



## The Monster Museum

*J.L. Bryan*

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## **The Monster Museum** J.L. Bryan

Just outside the small but colorful mountain resort town of Foxboro, Tennessee lies Dr. Weirdman's Mountain Museum of Monsters, Curiosities, and Ancient Mysteries. Once a major tourist attraction, it offers travelers the amusement of touring unusual underground caves and pseudo-scientific exhibits ranging from strange creatures to the supposed artifacts of lost civilizations.

Now the museum is a crumbling relic of an older age, fallen into disrepair. Its longtime owner has died, leaving it in the hands of a younger distant relative who knows nothing of how to run a failing tourist trap of a museum, but who is desperate to make a living and provide for his own children.

The museum has a serious ghost problem, though, and Ellie Jordan is called in from Savannah to help. An unexpected old friend joins Ellie at the last moment so that they can spend a snow-filled Christmas together in the mountains...if the ghosts of the restless dead don't turn the holidays into a horrific tragedy.

## **The Monster Museum Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : J.L. Bryan

Format :

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Mystery, Paranormal

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# From Reader Review The Monster Museum for online ebook

**Maryann Sellers says**

## **Excitement all around**

Absolutely loved this book. Kept me on the edge of my seat. Couldn't put the book down. Can't wait for the book to come out. A must read.

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**Shirley says**

*4.5 - 5 stars...*

Have you ever read a book and had the urge to jump in and warn the characters because you figured something out before they did? A life or death something? Something that they really, really needed to know? Yeah, that's pretty much how I felt at least halfway through The Monster Museum and there was absolutely nothing I could do about it. That realization was almost as terrifying as the monsters Ellie was attempting to protect her clients against. \*sigh\*

Running head long into danger is nothing new to Ellie Jordan. She pretty much does it all the time, but this time was different. This time she had no back-up. At least no back-up that she felt comfortable taking advantage of. That "old friend" that is hinted at in the description is Michael. And before you get upset about me "spoiling" anything, it's revealed in the first chapter. Those of you who have followed the series know that Michael and Ellie aren't exactly on the best of terms, at least they haven't been. I know that when things were good between them, he was good for Ellie. I'm still not sure how I feel about him though. He was pretty hard on Ellie, but there's also no one who's harder on her than Ellie herself.

There was a lot going on even beyond the ghost trapping in The Monster Museum. We get a lot of Ellie's personal feelings in this story that readers don't normally get. Ellie would be the first to tell anyone that she doesn't do relationships. Her job is too dangerous and it's not the kind of thing she can leave at the office. Her emotions are jumbled and she doesn't even trust them most of the time. She spends a lot of time in this story doing some self analysis and readers got to see a whole different side to her.

Heart stopping danger and an atmosphere that was more than a little spooky kept the pages turning and then... well, you'll just have to read The Monster Museum to find out. This series is not for the faint of heart, so consider yourself warned. And even though you can't really call the ending of The Monster Museum a cliff hanger, the danger is far from over and there's a lot more in store for Ellie and company. Although I liked the one on one time spent with her, I'm hoping that the rest of the cast of characters returns for the next installment. FYI, if you haven't started this series yet, the first book, Ellie Jordan, Ghost Trapper is currently FREE at Amazon. ?

*I received The Monster Museum in exchange for a fair and honest review.*

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### **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

Sometimes after ten books a series can go stale, get old, and become unoriginal. I'm happy to say that isn't the case with the Ellie Jordan series.

After ten books, if anything, it is even more original, creepy and exciting. Truly this has quickly become one of my all time favorites that I look forward to and eagerly await each new release because I always know I will get something unique, fun, and most importantly, something that keeps me on the edge of my seat and constantly looking around me to make sure nothing is lurking in the shadows.

Full of not only all the things that go bump in the night but cases and characters that are every bit as intriguing and interesting.

I love the direction this series turned. Without going into too much detail it had more of certain characters I was really hoping we would see again and even more so, the ghosts!

I loved the intense mystery not only about the museum and ghosts that were haunting it but Ellie's own ghosts, both mentally and physically. We get more background, more info on them all and I just soaked it up.

I love too, weirdly enough, that this one ended on a cliffhanger of sorts because, I really am excited about where the story is going to go from here and can't wait for the next book. I know it's going to be even more intense, scary and personal. Personal for Ellie and all the characters as they battle one of the worst ghosts they have ever come across. I just can't wait!

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### **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

Review to come

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### **Meghan says**

**Amazing!**

I absolutely loved this book! Full of many twists and turns ! I can't wait to read the next one!

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### **Kelly says**

Not my favourite but still a really good chapter of Ellie Jordan. Loved the cliffhanger and can't wait for the next book.

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### **Sophie Duncan says**

I have been known to rave about Ellie Jordan novels, frankly I love them, and I had this one on pre-order. Unfortunately, I found this one disappointing and frustrating, let me tell you why.

I love Ellie Jordan novels because they are exciting and mysterious spook hunts with a side of personal tension for the main characters, each adventure has a beginning and an end, and then there may or may not be a background arc that continues into the next book or two. Well, in this one, I was left with an impression that it's more personal angst for Ellie with a tiny side of ghosts.

Each story focuses on a haunted location, with Ellie and friends solving the mystery of who the ghost is and how to get rid of them and the important bit - they solve the problem, that's the satisfying ending. Well, in this book, that gets lost in two things:

- Ellie obsessing about her attraction to two men - now Ellie has a tendency to brood about relationships, but this goes way beyond that and just gets frustrating, it doesn't really have a point, or take the plot anywhere and doesn't get handled realistically at the end
- so that brings me to the second thing, the end, which is swamped by a huge drama mostly unrelated to the haunted location that diminishes the build up and mystery to a point where I thought it was all rather pathetically handled, undervaluing the trauma and drama of the haunted location and its inhabitants .

This felt like a good story (The Monster Museum piece) sacrificed to the 'background' arc, which took control (not very originally IMO - spotted it from the moment it was hinted at and just hoped throughout the book we weren't going in that repetitive direction, but we did) and left a cliffhanger that really got me annoyed (I don't like cliffhangers at the best of times, but when it undermines any satisfaction in the solution to the mystery at the heart of the title of the book, I get stompy).

Please, please, please, make the next book better, I don't want to stop reading what is one of my favourite series ever.

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## **Ozsaur says**

Ten books in, and I still love this series! The ghost mystery was intriguing, and the setting was both creepy, and fascinating. I've been to roadside attractions like the one in the book, so it was fun to get a peek behind the scenery. Well, the scenery was wonderfully creepy, too!

One of the strengths of this series is that each book focuses on a limited set of recurring characters. Too many writers try to cram in every favorite character into every book, and those books always feel overcrowded, and often confusing. By limiting characters, each one can get more focused development.

Stacey was featured in the last book, and another set of characters in this book. I don't want to spoil it, but I was happy to see them. I loved the relationships in this book, and the way Ellie tried to work through her issues, and open herself up to others.

It's hard for me to convey how much I really love the way Ellie grows in each book. I thoroughly enjoy each mystery, love the people/families being haunted, love the continuing plotline involving Anton Clay, and all around enjoy the writing style.

As usual, my only complaint is the lack of development when it comes to the weapons and traps Ellie uses each book. Shouldn't she be doing some kind of research into better ways to handle ghosts by now? Very

frustrating!

I love this series! As long as J.L Bryan wants to write this series, I'll keep reading it!

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### **Tania says**

Brilliant - as always. Love these characters! Something new and exciting in every book. Counting down the days until #11 is out!

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### **Amanda says**

I really enjoyed this book and I overall enjoy reading this series. The fact that this series is pg-rated is a bonus. I never expected to fall so hard for a paranormal genre series.

The one qualm I have was the predictability of the book. I felt that it was obvious from the beginning what Ellie was going to face. I feel that in certain books Ellie is portrayed as strong, observant, intelligent and professional, however, in this one she was the stark opposite. I do understand that every character has their own issues to contend with, but this book portrayed Ellie as oblivious to her surroundings.

Other than that, the background story of the entity was surprising, entertaining and unpredictable. Additionally, the return of my favorite character kept me hooked.

I can't wait for the next installment.

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### **Jo Anna Part says**

#### **Love ?**

I am absolutely in love with this series, I can't wait for more! Ellie deserves happiness, I liked Ryan and his children , hope to see more of them in the next book!

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### **Kelly says**

Ellie's life is certainly a bumpy ride. I mean, the issues with her job get ironed out, but her boyfriend is possessed and ends up breaking up with her (understandable, really. I mean, the guy went through A LOT during that time.). She's alone and sort of resigned to that and then AND THEN (please read that dramatically, because I said it REALLY dramatically in my head when I wrote it) Michael comes to terms with his possession and now he's looking to see if there's still a place for him in Ellie's life.

Which I'm cool with, in case you're wondering. Ellie needs people and Michael was good for her. The unfortunate possession was sucktastic and I get that he needed time to work things out in his head. Michael's

a pretty stand up guy and I hope things stick between him and Ellie.

On the ghost hunting front, this one was a sort of problematic job. Not because of the ghosts necessarily, but because Ellie's guilt and sense of obligation led her to do things on her own she probably shouldn't have done. Plus, there's a little something going on in the background that affects things in a BIG way.

But that's a story for another book.

Ellie takes chances here. With her usual cohorts spending time away for the holidays, Ellie feels very alone. She might have a certain someone close by, but she's determined to do everything she can to protect those she cares about from the ghosties who haunt her and that puts her in a vulnerable position.

For a ghost trapper, that's not a great place to be.

THINGS are happening here. BIG THINGS. I'm dying (figuratively) to see what happens next.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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### **Shantana Powell says**

Not my favorite in the series, I felt like Ellie missed some pretty obvious things that I know most of us picked up from the get go

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### **cola\_bear says**

**4.5 Stars**

### **LIGHT SPOILERS!!!**

The Good: Ellie's voice was a lot stronger in this book than in the last two, and she shows growth again. While I enjoyed books eight and nine, I felt they were lacking in both voice and character growth. I expect that in a long-running series. The Monster Museum takes Ellie from Savannah to Tennessee. With her are Michael and Melissa, and I was quite surprised by that! Her relationship with Michael ended on a rather bad note, considering he'd been possessed and in a coma after the events in Maze of Souls and when he woke from that coma he was not...nice to Ellie, so I was shocked that he contacted her. While I did like them as a couple, and have hopes for their future, I will say that her connection to the client was interesting and I thought it gave her a peek into what she may want in the future.

Her relationship with Melissa went cold as ice after Michael landed in the hospital, not that I can blame her. The author did a wonderful job with Melissa in this book and I'm looking forward to seeing her in future books.

Anton Clay comes back into the picture in this book in a big way, and I do hope that the next book focuses

on him and ends that part of Ellie's story. He has been a large part of who Ellie is and I feel that it's time that he is put to rest (literally).

The book was creepy, and the mystery was well paced. I didn't expect parts of the outcome. I did guess some bits about Melissa, but the ending was definitely a cliffhanger in some regards and that's okay with me (though, I do have one pet-peeve which I will talk about below).

We are short several cast members, as it's the holidays, but Ellie does talk briefly with Stacey. She was only supposed to set up equipment and do some research while waiting for Stacey and Jacob to join her. But...that's doesn't go as planned. I am looking forward to seeing them back on the page.

The Not-So-Good: I don't mind cliffhangers if done well, and while this one was done well, I hope that this leads to a good payoff in the book. Anton has been in the series a long time and if he's starting to feel like a prop almost, and that could harm the series as whole (for me) if that storyline is dragged out.

Overall: I really enjoyed this entry into the series, and felt that everything from Ellie's relationships to Anton Clay are finally moving forward. The creepy factor was notched up and I loved it!

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## Liliana says

Reviewed on Lili Lost in a Book

Ellie Jordan's latest case takes her to Foxboro, Tennessee where there is a museum called **Dr. Weirdman's Mountain Museum of Monsters, Curiosities, and Ancient Mysteries** that is apparently haunted, for real. It's almost Christmas but Ellie decides to take the case because there's children involved and she's worried about their safety. That's the kind of amazing person she is.

Anyway, she is joined on this trip by two old friends and it was very interesting. And I'm glad it happened, otherwise Ellie would've spent Christmas alone. Calvin, her kind-of father figure and former boss, retired and moved away. Stacey and Jacob are away on holiday visiting his family. And she's still broken up with Michael.

Ellie: "I'm kind of a hazard to the people around me."

Calvin: "That sounds like an excuse for being alone the rest of your life."

It's sad because it's true. She's such a good person, but her job is very dangerous. And in this book she was very funny and I loved it, but I also understood that it was a sort of coping mechanism, and it just hurts my heart.

(view spoiler)

They were kissing (well, he plants *one* kiss on her) and flirting like nothing happened, and this did bother me a little which is odd because this exactly what I want! I want them to get back together! I love Michael—he's very sweet and I was so heartbroken when he broke up with Ellie. But talking needs to happen. They can't possibly be back together just like that. I do understand there was a lot going on in this book with Ellie's job, so I hope the conversation happens in the next book. You know, about what happened between them and about the future of their relationship. This trip and their flirting threw me off. It was so abrupt! In all this, Ellie herself is quite confused about things as well. (So confused she starts crushing on the client, a single dad with three kids. I get it. I liked him too. But I was worried this would turn into a full blown love triangle. It didn't, so yay. Lol.) But she's unsure whether she and Michael were even good together, which I think they were!

"I'm a threat to you. Both of you. We're opposites, Michael. You protect life. I spend all my time surrounded by death."

They just need to sit and talk about things and work through their issues. I really do want them to get back together!

(hide spoiler)]

Amidst all this, Ellie is also still worrying about Anton, as she should cause he's super dangerous. But lately he's been oddly quiet.

(view spoiler)

So the client has twin girls who share this really uncanny connection, and apparently Ellie has twin cousins who are like this too. Well, I have twin brothers and they are nothing like this. They're lame. Lol. This is random, I know, but I just find twins fascinating especially when they have a creepy connection like this! (My brothers aren't very fascinating. Lol.)

Anyway, I very much enjoyed this book! I liked the new setting with the weird museum, and the ghosts were very interesting too. Especially the main lizard guy. We get this ghostly flashback and it was awful! I mean, It was great, but the situation was awful! It was very interesting to see where this ghost came from. There was also a little bit of Egyptian mythology going on, and you know how much I love mythology! The writing was great too—I loved all the creepy imagery! I did miss Stacey and Jacob though. This was a solo job for Ellie even though they told her to wait. But it definitely qualified as an emergency when kids are involved. I just love Ellie.

This book ends in a bit of a cliffhanger, but the case in this book does get wrapped up, so I really liked that. I cannot wait for the next book! This is one of my favorite series and I cannot recommend it enough!

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