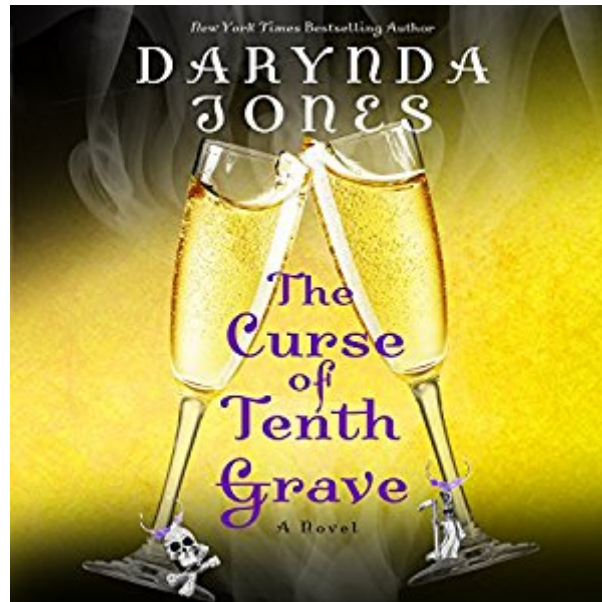


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The Curse Of Tenth Grave: A Novel



Synopsis

"If one door closes and another one opens, your house is probably haunted." (Bumper sticker) As a part-time PI and full-time grim reaper, Charley Davidson has asked a lot of questions throughout her life: Why can I see dead people? Who is the hot supernatural entity following me? How do I get gum out of my sister's hair before she wakes up? But "how do I trap not one malevolent god but three?" was never among them. Until now. And since those gods are on earth to kill her daughter, she has little choice but to track them down, trap them, and cast them from this dimension. There's just one problem. One of the three stole her heart a very long time ago. Can the Razer, a god of absolute death and destruction, change his omniscient spots, or will his allegiances lie with his brothers? Those are just a few of the questions Charley must answer, and quick. Add to that a homeless girl running for her life, an innocent man who's been charged with murdering the daughter of a degenerate gambler, and a pendant made from god glass that has the entire supernatural world in an uproar, and Charley has her hands full. If she can manage to take care of the whole world-destroying gods thing, we're saved. If not, well...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After I had quite a hard time with the last installment where Charley lost her memory and just sort of blundered around throughout the whole book with nothing much happening until the end, I was a bit leery of starting book ten. Surprisingly I liked it quite a lot and feel this is one of the best installments in the series. There are several mysteries Charley has to solve. One is the brutal murder of a

hospital administrator, with so much blood at the crime scene that even with the body missing nobody could have survived it. Also, the police already have the boyfriend in custody with lots of evidence pointing towards him. Then there is a runaway girl who fears she will be the next victim in an orphanage where nine children had already died under mysterious circumstances during the last few years. On a personal front Reyes has been drawing back from her ever since they returned from New York state and she does not quite know what that is all about. And she still has to find a way to make her daughter safe and trap the gods of Uzan that are after her. Throw in an assistant district attorney that suspects her of shady dealings (he is not so far off about that) and is trying to mount a case against her and various ghosthunters/ghostbusters who are tailing her in the hopes of catching her doing something supernatural. What I particularly liked was that even with all the funny memes and the snarky inner dialogue she has running Charley is actually doing some real detecting and follows clues in a manner that is plausible for once. I also like the way she is bending the rules (both legal and supernatural), mostly to help people. She is also finally discovering some of her powers and learning to use them, though sometimes she goes a little overboard with said powers. What I had trouble with is her lack of faith in Reyes: after everything he has endured to be with her, all the countless times he has saved her, and all the ways he has put her well-being and happiness above his own, it takes only one little thing to get her to doubt him. That I had a difficult time swallowing. Nevertheless a compelling and quite fast-paced UF novel with a great host of supporting characters and original and unique world-building. So 4.75 stars from me. Edit: But I do have one major gripe: so Charley and Reyes are having some hot sex (love the scene up to this point) and then Reyes, says in French (because he speaks perfect French): "Vous ne devriez pas taquiner, mon amour" and the moment is spoiled. My French is quite rudimentary, but I do know that between lovers you would never use the formal address "vous", but rather the familiar "tu". I really hate it when authors think they need to stick some foreign language bits into their dialogue and then don't go to the trouble to have it checked by a native speaker or at least someone proficient in that language. I hope this can at least be fixed in the electronic/Kindle version, because it completely kills the mood!

This series took a bit of a detour with the last installment, but Charley is back in this thick of things in *THE CURSE OF THE TENTH GRAVE*. Her stint in amnesialand did serve a purpose which became clear in this latest book as did a number of other elements that have been kicking around in the background. For the course, there's a murder to solve, a curse to unravel, a blackmailer to thwart, and a world to save. Davidson begins to set a plan into motion using all of the

knowledge she's gained which unfortunately also caused some strife in her relationship with Reyes, but it turns out that he's been keeping just as many secrets from her as she has from him. They talk it out over a heated game of Twister, reconnect with LOTS of sex, and eventually end up on the same page which considering the elephant in the room was pretty remarkable. The Lyle Fiske case was another mind buster that could only be solved by the world's most unconventional PI. Charley accomplishes this seemingly impossible feat with two sets of ghost hunters stalking her every move thanks to a viral video while also saving a homeless girl who's slated to be Harbor House's tenth victim, and humbling Nick the Private Investigator Parker with a mind blowing revelation. All in a day's work for this grim reaper! This volume wasn't without its heartbreak, following the loss of a key figure in Davidson's life, it's now Reyes's turn to suffer a similar blow. The emotional torture doesn't stop there either because another pivotal secondary character's fate is on the chopping block, and the bad news just keeps on coming when the author announces that this person is destined to burn in the fiery pits of Hell. Euum, say WHAAAT!? THE CURSE OF THE TENTH GRAVE was classic Darynda Jones with a dollop of oh-no-you-didn't!

Let me tell you how much I love Darynda Jones, and her character Charley Davidson. A lot. A very big lot. I remember when I read her first book, I thought where has this woman been hiding all these years. The books are hysterically funny, and warm, and Charley's self deprecating attitude just cracks me up. The books are interesting, entertaining, and most importantly, they make me smile. I found The Curse of the Tenth Grave to be a little choppy. By throwing way too many plot lines together the story lost its flow. I thought the story line was choppy, and hard to follow. I am so spoiled by her books, because the plot lines usually mesh together seamlessly. She has surprised me on more than one occasion. It's still a great book, and definitely worth a listen. If you purchase the audiobook, you'll have the pleasure of listening to Lorelei King, who makes Charley's stories come to life.

Hilarious and suspenseful and scary and hopeful all rolled into one amazing story. This tenth book in the Charley Davidson series continues with the Davidson/Farrow gang keeping Beep hidden from demons and gods and demigods and different universes and hells. Meanwhile PI Charley gets cases and closes cases and destroys demons all the while making up rules and breaking rules. So

much happens in each of these books (and this one is no exception) that my brain spins and my heart clutches and my lungs gasp and my head shakes at Charley's antics -- not to mention the heartbreak at not being able to raise her own baby because of the demon crowd. If you have not started this series, do not start with this book. It could almost be a stand alone but the reader is left knowing more is to come in following book(s?). Since I enjoy the series so much, I do not mind (and I usually do not read series). If you love a heart-stopping love story, this is a series for you. If you love paranormal adventure, this is a series for you. If you love to laugh at really crazy sardonic humor, this is a series for you.

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