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Grave Witch: An Alex Craft Novel (Alex Craft Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Not even death can save her now. As a grave witch, Alex Craft can speak to the dead-she's even on good terms with Death himself. As a consultant for the police, she's seen a lot of dark magic, but nothing has prepared her for her latest case. When she's raising a "shade" involved in a high profile murder, it attacks her, and then someone makes an attempt on her life. Someone really doesn't want her to know what the dead have to say, and she'll have to work with mysterious homicide detective Falin Andrews to figure out why...

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Customer Reviews

Over I liked it. Some details are similar to other books; like needing witch blood quicken a charm, and a "coming out" of faeries, but other than that the story was pretty good. Alex is a "grave witch" which means she can summon the shades of the dead. Shades are different from ghosts as shades feel no emotions, they only recall the facts of their lives whereas ghosts can interact with feelings and emotions. People are dying and for some reason only Alex can see the dark magic that's involved. It's up to her to find the culprit: before it's too late.

Grave Witch was recommended to me based on my interests, naturally I didn't give any thought to the synopsis. I went in blind and was genuinely surprised with how easily I lost track of time. I wound up staying up all night. I even battled the part of me that wept for sleep for a few minutes before deciding against starting book two at dawn. Alex Craft is a witch with the gift of grave sight. Her ability to speak to ghosts comes in handy in her line of work as a private investigator and occasional consultant for the local police department. Wrangled into taking a case for her sister, things begin to spin out of control as she is accused of murder and an attempt on her life is made. Lucky thing Death himself has taken a liking to Alex, one she doesn't seem to mind. Set on deciphering the mystery behind her attack, Alex begrudgingly teams up with the attractive and arrogant detective, Falin Andrews, who appears ready to throw her behind bars. Falin soon becomes an enigma Alex cannot ignore. As she begins to get a better grasp on him, Alex realizes the gravity of her situation, one Death himself fears. Will Alex put the pieces together before it is too late? Alex crawled her way into my heart from the beginning. She is saucy, proud, and pretty ballsy even though she doesn't have it together. I liked that most about her. Falin's arrogance and seeming disinterest in Alex is typical but it works so I can't complain. Now, Death this creature is hot and perplexing, I held on to every glimpse into this man's history and being. I could not get enough. These characters propelled my interest forward, though the premise alone was enough, once I understood what it was. World building is done gradually, while the story progresses. Most of the time, this is a winner for me, but in this case, the schema for witches, shades, and the fae is a little different so I was left feeling lost and unable to fully understand the significance of some of the scenes. Fortunately, the plot advanced functionally without my full comprehension. Clearly story telling is fluid and appealing as I was sucked right in! This novel has witty banter, mystery, risk, danger, and much more, all wrapped up nicely in a quick, easy, and pleasing read. It is reminiscent of the Downside Series without all the grit, and the Mercy Thompson Series without werewolves. I loved this Series and am adding it to my Favorites list, perhaps you will too if you haven't already.

This book had so much potential. I loved the story, and there were many side characters that could have been developed, but weren't. Also, the heroine had the emotions and attitudes of a 12 year old, and I am giving her too much credit there in some areas. This is a grown woman who needs to seriously grow up, especially in how she deals with men and with her friends. And, she needs to

clean her room. Still, I will read the next book to see if she does get better and to see if I can stay with the series instead of putting it in my book bag.

In this book we introduced to Alex Craft. Alex Craft has a unique set of skill of communicating with the dead. I think she respects the dead and does what she can to help the living understand what has happened with their loved ones. I really like that the author added in the "grave sight" and that even for Alex Craft doing what she does takes a toll on her body and eyes. I really like this series.

I just loved this series: it's got excellent world building, charismatic characters, some "unusual" love interests, intricately described magical abilities, and continuous action. Kalayna Price keeps the reader's interest with action that rarely slows down. I was also delighted with Alex Craft's beloved pet, a Chinese Crested dog, because they're truly one of the homeliest dogs on the planet. The creation of a ghetto designed for magical characters was a wonderful aspect of this new world, and the personification of Death was a daring twist. Since I read all three books, I'd apply this review to all of them. If there are sequels, I'd snap them up in a heartbeat. I deliberately gravitate toward this type of story, and have since the V.I. Warshawsky (sp?) mystery series set a precedent for strong crime solving heroines. Luckily, the supernatural approach realized Laurel Hamilton gave us an unbeatable heroine in Necromancer, Anita Blake. Hamilton's alternate St. Louis was beautifully "stocked" with some incomparable supernatural characters (mainly vampires and werewolves), and truly frightening villains. Anita Blake is tough as nails. As a result, we got a great reading experience, with powerful characters, mysteries, and sexual allure, for the first -approximately 6-7 books. Unfortunately, that whole "world" was tragically altered, more or less buried under an avalanche of BDSM books, with an interminable amount of dialogue and whining. I'm making the comparison, because the "Grave" series may have a somewhat similar premise, but it's definitely not a "wanna be" book. It's just a different perspective of the same type of world, and it's highly entertaining without being heavy handed. It's easily an "all nighter" reading experience, and Alex Craft is a keeper. I'd hazard a guess that for anyone who enjoys the Alex Craft books, there are many others of the KB heroine genre ("kick butt" ladies). For other, similar, supernatural tales I'd suggest the series with: "Kate Daniels", "Riley Jensen", "Mercy Thompson", "Sookie Stackhouse" (up to about # 5 or 6), and the Chloe Neill "Chicagoland Vampire" series. For the more "steamy" supernatural stories, you might try authors like Alexandra Ivy, Lynn Viehl, Sherilyn Kenyon, J.R. Ward, Kresley Cole, Lara Adrian, Gena Showalter, Lindsey Sands, or Nalini Singh (whose psy-changeling series deal with shifters and psychics). Some of the group seem almost a little

"juvenile", or perhaps overly implausible at times, but they're all very enjoyable reads.-Ozma-too
(Sorry about the review title with a bad pun).

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