



Grave

Michelle Sagara , Michelle Sagara West

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Grave is the concluding novel in the gripping Queen of the Dead paranormal trilogy.

Emma and her friends have survived the Necromancers sent to the city to kill them. They've gone to ground in a cottage north of the city, but time is not on their side. There are no barriers that can keep the dead out, and the dead obey their Queen. It's only a matter of time before they're found.

Nathan has been blessed by the Queen of the Dead. She has granted him a physical body. He can eat, he can breathe, he can speak and be heard. The Queen calls this resurrection. Nathan calls it Hell. The living think he's alive. He's not. He's trapped in the citadel that the Queen of the Dead calls home.

Emma wants to free him. To do that she has to survive long enough to reach the City of the Dead, and face its ancient Queen. But the city of the dead is the heart of the Queen's stronghold—and her power. Emma can't do it alone.

She's not alone. But even with hunters and her own dead at her side, what hope does she have against a woman who has lived so long, and grown so powerful, she's almost a god?

Grave Details

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From Reader Review Grave for online ebook

Rachelle says

A young adult paranormal novel about kindness, coping with loss and grief, friendship, accepting people as they are without judgment, protecting the innocent, understanding that broken people do broken things, and the freedom to be true to yourself. The storytelling is poignant and emotional, and it is painful to witness grieving and the things people do because they fear being alone. The plot is intricate and exciting and builds to a satisfying pitch.

Nicole Luiken says

Last book in trilogy. My favourite part of these novels is the friendship between Emma, Ally, Michael and Amy. I expected the climax to be in the City of the Dead so was pleasantly surprised when the action moved there quite early in the novel. Creepy world-building, cool magic, sympathetic characters and a lot of depth on issues like grief and death.

Quibble: A few years have passed since I read book two, so I had trouble remembering the other more minor characters like Ernest, Margaret and Merrick. A few reminders would have been nice.

Mary B. Grove says

this one was problematic for me

As in everything Michelle writes, this was very well-written, and in places, just beautiful--but it also had real issues. Many of the characters I'd found most interesting had become stagnant, and in this part of the story, they had to be carried by whatever we'd learned of them in earlier books, since except for Chase, Helmi and Nathaniel, everyone else stayed in the background without developing or changing. We didn't hear much from Allison, Amy or Michael, and Michelle's usual loving explications of Michael's gifts, patterns and quirks were comparatively absent. Of the people that accompanied Emma to the City, most seemed to have little or no purpose there, Amy especially, and I'd completely forgotten Ernest was even present until he popped up to do a few things at the end. So unlike every single other book Michelle has written, the book's people were less than stellar for me.

Also unlike any other book Michelle has ever written, I had a hard time reading this book. Normally I get one of Michelle's books and I race right through it joyfully. This one was a slog for me, especially from around 60 % - 80%. It just felt so unrelievedly heavy. Unlike the other two books in the series, there was very little humor, lightness, joy or action (until right at the end). I felt too deeply submerged in Emma's grief and Reyna's misery, I was overburdened by their pain, and there was too little happening that wasn't hard, dangerous or terrifying--anything that might balance the grave weight of darkness wasn't there.

Then, too, Emma's burdens aren't mine, so she's often hard for me to sympathize with. I didn't grow up in a family built on guilt, and I don't question my own confidence or strength (though I'm not like Amy at all), so taking responsibility is easy for me, and Emma's fearful refrains on those subjects got irritating.

In the first two books, Emma managed to find her own way and seemed to be beginning to understand that

just because her strength looks different from other people's, that doesn't make her weak. In this book she'd reverted back to quivering self-critical Emma and needed to relearn almost everything about herself and power. It was disappointing and aggravating to have her backslide so quickly.

Then there was Eric, who continued to be a cypher and now was a mostly mute cypher to boot. We were told he'd loved Reyna, but no one seemed to know if he still did, we knew that Eric and Chase treated each other like brothers, and that Eric trusted Emma almost since they met. Most of that we got in the first book, though, with nothing new added in the following ones.

what all this adds up to for me is the only book of Michelle's that I won't reread. I'm not sorry I read it once, esp. as the first book was so good, but that's it for me.

I'm really looking forward to the next installments in both the House and Cast series, where Michelle writes with such imaginative richness and grace.

Louisa says

Oh, yes, this was such a fantastic book, and it was just so enjoyable! And yeah, a great ending to the series!

Lee says

Great series

JoDeen says

Grave was just Wow. This book was so good . In this book we see Emma and her friends take on the Queen. We get to see so many different perspectives in this book and I felt that it was so very necessary to do this because it always wonderful in to see where all the character are coming from and why they do what they do . Michelle Sagara world building was excellent . Between the magic, the danger , the drama , the love stories Michelle Sagara creates an excellent book and conclusion to the Queen of the Dead Trilogy .I felt ever character got an ending that was absolutely perfect for them and I cannot wait to see what Michelle Sagara writes next. If you look for a Unique Paranormal story you should definitely pick up a copy of Grave.

Kaylynn says

A very satisfying ending.

Books In Brogan says

This is the conclusion to Michelle Sagara Queen of the Dead trilogy and she has done an amazing job in creating characters that her readers will relate to, connect with, and continue to think about long after the story is done. This review was originally posted on Books In Brogan

Grace says

I can't wait for this book. This series has so much going on that I am DYING for more info. Also, I'm an Eric and Emma shipper, and can't wait for them to get together. Also, I want to know what the heck is going on with Eric. King of the dead? Also, also. Chance and Allyson. <3

Colleen says

Oh my heart. If you read Silence and loved it, read Grave. It doesn't matter if you read Touch or didn't. Sagara explains everything in this book, and what she doesn't explain doesn't matter. Yes, I'm channeling Emma when I say that. This is the story about the lantern, the Queen of the Dead, why Chase and Eric are who and what they are. This story is less about Michael and Amy and Allison and Petal, but they are all there too to make Emma whole. The story is also about what Emma is, and isn't, and how the choices she makes and the judgments she refuses to make affect everyone - alive and dead.

... her seventeen-year-old self had had time and distance. She had had her mother, her friends, school life, and her dog. Life's friction had dulled the edges of that pain until it no longer cut her anytime she returned to it. She could think of her dad now and remember the good things. The funny parts. The comforting bits. She could even remember the anger she sometimes felt.

I adore this quote for the phrase "life's friction." I'm going to remember that one and probably use it at some point. And to that end, I'm sure you know the drill by now with this series, but just in case: I cried. I cried more than once. I had a good and happy sniffle when Nathan demonstrates love born of understanding. So be warned and bring tissues.

annapi says

Quite a satisfying ending to the series. The final showdown with the Queen of the Dead in her city takes a long time to resolve, but Sagara is good at character introspection, taking her readers deep into the heart and mind of her protagonist. This book is a deep dive into death, dying, grief, sorrow, loss, and the evil that people do as a result. It makes me wonder what the author has experienced in her life that she can write like this. Even in the midst of a fantasy world, you have no doubt that her characters are human, complete with all the failings and the wonder that brings. I particularly love the character of Michael, the autistic friend. This may be the end of the trilogy, but I would welcome more books with these characters.

Tchula Ripton says

An excellent, if bittersweet end to the Queen of the Dead series, although I felt the mid-section of the book

dragged at times while Emma figured out her powers. Events moved fairly quickly towards the end, however, and the resolution was powerful and rewarding--be warned, tissues are a must! (But tbh, those kinds of books are often among my favorites.)

Erik says

This is a good conclusion to this series. Sagara didn't go crazy or try to do anything fancy, but she managed to get everything wrapped up quite smoothly in the end.

Aliette says

Hard-hitting finale to the series--touches on a lot of difficult subjects on death and grief, and children and parents and how those bonds can make or break us. Extremely well done but do expect to feel wrung out by the end!

Shelley says

Source Publisher via NetGalley

Genre YA, Urban Fantasy

Rating 3.5

My Thoughts

Grave is the third and final installment in author Michelle Sagara's The Queen of the Dead trilogy. 17-year old Emma Hall found out that she has a unique ability. She's a necromancer with the ability to see, guide, and when she touches them, other people are able to see the dead as well. She's also a conduit. Emma hasn't exactly had a smooth ride since her boyfriend Nathan was struck and killed. Being a necromancer has come with consequences.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<https://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/20...>
