



## Back and Deader Than Ever

*Lisi Harrison*

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### LALA

The RADs are free, and Lala is flashing her fangs with pride. But when Daddy Drac pays her a surprise visit, everything goes batty. Mr. D. thinks the RADs should have their own school, but Lala isn't ready to give up the rights she and her friends have fought so hard for. When she hears about a glamorous contest that awards the winning school mad moola and a starring role in a national ad campaign, Lala decides to bite. It's father against daughter in a battle for Salem's student body. Lala is determined to save Merston High... but she might die - twice - trying.

### FRANKIE STEIN

Frankie is sparkling at the chance to represent Merston High in the national ad campaign. All she has to do is win a school vote, impress the judges, and beat out Cleo de Nile. Um, easier said than won. Cleo is clinging to her queen bee crown like cat hair on velvet. Will Frankie abandon her nice-girl ways and bury Cleo (and her ego) once and for all? All's fair in love and showbiz: What Frankie does next will decide who becomes Merston High's new It Girl - and what could be more voltage than that?

### MELODY CARVER

Melody takes a walk on the wild side when she helps Candace sneaks into a concert and ends up bonding with the band. Asked to sing lead, Melody capture the attention of the cool college crowd - and hot band roadie Granite Sander. But while she's rocking out, Jackson is freaking out, especially when the band's schedule threatens their summer plans as a couple. As the final bell rings, Melody is forced to make a life-changing choice. Will her decision shatter her dreams - or break her heart?

## Back and Deader Than Ever Details

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## **From Reader Review Back and Deader Than Ever for online ebook**

### **Alyssa (The Shady Glade) says**

So the Monster High books are kind of a "guilty pleasure" for me. I know they're kind of "fluffy" literature (not much substance), but I've enjoyed them nonetheless. This one I'm not so sure how I felt about it. I still enjoyed the book, but I didn't really like how the characters behaved. Cleo, who I had gotten to know so much better in the 2nd book, went back to being a super mean girl, and I really didn't like Melody at all in this book. She went from being this average girl next door to a selfish person who didn't really care what happened to anything else as long as she got what she wanted. I mean, sure, go live your dreams, but I didn't like how she treated everyone (including her boyfriend Jackson) to do that.

Still it was an interesting read, and I hope Lisi Harrison does more of them, because I'm certainly enjoying them more than I did the Clique books.

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### **Rosa says**

The RADS and Normies are now totally integrated at Merston High. The monsters looks are even becoming popular fashion statements. Frankie is obsessed with being normal and Cleo is not liking Frankie catching up to her in popularity. Melody has started singing with a local grunge band and made some new friends. Then Mr. D comes back and as usual he totally ignores Draculaura, so she enters a contest to try and get the school sponsored and get his attention that way. Then Mr. D (not knowing about Lala's contest) decides that the RADS need their own school. Now Lala has to win the contest or her and friends will have to leave their Normie friends behind.

It was fun and quick although there were definitely a few things that stuck out at me. Melody's problems work out b/c DJ makes an appearance. Is DJ also in a relationship with Melody? Is he similar enough to Jackson for it to work and are we really just completely ignoring her kiss with Granite?

I also felt like Clawd's treatment of Lala was kind of sucko and she didn't deal with it, although maybe that's going to be left for a future book?

There was one other thing but I don't remember it now, sigh.

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### **Manda says**

I have no idea why I keep reading these.

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### **Drucilla says**

[I know that she finds out she's a siren, but the changes could ha

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## Katja Berger says

Dette er det officielt sidste bind i historien om Monster High. Der er flere bøger, men de på en viderekørende serie, som også er den der ligger bund for tv-tegnefilmen af samme navn. Efter at have læst dette fjerde bind, undrer det mig at Lisi Harrison ikke bestemte sig for at lave fem. Det havde givet mere mening.

Tilbage og mere død end nogensinde er ligesom sine forgængere en sød historie for de lidt yngre. Jeg kan stadig godt lide forfatterens sprog, og de forskellige monstre er virkelig godt fundet på. De fungerer selvstændigt og har rødder i en monsterhistorie de fleste kender, hvilket er en sjov detalje, men de fungerer også i sammenhæng, og selvom de yngre læsere måske ikke vil se det, så synes jeg det er en fin ”detalje” at have opbygget et helt monstersamfund som fungerer på kryds og tværs af mennesker, men også af hinanden. Hvem siger at Dracula nødvendigvis vil bifalde en varulv? Men deres samfund og grupper er godt bygget op, og holder hele vejen igennem samtlige bind, uden at der pludselig er fejl i deres indbyrdes relationer eller man sidder og tænker ”hvem pokker er der?”.

Sproget fungerer godt. Det er ikke særlig nuanceret eller vanskeligt, men det er godt til målgruppen, og gør bogen enkel at læse, sjov, og hyggelig at sidde med.

På minussiden må jeg desværre denne gang trække bogen lidt ned i karakter, simpelthen fordi jeg synes det virkede som om forfatteren pludselig havde fået alt for travlt. Bogens titel og bagsider antyder at det er Lala der er hovedpersonen denne gang, mens hendes historie er meget sideløbende og fylder ikke særlig meget. Forholdet mellem hende og hendes far bliver aldrig rigtig belyst på hverken den gode eller den dårlige måde, og hendes historie med konkurrencen, virker mest som et middel der er brugt for at holde lidt styr på trådene. I stedet fylder Melody halvdelen af bogen, og hendes historie er nok den tyndeste kop te jeg endnu har oplevet. Den er fuldstændig ude i hampen, og fungerede slet ikke for mig. Og det ærgrede mig virkelig, for jeg kunne godt lide Melody, og hendes nye personlighed kunne være brugt så meget bedre, hvis den havde fået sin egen bog. Og så er vi tilbage ved det femte bind. Jeg havde helt klart foretrukket at forfatteren havde brugt lidt ekstra tid, og så havde delt denne bog op i to, så både Lala og Melody fik den plads og den historie som jeg synes de fortjener. I stedet har de fået en miskmask der er halvt af hvert, og ikke rigtig tager sig kærligt af nogen af dem.

Bogens slutning trækker dog lidt op i mit regnskab. Jeg kender tv-tegnefilmen allerede, og havde godt spekuleret over hvordan den hang direkte sammen med bøgerne, uddover personerne, men det fletter denne bog sammen, og det giver en pæn sløjfe som fungerer som en flot enkelt pakke, der kan stå alene under juletræet, men også som en pakke der kan være én ud af en hel pakkekalender. Det var godt lavet, og jeg kunne nu godt lide den søde slutning som Lisi Harrison trods alt giver sine personer. Det hæver dog ikke bogen op til mere end en middelkarakter. Dertil var den simpelthen for sløset skrevet, rent plotmæssigt.

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## Amanda says

### 1 star.

I love the Monster High series and I wish I could say I loved the series finale. But sadly I can't.

Back & Deader than Ever takes place about two months after the end of Where There's a Wolf, There's a Way and, seriously, I disliked it from the first three pages.

It starts off with Billy and Frankie in a clothing shop freely shopping for clothes (for Billy, if you can believe it), not hiding a single monster feature, and even getting complimented on it! Something is wrong with that! You get no information on how the RADs came out of hiding and how they were accepted by normies. I understand that this takes place two months later but surely there would still be some normies who are against the RAD's? But it seemed to me, that every normie in the shopping mall treated them like celebrities. Plus, the whole 'hiding from normies' underlying problem that surrounded the last three books? Poof. Avada Kedavra. Hasta la bye bye.

The main character of this book is Draculaura. Her dad is back and is trying to make a school exclusively for RAD's even after Draculaura and her friends did all that fighting to get them to be accepted in Merston. One of my biggest dislikes about her was, she had this strange idea that winning a competition for Merston might make her Dad change her mind. And the competition is run by shoe designers. Shoe designers. The RAD's biggest problem in Monster High was that Frankie exposed them at the dance. The RAD's biggest problem in The Ghoul Next Door was that they wanted to show that monsters weren't dangerous by creating a TV show. The RAD's biggest problem in Where There's a Wolf, There's a Way was that normies knew who they were and were coming after them. The RAD's biggest problem in Back and Deader than Ever is that they have to *win a school competition run by shoe designers*.

One of the reasons I love the other books in this series is that they have the perfect balance of shallow and deep. They have the teenage girl pop culture style that Lisi Harrison is famous for yet the characters have depth to them and there are problems that go way back in history.

I honestly think that this book would be right at home among Lisi's Clique books. But it just doesn't work in the MH world and it completely destroys what the other books were talking about.

Oh, another thing that bugged me. Melody Carver. One of my favourite characters is using her power to sneak into clubs, running off with a band, and blowing off her sweet caring boyfriend. Not to mention sneaking off with another boy. I can't stand it. You can barely tell it's the same girl from the other books. And the ending with DJ was confusing. I read it at least three times and I still don't understand it. (view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

Not happy with the end to this series. I felt it could have explained how the normies accepted them and the aftermath of Clawdeen's Sassy. Also, there should have been a book on Lagoona. Why is it that no one can finish a series well anymore? Alphas, Monster High, The Hunger Games, need I go on and mention the pointless epilogues of those three series?

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## **Marian says**

If I could rate this 2.5, I would.

On the one hand, I enjoyed a lot of things in this book. It's just the stuff I didn't like, I *really* didn't like.

The good:

More Blue! :D It makes me sad that she won't likely get her own book (since the MH books shifted authors and, I imagine, premises) but I'm glad she got to show up some more.

Candace, while only around briefly, was still awesome.

Ghoulia.

I enjoyed peeking into Lala's history with her father. Her Uncle Vlad is a prime example of a little going a long way, but the family dynamic is really interesting.

The meh:

Frankie's distrust of Spectra and Frankie's attitude in general. While it was heavily hinted that her apathy towards non-fashiony things was due to her previous political stances burning her so badly, her snarkiness towards her friends and classmates seemed really out of character for Frankie.

Cleo. We get it. She's not used to being ousted as the most popular girl and doesn't react well to it. That said, it would've been nice to have her not spend the entire book having regressed.

The bad:

Holy freakin' hell. Melody. I've been defending her from the crowd of people who don't like her since she's not in the other MH properties but as of this book? Yeah. I won't be able to any more.

I get that music is her calling but the way she treats Jackson is just appalling. She blows him off repeatedly, looks down on him when she thinks her new bandmates/friends will, doesn't take his feelings on anything into consideration for longer than "he won't like it. Well, tough!" annnnnnd then gets huffy when he tells her that if she still wants him around (after she's been acting like she doesn't) that she needs to prove it.

Guess who doesn't prove it? Guess who makes out with some new guy? Yeah. Which could've been an interesting triangle but wasn't really because Melody was just so obnoxious the whole time.

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It ends with Jackson turning himself into DJ (something he doesn't like to do and actively tries NOT to do) so that he can sort of tour along with Melody and her new band. Who are only touring because Melody used her Siren powers to get them the tour in the first place. Jackson gives himself up to follow her around and this is treated like a really good thing.

...I wanted to throw the book really hard at Lisi Harrison, so I suppose it's a damn good thing this portion of the MH series is through.

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### **Dorian de Jandreau says**

I think is my favorite book of this serie. The main thing why I liked it so much, because of Draculaura's and her father's relationship. It kind of reminded me of my own family... And the happy ending! Beautiful.

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### **Soobie's scared says**

I'm sooo **disappointed!!!**

The previous Monster High novels were a positive surprise. I had fun reading them, even if I'm probably 15-18 years older than their reading target. The first Monster High was good; the second one was OK because I really dislike Cleo's voice; the third one was really good; this one was probably the weakest one.

I guess that depends on the characters, Melody and Frankie at least. They are not monsters trying to fit in, which was the main point of the other novels, but just normal teenagers drowned in their teen dramas.

Frankie was this great girl trying to gain respect for her identity as a green and stitched living being. Now, she's just going shopping (and name-branding abounds here... :-( ) and tries to win a stupid popularity contest. I mean, Cleo is getting revenge on her because Frankie had "outfriended" her? Come on!!! Is this really the way teens are nowadays?! SIGH.

Melody, who got a nose job in order not to be an outcast anymore, finds out that she's adopted and that she's actually a mermaid, who can charm people with her voice. Her story was a bit predictable but it was narrated in a good way. Now she's trying to spread her wings and be herself again by singing in a grunge cover band but her relationship with Jackson is breaking and she has another beau crushing on her: (view spoiler).

Lala, who's supposed to be the lead character in the novel, is the one that actually can't shine because the other two girls outdo her. She's this shy vampire with a bad relationship with her father and she has to show him that she can be a leader. The plot could have been interesting but, in reality, it appeared a bit dull throughout the novel.

As usual Billy's my favorite character and it really annoys me that he goes out with Spectra who, in the novel, keeps bugging everyone with false and slanted pieces of news. I mean, the author just gives no reasons why she's always acting like that. What's the point of having a character who tells exaggerate tales that no one believes? She's not even funny.

Now, a little nitpicking by an European reader. I know that most of the books I read are written having in

mind the average American (teenager) reader, but sometimes you find some gratuitous stereotypes, that are untrue and old...

The first one, back in Monster High: Where There's a Wolf, There's a Way, Clawdeen announces that from now on she'll go unshaven like her relatives in Europe, thus implying that European women do no shave.

The second one was the French character in this book, the fashion designer. She's just crazy about leather and skin and everything and insists on skinning poor animals in order to make her shoes. And she keeps saying that she's used to that and that's very popular etc... Her presence did disturb me a little bit.

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### **Camille says**

[What ever happened to Melody and Jackson? I don't get it. Does Melody have a relationship with DJ already? And what about Granite? And then the issue with her mother. That's it? She gets to tea

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### **Rochel Fernando says**

I like this book beacuse this story and the movie or the cartoon is so famous and many of the young kids o teenagers like this book "Monster High Back and Deader Than Ever. The author is Lisi Harrison.

The story takes place some time after Clawdeen Wolf's Sassy Sixteen in the last book. And when i check the book in many people like it up and i asked someof my friends in good reads that do they like this book how far have they read the book. And my most of friends like it. Becacuse this book is so intersting , the book make you more active to read the book without getting bored. So that why i gave 5 stars to the book. I love the Monster High series and I wish I could say I loved the series finale. But sadly I can't , beacuse it so sad but fun. It starts off with Billy and Frankie in a clothing shop freely shopping for clothes (for Billy, if you can believe it)

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### **Michelle Tempted By Books says**

I was a little disappointed with the ending. It seemed to me that many key players didn't learn a lesson. I also thought it was pretty sad that in the end the parents still didn't really trust their kids. Though it was told in an upbeat fashion I still felt like the finale fell flat. I was happy with the end results for LaLa but overall it was a rather Blah ending to a pretty dynamic series.

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### **Jessie says**

Monster High Four, the final book by Lisi Harrison.

I was shocked to hear her say this was the last book, I remember reading there was going to be six. Indeed, I did some digging and searching and found some interesting facts. The Monster High series will continue with a spin-off, Monster High: Ghoulfriends Forever by Gitty Daneshvari out September, 5 2012. Coming to a total of eight books for now.

A lot of questions still remained at the end of MH4. Yes, a big transaction was made towards the end of the book. (Spoiler) A Monster High school was finally made, except it will include normies and monsters.

Book four had a crazy pointless story lines, Melody gets to you. Literally you want to shake the girl, and ask what's wrong with her. It is unclear if Jackson and Melody stay together. Hope the spin-off answers some questions, although from what I read three new monsters might be the new narratives of the books.

Another thing that gets to me, is the unsolved story line with Melody's mother. Are they like talking??? So confusing. Harrison ending was cute, in a way you can't deny, but unsatisfying.

Now all you can do is wait until September and see what happens. The only good thing about the new author is, that she is more into the horror genre, than Lisi was. The bad thing would be saving the series, as many fans haven't been loyal to it. I hope the new author does more mystery sort of like plots.

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### **Nicholas Kane says**

And that's it. This book ends the series that was apparently supposed to be six books in total. I noticed some other people mentioned that a different author picked this series up and extended it to eight books, but those books seem to have nothing to do with this series, and since I wanted answers about what happened with Melody, I guess there's no reason for me to even bother with the new series. Boo hiss, I hated this book and thought it was a terrible way to end the series. So many questions are left unanswered, the plot feels inorganic, and Melody is very unlikeable in this book. I don't know why Lisi decided to make her a whole different person, but the whole plot involving her in this book was terrible and made me dislike her even more. I actually liked Candace more than Melody in this book, and that's saying something. I enjoyed the parts with Lala and learning about her family a lot. Uncle Vlad is the best character to ever come out of this series and I want him as an uncle. I hated pretty much everything else, though. I'll dive right into my thoughts now that I got my initial impression out of the way.

(view spoiler)

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### **Miss Ryoko says**

Ugh... thank Ra it's finally all over. It took me two whole months to get through this book because I didn't care. I didn't care one bit about any of these characters or the T'Eau-Dally boring story line that was happening between these pages. These Monster High chapter books have been a huge disappointment. It's such a bummer.

I will, however, like I have with my other reviews, give Lisi Harrison credit where it is due - she is a good author and is able to write a teenage voice both well and relatable. It's just unfortunate that each of the stories were boring and the characters were all obnoxious... save for Candace. She was the only one I liked.

Guess I'll stick to the dolls and animated films.

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