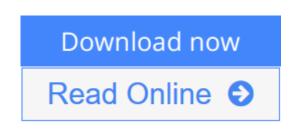


# The Women in the Walls: A dark and dangerous tale

By Amy Lukavics



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Lucy Acosta's mother died when she was three. Growing up in a Victorian mansion in the middle of the woods with her cold, distant father, she explored the dark hallways of the estate with her cousin, Margaret. They're inseparable—a family.

When her aunt Penelope, the only mother she's ever known, tragically disappears while walking in the woods surrounding their estate, Lucy finds herself devastated and alone. Margaret has been spending a lot of time in the attic. She claims she can hear her dead mother's voice whispering from the walls. Emotionally shut out by her father, Lucy watches helplessly as her cousin's sanity slowly unravels. But when she begins hearing voices herself, Lucy finds herself confronting an ancient and deadly legacy that has marked the women in her family for generations.

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—In her sophomore horror novel, Lukavics creates a present-day world within a centuries-old Victorian estate. Lucy Acosta grew up being told that she must always have perfect control and never show weakness. Now at 17 years old, after discovering Walter the cook hanging by his neck from his bedroom ceiling, and dealing with the mysterious disappearance of her aunt Penelope—who was more of a mother to Lucy than to her own daughter—she is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain her composure. It doesn't help that Lucy's cousin and best friend Margaret is hearing voices in the attic, quickly withdrawing from society, and threatening to tell Lucy's greatest secret—the protagonist cuts herself. When more tragedy strikes, Lucy starts hearing the voices of several women in the walls of their estate. Readers will be either delighted by the creepy twists and turns of each chapter or disappointed by it not being creepy enough to necessitate sleeping with one eye open. The ending might leave teens wanting more, giving Lukavics a good opening for a possible sequel. There are several uses of profanity, and the theme of self-mutilation runs throughout the book. VERDICT Seasoned horror lovers might not be satisfied, but this would be a great choice to introduce the uninitiated to the genre.—Kristin Unruh, Novi High School, MI

#### About the Author

Amy Lukavics lurks within the pine-topped mountains of Arizona, along with her husband and two precious squidlings. When she isn't reading or writing creepy stories, she enjoys cooking, crafting, and playing video games. Daughters Unto Devils is her debut novel.

#### **Users Review**

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