



# The Poe Estate

*Polly Shulman*

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## **The Poe Estate** Polly Shulman

This is a mind-bending, rousing adventure celebrating classic ghost and horror stories, by the author of *The Grimm Legacy* and *The Wells Bequest*.

Sukie's been lonely since the death of her big sister, Kitty--but Kitty's ghost is still with her. At first that was comforting, but now Kitty's terrifying anyone who gets too close. Things get even weirder when Sukie moves into her family's ancestral home, and an older, less familiar ghost challenges her to find a treasure. Her classmate Cole is also experiencing apparitions. Fortunately, an antique broom's at hand to fly Sukie and Cole to the New-York Circulating Material Repository's spooky Poe Annex. As they search for clues and untangle ancient secrets, they discover their histories intertwine and are as full of stories of love, revenge, and pirate hijinks as some of the most famous fiction.

## **The Poe Estate Details**

Date : Published September 15th 2015 by Nancy Paulsen Books (first published September 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9780399166143

Author : Polly Shulman

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Paranormal, Ghosts

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# **From Reader Review The Poe Estate for online ebook**

## **Brandy Painter says**

This is a fun ghost story. The main characters are likeable and the adventure and mystery aspects of the plot make it a fast paced read. I enjoyed how the ghost aspect was handled especially. I didn't like it quite as much as I have the other books in the series, but it was fun seeing the characters I loved from the previous two books and being back at the Repository. I fell like what separates this from the other two is that the writing wasn't quite as strong. The dialogue felt very forced. I do like the interesting twist the collecting took in this one and how it went beyond mere objects.

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## **Daniel says**

I love this series! While chronological, it is not a series that creates cliffhangers or has some constant battle against the same unvanquishable enemy--they are self-contained stories that are connected by the New-York Circulating Material Repository and a handful of characters that are not always the central characters. Each story builds upon and explains more of the New-York Circulating Material Repository, while giving new voices to more characters in its expanding universe. While it is fantastical in its telling the characters are well drawn and believable and examine their lives. And characters age, it just doesn't pick up where the last one let off.

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## **Charlene says**

I was hoping for a little more Poe in this novel, but I was pleasantly surprised with the inclusion of Hawthorne. Intriguing stuff. This story didn't grab me as tightly as the first in the series, but I liked it better than the second installment.

I loved all the references to famous and not-so-well-known stories. Makes me want to go back and read them all over again. I wish the made-up books existed, though. They sounded interesting and right up my alley.

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## **Aaron says**

Readers get an opportunity to explore the creative world of the New-York Circulating Material Repository for the the third time, and with this volume they get to explore classic, Gothic horror. It all begins when Sukie and her family returns to the family estate to live. Her older sister, Kitty, recently died, and the family has hit hard economic times. Going home to live with old Cousin Hepsebah, who is ninety-odd years old. It is a rickety old mansion, and one her family has lived in since colonial times.

It probably should not have been surprising, but the house is haunted, but what is surprising is that Kitty has now become one of the ghosts. In part, Sukie finds it refreshing to have her sister around again, but it is also a little eerie (for the obvious reasons!). Sukie's parents try and make money by collecting old items from various estates and selling them at flea markets. It is through this that Sukie meets Elizabeth and Andre, two

employees of the New-York Circulating Materials Library (and names that would be familiar to those who have read two earlier books in the series), which is a library that circulates no books. Instead, it circulates realia and other physical items that have been talked about in literature over the centuries.

Elizabeth is now creating a new collection, one that will focus on collecting ancient homes and buildings. The items that Sukie and her family have been selling have triggered some interest because some seem to have come from such homes. Little do any of them know, but it seems like this interest will help identify a family secret that will bring them and the reader along on an interesting series of adventures that are both eerie and intriguing.

As with earlier books in the series, Shulman has created a fun adventure tale for intermediate readers that is not only good on its own, but also introduces them to some really great literary pieces and authors. I cannot help but assume that many of these readers will go on to read the tales that are highlighted in this book.

This was an interesting read, but I struggled a little more with the concept than I did with *The Grimm Legacy* or *The Wells Bequest*, but I think that is more due to the fact that I had had a hard time wrapping my head around the collection of buildings. The story was good and the characters were intriguing, both really setting the Gothic feel being highlighted by the works in the story. I read this in a 24-hour period, though most of it was done within two hours. This whole series is definitely worth a read.

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### **Melissa says**

This is book 3 in the series about the New-York Circulating Material Repository. This one is a bit dark due to the subject matter: ghosts. It's a spooky tale about ancestors and secrets. I enjoyed the overall story and the fact that many of the characters from the other books were in it. I was a little bit worried at first as the story didn't seem to blend with the others. It does take a different road than the others. I very much enjoyed the mention of other horror writers and their works. I found it cool (maybe a little freaky) to think that objects from these books could be real.

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### **Amanda says**

Nearly put this one down and didn't pick it up again. But I tried again, putting aside my distaste for the choppy style (multiple scene breaks within each chapter, little narrative transitioning, lots of action, dialogue, and memories in lieu of narrative storytelling). I read the first two books and don't recall them being written in this way. It felt like big chunks had just been cut out and nothing put in their place. The ending also came on all at once in a rush and then again was undercut. I found myself asking, where's the love? I just didn't feel like this book had it the way the first did. Bizarre. But I finished it, and the story itself was imaginative at least. Then again, there were moments when I felt like I was getting an imagination info dump, when characters were just talking about the histories of all the fantastical objects and such, but it was all rather lost in me in the jumble and rush. Nothing to write home about I guess. Too bad.

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### **midnightfaerie says**

This is the third book in the *Grimm Legacy* trilogy and I enjoyed it the most, but only because of the content.

This again was about the repository, the lending library of objects, but this time we delve into the hiddle section of the library called the "Poe Estate" which holds all the fictional items from books, both fiction and non-fiction, resulting in fictional non-fiction, which was a unique and fun idea to wrap your head around. Being a literature fan myself, it was highly enjoyable to imagine a library filled with items from my favorite books from my favorite authors such as Edgar Allen Poe and Edith Wharton. A little ghost story and some magic thrown in, made this book of the trilogy my definite favorite. I do feel the whole idea of a series centered around a repository lending library is an original idea and would be willing to read more about it if such books came out. It reminds me of the cemetery of forgotten books idea by Carlos Luis Zafon which I adore. Still not as much character depth as I'd like, but a unique enough idea to hold me captivated.

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## **Erikka says**

Not a bad addition to the series, but not particularly memorable either. I enjoyed it, though, which I guess is enough.

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## **Dolly says**

I saw this title on our local library's Overdrive website and thought it looked very intriguing. I guess I wasn't paying close attention because I didn't realize it is the third book in the series until I went to post this review.

Still, I thought it was a very engaging story and I really enjoyed listening to Jorjeana Marie narrating the story on audiobook.

interesting quotes (page numbers from edition with ISBN13):

*"We're librarians. If we don't find what we're looking for, we keep looking."* (p.)

*""* (p.)

*""* (p.)

*""* (p.)

*""* (p.)

*""* (p.)

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## **Got My Book says**

Also posted on my blog Got My Book.

**A YA Contemporary Fantasy that wasn't too much for this non-horror fan.**

**BOOK DETAILS:**

***The Poe Estate*** by Polly Shulman, read by Jorjeana Marie, published by Listening Library (2015) / Length: 6 hrs 46 min

### **SERIES INFO:**

This is book #3 in the "The Grimm Legacy" trilogy (also known as "The Repository" series). The books can be read as standalones, but some characters do carry over. The author is not currently planning to write any additional books in this series.

### **SUMMARY:**

I almost didn't read this book, which would have been a shame. I hadn't liked the previous book in this series and am decidedly not a horror fan; but I did like the first one, and was able to get this one from the library, so I gave it a chance. Turns out that it's my favorite one of the three.

While there are some spooky parts, and they learn about the murder of a young child in the past, the book didn't strike me as scary at all (and I'm a wimp).

Aside from the story itself, I love the whole cast of characters. We get some from the first book and some great new ones.

### **CHARACTERS:**

Sukie: A seemingly typical bookish middle schooler, openly set apart by her grief at the death of her sister and further isolated by the felt, but not understood, presence of the sister's ghost watching over her.

Her family has had to move in with an elderly cousin due to financial difficulties after her sister's long illness and a downturn in the economy. She understands that her parents are doing their best, but still just wants to go home. Her family is close, and although her parents don't know about the ghosts and other strange stuff, the cousin does and is a great support for Sukie & Cole.

Cole: In the past, he teased Elizabeth; but now he's being helpful. Too bad, Kitty's not big on forgiveness.

Elizabeth (the main character from Book #1) is now all grown up and working at The Repository full time. And Andre (Mark's little brother) is now a page. They make a great working pair, and it is fun that he still calls her Libbet (he couldn't pronounce her name when he met her as a small child).

### **WORLDBUILDING:**

This series posits a world where the lines between fiction & reality are seriously blurred. There is fiction written about real magical objects and real objects whose origins are in fiction. This particular book focuses on the fiction of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, and other classic horror writers. There are haunted houses, ghosts, witches brooms, etc.

### **PLOT:**

The beginning skillfully introduced Sukie & her family and the changes that have taken place in their lives.

The ending was emotionally satisfying regarding the current book. Knowing it was the final book in the series, however, I would have liked to know about more about some of the other previous characters.

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

--The scene where Sukie first meets Andre & Elizabeth.

--I like the concept that Sukie is continuing to grow & change but Kitty isn't, so Sukie is outgrowing her.

--The resolution of Sukie & Kitty's relationship.

### **NARRATION:**

Character voices differentiated = Yes / Opposite sex voices acceptable = Yes / Accents good = no one seemed to have one, not even the New Yorkers - although they were in Manhattan so maybe they weren't supposed to / Phrasing, Pacing & Pronunciation = Good / Emoting = Good / Speed = Slow. I listened on 1.5 speed, rather than my usual 1.25, and it was just a touch fast

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### **Nick Claxton says**

Oh where to begin? Let me start by saying the positives it was a fast read and an awesome book to get your mind thinking fictional vs real kind of real.

Now to the easy part the bads. This book lacked alot. I feel like an average reader was assuming a better ending then she came up with. A long start to lead to a so-so climax to a blah rushed ending. and that is just the plot problems.

Next to the writing style. Choppy, too much, too little, and just too. First the choppy. this book has multiple jumps in time in each chapter word choice is boring dialog blah, blah, blah. Too much. she would describe things like the air in so much detail you could put yourself there. Too little. She put a 3 word sentence about her dead sister being a ghost. leaving me saying wait I just got a whiff of the sweat on their backs but wait your sister dead sister just did a full marathon. cool? Just too. left out details some details went nowhere and where pointless just lost interest. not too mention the the theft of other authors work that if better which I am sure they where where smashed by this story.

All in all a good thought provoking story that held me to 2 stars but the writing style and the overall plot failed the original idea with trying to use helpful theft from other authors.

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

This is an homage to Gothic fiction lovers aimed at younger readers. I loved that about this book. It's metafiction that takes it even deeper. There is story within a story within a story. I read The Wells Bequest first, which is the science fiction volume of this series. I liked it, but I liked this more because I love Gothic/Classic horror. It's apparent that Shulman does as well. I made a note of all the books she alluded to. Many I had read, but I got ideas for others to look up and read.

The overall concept was well done, and some elements were quite serious for a MG level book. This book deals with death in a very matter-of-fact way. Suki's sister died and her ghost is her protector. Except Kitty is getting to be problematic in her protectiveness, leading to Suki's reputation as being weird, and Suki needs to let her go. Her parents have to move in with a great, great-aunt into a house that is part of her family's strange and tragic history. As Suki gets drawn into an adventure related to her ancestor's tie to the house and interacts with employees from the New York Circulating Repository, she learns that it's important to accept her sister's death and try to move on.

I couldn't give this book higher than **3.5 stars** because it is written in too lightweight a fashion. Some serious topics are put out there and there are deeper levels that don't get delved into with this book. I feel that there

was a longer book inside of this one that didn't get written. I understand that some things had to be pared down due to format, but I would have liked to see that other book that this book shows potential for turned out. On the good side, I love how multicultural it is, and the fact that all families aren't the same, and that hardworking people experience financial difficulties and lose their homes and jobs. Not because they are lazy, but because of things outside their control. Suki is a strong young girl to go through all of this and keep on going. I had mad respect for her and her family. I cried about her sister and some of the tragic events from her family's past.

I love the metafiction concept. I could read about that for days. I could have spent hours more delving into this interest world that Shulman created. I wish I had 100 more pages of this gem. I will always be a cheerleader for middle grade fiction. While I was somewhat disappointed with this book, I would still recommend it to readers who love classic and Gothic horror.

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### **Emily says**

The best thing about this story are the classic gothic/horror story references. It made me want to reread many of Poe's and Hawthorne's stories! I also love that she created her own gothic author and fictional stories within a fiction story. I read this book without reading the others in the series because this is on the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award List, and I think I'll go back and read the others that came before this.

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### **Yapha says**

In this companion volume to *The Grimm Legacy* and *The Wells Bequest*, we return to the New-York Circulating Material Repository. The characters from the first two books have grown up and are working there now. This story focuses on items from gothic and supernatural stories. Sukie's sister died several years back, and while her ghost remains nearby it is not the same. Sukie's family fell on hard times after Kitty's death. They recently lost their house and have just moved in with 95-year-old cousin Hepzibah in the rundown family mansion. Here Sukie finds more ghosts and an old family legend about pirate treasure. With help from the librarians from the Repository and a new friend at school, Sukie goes in search of the treasure that will change her family's fortune. An exciting adventure through the world of classic horror books. It is not necessary to have read the first two, but it helps. Highly recommended for grades 5-8.

ARC provided by publisher

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### **Susan says**

The third in the *Grimm Legacy* series, this book is (appropriately?) the darkest by far, and the one the most removed from the New-York Circulating Material Repository, which is involved only peripherally for longer than than you might expect.

Sukie's family has fallen into hard times following the untimely passing of her older sister Kitty. To regroup and save money, the family takes up residence with her mother's elderly cousin Hepzibah in her dust-ridden mansion. With her sister's protective ghost in tow, Sukie soon finds herself at the heart of a family mystery



and discovers a new talent after a chance encounter with the NYCMR's Elizabeth Rew at a flea market. In order to get to the bottom of her family's past, she will need Elizabeth and the Repository's help--but the key to the mystery may not provide the answers she expects.

Like the other books in the series, the concept is far more satisfying than the characters themselves. The artifacts are as intriguing as ever, and the ambience has a nice eerie quality reminiscent of the Graveyard Book in parts, but Sukie as a character is so wrapped up in her grief, so accustomed to living in the shadow of her sister, that she's almost unknowable as a character herself. Andre Merritt makes an appearance, serving his role as the obligatory callback to the Repository pages we've met in the earlier books, but he also can't seem to escape his brother's shadow, and feels like a retread. Sukie's nemesis-turned-ally's behavior is inexplicably arbitrary, working hard to establish chemistry that doesn't necessarily add up. It's a little problematic, but maybe something can be said for the mystery and adventure of this installment that I barely noticed that the Poe Estate is weirdly nearly devoid of artifacts that are actually from Poe. In a way, the fact that the Poe Estate seems to be more of an homage to Poe than a direct connection is kind of perfect for a book whose underlying mystery and ghost story is an homage to a tapestry of many gothic classics. If Shulman can create a bridge for someone to be motivated to explore Hawthorne, Hardy, or Poe somehow---that's pretty cool, and honestly...if she writes another, I would definitely read it. This is almost the closest thing kids have to the world of Thursday Next, even if this does take itself a bit \*too\* seriously for its own good at times.

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