

Anatomy: A Love Story

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Born into wealth, Hazel wants nothing more than to become a surgeon. Unfortunately, she's discriminated against everywhere she goes because of her gender. After teaming up with riffraff and seller-of-dead-bodies Jack, she manages to sneak into a lecture and plans to disguise herself as a man in order to learn at the university. Although she's easily caught, she manages to make a deal: she'll be allowed in only if she passes the medical exam on her own. With the help of Jack, Hazel hones her skill by practicing on the dead as a strange plague takes over Scotland and people begin to disappear.

This book is just insane. It feels like it's going to go a certain way in one chapter before suddenly hitting you with a plot twist that changes the entire meaning. Sometimes it's historical fiction, sometimes it's fantasy, sometimes it's romance. It's like you really have no idea what's going to happen next. I started out thinking it was fun but a little predictable, and I was totally blown away by how wrong I was. The experience was a weird one because the author really leaned into the abnormal and strange while still making it comprehensible. It didn't feel like the book was too out-there or like it was trying too hard. Instead, I felt creeped out and yet unusually emotional. It was just such a fun and cooky read.

This is probably better for older-ish teens and new adults. There was a bit of language here and there, and the main plot of the entire book centers around dead people. Jack sells dead bodies to doctors for money, Hazel performs on dead people to study, and there are multiple instances of gruesome wounds. It's not horrible offensive, but it is rather disturbing at times.

Recommended Titles:

The Final Girl Support Group by Grady Hendrix

Boys, Beasts, & Men by Sam J. Miller

The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton