



Monster Blood

R.L. Stine

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Soon after he purchases a dusty can of monster blood at the funky old toy store near his great-aunt Kathryn's house, Evan begins to notice some strange things happening to the people around him.

While staying with his weird great-aunt Kathryn, Evan visits a funky old store and buys a dusty can of monster blood. It's fun to play with at first, and Evan's dog, Trigger, likes it so much, he eats some!

But then Evan notices something weird about the green, slimy stuff. It seems to be growing.

And growing.

And growing.

And all that growing has given the monster blood a monstrous appetite...

Spanish title: Escalofrios: Sangre de monstruo

Monster Blood Details

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Author : R.L. Stine

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From Reader Review Monster Blood for online ebook

Dragomir Mirela says

So sad these stories are so small...

George Jankovic says

The Monster Blood title sounded great so I decided to read it as my second Goosebumps book. A tween boy has to spend a couple of weeks with an ultra-strange, deaf grand-aunt.

This book was better than Welcome to Dead House. Things moved faster, there was a good new friend, two bullies and an interesting grand-aunt. And there was some monster blood, of course. Scary but not too scary.

4 stars. Enjoy!

Alex findingmontauk1 says

Monster Blood is the third installment in R.L. Stine's coveted Goosebumps series. While it is the first one (chronologically) that I did not absolutely love, I still enjoyed it and do know that there will be sequels involving this dangerous monster blood. I wonder how all of the Monster Blood books hold up as one, overarching story? I will find out soon enough!

This story follows a young boy named Evan who has to go live with his great aunt Kathryn because his mother is going to Atlanta for a trip (ATL haaaaay!) Who would be excited about something like that? So to make things more entertaining, he goes to the local toy shop and buys a can of monster blood – because ALL kids must purchase something that's called "monster blood," right? *rolls eyes*

So basically the monster blood just keeps growing and growing and growing. And while that seems like it should be important (and it might be more of a vital role in the sequels), it is not the underlying threat in this story to me. Strange things are happening with aunt Kathryn and her black cat. We have all the ingredients we need for a suspenseful twist-ending. Well, it didn't totally surprise me... but I bet it would have had my 8-year-old self all shook up!

Things I did not like: the repetitive nature of Evan always chasing/looking for his dog, the actual monster blood itself (just growing and not really doing much of anything), and how blunt his cooky, great aunt Kathryn is! She straight up comes out of the woodworks asking him if he likes girls. Maam, MAAM! This is some distant family member you haven't seen in how long? And you are asking him to just come out to you as a tween in the 90s?! You must be trippin', aunty K!

Monster Blood gets 3.5 out of 5 for me. And I may be super lenient here... part of me wants to give it a 3 in fact. If the monster blood actually did frightening things I think I would give this one a higher rating. But the fact that this book spawned two sequels makes me think this must just be the introduction to the monster blood's true and terrifying powers... and that we will all be in for a world of hurt as the next books unfold!

At least... I HOPE!

Ryan says

These books are quite a lot silly and the endings can be a little frustrating at times. That being said I find myself really enjoying them, They have a tension that makes them a great ride and makes you compelled to swallow them in one sitting.

This one in particular brings back the nostalgic fears from childhood which meant I enjoyed it more than I thought I would and probably should!

Carmen says

Evan's got a problem.

His mom and dad are going to Atlanta to try and find a house there. Meanwhile, Evan has to spend a few weeks with his great-aunt Kathryn. She's old. And deaf. And wears a strange necklace that looks like it's made out of bone.

Kathryn has no tv. No stereo. No videogames. What is Evan going to do to entertain himself? All Kathryn has is a big bookshelf full of dusty tomes about magic, ancient Egypt, chemistry, biology, astronomy, and medicine.

Kathryn also has a black cat named Sarabeth that she describes as 'evil.' She makes Evan keep his cocker spaniel, Trigger, outside in the yard.

Evan decides to explore the neighborhood a little bit. When doing this he meets the beautiful Andrea, nicknamed Andy - a smart-mouthed girl his age (12). They become fast friends. But there are also bullies in the neighborhood - a pair of twin boys named Rick and Tony. They steal from both Evan and Andy and also beat Evan up pretty badly, knocking the wind out of him and giving him a black eye.

Where's the horror, you ask? Well, Andy needs to buy her cousin a birthday gift, so she and Evan go to an old toy store. And I mean old. Everything is coated with layers of dust. The store is owned by a crotchety old man. In the back room of this store, Evan finds the can of monster blood. It's a blue soup can, and when Evan tries to buy it the old man objects. It's old. It won't work anymore, the old man claims. Evan gets him to sell it to him anyway.

Evan and Andy open the can to find a strange green goo. It's cold to the touch. It bounces, it stretches. It glows strongly in the dark. They're not very impressed, but they take it outside to play with it anyway. That's when Trigger gets a hold of some of it and eats it.

The next day Evan goes out to the yard to find Trigger choking. Evan quickly realizes that his collar is too tight, and works frantically to get it off. He does, saving the dog's life, but can't understand how the collar shrunk. Until it dawns on him that the collar didn't shrink...Trigger grew.

The veterinarian assures Evan that Trigger's healthy. As in, don't worry, you're 12-year-old cocker spaniel is

just going through a weird growth spurt. And is now twice his normal size. We'll send the blood tests to the lab. Bye!

But Evan and Andy know the truth - Trigger is growing rapidly because he ate the monster blood. They know this because the monster blood is growing, too. It's no longer cold. It's warm. It's pulsing. And it's growing at an astonishing rate.

This book is #3 in the Goosebumps series and is considered something of a classic. I give points to Stine for his creativity. As I've said before, we owe him a lot for opening the horror genre to children.

The writing is pedestrian, but the plot is strong. A 12-year-old boy living with an old deaf woman is scary. You get a sense that he's really alone. She never shows much interest in the child, and you know she wouldn't hear him screaming. This is a very scary thought, especially for a kid. He's an only child, so if something happens to him in the home he has no back-up.

I liked how the monster blood changed from a cold, bouncy substance to a hot and sticky one. I liked how ingesting it made you grow uncontrollably. I thought the inclusion of real horror (bullies in the neighborhood who steal from you and beat you) was a good choice. I liked Andrea's combination of being beautiful and also a smartass. Evan definitely notices that she's pretty, and although there's no romance (come on, they're 12!), it made me happy to think of these two growing up together and staying in touch. I liked the old woman, Kathryn - although Stine uses old age and deafness to make her Other, to make her something more than (less than?) human - I enjoyed her attitude and rather scary sense of humor. In the end, (view spoiler)

Mario says

These books are so much fun to read.

Alexander Draganov says

I love horror stories about slimy and amorphous monsters. This one is perfect - very likeable protagonist and very cool beastie for an enemy! And this comes from a hardened horror reader like me! Enjoy the full review in Bulgarian here:

<http://citadelata.com/%D0%BA%D1%80%D1...>

And buy the book!

Sarah Marie says

Monster Blood by R.L. Stine

2 stars

Monster Blood is a huge success within the Goosebumps series. Monster Blood has its own series within a

series, which is an interesting contradiction. The probably is that I don't get it. I don't understand why Monster Blood is one of the more popular Goosebumps and why it is so heavily recommended by librarians and elementary teachers alike.

I feel as though I had seen the TV show for Monster Blood, but can't remember I do remember getting a copy from the library and being excited to read it. I flipped through the first half and then left it abandoned because I didn't care. Even as a young child this remained to be a Goosebumps novel I wasn't interested in picking back up. This read-a-long promoted me to give it a shot since my library had a copy of it when I went, but I honestly don't think I would've missed out on anything if I hadn't read this.

Monster Blood falls flat in several places- ranging from plot to characters to dialogue and to the conclusion. This story doesn't pack the some level of suspense that the previous novel I've read and published before this one Stay Out of the Basement does. The story in general wasn't climactic or enthralling. The overall point of Monster Blood just seems rather pointless.

Whimsical Writing Scale: 2

There are so many plot holes in Monster Blood. Evan obtains this mysterious toy that seems similar to Silly Putty from a mysterious toy shop. This toy shop closes and it leaves all kinds of gaps in the plot as to how it even obtained Monster Blood in the first place from the creator. After Evan reluctantly purchases it from the store owner he and Andy share the toy. Evan's dog ends up consuming some of it and begins to expand along with the Monster Blood still in the can, which eventually finds itself in a bathtub and a trashcan.

The characters that Monster Blood focuses is on are again not very fleshed out, but at least I liked the characters in Stay Out of the Basement. I couldn't stand Evan or Andy. They were snot-nosed spoiled brats. Evan was rude to his aunt, who honestly seemed cool, and Andy was an entitled child who was too much of a jerk for me to even like. Aunt Kathryn's sass levels were extremely high and I loved her. I'm not sure why the twins, the goons of the neighborhood, were even a part of this story. They were there to beat Evan up and then get eaten by the "monster".

Character Scale: 2

Villain Scale: 1.5

I was not a fan of the conclusion to Monster Blood at all. The reason Monster Blood was created felt forced and silly. (view spoiler) What kind of plot is that? It sounds confounded and like it was pulled from the sky. Stine's biggest problem seems to be writing plots from out of his ass, but at least they can be fun. Sadly

Monster Blood's plot wasn't fun, but annoying.

Plotastic Scale: 1

Cover Thoughts: The covers for this book are fun to look at, but some are worst than others.

I don't like the colors used for this novel. They give this weird over-washed look to the cover.

This is the most hilarious cover. I don't know why anyone thought this was a good idea.

I love this cover. The tone and colors are creepy and as a child this cover always peaked my interest.

I'm not a fan of this whole scary monster design. It doesn't seem appealing to me. Although little boys will race to it.

Yordan Dimov says

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Ahmad Sharabiani says

Monster Blood (Goosebumps, #3), R.L. Stine
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Alexandra says

It's funny, I remember not really being too crazy about Monster Blood when I was a kid, and reading it over again, I absolutely loathe it. The Goosebumps series started out very strong and promising with Welcome to Dead House and Stay Out of the Basement but this one was just plain stupid, I hate to say.

Evan is forced to stay with his weird great aunt Kathryn while his parents are in Atlanta. He buys a can of Monster Blood at a dusty old toy store and the ~~shit~~ Monster Blood hits the fan from there.

Every other scene in the book is Evan chasing his dog, Trigger. It is very repetitive.

There is nothing creepy about this book, like in the previous two Goosebumps books. This one is just

random and silly and the ending was like *Are you fucking kidding me?*

The ending would probably be scary to a five year old. Probably.

It didn't even make one iota of sense, and nothing was explained. It just was. And I guess that's how some children's books are; with things just being accepted without question but being an adult, you want to know the story behind it. *Who* was Sarabeth? *How* did she meet Kathryn? *Why* did she do what she did? *What* was the purpose of it all?

For me, reading this book was like reading a book about say, farm animals. And the whole story takes place on a nice little farm and the animals are having a gay old time and then WHAM. The pig turns into an alien and it turns out his mom was a witch and his dad was a vampire and don't you know? That's how aliens are made! And the sky fell and everyone ate Thanksgiving dinner.

Make sense? No? Exactly.

(And no, Monster Blood had nothing to do with any of the above. I am just using them as examples.)

Perhaps I am exaggerating or being a little too critical of a book written for second graders but after the first two in the series, I expected a lot more from R.L. Stine.

I thought it'd take at least fifteen books before it got stupid.

Hilary says

As a child I grew up with Goosebumps. I was never obsessed enough to watch the show and collect the merchandise, but the books were a staple for me at the libraries. I was into them enough to be rather excited when the film was announced. The trailer was downright adorable, but it left me wondering - how well do the books hold up now?

If you're someone curious about rereading these for the nostalgia factor, or a concerned parent wondering just how frightening these books may be for your child, I've got you covered. Book by book I'm covering the Classic Goosebumps series.

Reader Beware You're In For A Scare

Title: Monster Blood

Tag line: It's a monster blood drive!

First Sentence: "I don't want to stay here. Please don't leave me here."

This book is basically about malevolent flubber.

(view spoiler)

So, how does this book rate?

Well, as a kid I remember loving it. I was utterly riveted and actually surprised by one of the twists. As an adult? It's boring and predictable and I can't stand Evan. Andy is awesome, but no worth slogging through this mess for. It wasn't as evocative as *Welcome to Dead House* was about how awful it is to move away from home when you're young, nor as fast-paced as *Stay Out of the Basement*.

Somehow, though, this book spawned three sequels.

Crap.

Catherine Ford says

Yeah, right, like a giant ball of monster's blood [similar to alien slime] is going to scare me and give me sleepless nights. This book was a fail for me and I found it very unbelievable and rather silly.

it'chy says

i never saw that coming

as they say, the mystery adds to the horror

Mike says

Una entrega más en la línea de la serie, divertida y con su punto escalofriante. Me ha gustado bastante.

Stephanie says

Man that was a fun time! I loved Evan, the creepiness slowly creeping up, monster blood growing and growing causing havoc, and the twist I didn't see coming and really enjoyed it!

CW: Bullying

Hannah Greendale says

When Evan opens the can of Monster Blood he finds in the back of a dusty old toy shop, he discovers more than just a pile of gelatinous green goo.

[Evan] took the can from [Andy] and examined it. Sure enough, the lid had popped off. The gooey green substance was pushing up out of the can.

With all due respect to R.L. Stine - the man who made reading as a child both fun and spooky - not all Goosebumps books are winners. There are a few too many cheap tricks employed in *Monster Blood* for it to compete with its predecessors.

There's this gem:

He cried out as something leaped out at him

"Help! Please - help!"

Everything went black.

"Help! I can't see!" Evan screamed.

Spoiler Alert: the aforementioned attack, the one that made everything go black, was that of a cat (because cats are always lunging from the shadows and attacking random strangers).

Not to mention this old trick:

His screams woke up him.

This time he really woke up.

And realized that, the first time, he had only dreamed that he was awake. Had only dreamed that he had become a giant.

Dreams upon dreams.

Was he awake now?

With mention of Gap t-shirts, Nintendo games, and watching the first *Indiana Jones* movie, there's no shortage of nostalgia in *Monster Blood*, but it's not enough to make up for the limping plot, inconsequential tertiary characters, and amateur writing devices.

The only thing scary about this book is how bad it is.

Becky says

Uhhhhhhh... m'kaaayy then.

Look. I know that these are supposed to be for kids. But they should also be good stories. And this one was just... not. It was the kind of book where, if it was aimed at adults, would never have seen the light of day. It was formulaic, all over the place, repetitive, oh-so-conveniently introduced characters, and the ending was so ridiculously out of left field that I sat there reading it with this expression on my face:

Because... REALLY. REALLY. What the hell WAS that?

I'll tell you what that was. That was a "Shit... My deadline for this book is in 3 hours, and I've written 94.3% of the book, and I have NO IDEA WHAT THE STORY IS. So... *slams forehead off of keyboard* ... Aaaaaaand done! Fuck it, they're kids. It's not like they know any better about plots or stories or good writing... or dogs."

Dear R.L. Stine & Dean Koontz: Dogs are not people. Say it with me: Dogs... are... not... people.

But let's talk about dogs for a minute here. This dog, Trigger, is supposed to be a 12 year old Cocker Spaniel. To clarify, that's 12 years old in people years, so he'd be a senior citizen in dog years - eligible for discount treats and early bird dinners, etc. We're supposed to assume that the dog and the kid (both 12) are life-long amigos, right? But I have problems with that theory. In order for certain things to happen in this illogical and poorly written excuse for a story, the dog has to meet certain criteria. Why? Because the author wasn't imaginative to NOT require it.

Here are the things: He has to be disobedient and he has to be past the point of a possible growth spurt. What this results in (besides a massive eye-twitch for me) is a supposedly elderly dog who acts exactly like a puppy.

12 year old dogs just DO NOT jump around and yip all over the place and run laps around the owner who has only been gone twenty-fucking-minutes because they are just soooooo excited to see them again. They don't have the energy anymore. Dogs get arthritis, they have joint problems, they are OLD. The dog described in this book was NOT a twelve year old dog - Stine just didn't have any other techniques in his repertoire to make an old sleepy dog disobey and misbehave enough to make things plausible. (Though, I'd say he failed anyway.)

So why did he need to misbehave? So he'd eat the monster blood. Because distracting the kids and having the dog eat it would not have worked, I guess. Instead, the kids have to know for sure that he ate it, because they stand there and watch the dog eat it (while pleading with him not to, which is absolutely going to work 100% of the time because dogs are absolutely human, remember!).

Want to know why Trigger is "disobedient"? Because instead of treating him like a dog and training him, the idiotic characters in this book plead with him and ask him to do or not do things, or reason with him. Instead of "sit" and "stay" it's "just wait here 5 minutes, Trigger, while I run inside this shop and get an ice cream. I'll be quick, I promise. The line looks short."

Yup. He totally gets it. Understood all of those words and what you meant by them because human.

One last thing about the dog... So after he eats the monster blood and starts to grow, Evan takes him to the vet for a check-up. My only thought here is... SERIOUSLY? Not because I don't think that the dog should be checked out... but because of reality. Evan has \$8 to his name. His mom gave him \$10 before she left for a supposed 2-week trip (which could go longer, who knows?) and he then spent \$2 on the monster blood.

So he has \$8 left.

I recently took my cats in for a check up, and the exam bill, ALONE, was \$50. EACH. Even accounting for inflation in the interim time between when Nintendo was the rage and now, I'm going to call bullshit on the fact that any vet would examine an otherwise healthy looking, non-emergency case, let alone run a gamut of tests looking for hormone abnormalities or other issues, for free (because I'm fairly sure that he still had his \$8 post-vet as well.). And especially not without an adult present.

How it would likely have gone down in Reality Town:

"Call your mom, kid. Your dog looks fine. If there's really a problem, your mom can make an appointment to have him checked out."

All that irritation and I have barely even addressed anything else in the book. The ending was just ridiculous. A total cop out so that nobody "real" in the story had to be bad or get hurt.

Lame. So, so lame.

Meh, I'm done. I don't think that reading these as an adult was such a great idea. I'm far too picky now.

Evelyn (devours and digests words) says

I don't have all 50+ Goosebumps books lining my shelves but I do own enough to make me fall in love with this series in the very first place. In fact, I owe it to R.L.Stine and Christopher Pike for shaping my reading taste into that of an avid horror reader.

The endings to these Goosebump books are often queer, sometimes there wasn't even a happy ending. I remember thinking "Oh man, this is so screwed up!" every time I finished something by Mr . Stine. But in this case, *Monster Blood* made me go. "Oh wow! This is.. This is.....actually pretty bad."

Before I point out the stuffs that I find wrong with this book, let me be clear that **yes, I am aware this is a book aimed for young audiences**. Therefore, nothing is truly explained well. Things just happens and **stays that way with no explainable facts**.

Evan Ross was dropped off at his great aunt's place while his parents search for a new house somewhere in Atlanta. This aunt is pretty damn freaky. She's deaf but talks in perfect strings of words and she argues heatedly with her cat. That's not very normal, is it? One day, Evan visited a toy shop with his new friend and bought a can labelled 'MONSTER BLOOD'. The toy shop owner warned him not to get it for a silly reason that it is *too old* but of course Evan opposed and bought it anyway. When he got back, he fooled around with it. The blood in it seemed to grow in quantity as hours passed. Eventually, it grew and grew and grew into such a size that it was impossible to contain it anywhere because it outgrows every containers. This monster blood then went berserk and decided to gobble up our characters.

The concept is super. It's not everyday there's a story about some kind of ~~green-glob~~ monster blood that eat humans up. This just lacks the right execution. The 'scares' aren't even close to scary. Even if I was age 6 or 8, I still don't think this book will freak me out. **What aggravated me** is that the suppose-to-be-scary moments always - ALWAYS turn out to be a nightmare instead of a real event. Or a nightmare within a nightmare. Like ugh. How is that suppose to be scary? It's an anticlimax and a total bummer.

The twists in this story aren't that twist-y for me, to be honest. I have read enough Goosebumps books to guess what kind of twists and turns will turn up. It's too predictable.

When the real culprit was revealed, nothing was explained. ~~Shit~~ Things just happens.

I want to know more about the evil cat. I want to know why the creepy, mean aunt got cursed in the first place. Why did the glob shrank into nothing when Sarabeth got pushed inside? How is the Beymer twins suppose to survive inside? Arrg. I want to know so much but nothing was ever revealed. Boo.

To wrap it all up, I tried to just read and enjoy the story but there are just too many things I find wrong making it impossible for me to like this. *Monster Blood* is not the best Goosebumps book but oh well, there are still 40+ more books in this series that I get to choose from.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Αν και τρ?το κατ? σειρ? κυκλοφορ?ας, το συγκεκριμ?νο βιβλ?ο ε?ναι το δε?τερο των "Ανατριχ?λων" που δι?βασα. Συγκριτικ? με το πρ?το, η υπ?θεσ? του μοι?ζει αρκετ? απλο?κ?, ?σως και κ?πως αφελ?ς, και σαφ?στατα δεν καταφ?ρνει να σε τρομ?ξει ?σο θα ?θελες, ? και ?σο θα μπορο?σε. Παρ' ?λα τα?τα, διαβ?ζεται ευχ?ριστα, χωρ?ς να κρ?βει ανατροπ?ς και εκπλ?ξεις.
