



MY NAME IS MONSTER

by Katie Hale

Inspired by *Robinson Crusoe* and *Frankenstein*, *My Name Is Monster* is a novel about power, about isolation, and about female relationships .

After the Sickness has killed off her parents, and the bombs have fallen on the last safe cities, Monster emerges from the Arctic vault which has kept her alive. When she washes up on the coast of Scotland, everyone she knows is dead, and she believes she is alone in an empty world.

Slowly, piece by piece, she begins to rebuild a life. Until, one day, she finds a girl: another survivor, feral, and ready to be taught all that Monster knows. But as the lonely days pass, the lessons the girl learns are not always the ones Monster means to teach ...

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think *My Name is Monster* is a hopeful book, and why?
2. Would you describe it as a book about survival, or as a book about motherhood? So you think it's possible to separate the two?
3. There are a few key settings in the novel (such as the farm, the city, and the Arctic vault). Do you a sense of place is important to the novel?
4. **[Spoiler!]** How did you feel when the narrator changed halfway through the book? Did it change how you saw either of the characters? Did you find one of the two voices more compelling than the other?
5. Do you like one of the characters more than the other? Do you love them both, or not like either of them at all? Does this matter?
6. **[Spoiler!]** When she finds the girl, Monster renames herself Mother. Why do you think she does this, and how does she fit her new name? How do you feel about the portrayal of motherhood and maternal instinct in the book? Do you agree with it?
7. So often, stories about survival have male protagonists – do you think having two female protagonists makes a difference? Does it affect how you respond to the book? Does the book raise questions about the role of women in society?
8. Does either of the characters save the other? If so, who saves who?
9. A review of *My Name is Monster* described the language as 'strikingly beautiful'. Do you agree, and do you think this alters how you read the book?
10. *My Name is Monster* was first published in 2019, before Covid-19. Do you think the pandemic might have affected how you felt about the book, and in what way?



@halekatie

For news & resources, please check out:

www.halekatie.com



@katiescribbles