



Blackbrooke

Emma Silver

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I live in Blackbrooke and you would have had to be living under a rock to never have heard of it before now. This town is different to most others...Humans aren't the only residents..."

The residents of Blackbrooke share their town with the Creatures, or Crits as they are known. Grotesque, roaming the streets at night looking for food, their presence means humans have to live by the Rules, keeping them indoors and forbidding them of basic desires.

The most important Rule?

Don't be a 'walk out'!

Straight-A student, Liberty Connor, hates the Crits and the endless Rules she and her tight knit group of friends have to live by.

Planning her new life on the Outside with her boyfriend, Gabriel, Liberty whiles away her days waiting to turn 18, so they can leave and be free. That is, until the world she thinks she knows begins to unravel...

Her friends start to walk out. So she's told. However, something's not right. Things don't add up.

Liberty faces a race against time to discover what's going on with the Creatures of Blackbrooke.

Is it them she has to fear, or something much closer to home?

Blackbrooke is a Young Adult horror novel that has you on the edge of your seat.

Blackbrooke Details

Date : Published July 19th 2012 by Crooked Cat Publishing (first published July 16th 2012)

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Author : Emma Silver

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Genre : Horror, Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review Blackbrooke for online ebook

Atmika says

I loved this book!

I don't really read horror, but after this I want to read more of this genre. Any suggestions?

Though, to be honest, it's not all horror. There is a little of everything in the book. Mystery, romance, fantasy you name it!

Blackbrooke is a place which is haunted by monsters called Crits and people have to follow certain rules to keep themselves safe. The crits are described so well that I could almost imagine them. And, believe me it's not pleasant. They are creepy and disgusting and really scared me.

The book is unpredictable. I had a lot of theories about what's going to happen next but I was wrong every single time. The twists and turns had me sitting on the edge of my seat. Every chapter in the book ends on a note that you can't help but turn the page and read on. It's really difficult to put the book down.

CHARACTERS:

All the characters are like-able and make a great team.

Liberty is the female protagonist. She is smart, brave and kick-ass. I really liked her. She reminded me of Katniss from Hunger Games. She is loyal and self-less.

Gabriel, her boyfriend, is cute and the scene where they make plans for their future is so romantic.

Cassius, is swoon-worthy. He was best friends with liberty when they were both young but with years they drifted apart. He is not your regular hero but he is everything that a guy need to be and more.

I didn't like Noah at first. I thought he was shallow and rude but he turned out to be great.

Gemma was fun and vivacious. She and Noah were perfect for each other.

Denzil is my favorite of them all. He is funny and interesting.

“Bloody hell.” I pulled out the glass cleaner from the cupboard at my feet along with a cloth. “Denzil, are you high?” He grinned stupidly, “Might be.”

I liked all of them. They are all different and well developed characters. The writing is fast paced and plot is really interesting. I would suggest that you go ahead and buy this book, you won't regret it!

Allison (Rally the Readers) says

Also posted on Rally The Readers.

3.5 Stars

Blackbrooke is a heart-pumping, bloodcurdling horror story. I love being scared; I think it's the adrenaline rush. I find it hard to be truly scared by a book, though. There are no images or sounds to captivate your senses; all you have are the writing on the page and your imagination. But Silver does a fabulous job of making her readers scared and creating suspense. Is it sad, on my part, that I had nightmares about the Crits?!

The story was so original and refreshing. I loved the whole concept of the Crits. There are four types of Crits in the book: the Watchers, the Hunters, the Lurkers, and the Queens. All of them are pretty scary, but I find the Queens the most horrifying. The Queens are the sick ringleaders of the Crits. But the Crits weren't the

only characters who had my attention.

Liberty was a take-charge heroine. She recognized something was wrong, and she put her all into trying to fix it. That being said, Liberty wasn't my favorite character; I sometimes felt that she made risky decisions that put her friends in danger. Cassius was a cool guy, but I didn't really connect with him, either. I related mostly to the secondary characters, Denzil and Noah. Denzil is incredible! He happens to be Liberty's boss and owner of Blackbrooke's very own souvenir shop, Tales from the Crits. Denzil is hilarious, and he is not afraid to take on the Crits or the town! Noah was just as great. Noah was pretty witty himself, and, to me, he ended up being the bravest character in the whole book.

My favorite things about *Blackbrooke* were all the action and gore! When things were happening, things were happening! I was all caught up in the excitement; I was screaming at the characters and even occasionally covering my eyes. The gore was weirdly fascinating to me. It made everything feel more real, and it showed that the characters were not invincible.

I did have a few minor issues with *Blackbrooke*. It took me a little while to really get into the book. Liberty's relationships also seemed unconvincing. Despite Libby going on and on about Gabriel, I did not buy it. I couldn't see Liberty and Cassius as a couple, either. I think the romance element needed a bit more work.

Overall, I did enjoy the book. *Blackbrooke* kept me on my toes and gave me a good scare. I'm dying to find out what happens next!

Irene says

This book is so blasted good I am all but harassing people to read it.

The way the story builds keeps you on the edge of your seat. It completely captivated me from the first page when the 'Rules' were listed. I automatically wanted to know more and couldn't put the book down. The characters were entertaining, one of my favorites being Denzil, he brought comedy to it, while the book was getting intense.

The ending is a complete cliff hanger that left me screaming for more.

Honestly, one of the best books I have read so far in 2013 and I am waiting on pins and needles for the next one.

For a full rundown on my thoughts, here is the link to my blog review.

<http://reeniediva.blogspot.ca/2013/03...>

Rebecca Nelson says

One of those top-notch reads that have you wide awake at daft o'clock glued to the text and elated that you're a bookworm! Hooked from the opening description of "the rules" to the nail biting twist of an ending - well worth the read and can't wait for the trilogy to be completed

Ellen says

This book absolutely blew me away. I haven't stopped thinking about it for days. Blackbrooke, population 10,000, is not your typical town by any means. It surrounded by walls with gates, guards, and guns, but Blackbrooke is far from your typical "gated community" by any means. The question is, are the walls really to keep the those living outside safe, or to trap those living within the walls inside? Tourists flock in by the droves to visit, but by sundown everyone, and I mean everyone, is inside with doors locked and blinds drawn, that is if they want to make it till morning. The town of Blackbrooke is a little like stepping back in time to another era. Relationships between boys and girls before they are 18 are forbidden, the girls must wear their hair up all the time, even classes are separate, with the exception of the Blackbrooke history class. Of course, teenagers are going to be teenagers and rules are sometimes made to be broken, only in Blackbrooke, the consequences are often deadly.

Liberty Connor has everything planned, she is waiting until she turns 18 and can leave Blackbrooke to live on the outside with her boyfriend Gabriel, then Liberty's world falls apart. Despite her grief, can Liberty find out the answers to the mysteries and secrets of Blackbrooke that have been hidden for years, and if she does, can she survive long enough to make a difference?

I typically do not read horror, but this book intrigued me and I have to say that I found it absolutely thrilling. I loved Liberty, she is quite the heroine. The story did focus around the Crits, the creatures that ruled the night and threatened the humans, but it also encompassed so much more. It is a story of loyalty, love, and sacrifice. The other characters in the book were incredible. I loved Gemma, Liberty's audacious best friend, and Noah, Gemma's boyfriend, who seems shallow, but proves himself brave beyond measure before the story ends. Then there is Cassius. I especially loved Cassius, who was Liberty's best friend as a child, but they had grown apart. Cassius has a disorder with his skin which has always made him out to be the brunt of jokes and bullying. As children, Liberty always stood up for Cassius and protected him. Circumstances draw Liberty and Cassius together again, and she discovers that he has grown into quite the man and no longer needs her protection. In fact, she discovers that the feelings she has for Cassius go much deeper than she knew, giving the story that romantic edge that in my opinion, helps make the book.

The paranormal aspect of this book was amazing, and the world Emma Silver has created in Blackbrooke is both brilliant and frightening. There is mystery, intrigue, and romance, which makes this story so much more than your typical horror story. Blackbrooke keeps you guessing and on the edge of your seat throughout the entire book, with twists and turns that you never see coming. I could not put it down. If you are a horror fan, you will love this book, and if you're not, then after reading Blackbrooke, you just might be.

Candice says

I LOVE this book! From start to finish, Emma Silver had me hooked!

The story is intriguing and I was constantly guessing (quite wrongly) what would happen next, which I liked.

If the story itself isn't enough, there are the characters. Possibly the most lovable characters I've ever read! One minute they'd have me laughing and 5 minutes later I'd be crying.

This is a well-rounded book with lots to offer, so if you're looking for something that will entertain and keep

you gripped throughout then you have to read Blackbrooke!

Suzanne Cantrell says

Something strange is going on in Blackbrooke, a modern version of an isolated Amish-styled town. Seventeen year old Liberty has religiously followed the Rules that maintain the balance between Crits and humans all of her life, until the day her seemingly happy friends start an inexplicable pattern of “walking out” to their deaths.

Liberty is determined to find out what is going on, all the while immersed in the middle of a dysfunctional family, tortured by the loss of her peers, and examining her broken relationship with her childhood best friend.

Liberty lives up to her name as a heroine and successfully steps outside the box created for her by the community. Blackbrooke is an engaging and nicely paced read that keeps you turning to pages to uncover new clues. Horror fans will enjoy the almost Stephen King- like creepiness infusing the story.

My biggest dislike (mild spoiler alert) is the fact that the novel blatantly ends with a “to be continued” right in the middle of a big reveal for two of the storylines, leaving you without any clear explanation or sense of closure. Although clearly designed to be a series, more concise plot work would make this a book that better stands on its own. That being said, most teen readers will eagerly look forward to the sequel without issue to find out “what happens next”.

Rating: 3.5 of 5 stars

David Eccles says

I began reading Blackbrooke a few months ago, but my own writing got in the way of my finishing it until now, but, I'm delighted to say, I've spent the last 2 days avidly devouring this fantastic first volume in Emma Silver's trilogy, and I can't wait to get hold of volume 2.

The premise of a town populated by both humans and monsters that is an attraction to the outside world, rather like a theme park is great, but Emma Silver goes much deeper than this in her mythology, and there are a whole lot of other goings on that become apparent right from the beginning of the book, as The Rules that residents of Blackbrooke have to live by are outlined right at the beginning.

It's a fantastic read, and set in a fictional town here in the United Kingdom, which is rather unusual in itself, seeing as books tend to be either set generally in the USA or in a completely fictionalized world, so it's great that I can relate to the book more closely, because I'm a UK resident myself.

This is a YA book that has a smattering of language (only one f-bomb towards the end of the book), but it is quite visceral when it comes to describing just how the monsters of Blackbrooke, particularly the Hunters and the Queens, treat their victims, so if the reader has a delicate stomach, you have been warned!

Liberty Connor and her friends will take you on a journey that will have your heart pounding in your chest, and like me, you will be dying to read the next volume, because the ending is a wonderful cliffhanger, something which I didn't see coming.

I was fortunate to read an advance copy of Blackbrooke, and I did notice some glaring grammatical errors, which I hope have been corrected in the retail version. Still, Emma Silver has written a book that promises to be a gripping and very entertaining trilogy, and I look forward to reading and reviewing each book as they are released.

Recommended, and very worthy of 5 stars.

Ali says

The Blackbrooke synopsis alone was enough to pique my interest, so I graciously accepted the review request when it came through. Good decision on my part. I am a fan and believe Emma Silver will have a long and successful career in the writing world if this, her first endeavor, is any indication.

Blackbrooke is anything but a normal small town. It is a quarantined hamlet that the government controls, for the safety of the outside world and for those living within its gated walls. Necessary precautions are taken by all the Blackbrooke citizens, for if they are not, you may find yourself face to face with a Crit. Creatures that stalk the town at night waiting for someone to kill.

Liberty has always followed the rules set forth in Blackbrooke. Stay indoors after dark, keep your hair a natural color and up in a bun, stay out of the woodlands and practice strict abstinence until marriage. She is smart and stubborn and has no plans of screwing up, anxiously awaiting her upcoming eighteenth birthday when she can finally leave Blackbrooke behind her and travel the world with her boyfriend, Gabriel.

Things don't turn out as planned when Liberty finds that Gabriel has suddenly 'walked out'. Walking out is suicide and Gabriel gave no indications of doing such. Gabriel was sweet, stable, understanding and seemed to be willing to do anything for the girl he loves.

Liberty becomes increasingly suspicious of not only Gabriel's walk out but of Blackbrooke in general. She teams up with a few very entertaining characters in a race to unearth the creepy town's history and hopefully save the lives of its dwindling teen population.

I am really thankful that there seem to be a handful of writers that are willing to take a big step into grotesque, creepy horror while still keeping it in the YA genre. I loved horror as a teenager and with the bombardment of paranormal romance in the genre as of late, these bits of creep-tastic wonderfulness are refreshing! Emma Silver delivers whole-heartedly in this arena and I look forward to more from her and more on Blackbrooke. Yes my lovelies, this is just the first trip to this mysterious destination and I hope you will all come along for the ride!

A copy of this title was provided to me by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Emmy says

Blackbrooke, England. Population 10,000 and dwindling. Centuries ago, an agreement was made. Humans rule the day, but when the klaxon bell rings, its time to lock up tight. The nighttime is ruled by the Crits. Four different types of monsters make up the Crits. There are Lurkers, Watchers, Hunters and the Queens.

Each playing a different role and each horrible and terrifying in description. Rules were put in place to keep the peace and to prevent any temptations to the Crits.

This story is written in the POV of Libby Connor. Libby is 17, a full time student and lives at home with her parents and four year old brother Oscar. The mother is mostly out of the picture so Libby has been helping her father raise him. She also works part time at a tourist shop called Tales from the Crits with her kooky/hippie boss Denzil. Other important characters are her boyfriend Gabriel, her best friend Gemma and Gemma's boyfriend, Noah. We also have Cassius, her childhood friend. Cassius and Libby's friendship became estranged though as the years went by. Cassius is pale as can be. White hair, pale skin that's nearly translucent, two different colored eyes. All of that making him easy pickings to be the brunt of many a joke, being made fun of relentlessly.

At school, the girls and boys only intermingle during Blackbrooke history class, at the cafeteria and when they are all called to assembly. Which happens way too often considering they are announcing the most recent students to have 'walked out'. That term is used when someone 'walks out' during the night, knowing full well the Crits will get them.

There is a slight triangle, if I can *really* call it that. Gabriel is sweet and very caring. Cassius is just, so much more in my opinion. I just don't know how to explain it. He's just so different and suits Libby a lot differently than Gabriel. Maybe it was the skinny jeans with skinny tie and wool coat that got me. Who knows.

Libby is soon entrenched in a mystery involving recent 'walk outs'. Finding an ally in Cassius, we are taken on a terrifying journey of death and betrayal, forbidden secrets and finding out who she can really trust.

This book really is a hell of a story. So many things happen. We are taken from one clue to the next as the frightening answers are revealed. My thoughts on this book are jumbled, it is not a comforting story. The end was a huge shock and left me wanting more. Yes, it is a cliffhanger. Even if most of the questions are answered, the last chapter leaves us with new ones. I enjoyed every minute of it and even cried at one point.

A terrifying yet captivating debut... Miss Silver, may your creative forces continue to crank out such enthralling works. Everyone will be thirsty for more after reading this one.

Review posted at [Sinfully Delicious Book Reviews](#)

Carmen Jenner says

Put everything you think you know about the YA genre aside. This is not the story of a beautiful girl who falls in love with a monster, it's not the story of a seemingly ordinary girl who discovers the power to save the world, and it's not the same tired old premise rehashed with a different hero/villain. Blackbrooke is a frightening foray into a world where humans are hunted and the boogie man is, in fact, lurking out there in the dark!

Seventeen year old Liberty Connor can't wait to turn eighteen and finally be free of Blackbrooke and the Crits that roam the night, but there are things about her town that Liberty could never understand, rules that all citizens must abide, a treaty set in place for over two hundred years, and a mystery surrounding the town's soaring teen suicides.

Liberty Connor is like Nancy Drew on steroids, albeit funnier and way better dressed! Red Converse and

prom dresses, anyone?

She's feisty, intelligent, loyal to a fault, and the kind of heroine you want in your corner when the Crits come a calling!

Silver creates some memorable and very entertaining characters for Liberty to play off and when I wasn't shaking in my boots with fear, the banter between background characters had me clutching at my sides. Estranged friend Cassius makes an unconventional love interest when he reenters Liberty's life, and there's something so lovable about this social outcast that just makes me weak in the knees. An unusual mix of daring and self-deprecation, Cassius manages to retain his mettle despite a life of ostracism and bullying from his peers.

The pacing in this novel was phenomenal and every time I thought I had the plot pinned, Emma threw in another mind-melding twist that kept me guessing.

Witty, heartbreaking at times, and down right scary, Blackbrooke is a roller-coaster ride from its terrifying beginning to the jaw dropping finale.

Young Adult Fiction has a new Queen of Scream in Emma Silver!

This review was first posted at Book Me!

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review of Blackbrooke by Emma Silver

5 stars

I quickly became totally engrossed in this book, and by the midpoint I was turning pages almost faster than my e-reader could handle. "Fast-paced" has become a trite cliché, but believe me, if you're looking for that, "Blackbrooke" most definitely has it, along with plotting that twists around like a cobra's coil and an unforgettable cliffhanger ending. So thankful this is only the first of a set!

"Blackbrooke" is not post-apocalyptic, it is fully Apocalyptic, and the Apocalypse has been ongoing for centuries, and what a horrible situation it is. I kept pondering, Why doesn't the British Government step in, why keep throwing money at the Village, why not do something to protect the inhabitants? Instead, the Village is a daytime tourist infestation; and at dusk, everyone remains inside, locked in behind electronic steel shutters operating on a timer, according to the time of year and the length of the days.

Everyone above the age of eighteen has agreed to a set of Rules; but no one under that age even knows what the rules are, except for a few minor rules involving hair, hair colour, and so forth. The dangers are the "Crits" or Creatures, the four classes of almost Supernatural animals which live surrounding the Village, and which rule the night. Humans certainly don't, because humans are fair prey.

If you love urban fantasy (or semi-urban fantasy), paranormal (and yes, plenty of romance here too!), don't wait to grab "Blackbrooke." It's a winner!

Lee (Rally the Readers) says

Also posted on Rally The Readers.

3.5 Stars

Horror movies and books have never been my thing. I freely admit that I am a complete wimp; monsters, blood, and gore freak me out to no end. It was with a bit of trepidation, then, that I started reading *Blackbrooke*. The premise sounded intriguing, though, and I was in the mood to read something outside of my normal genres, so I figured, why not give it a try? This book completely took me by surprise; I never expected to find a novel about evil, human-hunting creatures so compulsively readable.

Blackbrooke is one of the most original stories that I've read in a while. It's not every day that you come across a town surrounded by creatures that are on the prowl for their next human meal. Silver makes this world very believable, and that was a huge factor in my overall enjoyment of the novel. I get frustrated with books that ask me to stretch the suspension of my disbelief to extreme limits, but that was not the case with *Blackbrooke*. The town's history is so fascinating and unique that it's practically a character.

As for the human characters, the protagonist, Liberty, is a fairly standard mix of smarts, courage, and determination. While I admired her fiercely protective nature, especially towards her little brother, Oscar, and her friend, Cassius, I didn't find her as compelling as some of the other characters, like Cassius. All his life, Cassius's skin condition has made him stand out, often marking him as a target of ridicule. I loved how he transformed into an unlikely hero, looking out for Liberty the way that she tried to shield him when they were children. I always root for the underdog in books, and Cassius won my support easily with his kindness, loyalty, and bravery.

For me, the standout character in *Blackbrooke* was Denzil, the town's resident outsider and owner of the cleverly named Tales from the Crits shop, which peddles Crits-themed merchandise to tourists. Denzil is hilariously sarcastic, which endeared him to me instantly. I'm serious—this guy is never at a loss for something witty to say. Colorful personality aside, Denzil also proves himself to be a dependable, trusted friend to his lone employee, Liberty. If you ever find yourself being pursued by Crits, Denzil is your go-to guy for 1) refuge and 2) weaponry to teach those things a lesson.

Although I thought that the pacing was a little uneven at times, overall *Blackbrooke* was a very entertaining read. Whenever the Crits reared their hideous heads, the ensuing action was gleefully thrilling. I never would have predicted looking forward to the scary parts, but I absolutely did because they were brilliantly written. Thank you, Emma Silver, for making my foray into horror so much fun.

Caro [The Book Rogue] says

Crazy, scary woods. Seriously, this trip was not much fun, although it had some very crooked dark humor in it, which I liked in fact. Other than that, it was a lot of fear, anxiety, dread, grief, and mostly confusion while secret after secret was revealed and the group placed together the pieces of this freakish puzzle.

In the beginning, I thought although a little stuck up, the relationships of Gemma and Noah, as well as of Gabriel and Liberty were quite nice if you consider the Rules. So when Gabriel walked out, I wanted to smack my kindle into the wall, and I almost cried of frustration as much as of sadness. It was just so... unfair, and unreasonable, and wrong for so many reasons. It was surely the first time I - along with Lib - felt that something wasn't right, that there had to be more to the walk outs than what the town let on. It's really a good thing she's so smart and brave and daring, a real fighter. Plus, she has Cassius, even after all this time apart... Their realtionship was as bumpy as a heart beat, yet just as solid, and then just unbearably cute. I'm very curious how they will continue on! Not that Gabriel wasn't a great guy, he sure was and I think Lib could've been very happy with him, but Cass is simply special - and I'm not just talking about his albinism - but he most of all was special to her, just as she is to him. Gosh, I'm really glad they both made it more or less.

I almost had a heart attack on several occasions on this trip, I mean it. One moment, it was totally heart-wrenching and nerve-wrecking, and I didn't know if I should rather cry or scream, then it was as happy as it could muster, very warm and hopeful, and I smiled like an idiot. I thought it was perfectly amazing how people come together when they have the same enemy, the same course. But then, however, I also can't believe just how tight this web of lies in this city is knitted, especially with the Big Brother like surveillance going on in the background, and the government influence in all of it. God, if this really were to excist somewhere... Scary thought, I don't even wanna find the end of it.

Which brings me to the crits which are really, really nasty beasts which I would not want to bargain with, especially not in the dark and on their ground. However, there's also something quite fascinating about them: their hirarchy, intelligence, their whole existence in the first place. I am so not satisfied with what I know about them up til now, so it's nice to know there is to find out more, and maybe there even is a way to be found to end it all. But that's to be revealed in any further stories, because I dare tell you the last words without spoiling anything: to be continued!

Area Scan: Style: 4/5 -- Plot: 5/5 -- Characters: 5/5 -- Suspense: 4/5 -- Romance: 5/5 -- Drama: 5/5 -- Humor: 4/5 -- Fantasy: 4/5

Lori says

I was pretty blown away by this book. I love a good thriller, but it's hard to find a book with a good balance of real horror, suspense, humor, intrigue, and romance. Blackbrooke really does have it all. I loved it.

The town of Blackbrooke is a highly guarded, gated off community that nobody leaves or enters without permission. The humans and Creatures (known as the Crits) in Blackbrooke have learned to live alongside each other. The humans own the daylight and the Crits come out at night. Any human outside at night is fair game for the Crits. Liberty Connor has lived her entire life in Blackbrooke. While it seems nice enough, with most people actually choosing to stay after they turn 18, Libby and her boyfriend, Gabriel, have made plans to leave Blackbrooke and travel the world. But then, Gabriel 'walks out'. A walk out in Blackbrooke is equivalent to suicide, giving yourself up to the Crits. But Libby doesn't believe it. She and Gabriel were happy with plans for a future together. Then more strange things start happening and Libby is determined to find the truth.

Blackbrooke is a town where almost nothing is as it seems. Except for the creatures that come out at night. The Crits are definitely real. This makes the setting of Blackbrooke awesome. Everyone knows about the Crits and everyone has seen them. There is even an agreement between the humans and the Crits that has

been in place for hundreds of years. The agreement allows humans to be outside during the day and the Crits to be out at night. The agreement is also what lead to the Rules. The Rules are in place to help keep the humans safe. But like all rules, many of them get broken.

Liberty Connor is the female protagonist of the story and easily my favorite character. She's brave and smart and doesn't trust anyone but her very close friends. She is fiercely protective of her younger brother, and anyone else she thinks needs protecting. She's also a strict follower of all the Rules of Blackbrooke. Still, she wants to leave the town when she turned 18 and see the world with the boy she loves. But when strange things start happening and her friends start 'walking out', she becomes determined to discover the truth about her town and its history before anyone else 'walks out'.

Cassius is Liberty's childhood best friend. He was someone that Libby thought needed protecting. He has Heterochromia and was picked on by the other kids. As they grew up, they grew apart. Libby found new friends who didn't like Cassius and Cassius went his own way, though always kept an eye out for Libby. Cassius grows up to be very tall, very smart, and very suspicious of their community. When they both end up with friends who have 'walked out', they come back together to find the answers to their question. I was definitely a fan of Cassius' throughout the book. The way he protected and supported Libby after Gabriel 'walked out' and the way he tried to deal with his feelings for her. I was also very impressed with his bravery and willingness to help, no matter what that meant for him. I wasn't a big fan of his and Libby's romance, though only because it happened about a week after Gabriel 'walked'. If it hadn't been so soon, I would have been much happier.

A few of my other favorite characters included Denzil, Libby's employer and owner of the Blackbrooke Tourist Shop, Gemma, Libby's best friend, and Noah, Gemma's boyfriend. Libby, Gabriel, Gemma, and Noah make up the small group of friends that Libby loves and hangs out with almost exclusively. At first, their relationships seemed a bit shallow and convenient to me, but as the story progressed, it was easy to see how much they all loved and depended on each other. Gemma and Noah are the stereotypical beautiful girl and jock boyfriend. Their relationship seems to be completely based on all things physical, but it's actually much deeper than it that. Gabriel is handsome and quieter than Noah and loves Libby more than anyone. I wish we could have seen more of Gabriel because I really liked him and Libby together. Denzil is the only adult in this group of characters and provides a place for the friends to gather and begin their search for answers. He's quirky and funny and very protective of Libby. All of these secondary characters have much more depth than I thought they would. In the end, I loved them all.

Overall, Blackbrooke was awesome. While I wasn't a huge fan of the timing of the romance between Libby and Cassius, there is very little else to be negative about. The story is original, exciting, suspenseful, thrilling, and very creepy. There is also a very shocking ending and a cliffhanger that some might not be too happy about. But it just means there's more Blackbrooke waiting for us! Since I could go on about Blackbrooke all day, I'll just wrap up by saying that if you are a fan of horror or thriller books, you need to check this book out. It will not disappoint.
