



The Haunting Season

Michelle Muto

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Be careful what you let in...

Siler House has stood silent beneath Savannah's moss-draped oaks for decades. Notoriously haunted, it has remained empty until college-bound Jess Perry and three of her peers gather to take part in a month-long study on the paranormal. Jess, who talks to ghosts, quickly bonds with her fellow test subjects. One is a girl possessed. Another just wants to forget. The third is a guy who really knows how to turn up the August heat, not to mention Jess's heart rate...when he's not resurrecting the dead.

The study soon turns into something far more sinister when they discover that Siler House and the dark forces within are determined to keep them forever. In order to escape, Jess and the others will have to open themselves up to the true horror of Siler House and channel the very evil that has welcomed them all.

The Haunting Season Details

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From Reader Review The Haunting Season for online ebook

A. Gorman says

OH. EM. GEE. I seriously hid under the covers after reading this book. I am not normally one to read scary books, I'm a sexy mommy book kind of gal, but I am so glad I met Ms. Michelle through a friend. I did receive this book as a gift but was told I didn't have to review it if I didn't want to... Well I have a big mouth, so let me blab about it, non spoiler style.

I honestly didn't know what to expect when I started reading this novel. It starts out that Jess wanted to be part of a research study taking place at a Savannah Mansion, the Siler House, to see if there is paranormal activity. Jess use to see dead people including her grandmother. After the death of her father, she has not see any more dead people. She is hoping the stay at the mansion will bring her sightings back.

Her mom doesn't really believe that she can see these people and has made Jess promise that if nothing happens during the study, she is to drop the subject.

When they arrive at the Siler House, Jess basically sprints out of the vehicle. She is ready to be there. There we meet Dr. Brandt. Jess is rooming with Allison, who I think is creepy weird. Also, there is Gage and Bryan. These characters, Jess, Allison, Gage and Bryan, have awesome abilities... but they are kind of scary!!! So is the house really haunted?? HMMMMMMMM?? Yes there is some yummy love in this story... :) You have to have a little romance when people are going cray cray!

This is where I am going to stop because this is getting into the OMG you need to read it for yourself to understand why I about peed my pants walking to the kitchen from my bedroom... I should have turned on my lights, damn dogs. Yes, I am a chicken shit.

If you love scary books, GRAB THIS ONE! It's a must read and if I give it 5 stars, it's good, because I was SCARED! The story is awesome, the characters are solid and there isn't any fluff. Just arm pits sweating while reading goodness!

Greg James says

The Haunting Season is an excellent fusion of the Young Adult and Horror genres. The scenario we know as a group of ghost-hunters enter a haunted house for a prolonged stay. The genius loci of Siler House is as much a character as those within its walls as it gradually progresses from taunting and teasing its occupants with sights and sounds to full-blown assaults that are physical, spiritual and mental. It is like a sweet-looking but spiteful child playing with insects before it tears off their limbs one by one. I think that Michelle Muto's greatest success in this novel is her mirroring of the house's behaviour with that of the main antagonist. It serves to create a real sense of a place having a personality, though in this case one that is wholly malignant. If I were to name other haunted house stories that this reminded me of then I would pick The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson and The Harrowing by Alexandra Sokoloff. This novel deserves to stand alongside them in terms of its evocation of southern gothic atmosphere and dread that lingers like a bad summer heat.

If I had a criticism, it would be that I would have liked to have found out about the inner workings of Mrs Hirsch and Dr Brandt some more and understood them to a greater degree. The focus is on the young adults in the story and these four characters are well-crafted and balanced as their roots are the stereotypes we know i.e. the jock, the outsider, the cool nerd, but Michelle Muto manages to put her own distinct twist on each

one. With Mrs Hirsch and Dr Brandt, I feel like I would have liked just such a twist made to their characters as well. That aside, I recommend this novel to lovers of YA and Paranormal fans who like a bit of southern gothic flavour.

Tara says

OH MY!!!

This screams big screen! If you want to feel paranoid, slightly off, a little nervous and somewhat sick to your stomach with irrational fear - read this!

There was not one part in this whole read that I was bored. I was on the edge of my seat. I was jumping at noises. I had a little problem with turning lights on and leaving them on...all making of a fantastical thriller.

What really got me though was the last 15% of the book. Usually you know what's going to happen, the fear has numbed you and your no longer shocked, well my heart was racing and didn't stop till I shut off my kindle and was able to process what an amazing roller coaster I was just on.

Read it!!

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

This was a great read except for one thing...I didn't know it would be young adult. After reading it though it didn't take much away from the story and it kept me in suspense most of the time.

I would like to read a sequel to this one - maybe Riley comes back or Allison returns...I would love to see the 4 of them back together again!

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Danielle (The Blonde Likes Books) says

This was so creepy, and was perfect for getting in the Halloween spirit! I read this one in one sitting!

Brenna says

"It was like spring break, only for paranormal freaks."

Jess Perry sees ghosts. Well, at least she *used to* and she wants to again. Unlike most people who might have a breakdown if they saw a ghost, she nearly had a breakdown when she *stopped* seeing them. Desperate to

connect to her dad and grams that passed away and to prove to her overprotective mother that she isn't crazy, she signs up for a paid experiment at the infamous Siler House. Jess soon meets Allison, Bryan, and Gage, all about her age (entering college) who have had experiences with paranormal activity in the past.

"Let me get this straight," Gage said. "We all know we've been brought here as part of a study on the paranormal. Jess communicates with the dead. Allison has demons on speed dial. My buddy Bryan here sends stuff to the Twilight Zone without return postage. And I've got a knack for making my own zombie zoo theme park. Fun times. To add to all this fun, we're actually sitting here talking about how we feel about a house?"

It doesn't take long for the house to live up to its reputation. There is a lot of history and evil still residing in the Siler House. Twin girls were murdered there over one hundred years ago and with the abilities these four teens possess, it's a recipe for some freaky, creepy moments. Not only are there spooky, ghostly moments, but there is also this mysterious quality the book with the regular "human" characters. You never know who you can trust and who might be compromised.

"It's rumored that Siler House has a way of getting to people," Dr. Brandt explained. "Supposedly, those who stay here for too long...change."

This was my first time reading a stand alone "horror" book and I was pleasantly surprised that I *could* handle it. I've been known to mute or change channels when a commercial for a scary movie comes on, so needless to say, I was nervous! I loved this quote, it really sums up how childish I am when it comes to scary stuff. This described my mindset to a T!

"You think [it's] going to follow all those baby-game monster rules you had when you were a kid? That if we don't stick a leg or arm out of the covers the monster under the bed has some code of ethics where they won't eat us alive? I've got news for you, guys..." <- Yup, uh huh, pretty much what helps me sleep at night! LOL

The most frightening parts for me were just the moments leading up to *something*, that suspense and anticipation. Except one part that still makes me cringe just thinking about it! (view spoiler) Once things start being revealed and I got used to the vibe of the story, I started to just enjoy the characters and sink into it.

What I really liked about this was that there was a nice balance. *The Haunting Season* is complete with the haunted house, ghosts, demons, ouija board craziness, and creepy characters. Then to top it all off there's a little romance in there too, which I really appreciated. The romance junkie in me loved the flirty, little sexy moments between the characters. It has a great voice, the dialogue was fun and witty, and the writing had an effortless flow to it. I loved the dynamic between everyone and I was really rooting for all of them by the end. Overall, I enjoyed this book once I got over my initial anxiety. I'm definitely going to check out Michelle Muto's other work because I really loved her writing style.

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<http://nobsbookreviews.com/2013/10/th...>

Latasha says

3.5 this was a pretty good story, categorized under "if your in a scientific study at a haunted house." however, if this was YA, I would not let my 11 yr.old niece read it. there's a pretty racy scene. the characters were ok, Allison got on my nerves big time. someone just punch her out, ok? but those are my only complaints. it's worth a read.

Abbie says

This wasn't a bad read, but I was hoping for something creepy, and unfortunately, there wasn't many scenes that delivered that. There was a few times where I started to feel bored because of that, but overall, it was an okay read.

Michelle Muto says

I don't believe in reviewing my own book. I loved writing it, though!

Katie Walton says

My quest to find the scariest book in the world continued with The Haunting Season by Michelle Muto. The premise is very classic and promising: a group of college students descends on a haunted house to participate in an experiment on the supernatural facilitated by a professor. The house is reportedly cursed, and people who spend a lot of time there find it addicting.

This book falls into that awkward New Adult setting, it isn't quite appropriate for teens but it feels a little off to me reading it from the adult perspective. I like Young Adult Books. I like New Adult books. I just didn't LOVE this book... and I do feel bad that I didn't love it, because I wanted to!!

Emily Crow says

This novel had a good premise (the tried-but-true plot of "sensitives" descending upon an evil house for a paranormal study), but bogged down too often with some awkward passages and odd pacing to be truly enjoyable. But, I read it for free with kindle unlimited, so I'm not complaining.

Naomi says

Not horrible, but a bit too light for me. When I read ghost stories, I like creepy ass creepy and that wasn't this book. Overall, it really wasn't a horrible read though. It just had a bit of a more difficult time keeping my interest because of the lack of creepy factor. I would compare the scariness of this book to *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill, which scares some people but I found downright laughable.

Leslee says

2.5 stars. This was a pleasant but underwhelming foray into the haunted house genre for me, a genre which any followers know is one that is near and dear to my heart. I think the issue here is not so much altogether the author's fault. I didn't realize going into this novel that this was marketed towards young adult or new adult, and therefore I skewed out of the reader demographic.

The novel has a very similar set up to Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*, which was a very deliberate homage that the author refers to in her acknowledgements - I don't fault her, it's a tried and true set up for many ghost stories and haunted houses as it works well, but unfortunately for me I just did not connect with the protagonists in the tale - 4 teenagers with special 'ghost' powers that (view spoiler)

Yeah, a bit of eyerolling for me there, found it implausible - or as implausible as a novel about ghosts can be, I suppose. Some of the dialogue also got a little eye-rolly for me as well, such as:

"Siler House might be haunted, even though he'd yet to see a ghost, but now seemed like a good opportunity to spend alone time with the girl who'd been haunting *his* dreams since they'd been here."

I don't mind YA at all, and in fact read quite a bit of YA, but I like my haunted house books spooky and this one skewed too much towards that CW show *The Secret Circle* rather than truly freaky to me, especially with a blossoming romance between 2 of the characters being one of the focal points of the novel and feeling slightly forced - it just took me out of the action.

All in all, would recommend for someone looking for haunted house lite - not necessarily for someone who is looking for a truly spooky read.

Liliana says

Reviewed on Lili Lost in a Book

"We all know we've been brought here as part of a study on the paranormal. Jess communicates with the dead. Allison has demons on speed dial. My buddy Bryan here sends stuff to the Twilight Zone without return postage. And I've got a knack for making my own zombie zoo theme park. Fun times." -Gage

Jess is super excited to be participating in this study at Siler House. The house is beautiful and she might finally be getting answers to her weird power. Except her excitement soon turns to terror when she starts to realize that something horrible might be going on in the house... something sinister. Jess and her new friends try to figure out what in the world is really going on in the house, only to discover that there may be something more to the study than they could imagine. They need to get out of the house, and fast, before

whatever evil thing that is lurking there gets to them.

Let me tell you something, I *love* horror and I was SO looking forward to reading this book because it just sounded so amazing! I mean you got four college age kids with supernatural abilities (pretty cool ones, at that) going to an extremely haunted house for a study on the paranormal? Okay, how awesome is that? Unfortunately, this book did not live up to my expectations *sigh*

First of all, the the plot was kind of blah and really slow moving. And the horror itself? Yeah, not scary AT ALL! At least, it wasn't scary enough for me, which is what I was looking for in this book. And, okay, I'll admit, the whole "demon in my mirror" thing was a bit creepy, because, personally, mirrors freak me out!! Especially in a horror movie/book *shudders* But the thing is, the imagery in this book did nothing to scare me! Yeah, the characters were scared, but why? Now if it was anything like this picture, I'd totally get why...

It was nothing like this picture -_-

Next, I could not connect with the two main characters, especially not Jess. I just found her really annoying for some reason. I didn't care what happened to them, which is sad, really. And the romance between her and Gage? Ugh! I came in looking for a good scare and instead I get two horny teenagers that, were they in a horror movie, would've died in the first half of the book! *Um, excuse me Mr. Evil Demon Thing? Do you mind killing these two? Because I'm pretty sure this is where they die. 'Kay, thanks bye!* I mean, those are the **rules**, so... is it bad the it made me kind of sad that they **didn't** die? Lol. *Hey, horny teenagers, I'm pretty sure you're/your friends are in danger, but it's okay! You keep going at it! It's not like you need to get out of the house STAT or anything! Yeah! *highfive** Not! The romance just felt forced, which is why I think didn't enjoy it at all.

Oh and don't get me started on the Eurynome thing! But I'm gonna talk about it anyway! First of all, I know this book probably didn't mean to have any sort of Greek mythology involved, not directly, but when you use a name like Eurynome (it's Greek!), you know I'm going to pick at it! So get ready for a little course in Greek mythology (but some people might think it's spoilery, so...)

(view spoiler)

Overall, believe it or not, I didn't absolutely hate it. I thought all the different abilities was really interesting, and I actually liked the other two characters, Bryan and Allison, better! This book was really not for me, but I did enjoy the "haunted house" feel to it (even though it wasn't terrifying whatsoever).

Montzalee Wittmann says

The Haunting Season

Written by: Michelle Muto

Narrated by: Tavia Gilbert

This was one scary story. It was an audible book and the narrator was awesome at keeping the panic level high! My nerves were shot by the end of it. She did the many voices great.

The plot and characters were so realistic in the story. This was creepier than the movie, The Haunted, the black and white version or the new version. This was not a hack-and-slash like some horror stories. This was mostly all paranormal and just creepy. The kind I like! This really should be a movie. The bad thing about a scary book, you have to turn the page, or in this case, keep listen to know what is going to happen. No pillow to hide behind to avoid the screen, there is NO SCREEN! The screen is in your head. I have too good of an imagination anyway and this author is very good about making you feel like you are there. Great world building, or in this case, house building. Twists, turns, and screams...no, the screams were mine, sorry! Good book!
