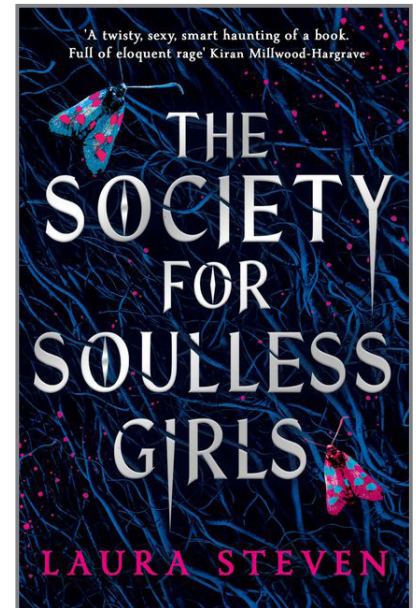


# The Society for Soulless Girls



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**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Mid to Upper Secondary  
(Violence, Sexual References, Language)

## SYNOPSIS

Ten years ago, four students lost their lives in the infamous North Tower murders at the elite Carvell College of Arts, forcing Carvell to close its doors.

Now Carvell is reopening, and fearless student Lottie is determined to find out what really happened. But when her roommate, Alice, stumbles upon a sinister soul-splitting ritual hidden in Carvell's haunted library, the North Tower claims another victim.

Can Lottie uncover the truth before the North Tower strikes again? Can Alice reverse the ritual before her monstrous alter ego consumes her? And can they stop flirting for literally fifteen seconds in order to do this?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Steven is an author, journalist, and screenwriter from the northernmost town in England. Her debut novel is *The Exact Opposite of Okay*. By day, Laura works for Mslexia, a nonprofit organisation supporting women writers. She has an MA in creative writing, and her TV pilot *Clickbait*—a mockumentary about journalists at a viral news agency—reached the final eight in British Comedy's 2016 Sitcom Mission. Laura's journalism has been featured in the *i*newspaper, BuzzFeed, the *Guardian*, and *Living North*. She won a Northern Writers' Award in 2018 for her work in progress—a piece of speculative fiction exploring creativity as protest.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, answer the following questions:
  - What could be the meaning of 'Soulless' in the title?
  - Do students know any works that could be considered Gothic literature?
  - Are students familiar with the Jekyll & Hyde novella?
  - What are some examples of dark humour?
- The author uses a range of sophisticated vocabulary. Try to gauge a meaning of these words from their context and then check your suggestions using a dictionary and thesaurus.
  - Chesterfields (p 60)
  - Charizards (p 61)
  - Tinctures (p 67)
  - Hedonism (p 70)
  - Debauchery (p 70)

- Prioress (p 72)
- Pauper (p 76)
- Succumbed (p 81)
- Levity (p 166)
- Loquaciously (p 171)
- Obsidian (p 205)
- Cornette (p 209).
- What type of figurative language/literary devices are used in the following quotes? See if you can find more examples from the text.
  - ...talking to her was like grabbing a fistful of nettles (p 77)
  - ...made my stomach curdle like off milk (p 81)
  - ...dread pooling in my gut like an oil slick (p 82)
  - ...if it was possible for a bar to wear velvet slippers and smoke a pipe (p 90)
  - ...a spiderweb of lies (p 155)
  - ...his voice was morning-chipper, like corn-flakes and radio jingles...(p 158)
  - ...the steely glint of shame (p 245)
- Throughout the novel there are numerous intertextual references to both historical and contemporary figures, book and movie titles, as well as pop culture references, which help to create the setting. Choose one of these references—some examples are below—and prepare a presentation on it, explain the concept/text/person, and how and why the author has referenced it in the novel.
  - Truman Capote
  - Hunter S. Thompson
  - *The Turn of the Screw*—Henry James
  - *Crime and Punishment*—Fyodor Dostoevsky
  - *The Picture of Dorian Gray*—Oscar Wilde
  - Tamagotchi
  - Game Boy
  - Scooby-Doo