



Garden of Sorrow

Dale Mayer

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Alexis Gordon has spent the last year trying to get over the loss of her sister. Then she goes to work on a normal day...and reality as she knows it...disappears.

Detective Kevin Sutherland, armed with his own psychic abilities, recognizes her gift and calls in his friend Stefan Kronos, a psychic artist and law enforcement consultant, to help her develop her skills. But Kevin has never seen anything like this case - a killer with a personal vendetta to stop Alexis from finding out more about him...and his long dead victims.

The killer can be stopped. He must be stopped. But he's planning on surviving...even after death.

521 KB

Garden of Sorrow Details

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From Reader Review Garden of Sorrow for online ebook

Torre says

Book was good, loved the lead Kevin, Alex was a little on the off side of the romance. They needed a little more romance I think. I knew the identity of the killer early on in the book and what was happening.

Darla says

Dale Mayer's Psychic Visions is a wonderful series and Garden of Sorrow is a great read. Alexis is back working in the city's garden after a brutal year of taking care of her sister whom she lost to cancer. As she's crossing a small bridge to meet her coworker and friend, Scott, she slips and falls into a muddy ditch where she disturbs an unmarked grave loosening a child's finger bone. When Alexis picks up the bone, the world as she knows it disappears as she sees the child in a grimy hallway. Scott tells her that she the Sight and as Alexis is working through that, the police officer, Kevin, in charge arrives.

Kevin recognizes Alexis's gift and contacts Stefan, another friend who's psychic and has helped many people who come into the Gift. The three of them have to work together to solve the mystery which is multilayered and will take all of their gifts.

I highly recommend both this book and the series.

Melvina says

I have fallen in love with this series. I love the depth to each story, and this one is no different. Each character has similar but different psychic abilities, which makes it interesting. The difference with this book is that the lead characters, Alexis and Kevin, both have psychic abilities although Alexis is new to hers and more powerful than she realizes. Stefan is a central character in all of the books and a bit of a mystery wrapped in an enigma. We do however get to see more of what he is capable of in this story, and also his weaknesses. The characters all go to Stefan for training as he is the most powerful, however it would seem that even he has his limits. In each book his limits seemed to be pushed further and further, so I'm looking forward in anticipation for his book as I have a feeling he's going to meet an adversary that's really going to put him through his paces, and hopefully he will need the help of a few of the other characters along the way. In this book Kevin is a no nonsense cop who deals with things head on, including his own abilities. He's in a place where he knows who he is and what he is capable of, and he goes with his gut. Alexis is the complete opposite, she's closed off and because of the hurt she's suffered she's isolated herself for protection. She's a loner and struggles to let Kevin in, in fact there were times I could have given her a good shake when she pushed him away, but her compassion made her endearing to me. I found Kevin could be quite gruff at times but you could forgive him because you realize it's because of the things he's witnessed as a cop, and how they have effected him. However reluctant Alexis is she is drawn to Kevin and you could feel the connection and the pull they had. The scene when they're having coffee and the attraction hits them.....whoa I thought I could actually see the sexual energy flowing between them. The author is very good at not making it about the sex scenes, it's about the build up, the tension, the small looks, the little touches, it's fabulous. I loved the storyline, about a quarter of the way through I thought `oh I know who it is already', but then the author adds a twist that was unexpected and surprising, and just brought the whole thing together with an `OH' moment. Love love love it, can't wait for the next one

MsRomanticReads says

This review can also be found on my blog.

This was my first read by this author, and I found the world she had built for *Psychic Visions* rather intriguing – humans with supernatural powers, how can you go wrong with that? I thought *Garden of Sorrow* started out strong but as the story went on, the suspense continued to hold my attention, however my interest in the main characters, specifically the heroine began to dwindle. I expected the resistance he put up in light of her newly acquired abilities, but I expected her to come to terms with them at some point. She's a good person deep down, so I knew that she would eventually come to see her gift as a tool to do good and help. She did, but she kept going back and forth between bravery and cowardice. I was expecting her arc to take her from timid and scared to more confident and brave. It's not like she had zero support; not with Kevin and Stefan at her back.

The chemistry between Kevin and Alexis was definitely warm, but fell a little flat. The attraction was definitely there, but her fears of getting romantically involved with Kevin scared her. When she learns that their coupling had created a special bond that could be permanent, it led to a scene with her acting both childish and selfish. Honestly, I felt that the secondary characters were more interesting, namely Stefan. He was an enigma, and I found myself wanting more of him as well as more of his back story. Even Lissa had a bit more personality than her sister.

When it comes to the actual mystery of the plot, I was easily caught up in the fascinating and intriguing events, though I had to pay very close attention to every word and event, especially when the story moved back and forth between the planes of existence. What the author did very well was describe everything in detail so that I never forgot where I was. The identity of the antagonist was also a well kept secret throughout the story. The sex scene(s) were fade to black, but that didn't bother me.

Overall, I enjoyed this story. I'm definitely tempted to start at the beginning of this series. Nothing in this story hinted at past books, so I felt like this could easily stand on its own. I'm giving this 3.5 rounded up to 4.

Disclaimer: I received a review copy from the author. A review in exchange was not promised.

Jasmyn says

Alexis Gordon is gifted, but she doesn't really know it. She just sees it as a 'green thumb' and loves to work with plants. When a slip in the mud sends her tumbling into a construction pit, she discovers the grave of a murdered child. This book definitely starts with quite a bang. A bang that wakes Alexis up to a whole new world of abilities.

But this grave may be just the beginning. When Detective Kevin Sutherland takes the case to the famous (to readers of the series) Stefan Kronos, things get really interesting. An ability no one has seen before is in play. And it doesn't want to play fair. The identity behind this strange ability remains a mystery until the very end - which I really enjoyed. It kept suspense and danger levels high and made it really hard to put the book down. In the end, I was quite on the edge of my seat.

There were a few points the story hit an unexpected dragging point, and it seemed like the romance aspects didn't always flow as well as the suspense aspects. Don't get me wrong, Alexis and Kevin make a great couple. But many of their more personal moments seemed to interrupt the suspense instead of helping to build it. I never understood the point of driving out of town to the other house all the time (you'll understand

when you get there).

A good addition to the series. I'd like to see a few less totally out there abilities and just a creative use of 'normal' psychic abilities or the series may end up being just a little too crazy for my taste.

Adrienne Testa says

Alexis Gordon is a gardener for the town she lives in, her life full of loss. She thought her green thumb working with plants was normal, until the day she finds the bone of a finger in one of the park's garden bed. Suddenly Alexis is thrown into a psychic race to find the killer of this child and learn the truth. Det. Kevin Sutherland, is stunned to learn Alexis is unaware of her psychic abilities, his own abilities are needed for his job. But, it's something he doesn't talk about easily. When Alexis and Kevin meet over the find of the finger, sparks fly. But, Alexis isn't ready or so she thinks. Her new psychic abilities scare her, but she needs those skills to uncover the truth. The mayor's family is under attack, none of them realize they are being possessed by a child killer, nor are they willing to talk openly about the family problems, until it comes to a head and the demon destroys them all. Alexis, Kevin and Stefan join forces to physically and psychically outwit the killer and uncover the truth.

Donna says

Dale Mayer is now one of my best authors! Once I started reading his psychic vision series I can't put the book down until I finish. I am now in Book 7 and absolutely recommend this series. It has romance, mystery thriller with the added psychic to it. Thumbs way up!!!!

Shannon says

- 1: Tuesday's Child
- 2: Hide'n Go Seek
- 3: Maddy's Floor

This is the fourth book in the Psychic Visions series. This is an awesome series if you enjoy stories about psychics and cops working together to stop the bad guys. And maybe I'm weird, but I think those books are great fun! Similar in style to Kay Hooper's Bishop series, and in some ways even better. I would have loved to sit and read this book cover to cover, and if I didn't have a family, and a job, and Christmas to think about, I would have! They are very exciting and fast paced, with suspense, romance, and a happy ending => I thought it was slightly predictable, but I still enjoyed the heck out of it.

Summary:

Alexis Gordon is a grieving gardener with a gift for plants. And when she stumbles on the body of a young girl, she seems to develop another type of gift, one that involves visions of dead children. She teams up with Detective Kevin Sutherland and psychic Stefan to try and catch a murderer who's been practicing his craft for a long time.

Alison Boniface says

I've enjoyed all of Dales books so far and this one was no exception .

I think you do need an open mind (pardon the pun) to read them and consider the possibilities. But if you do I think you will find these books thoroughly enjoyable if not a little scary. So on to the next one for me .

Pamela says

3.5 stars

Let me just say upfront that I wasn't too sure if I should even bother reading "Garden of Sorrows," the fourth book in the "Psychic Visions" series, as I wasn't at all impressed with book 3, "Maddy's Floor." For whatever reason, I felt this pull (not a paranormal one) to give this one a chance and I'm glad I did as it turned out to be a really good read. While the premise of the story was intriguing, I felt it was a little long. Nonetheless, a well-developed story that was full of mystery and suspense. As much as I liked the story, what didn't work for me was the romance between Detective Kevin Sutherland and Alexis Gordon. I was totally into Kevin, and even felt the sexual desire oozing from him that he so craved. As much as I loved him, I wasn't too impressed with Alexis. I found her to be lackadaisical; at times even childish. As a couple I didn't feel any chemistry or sizzle between the two. After reading time and time again about Alexis' fears about getting involved with someone, I lost total interest in her (one can only take so much). I'm just glad that Stefan, who has a minor role in the previous installments, is one of the major players this time. His presence is huge and most appreciative. Even better was Lissa's ghost that kept popping up throughout. Though Lissa is a minor character, I actually found her to be more likeable and interesting than her sister, Alexis.

With respect to the dialogue, I can't believe the number of times "God" is mentioned throughout. In fact, it's referenced over 80 times. Going back to the previous novels I noticed the same thing.

"Dear God"

"Oh, God"

"My God"

"Thank God"

"God" "God" "God"

The word "*ad nauseam*" comes to mind. Even the word "*ungodly*" shows up a couple of times.

In the end, "Garden of Sorrows" is still a good read; much better than the last one. I must have really liked it as I'm now reading book five, "Knock, Knock..."

CI says

I haven't minded the earlier books in this series, but 'Garden of Sorrow' was a DNF at 34%. Not only did the plot feel unfocussed, but alexis' development of and reaction to her physic powers in the space of a week was ridiculous. I had no desire to see how her and Kevin's relationship developed and am rapidly losing interest in waiting for Stephen's story.

Tory says

I read this story immediately after reading books 1 & 2 from the series, so I might have psychic visions overload...I liked the premise of the story, with Alex finding the bones and her and Kevin searching for answers, I think my favorite character in this story was Alexis' friend Scott. His Irish brogue and humor lightened the story. Where I struggled in this story was with Alexis waffling back and forth, about her abilities and Kevin. Just when I thought she was becoming stronger and moving forward, she would start doubting and questioning, and in the end she came across to me as helpless. I thought the psychic-ness in this story was a little over the top compared to the other stories in the series. It seemed everyone was psychic and was sending and receiving messages all the time. One thing that bothered me, and I think it is a result of reading the 3 stories consecutively, is that Stephan is so all powerful and beautiful. He is like a perfect angel who is psychic in every possible way, and all women are in love with him and all men are jealous of him when it comes to the woman in their life. At times Stephan just seemed like a shortcut in the story. In the other 2 books that I read he was not as significant a part of the story, but he does play a significant role in Garden of Sorrow.

C. Erani Kole says

received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review

Whoa. This is by far the best one yet! So much intensity, drama, SCARY STUFF. Ugh definitely made the mistake of reading this in my room without the lights. T_T I loved the way Alexis struggled through her new abilities, and I loved it even more that Kevin and Stefan (Stefan!!!!) were there to metaphorically slap her back into shape. I read the eighth book first (I know) and the character had similar problems with her fear being her main weakness, but unlike Kevin and Stefan, her guy didn't really help much. Seeing them firm but still helpful was such a RELIEF you've no idea.

The plot was so creepy (I'm always using that word, but it just FITS) and at times sad for the heart because it deals with children, but the action and suspense was all so done well. I loved the pace and how everything flowed nicely. Totally sucked me in and I can't wait to read the next installment.

I recommend this to those who love cop-psychic love stories, creepy plots, action, fear-induced details, and characters with their own little nip lol.

Linda says

A tough one to rate. While the story was good, there were a few things that I felt a little "off" about. It dragged a little. In part because it always feels kind of hopeless. However, that is also part of its allure. The fact that murderers can so easily hide because of how they are actually killing people and the fact that there is no way to be able to truly prove it. The second thing that feels a little off is that there seems to be quite a few people with this gift of reading energy congregated fairly close together. They may not all be in the same town, but they all seem to be in the same state and within close proximity at that. Stefan is the common link, which I love and cannot wait to get to his story. Ironically, although described as highly talented, he has flaws and admits that others can definitely do things he cannot. One of my favorite characters. The third "off" thing is the romance between Kevin and Alexis. I totally got where Kevin was at, but I wasn't impressed with Alexis. As much as I could understand her loner mentality with all of the loss she has

suffered, that didn't explain why she had a hard time connecting with Kevin. The chemistry was lacking unlike what I loved about Maddy's Floor's H/h. One thing I do like about these stories is the focus is on the mystery surrounding the couples and that there isn't a lot of sex, but I DO like the romance parts and expect it within most of the books I read. Their relationship just didn't read right and then it was like, "oh, love him I do", at the end. At one point, Alexis did say she was more like her sister once upon a time. That I would have loved to have seen as the story progressed. Lissa's ghost kept popping in throughout the story and in doing so, you got to see her personality which was definitely more fun-loving and outgoing. For the one who died, I found her to be more likeable and interesting than her sister, Alexis. And the last "off" thing, is the true murderer really gone? Seems like with what these evildoers are able to do, that is not always the case and there is always that catch of "they have hooks into many people". Hmm, just feels like throughout the story, they are portrayed as impossible to beat that I have a hard time believing they ARE truly gone. And minor pet peeve, there are still quite a few missing or misspelled words throughout which distracts from the story that I wish would be cleaned up. It would make the reading less frustrating.

Overall, I still like these books. They are definitely well thought out even if not truly unique given most stem from some kind of energy manipulation, but the premise behind why they are doing what they are doing is still different.

Kelly says

As with the other books in this series, I was highly entertained by both the danger and the sense of wonder that Alexis experiences as she begins unlocking and understanding her power. Her interactions with Kevin, who willingly embraces his gift and has learned to hone and refine it, kept me captivated. And of course there's Stefan... I think I want to read his story soon.

The mystery this time around was nicely creepy. Alexis' insights into the victims is heartbreaking. The killer is just shudder-worthy. There are secrets and lies and a world of unexplored potential that Alexis has to unravel. I liked Kevin and Alexis as a couple and I liked how willingly Alexis threw herself into learning what she could about her power.

Danger, heartbreak, and sexy shenanigans between two psychics. Good stuff. Good stuff.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal
