



The Grave Blogger

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The scenic bayous and small towns of South Louisiana hold hidden dangers beyond those you might expect - in a tangled tale of mystery and suspense. Raya, a freelance writer and blogger, researches cold cases for true crime websites. One case in particular, the Bayou Family Slaughter case, stirs macabre memories, but are they real or imagined? Determined to uncover the truth, she heads to the small town of St. Felicity to investigate the 20-year old Bayou Family Slaughter case. Raya gets help from Nick Simoneaux, a young St. Felicity detective who is also investigating the cold case, but is Nick hiding family secrets from Raya? Is there anyone in St. Felicity she can trust, or is a murderer still living in this quaint old town - waiting and watching? As Raya reveals St. Felicity's secrets, she uncovers the mysteries of her own past, leading to dangers that threaten not only her own existence, but the lives of those she loves most. **THE GRAVE BLOGGER** is a fast-paced, riveting suspense thriller from an exciting new author. Donna D. Fontenot draws on her own experiences as a blogger and Louisiana Cajun to create a tense mystery filled with engaging characters in a setting that draws the reader in with its unique beauty and hidden dangers.

The Grave Blogger Details

Date : Published July 4th 2012 by DDtech Publishing (first published June 28th 2012)

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Author : Donna D. Fontenot

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From Reader Review The Grave Blogger for online ebook

Sonia Brock says

Grave Blogger by Donna Fontenot is a Page Turner! After reviewing some very lackluster books lately, I dreaded beginning another. To my surprise, I read it all in one day! Never fear, I am an avid reader and devour books that I find are a delight to my literary pallet. Being from Louisiana myself, Donna made me visualize the settings as if I were right there. The plot moved along very quickly with absolutely no dead space (I loved that) right to the end. Raya, a Grave Blogger finds herself caught up in a deadly game. Memories from her past begin to haunt her and send her deeper into a maniacs clutches. You will fall in love with Nick, the handsome detective who finds himself linked to Raya and the Maniac through his own past.

Victoria L. says

Had me in suspense. Sneaking in pages while at work, ignoring my cat. Didn't want to put it down until I read the whole thing. Very good!

Christine says

I won a free copy of this book, and I finished it in one afternoon - I couldn't put it down! A good, solid mystery with likeable characters, a psychotic villain, and gruesome detail! I would be interested in reading more novels by this author.

Carrie says

Good premise but the writing was a bit awkward and stilted and I had a hard time suspending my disbelief in a lot of places, which took me out of the story...it was at its best when she let the Cajun rhythm through...

Kari says

UPDATED: the more I've thought about it, the more I really didn't like this book so I pulled the extra star.

The plot has potential but the writing... It just didn't work for me. I am from South Louisiana and for me, the author tried too hard. There was too much explaining. Explaining why, how, who. Detail needs to just flow, not be explained constantly. If it doesn't flow, it shouldn't be there in the first place. In addition, the ending didn't do the plot justice. It was too quick. After so much detail about mundane things, to have the story end abruptly like it did was disappointing.

For me, it really was a two star book, but like I said, the plot had real potential so I bumped it to three. I REALLY wanted to like it, I swear I did, but in the end it fell flat.

Genny Cavalier says

If you like a good murder mystery this one is definitely a good read! Grave Blogger has such a gripping story line that once you begin reading it, you won't want to put it down! Can't wait for the next book to come out.... the characters were very interesting and the story line has lots of twist and turns! This book would make an excellent movie or tv series!

Donna Warner says

This review is from: The Grave Blogger (Kindle Edition)

Was surprised to read that this was D. Fontenot's first novel. She has written a tale of suspense and danger that kept me intrigued from start to finish. Interesting character development and a plot that is fresh and timely.

Donna Warner
Mystery Novelist & Freelance Editor
www.djwarnerconsulting.blogspot.ca

Emily says

The Grave Blogger, Donna D. Fontenot's first novel is a clever, fast paced and extremely twisted psychological thriller. Drawing on her upbringing in a cajun household in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the author was able to clearly capture the essence and flavor of small town life near a bayou. Cleverly intertwining her personal passions of computers and blogging, she has created a unique and realistic main character with a intriguing occupation.

Raya Landry, the main character is a freelance writer and professional blogger, who researches and investigates cold cases for true crime websites. While researching her newest cold case, Raya has a curious and disturbing flashback of a brutal and horrific slaying of an entire family. Discovering that she is the lone survivor, Raya embarks on a journey to solve the twenty year old homicide case, despite the possible risks of becoming the killers next target.

By allowing each character to have a voice in the novel, the reader is able to experience the world through their eyes. Especially fascinating is the killer's perspective. The killer is extremely twisted, diabolical, and merciless - toying with the victims and psychologically torturing them, before ultimately ending their lives. As often is the case, the villain has the most compelling role.

Overall the book was a fantastic page turner that was hard to put down. The characters were believable, yet a bit quirky at the same time.

At the conclusion, the author leaves open the opportunity for a possible book two in the adventures of a true crime blogger as well as a possible off shoot with two supporting characters introduced in the later part of

novel. Looking forward to this possibility.

Edith Parzefall says

The Grave Blogger is a chilling, riveting thriller with engaging characters. Donna Fontenot sure knows how to weave a compelling yarn. I just wish this great story had gone through the hands of a good editor. A major tension raising plot element turned out a non-event, which felt like a let-down. Rare flaws in point of view handling and frequent switches between 3rd person past tense and 1st person present tense for direct thoughts made for a jarring read at times, but that might just be my personal pet peeve. The latter is certainly a popular device.

I recommend this novel for its engrossing plot and engaging characters.

Gabriella Sannino says

Excellent, I really love this style of story telling. Especially now that I've lived in the South...I truly could not put the book down.

Neil says

I like a good psychological thriller as much as the next person, but this book didn't quite do it for me. I was intrigued by the idea behind the story, however the telling let it down somewhat. The characters didn't really gel with me, as they seemed rather stilted and one dimensional. The settings of the bayous of rural Louisiana was a novel twist, and the writer must have drawn from her own experience. The plot was slightly predictable in places, even though it did skip around as the tale was told from different points of view. As an initial attempt at writing it was worthwhile, and had some extra polish been added it would have been a better book.

Michiko Katsu says

I try to start any review with something positive. I understand how long it takes, how much energy, blood, sweat and tears are required to finalize a book and regardless of anything else, I want to show my respect and admiration to anyone willing and able to write a book. Ms. Fontenot should be credited for putting a somewhat cohesive story together with a professional cover and fulfilling what is an obvious dream of hers. Unfortunately, that is where anything positive I have to say about "The Grave Blogger" ends.

The crux of the story follows a blogger, Raya, as memories of a horrific quadruple murder come flashing back to her after reading a headline while doing research for her blog. After revelations from her parents and a psychiatrist, Jon, she realizes she witnessed the murders as a young child but suppressed the memories. Her parents moved away and changed their names in hopes the killer (who was never caught) would never find her (assuming he even knew she existed). Jon also packed his bags and started his life in the same city just in

case her memory ever came back and she was in need of his specific guidance. The fact that he drops everything to move with the family is explained with a contrived story that she may not want to reveal herself to someone who didn't know her history. Given she didn't even know Jon existed, that explanation is only meant to justify his inclusion in the story.

There are other forced explanations for convenient plot points like the local detective, Nick, who also happened to just conveniently start looking into the case at the same time Raya returns to the scene looking for answers. This is an obvious potential love interest which isn't an issue but how quickly they fall for each other is again explained away with the fallback "I don't know why but..."

Most egregious is the poor handling of keeping the killer's identity secret. It is obvious very early on and while Fontenot does try to misdirect with other potential options they can't overshadow this glaring oversight.

My biggest pet peeve for self-published authors is when they do not engage a professional editor to review their work prior to publishing. My time, like everyone else's is valuable and spending it reading something with such blatant issues is very frustrating. There are changes of POV (sometimes within the same paragraph) and even times when I had no idea which POV was employed. Improper punctuation, changes in font size and use of italics is confusing and misleading and the dialogue is terrible and lacks clear attributes which only contributed to the confusion.

I forced myself to finish the book as I wanted to see how everything came together. I can ignore just about anything if there's a good story with dynamic characters but The Grave Blogger fell short on every point.

Barryk says

This book was very engaging. Once I started reading, I couldn't put it down. I read it in just three sittings in three consecutive days - which is very rare for me - and I passed it on to others.

The writing is very easy to understand and follow, the plot does not drag and I didn't have trouble keeping track of characters.

Highly recommended.

Indiebrag says

We are proud to announce that this book has been honored with a 2012 B.R.A.G. Medallion - telling you that this book is well worth your time and money!

Barry Welford says

The Grave Blogger Beats Out Many New York Times Thriller Selections

I am an avid reader of thrillers and often read those selected by the New York Times. This intriguing first novel by Ms. Fontenot can hold a candle to any of those.

As other reviewers have noted, once you are half way through the book it is impossible to put down. The characters are engaging, the Bayou country is eerily appropriate for this sinister plot and the novel sets a cracking and accelerating pace. It certainly could be the basis for a gripping movie and we all will wait with baited breath for the next sequel.
