



## A Monstrous Place

*Matthew Stott*

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**Things live between awake and asleep. In the moment after your eyes grow too heavy to stay open, but before the dreams take you...**

Molly lives with her Mother in a large, creaking house that she wishes were haunted. There may be no ghosts, but what about monsters? Monsters with an unending appetite that like to steal people away in the black of night.

When, one morning, Molly wakes to find her own Mother missing, she discovers she has a potentially fatal task ahead of her. With only her dead Gran and a retired adventurer by her side, Molly must travel to a dangerous and untrustworthy land somewhere between awake and asleep, before her Mother finds herself planted in a most monstrous garden.

## A Monstrous Place Details

Date : Published October 5th 2015 by Fenric Books

ISBN :

Author : Matthew Stott

Format : Kindle Edition 178 pages

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult, Fiction

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## From Reader Review A Monstrous Place for online ebook

### La Coccinelle says

I got completely fed up with this one. Took a break, came back... got even more fed up.

Tips for authors:

1. Learn how to punctuate before you publish a book.
2. Kids are not stupid. Don't write down to them.
3. If you haven't captured my attention by 10%, you've lost me. You've also probably lost your target audience.

DNF at 10%

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### Enid says

Cute story about the places you may end up when you aren't awake yet not quite asleep.

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### Eamon Ambrose says

Another debut this month, and just in time for Halloween, here comes A Monstrous Place, Matthew Stott's first book in his new Tales From Between series, aimed at early teens upwards. First thing you notice is the striking cover art, which for me always ramps up my expectations of what's inside.

A Monstrous Place tells the story of Molly, a young girl who finds herself caught in a nightmarish world, as her friends and neighbours start to go missing. After a visit from her grandmother's ghost, she must enter the world between awake and asleep to thwart the evil plans of those responsible.

What follows is a beautifully creepy tale brimming with vivid and macabre imagery. Stott's alternate supernatural world is stylishly constructed and populated with all manner of ghoulish characters, each more terrifying than the last, and as Molly makes her way through this hellish world, we see her character develop and adapt quickly to her new surroundings, determined to undermine the threat to her and her family at any cost.

Molly's still a child however, and thankfully it's not lost in the narrative, her sense of wonder and naiveté pushes her ever-forward, often to her peril as she tends to wander into all the wrong places.

A Monstrous Place is one of those gems that is becoming all too rare these days in indie publishing. It's a cleverly-constructed and superbly-written tale that's not for the faint of heart, but for those who like a scare at bedtime, you'll not find better.

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### Don Jimmy says

really enjoyed this despite the fact I'm 31..... great idea and great story. Very much targetted for a young audience though.

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## Stephanie says

I received this book from the authors in exchange for a fair and honest review

A monstrous place tells about one young brave girl named Molly. Peoples and her neighbors keep missing until one day her own mother is missing too. So she must visit the world of between to rescue her mom from the evil monsters that had done the horrible things. Her adventures start here.

well, i can say the story is creepy. I love the idea about the monstrous garden.

i find my self want to keep reading since i started read this book.

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## Bruce Gargoyle says

Ten Second Synopsis:

When Molly's best friend Neil goes missing, it is up to Molly to investigate. With the help of her ghostly Gran, Molly must brave the world of Between and unravel the mystery of her missing friend.

This is an exciting, original new fantasy series for middle grade that has the potential to explore all sorts of spine-tingling and imaginative situations. I stumbled across this when the Kindle store threw it up as a recommended read, so I took a chance...and have subsequently bought the next two books in the series.

Between is a world that exists between waking and sleeping and is populated by all manner of strange, unexpected and unbelievable folk, including a tall faceless man, a boy-who-is-not-a-boy, and a bus full of weirdos of various persuasions. When Molly's best friend goes missing, her Gran - currently residing as a ghost in Between - tips her off as to where he might be, and Molly's rescue mission begins. After discovering some home truths about her next-door neighbours, Molly realises that she must brave a terrifying prospect in an attempt to save her mother from a fate worse than death.

The world of Between is just perfectly suited to my reading preferences. I love original worlds filled with quirky, scary and unexpected folk and this book has them in spades. There are a few sections of the book that are a little bit scary, but overall the story is packed with action and puzzle-solving as Molly attempts to wrangle her own rabbit-hole and save those she loves. Overall, the book has a sense of levity about it that staves off any real sense of terror, but there are definitely a few bits that had me biting my nails. The adult characters of Gran and Mr Adams are larger than life in some senses, which keeps the story firmly in the realm of make-believe for younger readers.

I haven't been so excited about an indie series since I found Mick Bogerman's Slug Pie Stories, which I've raved about multiple times on the blog and it's heartening to know its still possible to stumble over original, highly engaging indie-made stories. I am so pleased to have found this series and I highly recommend these to you, if you are a fan of original fantasy tales.

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## Liz says

This book was just not for me. I did not like or sympathize with the main character, and the ending seemed to

come out of nowhere. With things ending the way they did for no good reason. The one positive was the horror aspect of the book. It was genuinely creepy and horrifying at times.

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### **Kathleen says**

This was a fun, cute little book. Maybe it is because I kind of like stories that have monsters and ghosts, but I really thought this was a great little book :-) I am planning to read the others in the series.

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### **Alexis Drake says**

Primo di una serie di tre racconti lunghi/romanzi brevi, tutti con una copertina molto carina devo dire, A monstrous place si apre con una situazione spiacevole.

Alcuni bambini spariscono di notte, e nessuno sa dove siano.

Uno di questi è Neil, amico di Molly, la protagonista.

Lei vive nella grande casa che era di sua nonna assieme alla mamma. Mr Adams, vecchio soldato in pensione è loro vicino, assieme a due vecchietti un po' strampalati, che danno nomi propri alle piante del loro giardino. Ma quando è la mamma di Molly a sparire, lei si mette all'opera per salvarla e per scoprire cos'è successo a Neil e agli altri bambini.

Proprio lei è una vera perla di protagonista: mirabile la scena in cui scopre la sparizione di sua madre.

Nemmeno nei romanzi per adulti si può trovare una bambina così intelligente e coraggiosa.

Molto spesso mi capita di non sopportare i/le protagonisti/e. Sono arroganti o lamentosi, vanitosi o melodrammatici. Molly no. E' una che vorresti come vicina di casa, come amica.

L'influenza di Gaiman nello stile dello scrittore si nota nel mondo immaginario che ha creato, fantastico ma allo stesso tempo spaventoso, con personaggi particolari e difficili da dimenticare. Lo consiglio assolutamente.

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### **Linda says**

I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review and I enjoyed how brave little Molly Brown was in saving her mom. Something is thing is taking people in the dead of night, and only after her mom goes missing does she cry in her dead Gran's bed, fall asleep, and wakes up to see her Gran's body all in dead gray. Her grandmother told her that her mom had been taken and that she must hurry before the monsters took her life also and to be brave, easier said than done by a little girl, but she had her grandmother's spunk.

Sometimes it's best not to hope for ghosts and monsters as you just might get more than you hoped for!

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### **Devann says**

Ok so I know that literally not even one week ago I was hanging out here on Goodreads complaining that *'you can't even read 10 fantasy story summaries without half of them saying the author is the next Neil Gaiman'* but ...thisbookremindsmeofneilgaiman. There, I said it. I would describe this story as a cross between Coraline and that one Hannibal episode where the people are mushrooms and it was a very good

time. I really liked Molly and the story was just the right balance of average every day stuff and creepy not-quite-right things to make it a fun spooky story for younger kids [and also adults, because I really liked it]. Definitely excited to check out the rest of this series.

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### **Timothy Burbage says**

What a wonderful read. This story is a horror written mainly for children. It reminds me of a mix of Roald Dahl, Nightmare on Elm Street and The Good Life.

The best thing about this book is its characters. Molly is fierce and Mr Adams is a man built for adventure. The monster was fun and scary, but not too scary, and carried a strong level of threat throughout.

A rare foray into independent publishing, and I am very glad I did so.

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### **Sally906 says**

This is horror aimed at 9-14 age group. Ye Gods it was scary. Yes I'm a woose - cannot cope with monsters under the bed - or living next door. \*\*\*shiver\*\*\*

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### **Gina Smith says**

I really enjoyed this book even though Amazon lists it's target age group at 9-14 and I am an adult. It is creepy in such a way, I'm glad I read it during the day and not at bed time. The main character a girl named Molly and she and talk to her Grandmother, who is dead, when she is asleep. When children in the neighborhood start to disappear Molly's grandmother warns her of a danger that she needs to avoid in the "in between".

The "in between" is the point between awake and asleep. But how can she find out what is happening and at the same time protect herself. I found this author's writing entertaining and it held my attention. A quick, enjoyable read.

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### **Lindsey says**

When I was a kid I LIVED for creepy horror tales. I'm still the same as an adult, and I especially enjoy finding books that would have gotten child-me really excited. A Monstrous Place was for sure one of those. It contained just the right amount of creepy, even for an adult, but didn't feel too much for a child who is already familiar with this genre. Child-me might have had a few nightmares after finishing but that's the fun, right? If a horror novel doesn't give you nightmares it isn't doing its job! I loved the "Between" and the world the author has created here. It was imaginative, creative, and exceedingly well done. The writing and story were reminiscent of both Neil Gaiman's books for young readers and Clive Barker's The Thief of Always (which was and still is a favorite of mine). Very enjoyable and can't wait to read more from this series.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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