

The Bookish* Newsletter!

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Check out updates on my good reads progress, upcoming titles, lists, and reviews.

[ARC Review] The Calamities

Craig DeLouie [HORROR ♦ FANTASY ♦ ADULT]

Thank you to NetGalley and Del Rey, Random House Worlds, and Inklore for the advanced copy of this book.

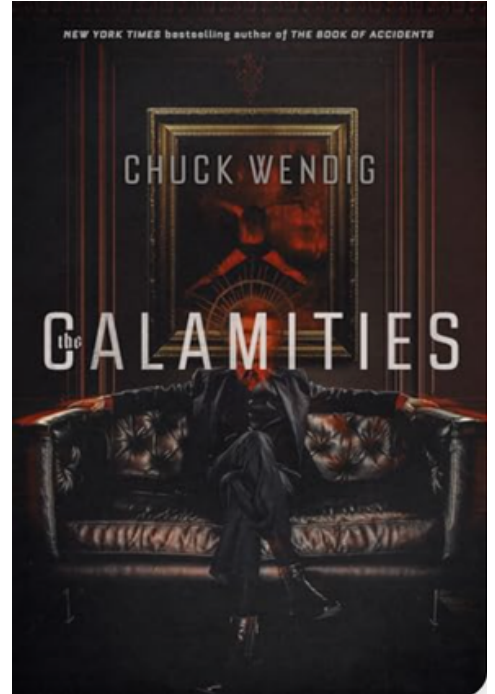
I don't quite know how to communicate what I just read... other than: **what did I just read?**

This was a confusing story (at least for me) about influential families, the occult, and demonic secrets. The Mayne family is an influential clan of half-human, half-demon beings sustained by an elixir kept in the family's reserve. The trouble begins when Mourning Mayne—named for the fact that his mother died giving birth to him—returns home at his father's request to attend to urgent family business. Instead, he discovers his father has vanished, along with every drop of the family's precious elixir.

The Maynes are just one of several powerful clans, all with sinister ties to the business of selling souls. It's an intriguing premise, and on paper it has all the ingredients for a dark, atmospheric fantasy. Unfortunately, this is where the story lost me. I understood the what and, eventually, the why, but everything in between felt frustratingly elusive. How the story arrived at its biggest revelations—and even how it ultimately ended—left me scratching my head.

There are memorable moments throughout, and the world itself has the potential to be fascinating. However, the narrative often asks the reader to connect dots that never felt fully drawn, leaving me more bewildered than immersed. I have a feeling this book will resonate with readers who enjoy piecing together opaque, layered storytelling, but for me, the confusion ultimately overshadowed what could have been a compelling tale.

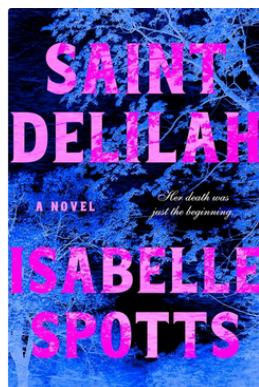
I will give a nod to Wendig for including some lore about A Staircase in the Woods, which was also a trippy story, but I enjoyed that one better. This one was lost on me, so I gave it 3.00 ✨ stars.



More Updates & Reading Progress!

✨ Upcoming Reads! ✨

Delilah is dead. But her story is far from over. In this feminist supernatural suspense novel, she will find her peace—and give hell to the man who killed her.



Saint Delilah

Isabelle Spotts

AUGUST 11, 2026

HORROR ☆ MYSTERY ☆ PARANORMAL

Delilah's death was not swift or painless. A ghost at nineteen, business entirely unfinished, her last breath was angry. Someone killed her, but she doesn't know who.

Undead creatures stalk Delilah's spirit, eager to feed on her soul until nothing is left but a frightening poltergeist. She can't pass on until the violence of her death is balanced with a life for her life.



Her killer must be killed.

If anyone can find her murderer and keep the darkness at bay, it's Magda, the owner of the strip club where Delilah danced—and a powerful spirit medium. And when a young man comes to town seeking Magda's supernatural services, he can see Delilah. He can hear her, touch her, and make her feel alive again.

The three come together to search for Delilah's murderer. As the creatures close in, Delilah's soul weakens but her power as a poltergeist grows, allowing her to affect the living.

Delilah may be dead, but she won't waste this second chance—she'll take those who've harmed her down with her.

✨ Wish Listed Titles ✨

- Japanese Gothic, Kylie Lee Baker
- The Curse of Hester Gardens, Tamika Thompson
- The Dorian, Nick Cutter
- The View From Here, Rachel Hozwell Hall
- Record Lows, CJ Green
- Rules for Aging and Larceny, Julia London
- Headlights, C.J. Leade

July ARC's Downloads + Purchases

Strange Bedfellows, Amanda Wortlock

Revenge Plot, Stephanie Wrobel

Public Access Afterworld, Jane Schoenbrun

Big Bad, Christian Galacar

✨ Currently Reading ✨

- The Godsend, Bernard Taylor
- That Night, Gillian McAllister
- ~~A House With Good Bones, T. Kingfisher~~

COMPLETED TILES FOR JULY

The Calamities, Chuck Wendig

The Godsend, Bernard Taylor

Book Sources

BookTrib [<https://booktrib.com/>]

Good Reads [<https://www.goodreads.com/>]

Book Riot [<https://bookriot.com/>]

NPR [<https://www.npr.org/books/>]

Literary Hub [<https://lithub.com/>]

Booktrovert [<https://booktrovert.com/>]

Fable [<https://fable.co/>]

August Reading Challenge!

Create a fall reading curriculum.

Comments? Email  me at lifebywyetha@gmail.com. Subscribe to get the latest edition in your inbox!

