



All the Hidden Monsters

By Amie Jordan

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The Story

A grisly murder. A detective warlock with a dangerous past. A girl out of her depth.

Cozy crime is dead. And so is Lucy Hague . . .

Sage is an ordinary girl and a werewolf, moving between worlds, desperate to make sense of her life. And then her supernatural friend Lucy is found murdered in the human domain. Now, Sage is determined to join the investigation, led by the handsome but arrogant warlock, Oren Rinallis.

Sage may not be magical or immortal, but she knows right from wrong, and is sure that she can scent a killer like no other . . . unless she and Oren kill each other first . . .

With a crew so entertaining and unique, *All the Hidden Monsters* is funny, serious, scary—and you'll never guess who did it. There's a world below our own, but who is killing who in both of them?

Reading Group Questions

1. From the very first page of the book, we are launched into the case of the recently murdered Lucy Hague. Between the human world and the Downside, how do the setting and atmosphere in *All the Hidden Monsters* help to continuously generate suspense and tension throughout the book? What other techniques does the author use to keep you hooked and on edge?
2. How do you think the author explored the themes of justice and morality? How do the characters grapple with these themes?
3. Were you surprised by who ended up being the person who committed Lucy's murder? If you guessed who did it, what clues made you suspect them? If you were surprised, who did you think did it instead? What was the biggest red herring that threw you off track?
4. There is certainly more than one memorable character in *All the Hidden Monsters*. Who was your favorite character and why did you find them intriguing? Did they have any quirks or habits that made them memorable?

About the Author



Photo © Amie Jordan

Amie Jordan is from Salford, England, and studied Film and Media at Manchester Metropolitan University. When she isn't writing she spends most of her time knitting, having provided bespoke pieces for the costume departments of film, TV, and theatre. Her other talents include solving Rubik's cubes, getting hard knots out of string, and quoting *Lord of the Rings* start to finish. Amie lives near Manchester city centre with her son and their two cats and two dogs.

Author Q&A

In your own words, what is *All the Hidden Monsters* about and what should readers expect?

This is a twist on a classic murder mystery theme, mashed up with all the best loved elements of modern urban fantasy. It's murder and magic, suspicion and supernatural, fear and found family. What more could you want?!

A huge element to the setting in *All the Hidden Monsters* is of course the hidden world of the Downside. But there are in fact real tunnels that exist beneath the streets in Manchester. How did these tunnels help to inspire elements of the story?

Yeah, and these tunnels are *creepy*! Some are hundreds of years old! Some were used as escape tunnels during the Reformation, and some were used to store bodies during The Plague. So you can just imagine what kind of monsters might be attracted to those tunnels full of so much history and darkness.

Years ago, I did have the opportunity to go down on a tour—these have since stopped and access is now restricted, so I was very lucky to see them firsthand. But I've never forgotten what they felt like to be in.

It was actually during covid lockdowns when I was taking my daily walk for exercise that I walked through the city centre, which is usually so busy and bustling, but all the shops were closed and I literally thought to myself, 'this is like a ghost town.' And it was almost like a movie. As I thought the words 'ghost town.' I turned my head to the left and I saw the little wooden door that I walked through on that tour down into the tunnels, and that old feeling of creepiness and foreboding that I'd felt when down there washed back over me.

And though my Downside became much more than just a ghost town, full of all sorts of supernatural creatures, that was really where the seeds were first planted. Over the next few months as I walked past that door every day, I started to think about how those tunnels might work if the creatures that were attracted to them made their homes there. Over time, had they built a whole other world just below our feet? Would those monsters be affected by things like pandemics that were going on in the human world above? Would they live harmoniously? How would different monsters integrate and live side by side? Would they make efforts to hide themselves from us? All these questions formed the basis of the Downside we now know.

There are so many incredible characters in this book, but who is *your* favorite character, and aside from Sage and Oren, which character do you think readers are going to connect with the most?

I have two that I struggle to choose between. P, of course, is everyone's favourite, as well as one of my own. This series is quite dark, both physically—being underground, and metaphorically as well. We deal with death, grief, depression—all quite heavy topics. And I just wanted something to balance that out. I wanted something that embodied goodness and light, and that would shine through all the darkness. And that really came in the form of P. She is the kindness, understanding, patience, care, and love that outshines all the other feelings of sadness and despair that comes with all the other darker stuff. That was partly why I made her into a ghost too—she's silvery and light: a physical embodiment of those characteristics, too. Plus, strangely, I also thought that her character being dead already is also quite reassuring. It promises us that nothing bad can ever happen to her. She cannot be hurt or killed or be taken from us, because the bad stuff has already happened to her and we have proof that she came through it, and was still good and happy by the end of it.

I also love Berion, because I get to live out my insane fashion choices through him. I don't often have the opportunity to wear head-to-toe leopard print or floor length fur coats, as much as I would love to, so I can do it through him.