My Book Recommendation

By Gabriella

**A Series of Unfortunate Events, The Reptile Room, by Lemony Snicket**

Following on from the first book, The Bad Beginning, where the three Baudelaire children - Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, become orphans after their parents are killed in an explosive fire which burns down their entire mansion.  The oldest Baudelaire, Violet, will inherit the entire family fortune when she comes of age.  Their evil guardian, Count Olaf, tries to steal the Baudelaire fortune by marrying Violet.

In The Reptile Room, the orphans go to live at their Uncle’s, Dr. Montgomery (Monty) who is a herpetologist (a person who looks after reptiles), house.  Uncle Monty’s assistant, Gustav, quit (but he really has been drowned in a lake by Count Olaf), giving Count Olaf the opportunity to pretend to by an assistant using the disguise of Stephano.  The orphans immediately recognise Count Olaf when they see his tattoo of an eye on his right ankle.

Uncle Monty and the orphans are planning a trip to Peru to find new species of snakes and reptiles when Stephano (Count Olaf) poisons Uncle Monty and he dies.  The orphans instantly realise that it was a murder not an accident.  Dr Lucafont, Count Olaf’s assistant, dresses up as a doctor and says to the orphans “In his veins, I found the venom of the Mamba du Mal, one of the world’s most poisonous snakes”.

Klaus, the middle Baudelaire child, starts to read lots of books from Uncle Monty’s library about the Mamba du Mal and one book says “The Mamba du Mal, is one of the deadliest snakes in the hemisphere, noted for its strangulatory grip, used in conjunction with its deadly venom, giving all its victims a tenebrous hue”.  Tenebrous means dark or shadowy and Uncle Monty’s body was pale, not bruised looking, so the orphans realise that he was injected with venom, from the cabinet where all of the deadly snakes venom is stored, not bitten by a snake.  Klaus then accuses Count Olaf of murdering Uncle Monty but Mr Poe, the person who places them into foster care and looks after their fortune, doesn’t believe them because there is no evidence.  Mr Poe then says to Stephano (Count Olaf) “the children are just upset from their Uncle Monty’s death”.  But while Klaus accuses Count Olaf, Violet is upstairs in Count Olaf’s room looking through his suitcase, she finds the following evidence – a glass vial with a sealed rubber cap labelled ‘Venom du Mal’ from Uncle Monty’s cabinet, a needle and a syringe. Violet works out that Stephano used the syringe to inject the venom into Uncle Monty’s neck, twice, in order to make it look like a snake bite.

Mr Poe finally believes the orphans after Violet shows him the items she found upstairs.  Mr Poe tries to arrest Stephano (Count Olaf) but he escapes in Dr Lucafont’s van with the dead body of Uncle Monty still inside the van.

I would recommend this book because it’s a really interesting, exciting and makes you want to read more.  I would actually recommend the whole series. The reason I chose The Reptile Room is because it’s my favourite book so far. My favourite part in this book was when Sunny meets the Incredibly Deadly Viper because it was actually harmless and they play together and become friends.   I also think it is great that each book ends with Chapter 13 and there are 13 books in the series.

**In conclusion I’d rate it this book:**