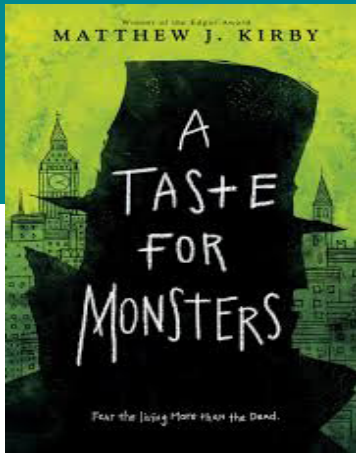
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Book Review

A Taste for Monsters

Author

Matthew J. Kirby

Illustrator

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

Pages

352

Year

2016

Publisher

Scholastic Press

ISBN

9780803740815

Young Evelyn Fallow is literally down to her last farthing on the dangerous streets of Victorian-era London. Her face is disfigured from her years of labor in a match factory, and her options are even more bleak than most. She makes an appeal to the matron of the hospital, hoping to become a nurse. The matron is frank: her deformity might disturb patients, but she could consider becoming a maid for the Elephant Man. Thus begins her journey to an understanding of herself and empathy for others--and an experience with the paranormal. She must help everyone find peace and sanctuary within the hospital walls.

With a name like A Taste for Monsters, and a setting that includes the Elephant Man and Jack the Ripper, readers should anticipate some spine-tingling and gruesome episodes. They will not be disappointed. The main character, Evelyn, is motivated by excellent morals and standards. She builds an easy rapport with the reader and other essential characters in the tale. Her descriptions of ghostly visitations and brutal streetwise thugs are wonderfully chilling and horrifying in just the way one hopes when looking for a thriller to read. This book is recommended to the thrill seeking crowd--but don't expect to sleep at night!

*Contains moderate violence and moderate sexual content