

Title: *All These Monsters*
Author: Amy Tintera
Genre: Young Adult, Science Fiction, Fantasy

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 10th Grade 10

Date Reviewed: July 2, 2021

Amy Tintera's book All These Monsters is a great fantasy read that centers on the main character, Clara. Throughout the book, readers learn about Clara's abusive homelife and how badly she wants to escape to live a better life. Seventeen year old Clara has lived a hard life and has dealt with many challenges from living with her abusive father. However, through it all, she remains a steadfast girl who is ready to do anything in order to leave her home, including leaving behind all that she has ever known. The plot thickens when she decides to join a dangerous international monster hunting group that kills scrabs, the "earth-dwelling monsters that are currently ravaging the world". This book does a great job at introducing heavy topics such as child abuse and the signs of a toxic relationship. It also portrays the vast amounts of bravery Clara has by joining the dangerous group. While the sci-fi monsters continue to wreak havoc on their world by turning cities to dust, she trains with the group and experiences the hard work that must go into keeping the cities safe. She suffers from sore muscles, immense exhaustion, and the sheer terror of possible death. However, despite these obstacles, Clara grows confident in her combat skills and becomes a strong fighter. Along the way, she makes friends and new discoveries, one of which shows that the scrabs are not the only monsters in this world. Ultimately, this book was incredibly interesting because it sheds a light onto topics that are not usually openly discussed in fantasy books. In fact, the title of the book itself holds a double meaning that gives readers insight into the different types of monsters Clara will deal with throughout the book. As readers learn about Clara and her homelife, they will also learn new discoveries at the same time as Clara, which makes the book hard to put down.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

Yes, I believe the plot of this book was very intriguing from the first chapter. It did a great job at building on Clara and allowing readers to understand what kind of struggles she was going through with her abusive father. I found it very interesting to read about Clara's training and see how she changes throughout the book.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

Whilst reading the book, I found that the pace of the book was rather slow. Although the plot did develop, it did take a while for readers to see growth in Clara as she left home to join the monster fighting squad. Despite it being a little slower than other books, I still found it enjoyable to read.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

Due to the contents of this book, I would recommend the book to readers in eighth grade and up. I think it is a good book because it introduces important topics such as child abuse and toxic home environments, which is not usually portrayed in fantasy novels.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to a reader who is patient and is able to continue to enjoy a book as it develops. I found that the pace of this book was slower than others I've read, but it was still fun to read because I was able to discover important plot points with Clara. I would also

recommend this to someone who likes action and fighting plot lines because they would enjoy the training aspect of the plot.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Before reading this book, I think it is important to point out for readers that there is mention of family abuse and toxic home environments that Clara faces. While the book is fictional, it is important to recognize how Clara feels and why she does certain things in the book. I would also like to mention that this book is not a stand alone novel, but part of a duology book series. The second and final book of this series is supposed to be released in July of 2021.

3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better.

Overall, I thought this book was an okay read. While the plot was interesting, I think that there are other fantasy novels that I enjoyed more. However, I would give this book three stars because of how the plot developed as you continued to read. I thought the aspect of the monsters not only being scabs was important because it shows how there are other evils in the world. What appears to be your average science-fiction adventure turns out to be a wild and sophisticated story of a young woman's emotional path to victory over the cycle of abuse. The book not only goes to show the conflict and punishments of monsters in the fictional realm, but also monsters that can exist in the real realm.

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: June 28, 2021

Clara Pratt has never known a life outside of her abusive father and her all too forgiving mother. When she sees the chance to join Grayson St. John's fight squad, an international group of everyday citizens out to hunt and kill scabs, she jumps at the opportunity to leave her home behind and put an entire ocean between herself and her family. However, she barely makes it out of tryouts and only does because of a kind team leader called Julian. Julian accepts her on his team even though she is one of the weakest recruits. When training begins, Clara realizes that fighting scabs (monsters that travel through the ground) is no joke. It is tiring, violent, and scary. She learns that scab attacks can happen anywhere and at any time. She also learns that life can be short-lived, as on the first scab attack she experiences, one of her teammates gets killed. Additionally, Clara begins growing a huge crush on Julian, who is the only person preventing her from feeling lonely. Things work out as Julian returns the feeling, but that makes him protective. After a couple of dangerous adventures, including one that led her to be captured by MDG (a rival company) agents, Julian tries to make her stay out of the action. Clara, however, refuses to do so because of what she saw in the MDG facility. While escaping from the MDG facility, Clara stumbled across a barn with trained scabs that could respond to orders. This is both illegal and extremely dangerous. Clara believes that they must take down MDG and it eventually leads to a fight with Julian. During the fight, Julian accidentally hints that he is working for MDG. Clara digs around for more information and learns that MDG is going to ship out trained scabs to an unknown buyer. She alerts her team and together, they must work to stop the shipment and bring MDG down.

Now, I will answer some questions about the book:

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot definitely kept me interested. There was a lot of action and suspense throughout the book. After every chapter, I was left wondering what would happen next. There were also a couple plot twists that kept me guessing what would happen next.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this book was just right. There was no shortage of action and a lot of fights. Even during times of quiet and peace, the author would throw in some high action scenes. The fast pace of the plot was well suited for the book and made it more interesting to read.

What level(s) is this book appropriate for? - I think this book is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. There is a lot of violence and death mixed in with family issues which makes the book unsuitable for younger kids. Older kids would understand the plot better and have a better time reading the book.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to? - I would recommend this book to readers who like an action-packed book leaning toward science fiction. I would also recommend this book to readers who want to follow a female heroine.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book - This book takes place in modern times but with the exception of scabs and technology to detect scabs.

I would rate this book *5 stars*. The plot was really good and extremely suspenseful. I loved the way the characters, especially Clara, developed as the plot went on. The book ended with a nice, suspenseful cliffhanger but I do understand that there will be a sequel.