Below are the complete reviews, written by the Lovereading4kids members.

Sidney Greenslade, age 12

Thank you to Joseph Delaney for writing this book, I couldn’t get enough of it. Fantastic characters, amazing world, wonderful writing – it has everything. I loved it.

‘Spooks: A New Darkness’ is a spell-binding book, telling the story of Thomas Ward and his life as a Spook.

Thomas is used to dealing with things that go bump in the night but is mystified by the strange deaths of three young girls, found bloodied and pale in their beds, looks of the utmost horror upon their faces. As Tom investigates these bizarre deaths he meets Jenny, a girl who claims to be the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter and wishes to become his apprentice.

Tom is doubtful about taking her on – she is young and Spooks have traditionally always been male, but, when the monster responsible for the girls’ deaths attacks Jenny, her bravery and calmness surprise him and he relents.

However, both of them are in more danger than Tom could possibly imagine...

‘Spooks’ is an enthralling book, full of mystery, twists and action. I loved it from start to finish and felt really connected to the characters and their world. It had drama and suspense and was a delight to read – possibly one of the best books I have ever read.
I particularly liked Jenny. Stubborn, clever, determined and incredibly brave; she sums up everything you could want in a female character.

The story was very well written and felt shockingly real. I didn’t want it to end, would give it more than 10/10 if that was possible and will certainly be reading all the previous Spooks books and looking out for the sequel to ‘A New Darkness’.

Highly recommended.

Rose Roberts, age 12

I really enjoyed ‘Spooks - A New Darkness’. I liked how it is set in this world, but has made up creatures. It has the common 'light vs dark' 'good vs evil' but in a completely different way.

It was a great read. It is set in the past and shows that in the language of the characters and how they act.

The local Spook is in charge of fighting the dark; all types of creatures, like Boggarts, witches, ghosts and ghasts. In this book, Tom Ward is the spook, taking on a new apprentice - Jenny. Together with Grimalkin (a friendly witch) they have to try and stop a new evil from coming in from the North. Some unexpected twists and turns are in there - be prepared!!!

Though I do recommend only to start this series if you have already read the series before it, or don't care about spoilers - it has a lot of spoilers.

I can't wait to read ‘The Dark Army’.

Aonghus Anderson, age 12

When I received 'Spooks' I was really interested. I read the whole book in one day it was so gripping, the descriptions of the battles were amazing and it had a really good storyline. It gives a really good insight into mythical healers and witches. I would definitely want to read another of these series of books and would recommend them to ages 10 and above.

Thank you very much for sending me this book as I found it really interesting and mysterious.

Eloise Mae Clarkson, age 12

I loved this book. It was full of unique exciting characters. The background stories were amazing and it told you about the past. I enjoyed how you could
learn about what a Spook does (they remove unwanted supernatural beings e.g. beggars and ghosts). This book is about how a young Spook and his newly appointed apprentice set off to learn about a new species of dangerous creatures. **The plot was amazing and I loved the twist at the end. I would rate this book five out of five stars. I would definitely read more in the series and recommend to a friend.**

Amelia Corrick-Gough, age 14

**Oh my goodness! How do I put my love for this book into words? I picked this book up, and I fell into the county. I fell in love with the characters, especially Jenny. My heart beating hard at every danger they came up against, every creature, every warrior. The cliff hanger at the end of the book has left me hanging on by my fingernails! I can't wait for the next book!**

I fell in love with the characters, I can't wait for the next book!

Georgina Bellingham, age 12

This book is a book about beasts and a Spook. The Spook, Tom Ward, is no longer an apprentice, he is now a fully-fledged Spook, having to battle dark creatures. Even though his apprenticeship was cut short when his master died in battle. There was a girl who was murdered in her bed by a creature of darkness. Before the Spook can find out what it is, a girl called Jenny shows up and says she is also a Spook. However a female Spook is unheard of, but as we then find out, it is possible. An army is coming, an army that wants to destroy everything and anything that mankind has ever lived for. I think this is a great book to read and can be enjoyed by a range of ages. **This book will introduce a whole new generation of readers to the ‘Spooks’ books. It is perfect if you love adventure, thrills and chills, and a bit of darkness.**

Benjamin Parsons, age 12

**An exciting book, full of twists and turns. Recommended for fantasy lovers.**

An action packed book full of twists and turns that really expands your imagination. It is one of those books that you just can't put down. The book is full of big things that make a huge impact on the stories outcome. I would recommend this to fantasy lovers from both genders. Personally, I really enjoyed this book and I can’t wait for the next one.
Cesca Anderson

‘Spooks: A New Darkness’ is a very exciting book that kept me in eager suspense the whole way through. Joseph Delaney has a brilliant imagination that created some fearsome but very realistic creatures. I loved the different points of view from both Tom and Jenny too, I can’t wait to read the next one!

Emily Price

As I’ve been given the opportunity to read ‘Spooks: A New Darkness’ I was very fascinated by the front cover of the book as it looked scary yet appealing to me. As I read the blurb and the inside cover I knew that I wasn’t going to put this book down. It’s amazing. All the way through the book, there is suspense and tension rising. Joseph Delaney is an excellent author as he describes what is going on very clearly and helps you imagine the characters in your mind. I feel as if the book actually ties in with Jack the Ripper as the deaths of the young girls are described.

Overall I loved this book and it was an excellent start to my new Book Reviewing Hobby!

Rebekah Marsh, age 13

‘Spooks - A New Darkness’ is truly inspiring, it is representative of today’s changing society and how gender no longer has an impact upon our actions.

‘Spooks - A New Darkness’ represents out ever changing society and how gender, size and age no longer matter. The intensity and emotion that is held within the text is the perfect balance of despair and longing to read on for a young adult novel.

Josh Curtis, age 13

This book is very interesting and a very good read, I was excited all through the book and it was a great follow on from the other ‘Spooks Apprentice’ books, I can’t wait till the next one comes out!!
Joseph Harris-Hart, age 13

A dark yet thrilling adventure story, with weird monsters, witches, ghosts, ghasts and all manner of dark entities, I couldn’t help but read it!

Thomas Ward was a young man, a seventh son of a seventh son who possessed gifts which enabled him to see and feel things that others couldn’t. He wanted to be a spook and was training to be a spook until his master was killed.

As the Chipenden spook he caught witches, Boggarts, monsters and all kinds of dark entities for a living.

He meets a girl called Jenny who as the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter also possesses special powers. She wants to become his apprentice and the first female spook but first she must pass his tests.

Even though this is the only book I have read of the Spooks series, it didn’t matter because all the information needed is in it.

The ending left me wanting to read more!

There are lots of battles with dangerous creatures throughout the story. It was gory at times with descriptions so vivid of monster slaying and horror, that I feel it would be suitable for teens/young adults.

I rate it 9/10

Felicity Kerswell, age 13

This book was gripping and was a really excellent read. I can’t wait for the next book to come out in the New Year. The way the author has written this book made me feel as I was a part of the story.

Spooks is amazing, at first I could not get into the book but as it progressed it just got better and better until I could not wait to find out what happened at the end. I was gripped, it made me laugh and cry. I am bouncing off the walls waiting for the next book. The way Joseph wrote made me feel like I was the character. I would completely recommend reading this book.

The story is about a boy called Thomas Ward who protects the County from evil. Three girls die in mysterious circumstance and it’s his job to find out what is causing their deaths.
His companion in finding out this mystery is Jenny who also wants to be a spook and has joined Thomas in his quest to find the truth.

Ella Hollingshead, age 14

‘Spooks’ is full of suspense and drama. I couldn't put this book down as I needed to know the ending!

This magnificent book tells the tale of Thomas Ward, the newly found Spook who must take over from the local spook who’s time is over. He is the only one who can take over but he is merely little more than a child. He is given an apprentice, Jenny- a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, who can see the dead and gets spoken to occasionally by them.

Girls mysteriously start dying and it leads them onto the path of a terrifying and deadly beast, along with monstrous assassins dotted around the county. Not just that, a new darkness is arising in the North which threatens to take over the world. Thomas and Jenny battle against the Kobalas but do they stand a chance in this dangerous fight?

I enjoyed reading this book, it keeps you in suspense throughout and I would recommend it to those who love action and suspenseful novels.

Traviss Chaytors, age 12

A.M.A.Z.I.N.G !

This was an AMAZING book! Thomas Ward is a spook who takes on a young apprentice who is the first female spook in history and she has to try and survive the hardest challenge so far by protecting them both from an oncoming army!

I love all of the ‘Spooks’ books but this has to be the best yet because it’s full of excitement and was even a little bit scary in places!

There was also a really good part at the start of the book that made me feel queasy when a monster took Thomas and the apprentice to his cave and began drinking her blood and all Thomas could do was watch!