



Forthcoming Titles

November 2024

Adult

A Trinket for the Taking

by **Victoria Laurie**

release date: 11/26/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective

shelved in: Mystery



Dovey Van Dalen has a gorgeous day planned for her 200th birthday: driving her new Porsche, admiring the cherry blossoms abloom in her adopted city of Washington, D.C., and a little pampering. But her boss has other ideas. A powerful artifact has been stolen, and he fears it's causing chaos in the unmagical world . . .

The rich and connected Ariti family has suffered a string of suspicious deaths, with no signs of foul play. Yet each member has died in the way they feared most. As the enchanting agent most skilled at blending in with mere mortals, Dovey must find answers and retrieve the dangerous trinket.

There's just one unexpected wrinkle: By the time Dovey arrives at the art gallery where the Ariti patriarch died, FBI agent Grant "Gib" Barlow has taken control of the scene. Dovey needs his cooperation to investigate--but she'll have to hide her abilities, and her true objective, from a man who uncovers deceptions every day. And as they inch nearer a deadly truth, both will face danger even the spellbound would be lucky to survive . . .

Amber's why: Witchy crimefighting! Crimesolving? Crimefighting. Witchy crimefighting!

Deep Freeze

by Michael C Grumley

release date: 11/19/2024

genre: Thrillers, science fiction

shelved in: Science Fiction



The accident came quickly. With no warning. In the dead of night, a precipitous plunge into a freezing river trapped everyone inside the bus. It was then that Army veteran John Reiff's life came to an end. Extinguished in the sudden rush of frigid water.

There was no expectation of survival. None. Let alone waking up beneath blinding hospital lights. Struggling to move, or see, or even breathe. But the doctors assure him that everything is normal. That things will improve. And yet, he has a strange feeling that there's something they're not telling him.

As Reiff's mind and body gradually recover, he becomes certain that the doctors are lying to him. One by one, puzzle pieces are slowly falling into place, and he soon realizes that things are not at all what they seem. Critical information is being kept from him. Secrets. Supposedly for his own good. But who is doing this? Why? And the most important

question: can he keep himself alive long enough to uncover the truth?

Amber's why: I've been craving an action-scifi-thriller and I think this may be it. I don't know for sure what the doctors did to this frozen guy, but for some reason I'm getting Bionic-Man-we-rebuilt-him-better vibes from this.

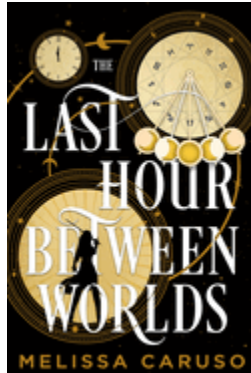
The Last Hour Between Worlds (Echo Archives #1)

by Melissa Caruso

release date: 11/19/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



In the Deep Echoes, no one can save you.

Kembral Thorne has a few hours away from her newborn, and she's determined to enjoy herself at the year-turning ball. But when guests start dropping dead, she can't help sniffing out trouble--she's a Hound, after all. Especially when her professional and personal nemesis, notorious burglar Rika Nonesuch, is also on the prowl.

Everyone knows you shouldn't get involved with Echo games. Let alone one involving ancient Echo lords who can turn layers of reality into a gameboard with human lives for pieces. But as the ballroom grows stranger and more otherworldly with each strike of the hour, it's clearly too late.

Kem knows the rules: One Echo down is no big deal. Stay alert for trouble.

Four Echoes down, there are things with eyes in their teeth, and walls that drip blood. Four is the limit. As the party plunges through increasingly deadly realities, the rules can't help Kem anymore. She'll have to rely on her wits--and Rika--to unravel the most dangerous game of the century before it unleashes catastrophe on their world.

Amber's why: There's a burglar involved, so heist? Maybe? Also, there are things with eyes in their teeth (do their teeth have eyes or are they munching on eyeballs?) and walls that drip blood.

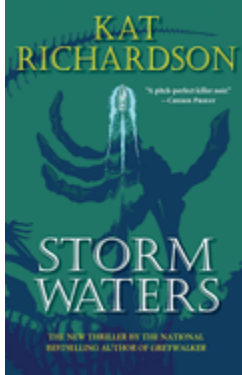
Storm Waters

by **Kat Richardson**

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Thrillers, espionage, fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



Prohibition has just ended, and the US is still struggling in the depths of the Great Depression. But for notorious playboy and ex-bootlegger Marty Storm, life couldn't be better. Only his best friend knows about his knack for water magic--and for making "problems" disappear--though no one knows his family's shipping business was built on sorcery and murder.

When he's accused of a gruesome murder, he knows he's been framed, but corrupt cops and his conscience aren't his only problem. Vengeful spirits, a little girl with a strange connection to the Los Angeles River, a crate full of trouble, and broken memories, force him to unwind the horrifying secrets of his own past and return to the dark heart of his family in the bayous outside New Orleans. With some unlikely allies both new and old, Marty must confront the ugly source of his family's fortune and power.

Murder, magic, love, death, and family: Marty Storm has come to the tipping point of his life, whether he knows it or not, and to control his destiny, he'll take a desperate plunge into dark magic he swore he'd never use.

Amber's why: Everything about this book appeals to me. Everything.

We Shall Be Monsters

by **Alyssa Wees**

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Fantasy, action & adventure

shelved in: Science Fiction



Gemma Cassata lives with her mother in an isolated antiques shop in Michigan, near a seductive patch of woods concealing an enchanted gateway to fairyland. Gemma knows she's not supposed to go into the woods--her mother, Virginia, has warned her multiple times about the monsters that lurk there--and yet she can't resist.

Virginia understands her daughter's defiance. She knows the allure of the woods all too well. Her own mother warned her about the monsters, and Virginia also did not listen--until a witch cursed her true love just days before their child's birth. So Virginia will do whatever she can to protect her daughter--even if it means stealing Gemma's memories.

But everything changes when Gemma gets too close to the truth, and the witch takes Virginia. Now it is up to Gemma to venture deep into the mysterious woods to rescue her mother and break the curse.

Amber's why: This strikes me as a very folkloric adventure story. I mean, woods and witches, mothers and memories and swallowed secrets—what isn't folkloric here? But, and this is what has me excited, it's not horror. Now, don't get me wrong, y'all know I love horror (I do!), it's just folklore (& fairytales, legends, mythology, etc!) has been my special interest my entire life and I just adore seeing folklore weave its way through modern stories. It's just my favorite thing.

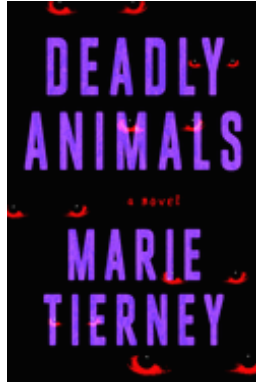
Deadly Animals

by Marie Tierney

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Mystery & Detective, horror

shelved in: Mystery



Finding a dead body is not normal. But Ava is not a normal teenager. In this chillingly beautiful mystery, only the obsessive spirit of youth can save a desperate town from the savagery within.

Ava Bonney is a compassionate and studious fourteen-year-old girl with a dark secret: she has an obsessive interest in the macabre. She is fascinated by the rate at which dead animals decompose. The highway she lives by regularly offers up gifts of roadkill, and in the dead of night Ava loves nothing more than to pull her latest discovery into her roadside den and record her findings.

One night, she stumbles across the body of her classmate and, fearing that her secret ritual could be revealed, she makes an anonymous call to the police. But when Detective Seth Delahaye is given the case, Ava won't step back--not while teenagers continue to go missing.

Racing alongside the police or against them, Ava is determined to figure out who is hunting her classmates before she becomes the next prey. How hard can it be to track a killer?

Amber's why: Honestly, I'm kind of surprised she called the police... Since this is adult rather than teen fiction, I'm thinking this will be a much more complicated, bloody, and traumatizing story for the protagonist than similar tales starring similar protagonists. Expectations are high.

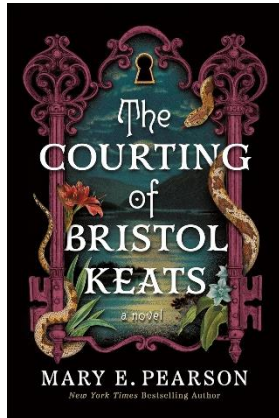
The Courting of Bristol Keats

by Mary E Pearson

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Fantasy, romance, fairytales, folktales, mythology

shelved in: Science Fiction



After losing both their parents, Bristol Keats and her sisters struggle to stay afloat in their small, quiet town of Bowskeep. When Bristol begins to receive letters from an "aunt" she's never heard of who promises she can help, she reluctantly agrees to meet--and discovers that everything she thought she knew about her family is a lie. Even her father might still be alive, not killed but kidnapped by terrifying creatures to a whole other realm--the one he is from.

Desperate to save her father and find the truth, Bristol journeys to a land of gods and fae and monsters. Pulled into a dangerous world of magic and intrigue, she makes a deadly bargain with the fae leader, Tyghan. But what she doesn't know is that he's the one who drove her parents to live a life on the run. And he is just as determined as she is to find her father--dead or alive.

Amber's why: I heard Pearson did a bunch of research into traditional fairy lore and if there's one sure way to get me to read something that's it. So, this appeals to both my whimsical nature and my obsessive interest in fairytales.

Love Across the Tabletop

by Kait Disney-Leugers

release date: 11/05/2024

genre: Romance, LGBTQ+, bisexual, lesbian

shelved in: Romance



Will love be a critical success or an untimely end to the campaign?

Mika Levenberg is over relationships. After her ex-girlfriend cheats on her, all Mika wants to do is make good food and play the tabletop role-playing game *Bargains & Battles* with her friends every week.

Ash Aguila is new to Washington DC. After escaping an abusive relationship, he's looking to start over in the Capitol and try to rebuild himself. When his cousin invites him to play a game called *Battles & Bargains*, Ash reluctantly agrees to try something new. At least he can meet some new people.

When he meets Mika, he discovers that passion can spark across the tabletop. Will Mika and Ash take a chance and roll the dice on love?

Amber's why: Sometimes you just need a sweet, goofy romance. Plus, I've been watching way too much D&D content online.

Mr. Nice Spy

by Tiana Smith

release date: 11/05/2024

genre: Romance

shelved in: Romance



When a pyrotechnic engineer discovers her biological father is an international criminal, she must work with a sexy CIA agent to take him down in this thrilling adventure rom-com.

Andee Paxton knows she's good at her job as a fireworks designer. What she doesn't know is that her biological father is Holt, a dangerous arms dealer who has escaped prison. And now he's searching for his long-lost daughter-dearest.

After the CIA surprises her with this news, they drop another bombshell: they want to use Andee as bait to capture Holt once and for all. But before the CIA can even attempt to spring their trap, she's kidnapped along with the very hot Officer Adam Chan--all because they were too busy flirting to worry about silly things like "safety protocol."

A fake relationship--for their protection, of course--and just a few explosions bring Andee and Chan closer, but there's more than their growing connection at stake. If Holt's plan succeeds, the world will be brought to its knees. Andee and Chan must rely on each other to stop him...or else everything (including their feelings for each other) might just blow up in their faces.

Amber's why: Sometimes you just need a goofy, spy, adventure-romance. Escapism, thy name is books.

Grimm Curiosities

by Sharon Lynn Fisher

release date: 11/05/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Science Fiction



It's 1851 in old York. Lizzy Grimm struggles to save her late father's charmingly creepy yet floundering antique shop, Grimm Curiosities. Then, during a particularly snowy December in this most haunted city in England, things turn...curiouser.

Lizzy meets Antony Carlisle, whose sister suffers from the same perplexing affliction as Lizzy's mother--both stricken silent and unresponsive after speaking with ghosts. Working closely together to fathom what power has transformed their loved ones and why, Lizzy and Antony discover an important clue: her father's treasured set of rare books on ancient folktales, enchantments, and yuletide myths. Books that a persistent collector is awfully keen to purchase. Books Lizzy can't bear to sell.

Every bewitching passage and illustration opens a doorway to something ancient and dangerously inviting. Keys to a mystery Lizzy and Antony are compelled to solve--even if doing so means unleashing one of this bright holiday's darkest myths.

Amber's why: What can I say? I like stories about antique stores filled with cursed objects and Christmas ghost stories. This is both!

The Improvisers

by Nicole Glover

release date: 11/05/2024

genre: Fantasy, mystery & detective, African American & Black

shelved in: Science Fiction



Velma Frye is many things. A pilot, a former bootlegger, a well-seasoned traveler, a jazz pianist...and a wielder of celestial magic. She's also a member of the mystical Rhodes family as well as an investigator for arcane oddities for a magic rights organization, dealing with both simple and complicated cases. And when a pocket watch instigates a magical brawl after one of her flight shows, things become *very* complicated.

In 1930s America, enchanted items are highly valuable, especially in the waning days of the magical Prohibition. As Velma digs deeper, she discovers the watch is part of a collection of dangerous artifacts manipulating people across the country--and in some cases, leading to their deaths. Something about all this is tickling Velma's memories, and the more she discovers, the more these seemingly isolated incidents feel as if they're building to something apocalyptic.

Connecting the dots isn't easy, though, and further complicating her work is journalist Dillon Harris. He hounds her steps, and while not actively sabotaging her investigation, he also clearly knows more than he lets on. Whether it's his presence that she finds so vexing or his easygoing charm, that's a mystery she *isn't* interested in solving. Because someone is out there seeding cursed objects with the intent on wreaking havoc, and Velma will have to use every trick in her tool kit, including some well-placed magical improvisation, to win the day.

Amber's why: This. Looks. So. Cool.

Teen

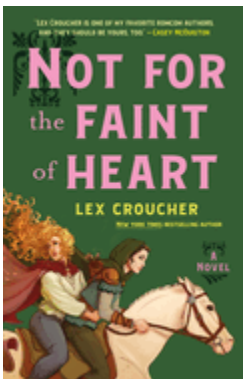
Not For the Faint of Heart

by Lex Croucher

release date: 11/26/2024

genre: Romance, LGBTQ+, romantic comedy

shelved in: Teen Fiction



'You aren't merry, ' Clem said to her captor. 'And you aren't all men. So there's been some marketing confusion somewhere along the line.'

Mariel, a newly blooded and perpetually grumpy captain of the Merry Men, is desperate to live up to the legacy of her grandfather, the legendary Robin Hood. Clem, a too-perky backwoods healer known for her new-fangled cures, just wants to help people.

When Mariel's ramshackle band of bandits kidnap Clem as retribution for her guardian helping the Sheriff of Nottingham, all seems to be going (sort of) to plan ... until Jack Hartley, Mariel's father and Commander of the Merry Men, is captured in a deadly ambush. Determined to prove herself, Mariel sets out to get him back - with her annoyingly cheerful kidnappee in tow.

But the wood is at war. Many believe the Merry Men are no longer on the right side of history. Watching Clem tend the party's wounds and crack relentlessly terrible jokes, Mariel begins to doubt the noble cause to which she has devoted her life. As the two of them grow closer, forced by circumstances to share a single horse and bed, one thing is clear. They must prepare to fight for their lives and for those of everyone they've sworn to protect.

Amber's why: Now, I'm wondering what happened to Robin Hood's lordship, because though not in every version of Robin, it is a legitimate part of the folklore and not just made up for the movies. Regardless, who can resist a sapphic grumpy/sunshine Robin Hood variant that explores the corruption that can occur when an organization maybe is no longer needed but still exists anyway?

Perfect Girl

by Tracy Banghart

release date: 11/19/2024

genre: Horror, thrillers & suspense

shelved in: Teen Horror



Jessa has been raised to be the "perfect girl." She is unfailingly polite, never rocks the boat, and always follows the rules--no matter what. Her friends love to give her a hard time for being such a goody two-shoes, but Jessa likes it this way. She knows what's expected of her, and she's happy to be the person her parents (and society) want.

When a freak storm takes out the power during a sleepover at Jessa's creepy, old house, things go south before the pizza gets cold. Her friends are at each other's throats, unexpected guests keep showing up (some more welcome than others), and it's not just her brother serving up jump scares. A killer looking for the perfect girl has targeted Jessa, and she'll have to reject everything she's been taught if she wants to keep herself--and her friends--alive until sunrise.

Who knew perfection could be so dangerous?

Amber's why: I like twists on the final girl trope.

Dead Below Deck

by Jan Gangsei

release date: 11/19/2024

genre: Thrillers & Suspense, mysteries & detective stories

shelved in: Teen Mystery



It was supposed to be the best-ever girls' trip: five days, four friends, one luxury yacht, no parents. But on the final night, as the yacht cruised the deep and dark waters between Florida and Grand Cayman, eighteen-year-old heiress Giselle vanished. She's nowhere to be found the next morning even after a frantic search, until security footage surfaces . . . showing Maggie pushing her overboard.

But Maggie has no memory of what happened. All she knows is that she woke up with a throbbing headache, thousands of dollars in cash in her safe, a passport that isn't hers, and Giselle's diary. And while Maggie had her own reasons to want Giselle dead, so did everyone else on board: jealous Viv, calculating Emi, even some members of the staff.

What really went down on the top deck that night? Maggie will have to work her way backward to uncover the secrets that everyone--even Giselle--kept below deck or she's dead in the water.

Amber's why: I don't know why more murder mysteries don't take place on boats. They're the ultimate locked door. Couple that with a murderer who may not be one and I can almost forget about the fact that this story sadly doesn't take place on a sailboat.

When Mimi Went Missing

by Suja Sukumar

release date: 11/19/2024

genre: Mysteries & Detective stories, crime

shelved in: Teen Mystery



Shy, nerdy Tanvi has always thought of her perfect cousin Mimi as her sister. Not only did Mimi's family raise Tanvi after the tragic death of her parents, fierce Mimi has always protected Tanvi at school. At least until Mimi fell under the spell of their flawless, rich classmate, Beth . . . Tanvi's biggest bully. Fearing another terrible year, Tanvi decides to take a desperate, preemptive strike--and captures an incriminating photo of Mimi and Beth at a party. When Tanvi wakes up the next day with a bump on her head, scratches on her leg, and no memory of what caused her injuries, Mimi is gone.

Tanvi begins to fill the gaps in her memory and question Mimi's friends and enemies, hoping to bring her cousin home. But when new evidence comes to light, the search for Mimi takes a dark turn as the cops announce that they are now hunting a murderer. Could Tanvi be the killer?

To save her family, Tanvi must revisit the worst night of her life and the darkest parts of her past to discover if she's capable of murder--and the truth of what happened to Mimi.

Amber's why: As you can tell by the title above, I enjoy mysteries where the main character may or may not also be the villain. Memory, or the lack thereof, can be absolutely thrilling. Gotta love an unreliable POV, am I right?

Fortune's Kiss
by Amber Clement

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Fantasy

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



*Are you willing to risk everything for a chance to be kissed by fortune?
Drink and let your soul be measured.*

Welcome to Fortune's Kiss, where you can attain your wildest dreams, but the price of admission . . . may be your life.

For the first time in a decade, the legendary gambling den, Fortune's Kiss, has returned to Ciudad Milagro. The game is Lotería.

As starry-eyed children, best friends Mayté and Lorena made a pact to enter the den together, but much has changed: strong, proud Mayté, sole daughter of the disgraced Robles family, dreams of becoming a famous painter, while beautiful Lo suffers at the hands of her powerful--and abusive--father.

With its return, the pair enter the mystical den. Once inside, they realize that beneath the enchanting glamour, the salon hides treacherous secrets--like the old, predatory magic beating in its heart. And it is *ravenous*.

Round after round, the girls scheme, lie, flirt, do what's necessary to win. But when bodies begin piling up, all bets--and friendships--are off as each girl learns exactly how far she's willing to go to ensure *she* leaves the table on top. See, this Lotería is no children's diversion. It is a deadly game of chance that may just eat them alive.

Amber's why: Exciting magical gambling den that preys on children?! How fun!

Midnights with You
by Clare Osongco

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Romance, families

shelved in: Teen Fiction



"Where were you thinking of going?"

"Nowhere."

"Great," he says lightly, putting the car in gear. "Then we'll go there."

Seventeen-year-old Deedee's life is full of family ghosts and questions she can't ask. She longs to escape her stifling home, but guilt holds her back--that, and the fact that her strict Filipino single mom won't let her learn to drive.

But one sleepless night leads Deedee down a road she never thought possible: secret driving lessons with the new boy next door, Jay, whose turbulent family life also keeps him up until sunrise.

As midnights stretch into days, Jay helps Deedee begin to unravel her past, and as shared secrets blossom into love, Deedee starts to imagine a life where happiness is possible. But the deeper she digs into the trauma that has shaped her, the more that trauma threatens to tear Deedee and Jay apart. Together, these two must decide if the pain they've both inherited has the power to choose their fate, or if they have the power to choose for themselves.

Amber's why: I got the ARC for this. It's a really sweet/bittersweet coming-of-age romance. I really liked it.

The Love Interest

by Helen Comerford

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Romance, superheroes

shelved in: Teen Fiction



Seventeen-year-old Jenna Ray has just been saved by the world's newest superhero, Blaze. And, in the eyes of the public, that means one thing: Jenna has been cast as the Love Interest.

Jenna has no interest in being a helpless love interest, kidnapped by villains whenever they want Blaze's attention. In fact, she disapproves of the whole hero industrial complex on principal. But then an association of villains offers her a chance to find new information about her mom, who has been missing for ten years. All she has to do is get close enough to Blaze to spy on him.

The more time Jenna spends with Blaze, though, the harder it gets to lie to him. And the more she uncovers about the Hero's Association, the more she realizes that her town is in danger-and she might be the only one who can save it.

Amber's why: The concept of this is really funny to me. I like the idea of regular people inconvenienced by superheroes and more than a little annoyed because of it.

Dead Girls Don't Dream

by Nino Cipri

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Horror, LGBTQ+, thrillers & suspense

shelved in: Teen Horror



There are rules for Voynich Woods: Always carry a whistle. Never go alone. Always come home before dark. And if anyone calls your name, don't answer. Because everyone who wanders from the path is never seen again.

Except for Riley Walcott.

Riley knows better than to stray from the trail in the woods behind her uncle Toby's house. But her little sister Sam breaks the rules in pursuit of a local legend, so Riley chases after her and discovers a knife-wielding figure and a waiting grave.

Madelyn lives deep in the forest. Subject to her mother's strict rules, she's forbidden from leaving home or using her magic--but one night, she risks everything to help a stranger who's lost in the woods.

Riley is murdered in a strange ritual, Madelyn uses her magic to resurrect her, and their lives are immediately entwined in the gnarled history of Voynich Woods. Riley, who feels trapped in her small town but too afraid to leave, was never a believer, but now the evidence is taking root under her skin. Madelyn has the scars to prove how terrible magic can be, and longs for a life beyond her mother's grasp. As the legends become all too real, Riley and Madelyn must confront their deepest fears to uncover the truth about Voynich Woods.

Amber's why: Honestly, the cover and title did it for me. There's no way I'm passing up this book. It will get read by me.

Rani Choudhury Must Die

by Adiba Jaigirdar

release date: 11/12/2024

genre: Romance, LGBT+, technology

shelved in: Teen Fiction



Meghna Rahman is tired of constantly being compared to her infuriatingly perfect ex best friend now rival. Everyone, except, at least, her boyfriend Zak, seems to think that Rani Choudhury can do no wrong--even her own parents! It doesn't help that Rani is always accepted into the Young Scientist Exhibition, while Meghna's projects never make it. But this year, she finally has a chance at defeating Rani in *something*.

Rani Choudhury is tired of feeling like she doesn't have much say in her life--not when it comes to how her mom wants her to look and act or how her parents encourage her to date incredibly charming close family friend Zak. She would much rather focus on her coding, especially once she places high enough at the Young Scientist Exhibition to go on to the European Young Scientist Exhibition.

When Meghna and Rani figure out that Zak has been playing them both, they decide to do something no one would see coming: they team up. They'll compete in the EYSE as partners, creating an app that exposes cheaters and a project that exposes Zak. But with years of silence and pressure between them, working together will prove difficult. Especially once each girl starts to realize that the feelings they had for the other may have been more than platonic...

Hey, no one ever said science was easy!

Amber's why: This looks like a very sweet and fun surprise-I'm-queer romantic comedy and I'm here for it. I hope they win the science fair.

Snow Drowned

by Jennifer Lyle

release date: 11/05/2024

genre: Horror, thrillers & suspense, paranormal, occult, & supernatural

shelved in: Teen Horror



There's a saying on Fall Island: *the snow will get you.*

Gracie Hutchinson has lived here her whole life and knows there's some truth to those words. Every few years someone dies in a snowstorm, or loses their mind, or disappears without a trace. Sometimes it seems like more than just New England weather. Now, a hundred-year-storm is approaching, and while most of the locals have taken the ferry to the mainland, Gracie must stay behind.

But she's intrigued to find someone else her age has stayed too--Joseph Wescott, whose mysterious family lives in Wescott Manor, descendants of the legendary first settlers of Fall Island. Together, they stumble across something even more unsettling than the coming storm: the body of a stranger, murdered in a grim ritual. Someone on the island believes the old Fall superstitions have a dark power--and now, they have Gracie in their sights.

As the hours count down to the blizzard's landfall, it seems the only safe place to go is Westcott Manor. But Gracie wonders if there's another reason why she's been brought there, one that has to do with Joseph. She'll discover secrets that have been kept for generations, a hidden history, and the terrifying truth about Fall Island. Because even when the storm ends, there's no escape from the horror beneath the snow.

Amber's why: Murder island! Snowy murder island!