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Reviewer username: Anonymous

School: Troy High

Grade: Sophomore

Book Title: Elatsoe

Author: Darcie Little Badger

Rate: 5

Elatsoe, by Darcie Little Badger, is a novel about an Apache teenager who lives in a world according to ancient Native American legends- where monsters still exist alongside a select few whom special powers have been bestowed upon through their family lineage. Elatsoe, or Ellie for short, is one of these humans who has the power to resurrect ghosts, including Kirby, her once alive springer spaniel who is also (in a sense) one of this story's protagonists that ventures with her to investigate her cousin's untimely death when his ghost visits her in a dream. Little Badger really combines horror, mystery, and Native American heritage well in order to make this novel intrinsically captivating and almost impossible to put down.

What makes this novel impossible to put down includes the author's ability to completely place us in Ellie's shoes, allowing us as readers to feel what she's feeling through the descriptions of her thoughts as well as the environment that's just out of reach. The plot isn't extremely complicated either and easy to follow, in part because of how Little Badger explains some foreign elements of Native American culture really well without making it forced or breaking the fourth wall. Another protagonist involves Jay, Ellie's best friend (as well as Jay's soon to be brother-in-law and older sister) who also is kept updated and occasionally tags along as the story progresses. Abe Allerton, the main antagonist who is also seemingly kind and philanthropic, is also one of my favorite characters due to the mystery that he's shrouded in when the novel begins, but more aspects about his character (and motive) are slowly revealed. It's also not that long of a read, which makes it pretty good for a decently long break (or multiple quick ones).

Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson and Kane Chronicles series) readers and devourers of any other mythological fiction will definitely enjoy this novel as well, due to the similar layout of the stories. Those who enjoyed this book will also like another novel by Darcie Little Badger, *A Snake Falls to Earth*. All in all, I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone and almost everyone (those who are very easily scared probably wouldn't enjoy it as much). It's extremely enchanting and just such a delightful read.