



## The Grim Grotto

*Lemony Snicket , Brett Helquist (Illustrator)*

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## **The Grim Grotto** Lemony Snicket , Brett Helquist (Illustrator)

It's tough when the things that stand between you and your desired sugar bowl are a host of deadly mushrooms and an uncomfortable diving suit. The unlucky Baudelaire orphans find themselves in deep (once again) in this eleventh book in Lemony Snicket's odd-and-full-of-woe-but-quite-funny Series of Unfortunate Events. In *The Grim Grotto*, the siblings find themselves headed down Stricken Stream on a broken toboggan when they are spotted by the submarine *Queequeg*, carrying Captain Widdershins, his somewhat volatile stepdaughter Fiona, and optimistic Phil from Lucky Smells Lumbermill. The adventures that follow as the crew tries to get to the aforementioned sugar bowl before Count Olaf are so horrible that the narrator inserts factual information about the water cycle so that readers will get bored and stop reading the book. It doesn't work. As per usual, readers will want to soak up every awful detail and follow the Baudelaires all the way back to the place we first met them--Briny Beach.

## **The Grim Grotto Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2004 by HarperCollins (first published September 21st 2004)

ISBN : 9780060296421

Author : Lemony Snicket , Brett Helquist (Illustrator)

Format : 323 pages

Genre : Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Grim Grotto for online ebook

### **Swaye says**

I feel like this book was mostly filler. Far too many "Aye!"s and way too much annoying villainous laughter. Great ending though.

Only two books to go. Don't you hurt my Baudelaires, Mr Snicket!

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### **Katie says**

I gasped so loud on the last page that I woke up the hubby! Oh man, what a turn of events. I'm so proud of the Baudelaire orphans! Standing up to Mr. Poe like that, figuring out all the complicated riddles... so proud!! :)

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### **Mark Lawrence says**

I continue my relentless 3\*ing of the series, though this volume was significantly better than the previous one (The Slippery Slope).

Much of the action takes place on submarines. These submarines appear to contain cavernous, often rectangular rooms, although the first of them is encountered in a mountain stream... Later a submarine's window (yup, window) is repaired with chewing gum.

My science is further hurt by the claim that sonar of the type that puts a tracking dot on the screen works by listening for noise made on the remote vessels being tracked.

Let us put this aside and strive for the perspective of the child who is being read to (my daughter Celyn) ... although I do feel a book should offer some consistent vision that can actually be processed in the readers' heads.

Anyhoo - the primary characters offered this time (Captain Widdershins and his daughter Fiona, plus Olaaf, Esme and Carmalita Spats) are enjoyable / funny.

We see the good vs evil blurring continue, with good people turning bad, or at least less good and bad people turning good or at least less bad. We see new peril in the form of a weapon of mass destruction - a fungus that kills people, and the children's respective special skills of invention, research, and cookery are employed to good effect.

Inevitably Olaaf captures the children on / in his even huger submarine, and inevitably they escape. The pursuit of the mysterious sugar-bowl drives much of the action. We learn incrementally more about VFD and end up pointed fair and square at the Hotel Denouement where all will at last be revealed in book 12 ... or will it?

You should join my 3-emails-a-year mailing list for updates about my books. #prizes  
<http://eepurl.com/cimnK1>

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### **Ashley Daviau says**

This is definitely where the story starts to get really interesting. We're introduced to so many new characters and so many new mysteries and secrets are revealed! I think it's one of my favourite settings in the series as well, something about the submarines just really tickled my fancy! This is also one of the books in the series that I've read the fewest times so the details were extremely fuzzy and it was almost like reading it for the first time again. I really love this series to pieces and I'm quite sad that I'm coming to the end of my reread of them!

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### **Leah Craig says**

"People aren't either wicked or noble," the hook-handed man said. "They're like chef's salads, with good things and bad things chopped and mixed together in a vinaigrette of confusion and conflict."

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### **Nadine says**

"How can someone so wonderful do something so terrible?"

That ending!!!! What?! I cannot wait to get my hands on the next book. Only two left and I think we're finally going to get some answers.

The Grim Grotto is action packed. The Baudelaire's find themselves on a submarine then in a grotto with poisonous mushrooms only to be left wondering what to do next and who to trust.

Full series review: <https://todaysechos.wordpress.com/201...>

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### **Ahmad Sharabiani says**

The Grim Grotto (A Series of Unfortunate Events, #11), Lemony Snicket

The Grim Grotto is the eleventh novel in the children's novel series A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket.

The Baudelaire's manage to drift along the river after being separated from Quigley Quagmire. They stumble along the submarine "Queequeg" in which they are welcomed by an energetic Captain Widdershins, whose motto is to never hesitate on anything, and his stepdaughter Fiona, an aspiring mycologist. They are also welcomed by the ship's cook, Phil, the Baudelaire's optimistic past fellow worker at the Lucky Smells Lumbermill. The Baudelaire's discover that the crew of the Queequeg are searching for the mysterious sugar bowl. Klaus examined the tidal charts to estimate the location of the sugar bowl relative to the water cycle.



### Guille says

Me pone contenta que me sigan sorprendiendo.

Este libro siento que es la clave de la saga, recién acá empieza todo lo que queríamos saber desde el libro 1. Me gustaron muuuchas cosas, Lemony Snicket es brillante pero en este se pasó, sobretodo con el tema del ciclo.

Pasaron muchas muchas cosas que me dejaron como Queeeeeeee.

Y el final estuvo increíble ??

4.5

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### Bruna Miranda says

Com certeza a série melhorou **muuuuito** nos último livros. Esse foi com bastante ação e informações importantes e NÃO ACREDITO QUE AQUELE PERSONAGEM APARECEU <3 <3 <3

Ansiosa para terminar logo :D

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### Tilly says

This book had everything I missed in a few of the previous books and reminded to the fact how awesome this series can be. The plot was exciting, it has interesting new characters and I really loved this whole underwater scenario. The backstory of Fiona and her stepfather was very well fitting to the rest of unfortunate events through the whole series and I really enjoyed their description of their life in a submarine. I was also happy to meet Phil again, the optimist from "The Miserable Mill", (view spoiler) The climax in this book was also very exciting and reminded me how much I care about the three orphans, (view spoiler) Another great aspect of "The Grim Grotto" was that even Count Olaf's minions who always used to be side-character's are getting their own backstories with the time. Overall, as I said, this was a very successful installment in the series and I am very excited for the next one. (view spoiler) Full 5 Stars!

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### Kate (GirlReading) says

3.75\* ooh, that ending! I feel as though (or am at least hoping) we're going to be getting some answers soon...

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### Deborah Markus says

I'm listening to this as read by Tim Curry, which is all things awesome. However: if you're doing the same, you might want to grab a physical copy long enough to look at the last several pages. Snicket includes six "To My Kind Editor" letters, and Curry doesn't read them. Which is not his fault, because nothing is his fault, because Tim Curry is a rock god and if you don't understand that you need to leave my house right now.

The reason Curry doesn't read these letters is because he can't. No, he didn't contract illiteracy after finishing the main text. He can't read these letters aloud because he can't do them justice in an audible-book format. The letters aren't complete. They're typed on "Hotel Denouement" letterhead, and they're torn from top to bottom, with only the left halves surviving. And "half" is too generous a term for the last one. But they're fun to puzzle over. So be sure to check these fragments out.

Let me again express my surprise at how the "Unfortunate Events" books not only defy the general fate of sequels (hint: suckage), but actually improve as the series goes on. The characters deepen. The children grapple with moral as well as physical perils. And the literary references become more subtle and complex.

I won't say much about the plot because first, it's been expertly summarized in other reviews; second, if you're familiar with the series you don't need me to, and if you're not, you should start with the first book, not the 11th; and third, I still have a bad headache from this lousy month-long cold, and summarizing sounds suspiciously like work. Work that involves my brain, which is in my head, which hurts.

Instead, I'd like to mention something I was grateful to find in this book.

My niece died when I was a teenager. She was only a few months old. I haven't come to terms with that. I've gotten on with my life, of course, but it's always a shock that someone so small could cast so big a shadow.

One thing I've often thought about is that a too-early death robs its victim of two lives. The first is the nebulous, hypothetical, artificially bright life they would have had: the future they've been deprived of, the work and love they might have engaged in.

The second, though, is the life they already had. A chunk of their identity drops away. That piece of their self is every bit as true and important as every other aspect of their personality, but it's buried first and deepest.

I'm talking about their flaws. We are so reluctant to allow our dead to be their own imperfect selves. It's too painful – and to be fair, it feels too cruel – to acknowledge that the lost loved one was, say, sometimes irritable and occasionally unkind, or had a habit of grabbing the first and the best for themselves.

My niece didn't have time to be anything but an infant, of course. But I've found myself trying to acknowledge her humanity by wondering if she would have been a bratty, fashion-conscious teenager who rolled her eyes at my lame apparel. Or maybe she would have been polite enough not to say that the things I enjoy – writing, reading, baking all day – might have been boring to her. We might have gone through some thorny patches, as her mother and I certainly have.

She should have had the chance to be an ordinary human being, is what I'm saying. She should have had a life. And in the course of that life, it's pretty much guaranteed that she would have been bitchy sometimes. Or rude. Mean to people now and then. Maybe stupid enough to text and drive. Also beautiful (her parents are gorgeous) and intelligent (her mother's brilliant) and probably artistic (I'm the only one she's related to who fails in that department).

She doesn't get to be a whole person any more. She lost out on the years she should have had; and because she died far too young, she's been elected to sainthood. Many people have. And that isn't fair to anyone.

This kind of thought is why this passage from *The Grim Grotto* means a lot to me:

*Everyone yells, of course, from time to time, but the Baudelaire children did not like to think about their parents yelling, particularly now that they were no longer around to apologize or explain themselves. It is often difficult to admit that someone you love is not perfect, or to consider aspects of a person that are less than admirable. To the Baudelaires it felt almost as if they had drawn a line after their parents died – a*

*secret line in their memories, separating all the wonderful things about the Baudelaire parents from the things that perhaps were not quite so wonderful. Since the fire, whenever they thought of their parents, the Baudelaires never stepped over this secret line, preferring to ponder the best moments the family had together rather than any of the times when they had fought, or been unfair or selfish. But now, suddenly, in the gloom of the Gorgonian Grotto, the siblings had stumbled across that line and found themselves thinking of that angry afternoon in the library, and in moments other angry afternoons and evenings had occurred to them until their brains were lousy with memories of all stripes, a phrase which here means "both good and bad." It gave the siblings a queasy feeling to cross this line in their memories, and admit that their parents were sometimes difficult, and it made them feel all the queasier to realize they could not step back, and pretend they had never remembered these less-than-perfect moments, any more than they could step back in time, and once again find themselves safe in the Baudelaire home, before fire and Count Olaf had appeared in their lives.*

*The Grim Grotto*, quite aside from being an action-packed story, also gives a lot of troubling thought to the idea that those we love are not always perfect, anymore than we ourselves are. And it ends on a cliffhanger, so have the next book at hand before you finish this one. You'll want to jump right to it.

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### **Constadina says**

What can I say about these books?? For me they're so much more than children's books. Sure a child will probably enjoy them but I think you have to be older to fully appreciate the cleverness of these books and the genius that Lemony Snicket is. I think he's one of my favorite authors because he's clever, he's intriguing and mainly because he's sarcastic. One of my favorite parts of his books are the little poems he writes for Beatrice and of course his failed attempt to make us not read his books. Amazing series for both young and older readers.

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### **BAM The Bibliomaniac says**

Best.beginning

"A man of my acquaintance once wrote a poem called 'The Road Less Traveled' describing a journey he took along a path most travelers never used....and he was probably a bit nervous as he went along, because if anything happened on the road less traveled, the other travelers...couldn't hear him as he cried for help. Sure enough, that poet is now dead."

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### **Richard Denney says**

Listened to this one on audio read by the amazing Tim Curry in a few hours and it made it a whole lot better. I feel like this was a bit of a filler book but I still enjoyed it. I don't like Fiona (the tiny bit of romance in here was completely unnecessary and icky to me lol I'm not one for romance in MG.). That twist with the hook-handed man was pretty cool and Count Olaf was just as fucked up as he always is. I think I might check out more audio books in the future. I thought they weren't for me because I've tried so many and my attention span is shit but this one worked pretty damn well. Tomorrow I plan on listening to book 12!

- Richard :)

## **Elaina says**

These books are definitely starting to get more and more interesting :) I loved that we got some new characters in this one! Some of them got on my nerves a little bit--like Captain Widdershins--the way he talked just aggravated me after a little while :/ (Others who have read this probably know what I'm talking about XD lol) But other than that, I liked this one a lot! :) The way this book ended made me really want to pick up book #12 soon! Hoping my library will have it in stock :D Kind of sad I only have two books left in the series :P

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## **Lauren says**

### **UPDATE: 19/Jan/2017**

I am getting sick of updating my reviews for all these books but for the last time I liked this book more than I did when I first read it.

### **1/Jan/2017**

As my first book of 2017, I can't say I'm disappointed as I wasn't expecting much. I am so ready for this series to end because it has been going on for too long. I wasn't that interested in this book because I've lost a lot of my interest in this series. Also last year I only read these books to catch up on my reading challenge. Although I am still SO excited for the tv show!!

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## **Asha says**

Two more!

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