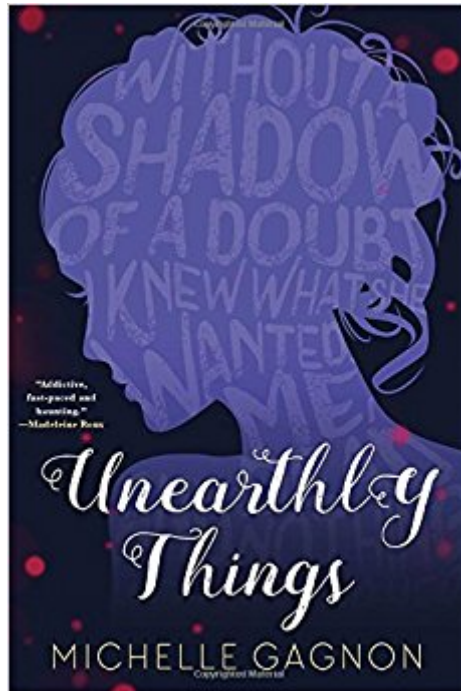


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Unearthly Things



Synopsis

Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre retold against the backdrop of San Francisco's most fabulous and dangerous elites. After losing her parents in a tragic accident, surfer girl Janie Mason trades the sunny beaches of Hawaii for the cold fog of San Francisco and new guardians the Rochesters she's never even met. Janie feels hopelessly out of place in their world of Napa weekends, fancy cotillions, and chauffeurs. The only person she can relate to is Daniel, a fellow surfer. Meeting him makes Janie feel like things might be looking up. Still, something isn't right in the Rochester mansion. There are noises screams coming from the attic that everyone else claims they can't hear. Then John, the black sheep of the family, returns after getting kicked out of yet another boarding school. Soon Janie finds herself torn between devil-may-care John and fiercely loyal Daniel. Just when she thinks her life can't get any more complicated, she learns the truth about why the Rochesters took her in. They want something from Janie, and she's about to see just how far they'll go to get it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *Unearthly Things* "Effortlessly paced, full of heart, humor and horror, Gagnon revives the spirit of a classic while putting her own unique spin on the story. Janie is sympathetic and brave, the perfect lens for us to peer into a world of grandeur, secrets and dark lies. You can't help but lament the family Janie lost while also cheering for her to succeed in her new and strange reality. Charlotte

Brontë would never have guessed that her classic fits so well with a Mean Girls twist, but the blend is addictive, fast-paced and haunting." —Madeleine Roux, New York Times bestselling author of the Asylum series "Haunting in the best possible sense, from the first page to the very last twist." —Leslie Margolis, New York Times bestselling author of the Maggie Brooklyn mysteries "A page-turning ode to Jane Eyre with a ghostly twist, Michelle Gagnon's *Unearthly Things* haunts and delights. Orphaned Janie Mason uncovers the awful secrets hidden behind the seemingly perfect high society life of her new guardians, the Rochesters. A deliciously terrifying read with a heroine worthy of Charlotte Brontë's classic." —Joy Preble, author of *It Wasn't Always Like This* "The pace accelerates, suspense builds, and stakes mount . . . Jane Eyre has inspired retellings from literary gems to pallid retreads; Gagnon's version stands up to the competition, slyly toying with readers' expectation to surprising, entertaining effect." —Kirkus Reviews "A clever update of the Brontë classic . . . Fully rounded characters and abundant suspense help Gagnon's novel hold its own amid other contemporary *Jane Eyre* reimaginings." —Publishers Weekly "Jane Eyre fans will enjoy picking out the commonalities . . . Fate handles her roughly, but like the original Jane, our Janie discovers an inner fortitude. Hand to fans of Lois Duncan's style mysteries." —Booklist "The pacing here is terrific . . . a thrilling climax allows all the loose ends and just desserts to snick into place." —Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "This fast-paced retelling of Jane Eyre will appeal to fans of contemporary Gothic . . . Pair this with the classic novels *Jane Eyre* or Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*." —School Library Connection "Failing family fortunes, wails in the night, bizarre dreams . . . Teens who like gothic fiction will find this enjoyable." —School Library Journal "A real treat . . . For those who aren't too into horror, but every now and again are looking for a bit of a spooky tale without having to keep the lights on for weeks while sleeping, this is definitely a great book to pick up." —Here's To Happy Endings

Michelle Gagnon is the bestselling author of thrillers for teens and adults. Her young adult *PERSEPHONE* trilogy (*Don't Turn Around*, *Don't Look Now*, *Don't Let Go*) was nominated for a Thriller Award, and was selected as a top read by Entertainment Weekly, Kirkus, *Voyager*, and the Young Adult Library Services Association. Her standalone young adult thriller *Strangelets* was a Junior Library Guild pick. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

I really liked this book! It's a retelling of Jane Eyre (which is pretty cool) with a hint of paranormal. Admittedly, I haven't read Jane Eyre (i'll go hide in the corner now) but if it's anything like this then I may dive into the classic and check it out. With that, this is a suspenseful and addicting read. I read it fairly quickly even though I have been extremely busy, and didn't want to put it down even when I had to. The plot will hook you the minute you start it. The story-line is very engrossing as well. It's about a teenager named Janie who is forced to live with the Rochester's following her parent's death. And it this isn't hard enough, some sinister things are going on within the house she lives in that question Janie's sanity. Sounds good, right? Well, it is! Normally, this isn't the type of book I read. I tend to stay away from retelling's because they are (normally) nothing like the original. Also, I don't find many that are good enough to hold my attention for long. This certainly changed after I read this novel though. At first, I picked up the book based on the cover (it's really cool) and then when I read the blurb I thought to myself "okay, this could be really interesting", and I wasn't disappointed in the slightest. I hope the author continues with these retelling's because I will devour them every time based on reading this one!

This Book Would Be Perfect For+ Fans of Young Adult Fiction (mystery and paranormal)+ Fans of retelling's (and maybe even modern fairy tales)+ Fans of the authors work

Unearthly Things was a very interesting take on Jane Eyre - the focus was much more on the Gothic aspects of the story - the mysterious house, the dark secrets, the supernatural and madness. The story used character names from Bronte's novel, but did not always translate them to the same characters in this book. It was a very inventive retelling, with many suspenseful turns to keep the reader engaged. The story's heroine - Janie - is a Filipina surfer girl who is forced into living with rich socialites after the death of her parents. The dynamic with the Rochesters is tense and strange from the beginning, and the setting of a girl uncomfortable with her surroundings makes for drama that sets up the characters very quickly. It also shown how much Janie's parents loved and cared for her which highlighted Janie's loss even more, and it was very easy to empathize and become invested in Janie's plight. The mystery surrounding the relationships in the Rochester family, and why they treat Janie with animosity at times kept me glued to the story. The character relationships were very well written, and fleshed out, and I was intrigued from the first by what secrets the characters were keeping. The author also does something interesting with the romance aspect - absolutely a major feature of the Bronte novel - but here, although it has an impact on the story, the direction it takes was unexpected for me. I loved that the mystery and the

suspense featured more heavily than the romance, and it was wonderful to get more depth to the family aspect than to a romantic relationship that comes pretty quickly for Janie. There is so much that happens in this book - it moves quickly, and some of the twists it takes were completely unexpected, especially from a retelling of Jane Eyre. If you are fan of the Bronte novel, I think you will enjoy seeing all the connections to the original in a different light, and if you have not read Jane Eyre, this is a wonderful suspenseful read!

I never bothered to read Jane Eyre but I am so happy I read this! Never a dull moment and so many twists and turns along the way! What a great story. Worth reading again.

Anxious to read this book. Thanks

This review originally appeared on herestohappyendings.com. *Unearthly Things* is a real treat for those looking for YA horror that isn't too terrifying, yet relies a lot on thrilling concepts to tell an amazing story. For those who aren't too into horror, but every now and again are looking for a bit of a spooky tale without having to keep the lights on for weeks while sleeping, this is definitely a great book to pick up, as there's a bit of a mystery element going on in the story, too. Because of that, this book spans across several genres, and I imagine will appeal to a lot of people (especially those interested in classical literature and who would love to read a new Jane Eyre retelling). Janie Mason has lost her parents in a tragic helicopter accident, and in the will her parents made up years ago, she is to leave her home in Hawaii and move in with her father's old best friend in San Francisco. While it is hard enough to have to leave behind her home after losing parents that she was incredibly close to, she now has to move in with a family that she doesn't know, leave her friends, and have to make a life for herself somewhere else. It might not be so bad, except that her dad's friend, Richard, is quite rich and his family seems to be snobs, including his daughter Georgina and his wife, Marion. Then there's their little boy, Nicholas, who is kind of creepy, especially with how often he tells Janie he "talks" to his dead twin sister, Eliza. Between weird noises, screams in the attic, and the family skirting around the topic of Eliza as often as they can, Janie can't seem to get any real answers in the family, nor does she feel like she belongs. When she meets Daniel, the two of them hit it off because of their love of surfing. Daniel listens to Janie and even helps her investigate the weird sounds she has been hearing in the attic. And then there's John, the family's other son, home from boarding school after being kicked out, and the only one in the family who seems to genuinely care about Janie. So she forms a friendship with him, as well, even though

Daniel and John have had a feud going for quite some time, and Daniel hates the fact that Janie is spending time with John. While dealing with all of these things, plus situations at the house getting weirder every day (including a random fire that breaks out only in Janie's room), Janie slowly feels like she might be losing her grip on things. The only person who seems to want to protect her is the family's maid, Alma, and why she is working so hard to ensure her safety is a mystery to Janie. When old family secrets begin to surface, Janie finds that this family might try and keep up with appearances, but they definitely aren't who they say they are. After you get past the absolutely beautiful cover of this book, and the synopsis that mixes plenty of elements to create a delicious sounding thriller, you get a story that wraps you up and leaves you reading until the early hours of the morning, because it's that good. While I was in love with the story (which is fast paced and interesting as can be), for some reason I felt myself having a bit of difficulty connecting to some of the characters, including Janie in the beginning of the book. I also found myself not liking Daniel very much - he just seemed kind of "off." Their relationship was a little dull and flat even from the beginning. Even so, I believe the author did an amazing job with the story and some of the other characters - such as Nicholas, who was just incredibly creepy and added so much to the book. The whole Rochester family had so many secrets that they were hiding, and I loved how sinister they all seemed. The horror in *Unearthly Things* was a compliment to the overall theme of the book, instead of taking center stage and making this a book that lacks other elements, too. Sometimes you read a horror novel and it's full of scary things happening over and over, mostly for the sake of being shock value, but that isn't the case here. The moments of horror that are found in the book actually have a point that is relevant to the story. The drama between Georgina and Janie offers some excitement to the book, as well. At first, it's typical teenage girl drama, and then it becomes malicious later in the book. It fits the overall ominous feelings that I had while reading, and it was well done and added something to the story. This is a really interesting book to pick up, whether or not you've actually read *Jane Eyre*. It's fun, a bit scary, and completely un-put-downable. It's a perfect treat for those times when you're looking for a book that has a little bit of everything. Note: I received an ARC of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

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