



Winterborne

Augusta Blythe

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"Even if I tried I wouldn't be able to find a single thing I didn't like. All in all a book that goes straight to my favorites shelf and one I can't wait to read its sequel!" - Anna, Books That Brighten Your Mood

"I give this book five stars, and I highly recommend it to anyone who likes YA fantasy. I can't wait to see what happens next!" - Allison, La Petite Fille Rousse

"I absolutely loved Winterborne, it's a fantastic YA adventure with tonnes of action, paranormal creatures galore, hilarious dialogue and intriguing family secrets." - Lesley, My Keeper Shelf

Mia Winterborne knows she is destined to be special. Her upcoming seventeenth birthday promises more than just a driver's license. Is she a witch? The next Supergirl? Details are sketchy as her dad disappeared with all the answers when she was five. By Mia's side is Loie Bryce, her best friend and eternal sidekick extraordinaire. The girls' intense friendship has never wavered until now, when Andreas arrives in Salcey Ridge. They both fall hard for the British hottie, who quickly becomes a fixture in their lives. When they discover that Andreas is not who he appears to be, the frightening reality of Mia's abilities finally hits home. The nearer Mia's birthday draws, the more the danger escalates and long-buried lies are exposed, putting the girls on a path that they never expected.

Winterborne Details

Date : Published (first published April 24th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Augusta Blythe

Format : Kindle Edition 301 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Fiction, Supernatural

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From Reader Review Winterborne for online ebook

merireads says

3.5/5 stars.

I enjoyed this way more than I expected! Moving on to book 2 right away!!!!!!

YA Reads Book Reviews says

Originally posted on www.yareads.com

Loie's parents died years ago in a freak accident, leaving Loie to the care of an emotionally abusive grandmother. Naturally, Loie turns to the best friend she considers family: Mia Winterborne. Loie spends just as much time at Mia's house as her own, where she even has her own room and a stand-in mother figure. Loie and Mia are as close as sisters and Loie's content to trail around in Mia's shadow, even when it comes to Andreas, the first boy to capture both their hearts. But Andreas inadvertently drives a wedge between the girls just when they need each other most.

Winterborne plunges you into this unique new universe from the very first page as the Loie and Mia discuss Mia's impending supernatural powers. But after the first chapter, the beginning feels rather slow. The lazy summer seems to last too long as it drags on through numerous chapters. But while not much seems to be happening plot-wise, we definitely see a lot of characterization and Augusta Blythe provides tons of grounding details that really make this world feel real.

As soon as the action picks up, Winterborne really hits its stride. This world is dark, terrifying, and completely fresh. The bad guys in this story are actual bad guys; claws, fangs, and murderous desires hide behind handsome exteriors. Blythe's villains are creepy enough to make your skin crawl. And as if helping to protect her best friend from otherworldly kidnappers isn't enough, Loie also has to deal with a grandmother she oscillates between hating and sympathizing with, solving the mystery of her parents' deaths, and falling in love with a boy she knows she can't have.

Poor Loie doesn't realize she's entitled to just as much happiness as Mia. My main issue with Loie is her self-deprecation. She thinks she's not as pretty or special as Mia and that therefore she doesn't deserve as much as Mia. Even though Loie's situation is nowhere near perfect, she still puts Mia before herself. And at times, Mia doesn't seem to consider Loie's feelings or appreciate the sacrifices Loie makes for her. The ending redeems both characters in my eyes. They both undergo extraordinary changes and grow into better characters. Loie finds her own inner strength and Mia learns a little humility. In my opinion, there's nothing more gratifying than an ending where the main characters truly grow and change for the better. Add to that all the realistic world-building and paranormal twists, and this series has definitely caught my interest.

I will say that the twist at the ending is a bit predictable and for some reason, Andreas doesn't really intrigue me as a love interest so far. He's definitely a likable character and his developing friendship with Loie is rather heart-warming. But his relationship with Mia seems off to me; I don't really understand why either girl is in love with him, other than the fact that he's hot and British. These qualities can definitely inspire a crush, but love? I'm not so sure. I'm interested in seeing how these relationships develop in the future, though. And the ending leaves off on a major cliffhanger, so I can't wait to start in on the sequel.

Lisa says

Originally posted on Read Me Bookmark Me Love Me.

I enjoyed this novel just as much as I expected to. Loie (rather than Mia like I had thought) is the narrator and *Winterborne* follows the girls as they try to make sense of recent mysterious occurrences and win the heart of Mia's new neighbour, Andreas. Strange things are happening and not everything is as it seems. Can Loie continue living in Mia's shadow or will she find that she's more special than she thinks? *Winterborne* throws us into a world filled with odd creatures that we don't often see in paranormal books - dryads, pixies, leprechauns, harpies and more! The novel moves at a great pace, not too quickly but not ever boring. I found the plot to be exciting and it kept me guessing. Since this is a whole new world, all bets are off!

Loie's a character that I liked and sympathised with very much. For one, she's brave and intuitive. It's a shame that her best friend Mia is the golden girl who always takes the spotlight. Being a good friend, Loie easily accepts that Andreas will pick Mia over her without a second thought. It frustrated me to no end that Mia thought the same and not once considered Loie's feelings. Mia isn't a cruel person at all but I wonder how someone can be so selfish and inconsiderate. Andreas is good-looking, kind, caring and very British. I fell in love with him the moment he vaulted over Mia's fence in search for his soccer ball! He seems to lead Loie on a little but since he's just that great, I didn't get mad at all. Throughout the novel, there are moments between the two that will tug on your heartstrings and make you wish you had the power of mind control. If only! All of the characters in this novel keep some sort of a secret and it's fun discovering them all along with the characters.

I enjoyed *Winterborne* immensely and can't wait for more! There's so much waiting to happen in the sequel - Loie's relationship status, her embarking on epic adventures and dealing with everything else in her life! Who's excited?

Amelia says

Oh what a conundrum my dears!

On the one hand, I have the impression that Augusta Blythe is a skilful writer. Her style is simple, but fluent, modern and mildly amusing and well suited for her market. Also, I like Georgia as a role model. On the other hand, lots of things about *Winterborne* pissed me off.

- The stereotyping of gay men (apparently their sexuality is discernible from their dance moves.) This is minimal but still aggravating.
- The stereotyping of British people (I am British but I'd like to think that stereotyping of any nationality would bug me.)
- The Captain Obvious plot. The subtle hints are jumping up and down shouting "look at me!" Did anyone NOT guess the plot twist?
- A death of a family member who is barely mentioned beyond a page or two afterwards. Virtually no grief.
- But most importantly, I hated that two lifelong best friends would have a huge falling out and stop talking to each other over the attentions of some teenage boy that they had known for a month or two. This is

pathetic; the kind of behaviour that drives me insane in fiction and in real life. A girl named Grace who I once volunteered with told me tearfully that she'd been eating her lunch in her car because her so-called friends had rejected her after a boy one of them liked had said he liked Grace instead. I mean, seriously! She didn't even do anything! And all Loie did here was kiss the guy. He and Mia hadn't announced they were together. There was no chemistry between them. And then a lifetime of being BFFs is suddenly meaningless to them?! For fuck's sake.

Overall *Winterborne* is probably a three star but I'm downgrading it to two stars because Blythe could do with learning a little more sensitivity.

Bridget says

I'm too old to be reading books like this. But I mean that as a commentary on the book, not on my age. The best YA books are worthy of an adult's attention. This one, not so much. Amazon always gets me with these "99 cents today only" books. I've bought a few and they've all been mediocre to middling at best...

...except for *Angelfall*, which was AWESOME.

Lorna says

If someone had told me a few years ago that I would be reading and enjoying YA books, I would have probably laughed. Not so now. There are so many good ones to pick from nowadays, and my latest is this one, *Winterborne*, first published in 2011. I received it from Net Galley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Loie is a teenage girl, growing up in a small town with Mia, as her best friend. She lives in a small apartment with her chain smoking, bitter grandmother. Mia is as beautiful as Loie is smart. She's also popular with the boys, perfect, rich, and Loie is the planet, to the sun that is Mia. And she loves Loie dearly. When Andreas, a gorgeous new boy in town, befriends them both, the girls, for the first time, compete for the same boy. In the midst of this, the girls are planning their seventeenth birthday party-both having been born on the same day. The two girls are also celebrating that Mia will be coming into her "powers" due to a story told to her by her mom. Since her powers are inherited from her missing father, she has no idea what they could be, and to make it even more interesting, her mother doesn't believe one word of it. What they also don't know, is that there are lots of different evil creatures that are never going to let Mia reach her seventeenth year, or die trying.

It was interesting that the main character is the best friend, instead of the beautiful gifted girl, and that was unexpected, and I thought pretty unique. As the girl that always gets the short end of the stick in life, Loie is pretty much content with her lot in life as Mia's friend. She knows her own life has been stifled in favor of Mia's, but because of her own horrible home life, her life with Mia, and Mia's mom, Georgia, is the best thing she has in her life. That is until Andreas turns both of their lives upside down. He's everything both girls have ever wanted, and he is also not what he seems at all.

When creatures start escaping from their secret world, into this small town, and attempt to hurt Mia, the story really ramps up. This author's rich world building features evil pixies, terrifying garden gnome like,

leprechauns, huge, frightening devil dogs, and more. We learn who the good guys are and about where they live, and so much more, in this story. A big question is, who is Andreas really, and is he part of the bad creatures world? Also, what really happened the night Loie's parents died, and Mia's father went missing? So yes, in addition to being a paranormal story, it's also a romance, and a mystery.

I loved all the characters, that is except for the evil creatures, of course. I enjoyed the premise, the use of Loie as the main character, and the twists and turns the story took. There are some surprises to be had here, even if the reader does gradually figure some things out.

It's very telling that as soon as I finished this book, I immediately started (and finished) the second book, titled, *Ravenstoke*. That's how much I enjoyed this read. I highly recommend this to young adults from about age 14 plus, through adult.

By the way, I never thought that I would ever read a book with evil leprechauns, but it totally worked—even though I did have a moment of levity, when they first entered the story. (RabidReads.com)

Laurie says

Born during a fierce snowstorm on the same day in the same hospital, Loie and Mia have been friends their entire lives. Their seventeenth birthday approaches – a day both anticipated and dreaded. For on that day the full extent of Mia's extraordinary powers will manifest.

When sexy, suave, Andreas moves in next door, late in summer before school starts, Mia and Loie become smitten. A perfect gentleman, Andreas enjoys the company of both girls. All three bond closer when they discover that each of them has suffered a tragic loss in their young lives.

Loie has always felt as if her life rotates around Mia. Mia is beautiful, with a flawless complexion and toned body while Loie is still flat-figured and angular. Still, they are best friends and Loie is always eager to help Mia practice her skills and both always stand up for each other and are truly loyal and caring. As their birthday nears, strange, mythical creatures begin stealthy attacks and Andreas reveals himself as something other than a normal human.

Polished and well-edited, this book was a thoroughly engrossing page-turner for me. It is fast-paced, with witty, often humorous dialogue. The truth, which in the beginning is hidden within a murky sort of haze of conjecture, gossip, and ill-will, is unveiled in bits and pieces. The tangled knots slowly unraveling in a suspenseful way that always kept my interest piqued and my eyes glued to the kindle screen. The relationship between the characters was captured within the prose beautifully and honestly. At times, I was moved almost to tears, and other times I laughed out loud. I have to admit, though, the cliffhanger ending was a disappointment. I just hope that the next installment will be available sooner rather than later.

Laurie
Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Belinda says

4,25 stars - English ebook -

-The rooks ar back in the sky, preapiring for another attack. They are calling now.-

Two best friends. One birthday that changes everything. Mia Winterborne knows she is special. She only does not know how special.

Loie Bryse is her best friend until they both fall for the same Guy. But who is he? And what of ancient and univarsals?

I did love this read. It was easy going. Did read it on three days near to the river on the beautiful spring days we had lately.

Like to read the other two books in this series, ravenstroke and the yawning void.

- exaxtly what kind of super power attract wildlife?- ???

Joanna Hennon says

Wow, an amazing debut. I loved the characters - both Mia and Loie - and loved the way their friendship worked. The storyline didn't fall into any of the teen BFFs traps. The fantasy side was interesting and well-developed. All in all a wonderful read, I can't wait for the next installment in this series!

Devon Ashley says

Winterborne was unique in that for once we get to witness the action through the eyes of the supernatural's side-kick. Mia has always known that when she turned sixteen, she was going to inherit some pretty wicked supernatural powers. Her dad was a Universal, a human with extraordinary powers that helped keep the Ancients (pixies, leprechauns, hellhounds, etc) in line. As Mia nears her birthday, she and her side-kick Loie are practicing like mad during summer to see if her powers are leaking through yet. But the only thing really going on are all these weird occurrences happening around them, like a bunch of foreign birds trying to divebomb them and icky green slime around their home. I say 'their' home cbeause even though their just besties, Loie has a room of her own at the Winterborne manor. Hey, if your parents died when you were five and all you were left with was a drunk, angry grandmother that didn't care if you came home, you'd stay away too. Lucky for Loie, Mrs. Winterborne was really great friends with her mom and considered Loie her second daughter.

Anyways, summer's dragging on so enter the hottie from Britain that just moved to town. Turns out he's a Universal too, sent to watch over Mia. Ancients have apparently been trying and failing to attack Mia for awhile and now that she's close to ascension, they're desperate to kill her off. They're even willing to go after human Loie, so she gets protection by association.

I wasn't particularly fond of Mia through most of the novel. It's not that she's cruel or uncaring, but she's quite selfish, always focusing on herself. She even got upset with Loie for kissing Andreas, whom they both liked, as if Loie didn't deserve a chance to be the center of his affections. And it doesn't help that Loie keeps Her Heiness on the throne by always doing what she wants and feeding her rapid-growing egotism. But luckily Mia gets smothered with a hefty dose of humility so I ended this novel with a smile on my face and a sense of justice for side-kicks everywhere!

Winterborne had plenty of action, mystery. and paranormal characters popping in to ruin their special moments. Some things were predictable but you probably won't hit it exactly on the mark like you think you will. I'm not ashamed to admit that I started the sequel Ravenstoke the moment I finished this novel because I really want to see where this is going. Now that the powers have ascended, I'm really anxious to see how Mia and Loie take to this new world and deal with the constant threat of Ancients hunting them down...and if we get to see what Sanctuary looks like where a lot of the Universals hide out at.

Jasmine Martinez says

Well girls switch at birth mothers don't know, father planned the future for his daughter and that one girl who thinks who has magic doesn't but the other girl.

This book was awesome. I brought book two so fast that it's how much it was good. It's so mystery.

Greta is Erikasbuddy says

Oh woe is me!!

That's pretty much the pov that this story was told.

A girl who's besty is going to get some super duper powers on her 17th birthday (I'm thinking something like Superman with the x-ray vision and flying or maybe Aquaman, even), and her parents are dead, and she lives with her drunk as a skunk smokey grandma who doesn't love her, but her bestie's mom super loves her and UGGGGS!!!! It just drove me mad!!

I'm not saying this is a bad story... but kids... I was expecting something different.

LIKE SUPER HEROS!!

I was expecting a cape or light vision or you know... a utility belt!!

What I got was something like "THE IRON KING". You know.. the kind of creatures from "A Midsummer's Night Dream" (or so I hear)

I don't know kids... this just didn't sit with me.

You have Loie who tells the story and is so emo that I want to slap her. Then you have Mia who fills out her bikini nicely and is going to get the super powers. THen there is British Hot to Trot boy, Andres who has a heaving 17 year old lickable chest and wants to hang out with two girls. Mia lives at a McMansion and Loie lives in a run down roach apartment with her grandma who tells her to cook her own tv dinner. ARG!! Again... where are the super heros?

So, for like 38% of the book I'm pretty bored. I don't want to be, and I understand that the story needs to be set up... but kids, I'm about ready to go to sleep. THen at 38% some action starts happening.

Word to the wise... tough it out... It is going to get better.

But if you're expecting super hero action then you're baking up the wrong book. I must admit that I was very disappointed in that. I thought we were going to go to Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. But no... that totally didn't happen. And if you are expecting radioactive spiders or green lanterns or even aliens.... that's not going to happen either. In my opinion this is more of your run of the mill paranormal book that takes place between two besties and a hot boy. Not really my cup of Batman tea.

I think that maybe younger girls would like this better than me. I'm curious how a 12 year old would rate it.

Perhaps, I'm a bit too picky, but I really was expecting something super about this story and not just supernatural. I think when the description said "SUPER POWERS" I took that as "SUPER HERO" and not "SUPER HUMAN". But, we all know I have a one-track mind when it comes to SUPER :)

What I liked about the story was that the plot and characters were very imaginative. I did believe that it was told by a teenage girl and not an adult, and I also enjoyed the relationship between the two girls.

What I didn't like about the story was how emo the main character, Loie, was, how HARD her life was, and really that she told the story. I would have rather heard this tale from Mia.

I'm recommending this to younger girls.

Dua says

It is an ok book. It could have had a better twist if it hadn't given so much away. It is a fantasy book and contains mythical creatures. There isn't really much to it except a cat, a boy, and two best friends, and the dad.

Anna says

Review originally posted at <http://bookstobrightenyourmood.blogspot.com>...

Before saying anything else about Winterborne I really want first to thank the author, Augusta Blythe, for approaching me and for giving me the chance to read her book.

That being said I can now proceed and express my amazement with Winterborne! It's a book I didn't just like, I devoured it! Once I started reading it I just couldn't possibly put it down!

Where should I start? From the incredible and unique story building? From the amazing Augusta Blythe's writing style or the set of characters she created that had just depth and development? In overall, Augusta Blythe delivers a YA story so good that the reader can't help but feel mesmerized until the very last pages. At first, I was a bit surprised that the narrator was Loie Bryce rather than Mia Winterborne. Having read the premise I just assumed that Mia would be the narrator, but Blythe surprised me and in a very pleasant way. Cause Loie is just perfect a character!

I loved the way Blythe portrayed her protagonist and the way she sketched her feelings. It was fascinating to watch in real time how Loie felt towards certain situations and how different things started to change her view of the world and the people surrounding her bit by bit each time.

She starts as being the third wheel - as she refers to her own self - to rise above all her problems and drawbacks to a memorable character. At this point, I have to admit that I didn't like Mia nearly as much as Loie... She had certain qualities in her character and there were some things I admired about her but she was rather self centered for my taste... And the way she treated Loie at times just struck a rather sensitive spot in me. I didn't like the way she treated her, like everything was evolving around her and Loie was good only to frame her awesomeness. But as I said, she had certain qualities that redeemed her more or less by the ending.

As for the hottie of the story Andreas, let's just say that he is a well justified reason for both Loie and Mia to fight for his attentions! Don't take me wrong, I value friendship more than anything in the world, I just say that I could totally relate to both of them for falling for him! And to be honest, only the British accent would do the trick for me! Apart from that, Andreas is as a well developed character as everyone in this book, and by the end of the story I was both frustrated with him and at the same time I could appreciate him more by his actions. I know I don't sound really coherent right now, but I can't say anything more, to avoid giving away much of the story.

Winterborne is trully a book I totally recommend. It's action packed, fast paced and so well written that time flies by while reading it. The world Augusta Blythe created is unique, dark and creepy but gorgeous nonetheless. Even if I tried I wouldn't be able to find a single thing I didn't like. All in all a book that goes straight to my favorites shelf and one I can't wait to read its sequel!

Stacy says

WINTERBORNE made my quick thought review segment because I enjoyed it so much that I immediately jumped on Amazon and bought book 2 and 3 to continue the story and now they are all in my head which makes it hard to just review book 1.

So, why did I love WINTERBORNE.. The connection between Mia and Loie. They come from different worlds, but grew up together and have a sisterly connection you can't help but be jealous of. There is a lot of different paranormal creatures introduced and you are left wondering what could come next. There's a hot and mysterious boy next door. There is plenty of action and secrets. Finally you can't help but want to go out and buy the rest of the series so you don't have to stop reading.

* This book was provided free of charge from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.
