



The Carnivorous Carnival

Lemony Snicket , Brett Helquist (Illustrations)

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Dear reader,

The word "carnivorous," which appears in the title of this book, means "meat-eating," and once you have read such a bloodthirsty word, there is no reason to read any further. This carnivorous volume contains such a distressing story that consuming any of its contents would be far more stomach-turning than even the most imbalanced meal.

To avoid causing discomfort, it would be best if I didn't mention any of the unnerving ingredients of this story, particularly a confusing map, an ambidextrous person, an unruly crowd, a wooden plank, and Chabo the Wolf Baby.

Sadly for me, my time is filled with researching and recording the displeasing and disenchanting lives of the Baudelaire orphans. But your time might be better filled with something more palatable, such as eating your vegetables, or feeding them to someone else.

With all due respect,

Lemony Snicket

The Carnivorous Carnival Details

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Author : Lemony Snicket , Brett Helquist (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Carnivorous Carnival for online ebook

emma says

Once again I get the chance to say (write?) the most glorious words in the English language: This is a particularly fantastic installment in the GREATEST SERIES OF ALL TIME.

In case you're new here or somehow able to ignore me doing the internet equivalent of nonstop screaming about this series: I LOVE THESE BOOKS SO MUCH.

This one is, as mentioned, particularly next-level at putting all other excuses for literature to shame. It breaks from the typical format. Our lil gang grows up. There's an exploration of moral absolutism, a questioning of whether anyone is truly good or evil, and whether evil acts can be motivated by pure intentions. There's a condemnation of normalcy, one which points out (TO A MAIN AUDIENCE OF CHILDREN MAY I REMIND YOU) that no one is normal and everyone's got something freakish about them.

Also, there are fortune-tellers and inventions and disguises and Thai food and page repetition to mock déjà vu and, as always, some of the best world-building and narration of all time.

IT'S A GREAT BOOK AND I HAVE A MIGRAINE SO I NEED TO STOP LOOKING AT A SCREEN NOW.

Bottom line: If you haven't read these books yet and don't plan to in the immediate future, clearly you don't care about me AT ALL.

Constantin says

A brilliant little book from the series. Quite different than the previous books, as the kids go on their own adventure other than following a guardian.

Ashley Daviau says

Every time I read one of these books I feel like I'm instantly transported to my childhood and it's the most wonderful feeling in the world! This is one of my favourite books out of the series, I'm a sucker for anything based in a carnival. It's been so long since I first read this book that I had forgotten most of the plot, I was actually quite surprised by the twist at the ending and now I'm quite looking forward to getting started on the next book to see how the Baudelaires manage to get out of this one!

Mark Lawrence says

The children arrive hidden in the trunk of Count Olaf's car. A new turn of events - they know where Olaf is and it's them who are in disguise.

The good-evil, noble-villain theme expands. The children are the spies. In addition they meet and join the circus 'freaks' who they see put to the test - decent people in a hard place offered difficult choices - will they act like noble people or villains? The circus freaks are a test case, an example, perhaps an illustration of how Olaf's hench-people & perhaps Olaf himself descended by degrees into villainy.

We are tantalized with more mysteries and more possible solutions - we discover the secret that has allowed Olaf to find the children time and again...

And at the end the children face danger and hard choices themselves.

Continues with the familiar humour, word games etc. Also, Sunny continues to grow, expands her vocabulary, and starts to show an interest in cooking - which becomes her 'thing' in later books.

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Phrynne says

Just dipping into this series to find out what it is all about. Maybe I should have tried book 1 first but I happened on this one by accident.

I think if I had read this when I was a child I would have loved it. Despite all the terrible things that happen to the Baudelaires there is always a feeling that they will find a way out and since I hated suspense back then this would have suited me down to the ground.

As an adult I enjoyed the dryness of the narrative, the slightly snarky comments and expressions which are certainly intended for the grown up readers, not the children. (Not too sure though about some of the content especially the treatment of "the freaks.")

Altogether I can certainly see why the series has so many followers although I do not feel the immediate need to rush out and read any more myself.

Bruna Miranda says

Isso tá ficando MUITO sinistro, gente! Só nesse livro percebi que essa série já teve mais morte do que muitas outras adultas que eu li ? Eu já tô me coçando pra saber as respostas dos mistérios!

Timothy Urges says

Reread.

Meghan says

JANUARY 2017 RE-READ

Bumping this up from 4 stars to 5. I last read this when it first came out in 2002! So that was FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. God I feel old. For some reason I had it in my head that I didn't enjoy this one as much as others in the series, but I was clearly mistaken because this is a great instalment. I like how books 2-7 involve Count Olaf in disguises trying to fool the Baudelaires, and books 8 and 9 involve the Baudelaires in disguises trying to fool Count Olaf. Madame Lulu is a cool character, FINALLY the children are learning even more about V.F.D., the carnival setting is fun...just so many great things happening here. Shout out to one of the freak show performers: Kevin the ambidextrous man! Also some great and not-so-subtle messages about prejudice. I just love Daniel Handler's writing style, and his decision to create a pen-name who is also a character. Bravo.

Carlos. says

De los que menos me ha gustado de la saga, pero tan guay y siniestro como siempre. No esperaba menos. ?

Leah Craig says

"I don't care who falls in!" announced the pimpled man. "To me, a woman in a turban is just as freaky as a two headed person. I'm not prejudiced!"

Marguerite says

3 Stars.

My binge read of this series continues. If you've been following my reviews, you may notice that the ratings have been dropping, mainly because I feel that the story is becoming a little too repetitive and that there would be some really simple solutions to the children's problems. I don't want to spoil anything, but at the start, Violet, Klaus and Sunny are near Olaf's unattended car and instead of thinking "Let's use Violet's mechanical skills to hot-wire this car and Klaus' knowledge of all things to drive our way to freedom, hurrah!" Instead they head TOWARDS the villains, then stuff got weird, and at the end, it was obvious that Olaf knew (I won't say what, because spoilers) but then the children just... go with it? Even when I thought that they knew that he knew. Strange. At times, it just feels like the characters are being pushed into a predestined plot even though they've evolved beyond it, so it feels stiff and wrong.

I'm still finishing this series, but my hopes are going down that there will ever be satisfactory answers and the plots aren't as intriguing and fascinating as the earlier books. Well, next is book 10.

C.G. Drews says

Okay but first off: OBLIGATORY TEARS because the Netflix S2 has finished and now we get to wait alone in the dark with only a piece of salmon for company for the rest of the show. ??But I mean, obviously you can read the books and find out what happens. But ya know. I'm still here to complain. **ANYWAY! This one is quite dark?!** Not as creepy as the hospital, but there is a pit of lions that they're going to throw people into so. ^_(_?)_/_ Good quality literature. No wonder I turned out how I did, thanks Mr. Snicket, for a childhood filled with murder, arson, and hungry lions.

Notable Moments:

- for some reason I've forgotten 100% of this book until this reread
- I mean I probably read it for the first time 10 years ago but whatever
- (NOW I FEEL OLD??)
- Madame Lulu was about as helpful as a broken piece of parsley
- Is Esme actually a worse villain than Olaf??? Because she's actually slightly intelligent which makes her more dangerous I guess.
- I'm still struggling with the freak who was ambidextrous as his "freakness"
- mate
- nobody likes corn anymore
- violence and messy eating are like = bread and circus
- i see what you did there
- and Sunny starts to show interest in cooking !!! which is what we live for!!!

(I will probably pause my reread until next year when S3 comes out?! But like: THIS HAS BEEN A NICE FACEPLANT DOWN MEMORY LANE. WOW MY CHILDHOOD WAS DISTURBED. 10/10)

Swaye says

??? Oh no! A *literal* cliffhanger! Don't worry, Sunny! I'll rescue you!

Onward Swifty, to Book the Tenth!

Kayla says

Such an intriguing addition to the story, the carnival vibes were cool!

Richard Denney says

I loved the carnival theme this book had going, I was excited that Klaus, Violet, and Sunny dressed up in disguises to fuck up Count Olaf's shit, the mystery of V.F.D is still unsolved, one of their parents might be

alive and those poor lions oh my gahhhh...

But...

HOLY MADAME LULU!

THAT ENDING.

THAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT ENDIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIING!!

I WAS JUMPING ALL OVER MY BED AND SCARED THE SHIT OUT OF ONE OF MY DOGS!

This was me after reading that ending:

I'M READY FOR BOOK 10!

- Richard

Mykle says

My daughter and I adored the entire series, but this episode is my favorite. It contains perhaps the funniest of Lemony Snicket's etymological digressions. It marks the point where the larger story begins to evolve, where the traumatized young Baudelaire orphans first turn the tables on their arch-nemesis, Count Olaf. And it's also a point where both the orphans and the story mature, evolving from a good-vs-evil fairy tale of morbid victimhood into a subtle study of moral complexity.

It's a pity that so many people who begin this series give up after three or four volumes. But if you make it through *The Carniverous Carnival*, you won't want to stop.

Deborah Markus says

Snicket engages in some serious moral wrangling in this volume, and forces the reader to do the same. At a crucial moment, the Baudelaire orphans meet a woman who wants to be a good, strong person -- but because her motto is "give people what they want," she can always be manipulated by villains, and always tells herself that she *must* be a good person, because isn't giving people what they want a good thing to do? The simple answer, "Not if they want bad things!" never seems to occur to her.

It occurs to the Baudelaires, of course. Partly because they're nobler than she is. Partly because they desperately need her help. In the course of trying to persuade her to give them what they *need*, they're forced to admit that in spite of their best intentions, they seem to be sliding down a slippery moral slope:

"Haven't you ever found yourself doing something you never thought you'd do?"

"I guess so," Klaus said, and turned to his sisters. "Remember when we stole those keys from Hal, at the Library of Records? I never thought I'd be a thief."

"Flynn," Sunny said, which meant something like, "And I never thought I would become a violent person, but

I engaged in a sword fight with Dr. Orwell."

"We've all done things we never thought we'd do," Violet said, "but we always had a good reason."

"Everybody thinks they have a good reason," Olivia said.

Ouch.

This is the first book in the Series of Unfortunate Events to end on a really suspenseful cliffhanger. I'm glad I wasn't an early adopter with these books. I would have hated to have to wait a whole year to see what happened next.

Kate (GirlReading) says

3.75* Similarly to book eight, this wasn't the most memorable in the series but I absolutely loved the intensity of the ending! I thought the kids starting to question and doubt themselves and their actions was really interesting too! This was a slightly drearier book in tone than the others, but it worked in connection to the Baudelaire's reclining and undoubtably exhausting situation! I can feel the ending getting closer and I'm looking forward to finally (hopefully) getting some answers soon!!

Lauren says

I liked this book a lot more than I thought although everytime I am close to finding out everything it just slips from my fingertips and I have to wait for the next book.

Elaina says

~3.5 stars~

Sorry for all of these half stars lol That's just the way I rate stuff sometimes :P

As for the review, it's gonna be short lol I feel like we know more about a certain organization and I am intrigued to find out what will happen in the 10th book next! For some reason, I can't help but keep reading these! I just want to know what happens next...even though I know it will be unfortunate. (Catch my pun anyone? Yeah, I know that was terrible...I'm sorry xD lol) It's the same old same old with the adults in this book though...they are all pretty stupid...and the things they allow to happen to the Baudelaire children are horrible! I won't get into details, but let's just say they can be pretty cruel...
