



Dust Bath Revival

Marianne Kirby

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16-year-old Henrietta Goodness - Hank to all that know her - has heard all the stories about how the Dust made the dead rise. She's heard about how life changed.

But that was a long time ago, and Hank is ready for another normal dry and dusty Florida summer. She knows the thunder doesn't really promise rain. Instead, Hank and her brother will do their chores, run into town as much as they can get away with, and lock up tight and safe in their Aunt Marty's house once the sun goes down. That's the plan, at least, until an itinerant tent revival rolls onto their land, with a Reborn - one of the risen dead - traveling caged with them.

The arrival of an unknown cousin connected to the revival starts Hank on the road to solving a mystery that even the government might not want unraveled. There's nowhere to go when the night isn't safe and there's no one to trust when everyone might be part of a conspiracy to keep the Reborn walking.

Dust Bath Revival Details

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Author : Marianne Kirby

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From Reader Review Dust Bath Revival for online ebook

Tracey says

I've developed a prejudice against books with 16-year-old protagonists. There are almost as many book synopses that start with "16-year-old so and so..." as there are book titles along the lines of Somebody's Daughter or Wife or Sister or whatever. I've begun to find those descriptions immediately off-putting.

Fortunately, I usually don't read synopses before I start books these days, so Hank, 16-year-old protagonist of *Dust Bath Revival*, slipped by me. I'm glad. Because this is a stay-up-past-your-bedtime kind of book, a one-more-chapter no-I-can't-stop-now sort of book, and Hank isn't the typical 16-year-old all those books center on. When I say that throughout the early chapters of the book she and her big brother Ben continually reminded me of Scout and Jem Finch, Marianne Kirby needs to take it as one of the biggest compliments I can give.

What is it that's in the dust, in the dusk, that kills chickens and terrifies people so? The first few chapters, with the edge of fear under ordinary interactions, the tattered red baseball cap, and the scattering of white feathers, did a remarkable, subtle job of making it very clear that I should be afraid, very afraid... even without knowing why.

Spielberg accidentally discovered that it's a lot scarier when you don't see the shark.

When the shark in this case, the Reborn, is revealed – and especially when the mechanics behind the shark are revealed... then, unfortunately, a lot of the subtle, a lot of the afraid, and a lot of my compliments dried up. From the moment that something, shall we unspoilishly say, happens to Ben and Hank begins to fend for herself, I disagreed with the way things were going. I didn't like it in terms of the story, it didn't make sense to me in terms of storytelling, and where it was going was not the direction I was interested in. It was as if, being thirsty, I wanted to head toward a well, and the book had me by the hand dragging me away.

And if I didn't like the first major turn in the story, I have to say I absolutely hated where it went from there. It was still compelling to read, but where in the beginning the compulsion was positive, by the end it was partly annoyance and partly being close enough to the end that I wanted to just push on and finish.

I am probably supposed to heap kudos on the author for having a young lesbian as a main character, and I will say that I congratulate her for presenting Hank and her budding sexuality as just what it is – not as an aberration, not as anything wrong or right or sinful or correct, just what is. My only objection to any of it was the simple fact that I'm just uninterested in a teenager fumbling his or her way through first love or lust, of the same or any other gender, which I guess is why I generally steer wide of young adult novels. (Did I know *Dust Bath Revival* was YA when I requested it? I seem to think not.)

I wish I could have read the book I thought it was going to be in the beginning.

But remember: Always carry a chicken when you cross a bridge.

The usual disclaimer: I received this book from the publisher for review.

Denise Burchard says

Good start to a series, but it raises more questions than it answers. Looking forward to more.

Gretchen says

A worthy addition to the genre of zombie novels, the highlight of this one for me was the voice, which evokes the Southern character of Henry and draws her world to brutal life. Henry is a queer fat girl growing up in an isolated farm near a small rural community uncovering secrets in her dangerous life. Great character and muscular prose make this a winner.

Marjolein says

3.5 Stars

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Hank is rather used to her life. The Dust is so many years ago that no one is really scared by the Revived anymore. However, it might be there are more dangerous things lurking around the corner.

It was not the read that I expected, but I enjoyed it nevertheless. I'd expected a zombie story, but zombies really made up only a fraction of the story. It was a bit confusing at times (because not all seemed to make sense) but I forgave the book since Hank was a nice character (although at some times she really should have been a bit more pro-active).

I'm curious to see where the story is going, so I will certainly pick up the next book in the series!

Thanks to the publisher for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Justina says

a skilled, polished, and exceedingly readable book!

I reserve the 5 star rating for only the best. Ms. Kirby is a skilled writer and this work is well polished. This is as good or better than any of the post-apocalyptic YA stuff out there today. It is also just a little bit off center without being overt or cute. I read it straight through and enjoyed myself more than I have for quite some time.

Laura Zackery says

Well, it didn't go where I thought it was going. There's an awful lot left unexplained. Many more questions than answers. But it's written in first person, so the reader is limited to the knowledge of the narrator. There's

a lot she doesn't know. And a lot that doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Which leaves me feeling like I don't really know whether I like it or not.

Melanie says

Ohhh, what a smart take on what could have a cliché--zombies. This looks at the whole thing differently, to the point that it seems not only plausible, but probable. And Marianne Kirby can translate emotion into metaphors that have texture and edges and remind you that these are real people feeling real things. What a delight. Sequel, please. I need to know what happens to Hank. Like, right now.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Dust Bath Revival (Feral Seasons #1) by Marianne Kirby is not at all what I expected, which is good. There are soooo many twists and turns that the author has you in a pretzel shape half way through the book. Just when you think you figure out where the plot is going...Blam, you are so wrong! Then you get comfortable, bam...she did it again! This book is creepy, suspense-filled, action packed, unpredictable (completely!), and I can't wait for the next book! I am really sick to death, no pun intended, of zombie books but this is a book that stands out as totally different, it needs a new genre for this alone! Great job! Thanks NetGalley for letting me read this awesome but creepy book!

Adriana Arrington says

A fascinating new take on the zombie genre, Dust Bath Revival drips with voice and atmosphere. Set in the midst of a decades-long historic dust storm, Kirby absolutely nails the north Florida vernacular. The novel is creepy in the best way, and I kept peeking over the top of my pages as I read it late into the night to make sure no Reborn had somehow sneaked into my house.

Main character Hank is complex and likable. Kirby kept me on my toes with the danger she places Hank in, and I zoomed through the book to see how it ends - which it does deliciously.

Juliana says

I really enjoyed this! Kirby paints a vivid, visceral picture of a near-future US where fear of zombies (and becoming a zombie yourself) dominates nearly every aspect of life. I really appreciate her thoughtful, detailed descriptions of the South and country life, and the unsettling sweetness of much of the story. It's more on the subtle end of the spectrum, which works for me as someone who doesn't usually do horror or zombies.

And of course, I finished this while my train was stuck, and I was hungry...

Fran says

Interesting creepy twist on zombie apocalypse.

Amelia says

Kirby nails the north Florida setting, metaphor and attitudes. Loved the first half of the book beyond reason and could happily have read more about the traveling tent revival and what-all went on there.

Second half of the book, not so much.

This feels like two completely separate books glued together in the middle. I'm sure the second in the series will help solve that problem, but I'm not sure I'll seek it out.

Virginia says

This YA story of zombies, hunger, and south Florida has haunted me since about 2007, when the author sent me what would become an early chapter.

I don't like zombie stories. But this one ... ate my brain. (sorry)

"Hey, are you still working on that thing?" I'd ask. "When do I get more about the Florida zombies?"

Pretty pesty behavior, as far as writers go - but this is worth the wait.

Hank's world is so hot and full of glare that I found myself squinting when I read it. The world is rich enough that I could *smell* it. I've met these people - the rural Southern poor, with their clannishness and their generosity, their practicality, and the lovingly crafted boxes each person's supposed to fit into.

Hank doesn't fit into her box, and one of the things I most love about her is that she doesn't give one damn about it. She never castigates herself for being fat, for being queer, for being a girl. She's comfortable in her own skin in a way that any teenager would envy. This isn't to say that she's perfect - she makes a lot of mistakes, and some pretty bad decisions along the way. But they're true mistakes and decisions: the kinds of mishaps we all put ourselves into when we're stumbling around, feeling desperate.

This doesn't tell you anything about the plot, I know. There's been a disaster, and the trappings of civilization don't work like they used to. The Reborn haunt the wilderness, informed only by their hunger. After a sleepy life outside a sleepy Florida town, Hank finds herself, at 16, on her own in the Florida wilderness. Stuff happens from there - you don't want to hear it from me, Kirby's version is way better.

Kirby's novel (her debut!) is subversive in the best kind of way. It takes up issues of agency, and hunger, in its teeth and, through Hank's stubborn refusal to be anything other than who she is, makes them serve her story well.

Now I need to keep causing a ruckus until I get the sequel.

Carla Lee says

Source: Advanced ebook copy from the publisher. No compensation received for this review, and it is my honest opinion.

Rating: 4/5 stars

Recommended?: Yes, absolutely. It is a gorgeous, haunting southern fairytale about hunger and danger and how little we see even when we try to look at the world.

Content note: Non-explicit violence to animals.

Dust Bath Revival is a gorgeous, haunting southern fairytale. The story is a slow burn build, and the world opens up for the reader in a slow, sensuous way that meanders and loops, and even the things we see, the things Hank sees as she is shoved out into the world, aren't what we want them to be, or fear them to be, both and neither at the same time. This is Hank's story, her creation story, and it is lovely.

Kirby's writing is gorgeous, and she captures a dark, twisty southern gothic feel. The slow pace of the book feels like a story being told around the campfire, late into the night; there's an otherworldly quality to the descriptions that holds the reader at a distance and weaves a compelling, complicated world around them.

There was no real sense of fear for me as a reader; the story unspools in a way that feels inevitable and comfortably familiar, a beloved tale that I've returned to a hundred times before, though this is my first reading. (It will not be my last.) The ending is less a satisfactory conclusion and more a pause; Dust Bath Revival is clearly the introduction to a much larger world, and though I am eager for the next book, I do wish the end had felt more like a resolution. That's not to say that the book doesn't resolve; the story that it sets out to tell is finished, but it so well sets up the next part of the story in such few words at the end that I was left wanting more.

That in itself is a delightful bit of writing. I am left hungry and wanting and frustrated by it, as is Hank. And it is in that hunger, that wanting, that Hank must find her answers, and in her search, exactly what I want more of, too.

Dust Bath Revival is the story of family and need, betrayal and hunger, and it will stick with you long after you finish. It will leave you, always, wanting more.

Wench says

Well JESUS. JEEEEESUS. Fuck that is creepy.
