



## The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall

*Katie Alender*

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## **The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall** Katie Alender

*Asylum* meets *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, in this riveting tale of ghosts, secrets, and family, from master of suspense Katie Alender.

Delia's new house isn't just a house. It used to be an insane asylum, a place to lock up "troubled" young women long ago. And a restless, wicked spirit is still at play--and it doesn't want defiant girls like Delia to go anywhere.

So the house kills her.

Now Delia is a ghost, trapped in her creepy home forever. As she meets the other ghost girls who haunt the narrow hallways, as well as the handsome ghost boy on the grounds, she learns shocking truths about the house's history. Delia also realizes that her alive and grieving sister might be the house's next target. Can Delia unlock the mystery of the old asylum, save her sister, and free herself?

## **The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall Details**

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Author : Katie Alender

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## **From Reader Review The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall for online ebook**

### **Marali says**

This is a cheesefest of wasted potential. If you're looking for a scary Halloween read, this shallow ghost story is not for you. I'm giving 2 stars for the character of Maria, who I think would've made a far better leading lady. Alas, if you're easily scared (as in, no eerie atmosphere to find anywhere in this book along with a most obvious mystery), this is for you.

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### **Sarah says**

This wasn't a bad story, but I did feel quite bored whilst reading it.

I felt quite sorry for Delia, what happened to her wasn't very fair, and having to then try to save the lives of the rest of her family was a tall order too.

The storyline in this was about Delia inheriting an old mansion which had once housed 'hysterical' females, and also inheriting the ghosts that haunted the place. I did find the pace in this quite slow though, and I felt bored during the majority of the book.

The ending to this was okay, and it ended fairly happily really.

6 out of 10.

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### **Deanna says**

I made graphics for this book, because I really, really, really, really, really liked it? It was so original, spooky, heartbreaking, mysterious, and driven at the same time. I loved it? I loved the character development. I loved all the friendships. I loved the lack of focus on romance. I loved the lack of slut-shamming. This is a perfect ya mystery/horror novel.

**4.5 / 5 stars**

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### **Rachel Reads Ravenously says**

**3.75 stars!!!**

I ended up liking this book a lot more than I thought I would! This book is about a teen named Delia who with her family has traveled to an estate left to Delia by her Aunt who recently passed. Upon arrival they find the house is actually a former institute for troubled young girls. The more time Delia spends there, the more freaked out she becomes until eventually she discovers the place is indeed haunted. Delia must find a way to get rid of the evil in the house in order to save her ghostly friends and her family.

Katie Alender has a wonderful writing style that just flows across the page, I found myself halfway done with this book in a matter of a couple of hours. If it hadn't been for the need to sleep I probably would have finished this book in one sitting. I felt this was a unique ghost book that stands out against other teen books with similar plots. And being a romance junkie, I actually really liked that the majority of this book had no romance, and it kept my attention.

If you're looking for something different and fun from your normal reading tastes, give this one a chance!

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### **Dannii Elle says**

Delia Piven inherited her name from her estranged Great Aunt Cordelia and, years later after her mysterious death, her grand countryside home. With the local nickname of 'Hysteria Hall', a reputation for having 'things go bump in the night' and a generally foreboding and neglected atmosphere the Piven's family stay there was always sure to be... interesting!

The novel opened in an entirely predicted fashion and the plot seemed like an amalgamation of numerous spooky films I have seen. That is until one shocking incident, almost a quarter of the way through, that took me completely by surprise and altered the course of the entire novel.

From then on I had constantly mixed opinions concerning the plot: some parts felt dull and uninspired, whilst others terrified and thrilled me. I think what was missing, for the majority of the novel, was tension. Shocking events were set up and weren't followed through with, leaving a blandness in the wake of the initial disturbance.

This also didn't conclude as neatly as I would have liked. Explanations were given but I totally wasn't happy with them, either. One character seemed to get away with centuries of terrorizing others far too easily and no consequences were awarded her! I was not feeling the 'and they all lived happily ever after' ending at all and this left me feeling a little dissatisfied after I had closed the final page.

I immensely enjoyed parts of this and, in all, found it an interesting read, although not entirely unique in conception.

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### **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

*I understood why Aunt Cordelia had dragged herself out to the road before committing suicide.  
Why she hadn't let herself die on the property.  
Because then she would have been stuck forever.  
Like me.*

There was nothing particularly brilliant about this book, but it was **well-written, it was surprisingly thoughtful, and above all it was entertaining**. In a week filled with terrible, boring books, this was a breath of fresh air. Strange to say that about a horror novel, but it is what it is.

The blurb is a little misleading, but I won't spoil the book. Needless to say, it's still considerably better than some books that have promised me the world, and then failed to deliver.

16-year old Delia has inherited an old house from a dead aunt whom she barely knows. All the elements of a horror is there in this book. She has a slightly troubled past, which have led her very academic parents to largely lose trust in her. An old aunt has died, leaving her a house. When they get there, they get ominous reactions from the town residents, and the house itself turns out to be an former insane asylum. It looks creepy, even without accounting for all the shit that's waiting to be uncovered within.

*In the narrow spill of light from my phone, I read the first letter: a deeply gouged D.*

*I walked down the hall, piecing the words together as I saw each new letter.*

*O ... N ... T ...*

*SELL THE HOUSE.*

*Then I noticed smaller letters, under the E in HOUSE. One last word. I held my phone closer.*

*DELIA.*

*The message was for me.*

*My dead great-aunt had gouged messages into the floor for me.*

And then, of course, there's the issue of her aunt's death. It was a **suicide**.

Creepy things happens, of course, there are ghosties and ghoulies. As I said, this was a pretty standard YA horror, but what differentiates it from the myriads of other horrors on the market was that it was well-written. I liked the main character. She was real. She wasn't a brat. Her narration was believable, her actions believable, her frustration and fears and rage were felt by me.

Of course, there are other characters (ghosts!) and they're pretty cool, too. They have stories of their own, because they all had lives of their own.

*"You're not the only one, you know," he said, his voice jagged. "We all had people we wanted to see again. We've all been left behind. We're all forgotten. Everyone I ever loved, everyone who ever loved me, is dead. You're ... you're not the only one."*

And though not frequent, there are plenty of things that go bump in the night.

*The only thing about the figure before me that resembled a human child was her height—and her feet.*

*The rest of her was a grotesque mess. The skin of her face was cratered with black sores. Her eyelids were crisscrossed with the scars of old cuts. Her cheeks and lips had begun to rot away, revealing the decaying interior of her mouth—pitted gums and an uneven row of sharp teeth. It gave her the otherworldly perma-grin of a great white shark, even when she was unconscious. Her arms were just patchy skin over bone, her fingers curled painfully into claws.*

So yeah, read this book. It was pretty good :)

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**Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

I have yet to read a book by Alender that hasn't thoroughly creeped me out, entertained me, and left me with so many thoughts in my head, it was hard to put them all together, but of course, in the most wonderful way possible.

She truly has become my go to author when I want something that will scare me but not so much that I have nightmares and am up all night with the lights on. Her latest novel fit right in with my expectations for her.

Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall was everything I was hoping it would be. A perfect read for this time of year when we start to want to read about those things that go bump in the night.

Suspenseful, intriguing, mysterious, creepy, and with characters that feel alive, this was truly a fun read that had me rapidly turning the pages and trying to guess what would happen next.

This had everything I have come to love about Alender's writing and didn't let me down.

If you are looking for something different, fun, and a bit scary, this is the YA read for you.

\*An ARC Copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.\*

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

This book is a horror novel about a girl maneuvering her new life as a ghost, but more than that, it's a mystery and a story about friendship. Delia soon discovers that the ghosts are more kind than scary, and that appearances are often deceiving. From a ghostly and very miserable boy who drowned in a ditch, to a disfigured phantom little girl, she meets an assortment of unforgettable characters and also tries to somehow make contact with her family, who have grown away from her since her death.

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### **Taylor Knight says**

The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall is one of the most entertaining books that I've read in a long time. I wasn't expecting a whole lot from this book but I ended up reading this whole thing in one day and really enjoyed. Not much about this book was extremely original but it was well written and very enjoyable. The main character, Delia, was very teenager-y but not necessarily in a bad way. I didn't really find The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall very scary, just a little creepy. But then again, it's hard to scare me with a book. I was very impressed with this book and how incredibly entertaining that I found it.

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### **Sierra Winfield says**

I find that this book is extremely creepy. There were definitely some twists in here that I didn't expect, but that's what made the book in my opinion. I really enjoyed this book, and as you can tell I was immediately sucked into Delia's world because I just couldn't put the book down until I was done with it. I will have a more in depth review up on my blog hopefully tomorrow, so you guys can check there if you're interested. The web address is on my site here. I was finding myself hoping at least for a little while that this was a series but since it's not I was able to finish the read in one day and I absolutely loved the book.

**Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

**Observations Made After The Fact**

**Every fairy tale starts the same: Once upon a time.**

**Maybe that's why we love them so much. We all get to be part of that story. Just by existing, you get your once upon a time. It's part of the deal.**

**What's not part of the deal, it turns out, is the happily ever after.**

Delia, her parents and little sister go to stay at Hysteria Hall. Delia inherited the home from her aunt Cordelia. Little did they know, the house used to be an insane asylum. Surprise!

Some horrible things happen to Delia while there and she's trapped with many ghosts that are trapped there as well by some evil.

What will the outcome be? Read it and find out.

I really enjoyed this one.

Mel ♥?

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**jv poore says**

Precisely what I wanted from practically every book I picked up in high school; I simply cannot wait to share *The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall* with “my” students. Teen-age angst, quintessentially captured in the sharp, witty and biting dialogue creates characters that are real and relatable. Fabulous and freaky foreshadowing sets a quick, compelling pace making this a page-turner that causes the reader to declare “one more chapter” many, many times. The sprawling haunted house/former institution “For the Care and Correction of Troubled Females” that Delia inherits from her former pen-pal and namesake Aunt Cordelia, serves as spot-on setting for this mesmerizing mystery.

While the plot pulled me in and kept me puzzling, the charisma of the characters captured my heart. The familial and friend drama (with a dash of romance) that distract Delia from her ghost-saving goal of finding and eliminating the source of evil feels familiar. Plotting escape from the house, Delia matures. Refreshingly, Ms. Alender reveals this perfectly, in an honest way by allowing Delia to backslide...maybe she learns from this mistake the first time; but just like in real life, she doesn't stop screwing up and she doesn't learn from every mistake as quickly.

The history of Piven Institute, where female hysteria could mean anything from schizophrenia to too many

opinions, coupled with her dad's casual dismissal of anything uttered by a female, subtly introduces misogyny and its ill effects. Conversely, the relationships Delia builds with the girl ghosts and her growing admiration for her little sister, "the prettiest, wittiest, most sparkling complete twerp of a human being you ever wanted to backhand on a daily basis" illustrates girl-power in its finest form.

There is so much to absolutely adore in this adventure peppered with amazing zingers that one highlighter was not enough to get me through this book. I won't be lending this out, I'll need to read it again....at least once; but I will most certainly be giving it as a gift for a long time.

This review was written for Buried Under Books by jv poore.

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## Wendy Darling says

### 4.5 stars

**INSANE ASYLUM FOR GIRLS.** That's enough to get anyone's attention, but unlike many slick, cheap-thrills books that quickly bore me, *The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall* is one of the most well-crafted YA horror books I've read in ages. It's a short but **surprisingly thoughtful** book, with good **creepiness** and suspense and sadness, as well as the right balance of teenage snark and feeling. It's hard to juggle **humor and darkness**, but the author does a great job of that here.

Thoroughly enjoyed--full review to come.

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## Irene Sim says

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For Readathon-2017: 9/26

In the category "A horror book"

Woman Author: 7/14

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**Every fairy tale starts the same: Once Upon A Time.**

**Maybe that's why we love them so much. We all get to be part of that story. Just by existing, you get your once upon a time. It's part of the deal.**

**What's not part of the deal, it turns out, is the happily ever after.**

Another solid read from Katie Alender. She captures teenage psych, emotions and angst with excellent prose.

I liked the division of the story in two parts, before and after the fact. I liked even more the short paragraphs between chapters in part one labeled: OBSERVATIONS MADE AFTER THE FACT.

It short of prepared the reader for the inevitability of what was going to happen to Delia.

I liked very much Delia and the bond she shared with her sister Janie. I didn't like her parents at all. They were the kind of grownups too absorbed in their own heads to pay attention to their kids, even though they thought they did everything according to the book. Delia missteps in her behavior? Let's all have therapy together to solve things as a family. Aren't we very civilized?

They never stopped to actually listen to their daughters. Instead they put labels on them and categorized their actions in order to “deal” with them. Delia wants to leave Hysteria Hall? She’s just having a tantrum to gain our attention. Let’s just lock her in her room for the night to cool down. (view spoiler)

**“Girls shouldn’t come here. This place is inhospitable.”**

You don’t say!

The house itself was very creepy. From the locked rooms to the surprises looming around every corner, had me looking behind my shoulder every other page. As for the inhabitants, some were likeable, some were scary, some raised more questions than the answers they provided.

**The house holds on to troubled girls, I thought. It doesn’t want to let them go.  
The thought hit me with such clarity that I recognized it immediately as solid truth.**

Delia was exactly that. A troubled girl that proved herself not so troubled in the end. She stood up for her family and the shake of the rest of the trapped ghosts in the house.

The story had a very satisfying ending, everything was explained and resolved but I couldn’t help being left with a bitter taste of sadness. After all a very promising seventeen year old girl has lost her life.

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### **Beatrice Masaluña says**

*The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall* is one of those horror novels that isn't as scary as it seems. Though it's set on an asylum (which is creepy) but the story just didn't lived up with it. The writing style is decent and I'm somehow entertained with a bunch of ghost characters. Each of them had their own stories that will make you curious.

The story is about a young girl, Delia who inherited a house from her great aunt, Cordelia. It turns out it's an old asylum and it's believe to be haunted. There are spirits trapped for years and as well as bad spirits who meant harmed to the living. The ghosts in this story are interesting and I'm eager to know more of their story. I also felt sad for them because they are longing for their loved ones. It's really touching, especially this one ghost named Maria.

Overall, it's a good story but don't expect to be scared or else you'll not enjoy it.

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