“Blood may even stain your soul”

Set in Edinburgh in 1817, Anatomy: A Love Story follows the young noble lady Hazel Sinnett, who quietly spends all her days working towards becoming a surgeon. One day Hazel hears about a famous doctor coming to town to teach a course on surgery, so she makes it her life’s mission to attend. But with gender attitudes being what they were, she has to hide as her late brother. The book follows her journey trying to become the best student in a class full of men. At the same time, there is a plague going around (the return of the so-called “Roman Fever”) which is slowly killing their society. This along with evil scientists, beautiful castles, and cute resurrection men, makes for an intriguing plot.

This book packs a heavy punch with its gothic thriller vibe. The imagery is elegant yet blood-curdling, making it so much fun to read. I am a big fan of the academic, ambitious, and determined Hazel and an even bigger fan of her position against the bigoted workplace. But do not be fooled; the love story part of the title is about Hazel’s love for science, not romance. We get a very small section of the book dedicated to Jack Currer and an even smaller romantic plot between the two. So if that’s what you are looking for, this might not be your book.

This book is the perfect combination of Frankenstein, Alienst, with a touch of Twelfth Night. If you like any of those works you will love this book. I have to say, this is one of my favorite YA books. I heavily recommend it to anyone who is looking for a spooky but academic-feel read.

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