



The Dark and Hollow Places

Carrie Ryan

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There are many things that Annah would like to forget: the look on her sister's face before Annah left her behind in the Forest of Hands and Teeth, her first glimpse of the Horde as they swarmed the Dark City, the sear of the barbed wire that would scar her for life. But most of all, Annah would like to forget the morning Elias left her for the Recruiters.

Annah's world stopped that day, and she's been waiting for Elias to come home ever since. Somehow, without him, her life doesn't feel much different than the dead that roam the wasted city around her. Until she meets Catcher, and everything feels alive again.

But Catcher has his own secrets. Dark, terrifying truths that link him to a past Annah has longed to forget, and to a future too deadly to consider. And now it's up to Annah: can she continue to live in a world covered in the blood of the living? Or is death the only escape from the Return's destruction?

The Dark and Hollow Places Details

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From Reader Review The Dark and Hollow Places for online ebook

Nikoleta says

Αν και το δε?τερο βιβλ?ο μου ?ρεσε περισσ?τερο, η ?ννα ε?ναι η καλ?τερη ηρω?δα ?λης της τριλογ?ας. Την θα?μασα. Η Ryan ?χει απ?στευτο ταλ?ντο στο να πλ?θει ρεαλιστικο?ς χαρακτ?ρες. Θα μπορο?σα να διαβ?σω τουλ?χιστον ?λλα τρ?α βιβλ?α για αυτ?ν τον κ?σμο κ τους ?ρωες του χωρ?ς να χ?σω ο?τε λ?γο το ενδιαφ?ρον μου. Θα μου λε?ψουν.

Wendy Darling says

I really liked The Forest of Hands and Teeth, which I thought was a bleak, well-written take on the whole zombie story. I wasn't as big a fan of the follow-up novel, The Dead-Tossed Waves, primarily because I thought Gabry was a bit of a whiner and a little too obsessed with boys in the middle of all the death, dying, and undead.

As such, I wasn't sure whether I was eager to follow the story with the third installment in the series, but happily The Dark and Hollow Places returns with a compellingly flawed narrator in Annah, Gabry's long-lost twin. A frightened and lonely child who grows up to be a scarred and mistrustful woman, Annah is much more interesting than her sheltered twin--and Catcher, who was part of the triangle in the last book, is much more appealing than Elias. As with the previous books there's a lot of running away from the Unconsecrated, hiding out in forests, and fighting off unwanted attention.

I would prefered to have seen Annah come to accept herself in a more obvious way, to have had a little more time spent on her relationship with Catcher (it felt a little too close for comfort to have her pining for *both* of her sister's lovers), and I still don't really understand why authors ever want to write in the present tense. But overall the story moves along at a fast clip with descriptive narration and some pretty cool action sequences. There's a fairly open-ended close to the novel, but being that there are finally some notes of hope in this dark world, I'm kind of hoping that this is the end of the series. Better to let it finish on a high note than to let it drag out interminably.

Giselle says

This is definitely the best of the three. Just as original and thought provoking as the first two in the series- in The Dark and Hollow Places we follow yet a new character, Annah, as the protagonist. Although the others from The Dead-Tossed Waves are present as well. Some more than others, but don't fret- you won't miss anyone; Annah's story is plenty interesting. I also found her to be a much more competent main character than Mary and Gabry. She is strong and self sufficient. I really admired her determination and will to live.

In addition to its originality, we still run and hide, escaping the Unconsecrated, fighting for our lives in this exhilarating pulse pounding conclusion. Although the ending is still a bit open-ended with room for more books in the future, I'd be fine if this was it. It's a perfect way to end this series: Hopeful and believable.

There is no slow start in this third novel. We are thrown right in at high speeds that don't slow down until the last page. It's easily the darkest book in the series. The Unconsecrated are not the only enemy anymore, and I don't know which is worse. We really see the lengths that people will go to in order to survive. Some even make the zombies seem charming. Regardless of all this horror, we've still got some love and romance to gush through. The chemistry between the characters is much more present which makes it easier to root for them.

It's all brilliantly written. The settings, the different protagonists, the passion, the helplessness, the hope, it adds up to give a very realistic world. It made my adrenaline pump and my heart ache. I thoroughly enjoyed it all. I also have to mention that the covers are gorgeous!! That alone is worth having these on your shelves!

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog at **Xpresso Reads**

usagi ?? says

Picking up right where we left off at the end of "The Dead-Tossed Waves", "The Dark and Hollow Places" ups the pace of the story, making us feel just as desperate as the rest of the main characters thus far.

This last third book in the trilogy (though I really, really hope there are others!) unites all of the characters we've met since the first book together in a frenetic union of panic and love, lust and hurt. Annah's love of her sister combined with the hate that springs forth once she learns how Abigail/Gabry grew up is a tasty treat, sweet and sour, to be enjoyed slowly as it simmers to a head near the middle of the book. Just as the first book was Mary's story and the second was Gabry's, make no mistake that this last story in the trilogy belongs to Annah and Ryan never lets us forget that. We're deeply immersed in Annah and her psyche the entire time, and how she fights with herself on whether she loves or hates her sister, Catcher, and Elias.

Between this and the panic spurred on by the actions of Catcher, Elias, and Gabry at the end of the previous book, it feels like you're on a marathon - heart pounding, lactic acid in your legs the entire time. And it burns - teenage love in the middle of a world that's ending.

But it burns so, so good. Ryan has only honed and perfected her craft of agonized teenage affection throughout all three books, which is really well represented in this last story.

And then there's the generational aspect as well; Mary's story was the first story, somewhere around 20 years previous to the second book. By the end of this third book, you get the feeling that things have come full circle, that there is hope, another generation to be born, and even though they may have to fight for their lives, they WILL live.

That, ultimately, I think is Ryan's message: if there's life there's hope, and if there's hope, there's love. And that's what makes us different from the dead, just as Annah says in the book - the fact that we're aware and fight for these emotions makes us alive, makes us fallible, but makes us human. This is the line that separates us from the dead.

I really hope there are more books in the world of "Hands and Teeth" - "Hare Moon", a novella just released online (which I haven't had a chance to read yet), apparently also takes place in the same universe. But I'd like a prequel, maybe something to answer what happened to cause the Return, or a sequel/separate trilogy of

what happened after this last book. I won't take no for an answer.

This one's in my top five for 2011 so far, and the year's not even over yet. Simply gorgeous.

(crossposted to [librarything](#), [shelfari](#), and [witchoftheatregoing.wordpress.com](#))

Krys says

I've been slowly working through *The Dark and Hollow Places* by Carrie Ryan for the last couple of days. Partly, I blame the stupidity of ongoing health dramas. Partly I blame myself. This is "the final" book in the trilogy... and I simply did not want to let these books go.

The Dark and Hollow Places starts out with a new character - Annah, the twin sister of Gabry from book two. Annah lives in the Dark City and is patiently awaiting the return of Elias, who went off to find Annah's sister, Abigail. Annah and Elias left Abigail behind in the Forest of Hands and Teeth ten years ago while fleeing the Unconsecrated. Since then Annah has regretted the decision every day. Her guilt is visibly represented on her flesh by severe scars, an accident caused by barbed wire. Annah thinks of her sister and knows that she herself is ugly.

Three people come into the city that irrevocably change Annah's life. One is Elias, the man Annah is in love with. Another is Gabry, Annah's sister, who is in love with Elias as well. The third is Catcher, the Immune former flame of Gabry. All three of these characters serve as a symbolic counterpoint for Annah in provocative ways. They also make a very impacting point in the story. Because of Catcher's immunity the Recruiters (who secure the defenses in Dark City) have forced him to infiltrate the infected areas for supplies. To keep him in line they imprison Annah, Gabry, and Elias but they really only need to keep one alive to maintain Catcher's loyalty. The threat of their deaths are ever-present in (and out) of Dark City.

I really like what Ryan did with this book. Granted, it took me a minute to get into the storyline but once Gabry and co. made their presence known I was hooked. Annah is a hard character to wrap your brain around. I wasn't convinced, at first, that I was going to like her voice. I wasn't sure I was ready for her darkness. She's a completely different character than the first two women; her inner strength comes from years of self-loathing more than success. I was scared of how dark she was in the beginning, but I quickly grew to appreciate her, to love her. I really grew to love her.

This is, potentially, the darkest book in the series. But it's not because of the dead, it's because of the living. The things that people do, the things that people become in order to survive, are truly monstrous, and Ryan drives this home with efficient grace. It's not the undead we need fear, it's ourselves. Beautifully, masterfully done.

I'm really glad that I had this book to read this week. Really. Very. Glad.

5 out of 5 stars. It's bittersweet to see this series end, but I'm very happy with the final book.

- review courtesy of [www.bibliopunkkreads.com](#)

Megan says

Perhaps I need to go back and reread *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*. The thing is, that book blew me away. I loved the mystery, the surreal quality, Mary's craziness, the pervading sense of doom and of course the never ending onslaught of the Unconsecrated. I remember reading the book late at night, in the middle of a storm while the hubby was away. Between the wind and lightening I could hear moans of the undead, and when thunder shook my old, isolated house I imagined hoards at my door. I was so spooked that I actually had to put the book down and take a break from it! Carrie Ryan can write a creepy zombie story that is for sure.

Needless to say, I was completely let down by the teen angst portrayed in *The Dead-Tossed Waves*, almost so much so that I considered not continuing with the final installment of this trilogy. But of course I did finally read *The Dark and Hollow Places*. The verdict? Well, Carrie Ryan can still write some of the best zombie scenes ever. So many zombie books fail because they go for the immediate scare and shock value. But Ryan manages to build up a slow tension and throughout the novel and allow the reader to truly see the hopelessness and horror of a zombie apocalypse.

And then they come, stumbling from the cloud of dust and dirt: Unconsecrated. At first it's just a few, but then there are more and more, struggling across the rubble and flooding into the streets. Slow but steady they flow like blood from a seeping wound.

Some are short and some are tall. Some men and others women. Some wear clothes from ooden times and some are naked, their bodies striped with wounds. But all moan with gaping black mouths. All claw at the air, reaching and needing. Some of them shuffle on broken limbs, arms gnawed away, with stringy gray tendons swinging with each step.

There are more than I could ever count and I know this is just the beginning. Soon the entire City will fall to them. I stare and wonder how we've survived as long as we have against such an inevitable destruction.

Unfortunately, Ryan also has a desire to write about teenage angst and lurve. While this worked well in *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*, it's old hat by now. At this point the zombie scenes and the supporting characters are meant only to hinder the romance and heighten the angst. Teenagers talk philosophically about the nature of life, love and death and manage to be the only good guys amongst many of the survivors we encounter.

yawn

The Dark and Hollow Places is a solid three stars for me. While I absolutely love Ryan's ideas and writing style, her execution of this trilogy leaves something to be desired. I would love to see her break away from a plot which is so dependent on the lurve and the angst.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

Carrie Ryan has a talent for writing. Not only does her writing increase in perfection with each book, but she creates a world that feels so real while reading it, that I hopelessly and willingly fall victim to its brilliance. Yes I know zombies aren't real, but they sure feel real when you're reading Carrie's series. I can honestly say I am NOT a zombie fan, but I'm a die hard Carrie Ryan zombie fan. There's a difference, as Carrie's main characters are not zombies, but the world in which they live is over run with them.

The Dark and Hollow Places lives up to its name and is the darker of the three, but it also made it the most

realistic. Without giving away any spoilers, what happens with the characters in the story wasn't shocking to me and is something that fits a story who's world is facing an end. This is something that felt real and something I can see really happening, as human nature takes over. People either fight to survive or become barbaric and let me just say that a few of the Recruiters make the zombies look nice.

What I've loved about this series is that each book is from a different character's point of view, and each story is told in manner that I not only get to see the characters in a variety of ways, but also their world. What I loved most with this story is the way in which Carrie brings all her characters together and wraps up her series. *The Dark and Hollow Places* is told from Annah's point of view, Gabry's twin sister. I really enjoyed getting to know Annah, and I loved the romance that grows between her and Catcher. It's so broken, and hopeful all at the same time and filled with tension, which I love. I really fell in love with Catcher in *TDTW*, but this time his desperation is so much more urgent that I really wanted to reach out to him. Annah and Catcher mold together perfectly, as they're the only ones who are able to really understand each other. I'm so glad that Gabry and Elias were apart of the story, but this time they were great supporting characters.

The setting in which the story takes place really helps set the tone and feel of the book. Dark City is overrun and falling apart and it's the last strong hold survivors have. The darkened subway tunnels are beyond creepy! My adrenaline started running while reading these scenes they're that creepy, but so fitting for the story. While the setting makes the world and the story feel helpless, the characters give it hope, which was so appealing to me. Annah for me is the essence of survival. Her passion for living really brought the story to life. She often questions the way in which she was changing and how could she not? She's had to deal with some pretty horrific things both from what she's seen and experienced. She won't give up, even when all seems lost.

I truly loved the moments I spent being apart of the world Carrie created. With *The Dark and Hollow Place* I had a few of those "ah ha" moments when Carrie ties together her previous two story lines, and adds them to this story's deliciously twisted plot. And oh what an ending! It's biter sweet, hopeful, and exactly how a series should end. If you have not picked up Carrie's series, I highly recommend it. *The Dark and Hollow Places* is a must have book and I recommend running out today to pick up.

Anja says

4.5 UNDEAD STARS

Screw *The Walking Dead*, if there's ever a zombie apocalypse, I want to be like Annah!

"Life is never that simple. And the fact that it's not that simple to you means only one thing: you're still alive."

This book was by far the best one in this entire series and I'm kind of mad at myself for leaving two years between reading the first two and this one. I would've enjoyed this one so much more right after the other two because this really brought all the storylines together nicely! It finally all made sense now! Book 1 was about Mary. Book 2 about Mary's daughter Gabry and this one was about Gabry's twin sister Annah and included pretty much all the characters from the previous books, still trying to survive in a world full of *Unconsecrated*.

I really don't get why these books aren't more popular! These already draw you in by their **haunting** titles!

And don't get me wrong, these are definitely **not** everyone's cup of tea. They're extremely *dark* and made me question humanity more than once.

I felt hopeless in Annah's place because of all she had to go through, but she was headstrong and never gave up! I admire that about her and I wish I was more like her in that aspect. I probably would've been dead literally 0.5 seconds after the zombie outbreak started lol, I'm just that clumsy. She also literally managed to find love in a hopeless place. (~~eat that, Rihanna!~~)

By the way, Catcher, I still love you and you know it!

Lola says

It seems to be happening a lot to me lately first with the next part if the Gone series and now this too... I don't know how I'm gonna wait a whole year

UPDATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Finally a whole year has passed and I just finished reading the book this morning , 1 am counts as morning right??

After reading it I feel kind of overwhelmed with all the emotions the story has generated on me, I even feel a bit sore of been pulled through all the tension moments along the story.

"What would you do if you knew you only had a few more days to live?" Have you ever think about it??...me neither, I mean, not seriously, till now; and when Annah decided she wanted to live actually live and not only survive, for me, it was like colliding into a brick wall. And suddenly realizing I want to live too. I mean its true we are all dying and why to wait to have only a few days left if we can live now.

A don't want to spoil it , because it really really worth the reading, I'll just say that despite the trilogy is amazing, and quite original too, since each book has its own voice and protagonist; but from the three this one is my favorite, and Im still secretly hoping for a fourth book.

Penny says

Brief-ish summary (that isn't so much spoilery as it is more of a quick set-up of the plot during the first chapter or so): Teenage Annah has been on her own for three years, since Elias--the boy with whom she got lost in the forest several years prior--left to join the protectorate to secure a better future for both of them. In the Dark City where lawlessness prevails Annah learned quickly what it takes to fend for herself. She's had to be strong in order to survive.

Because of street smarts and childhood accident that left part of her face and body marred Annah's been fortunate to fend off creepers and the like. Unfortunately the very same scars cause Annah to keep everyone at arms length. She walks the streets with her head down, speaking only when necessary and has no friends or acquaintances. She's literally all on her own as she waits for Elias to return to her.

Near the beginning of The Dark and Hollow Places Annah makes the decision to move on--Elias has been gone three years when he only signed up for two. She knows that there is a good chance he's dead or worse. She knows it's foolish to continue living in the same building they lived in together as it's been declared unsafe and the city is getting more dangerous every day.

It's when she's leaving the city for what's supposed to be the last time she sees a teenage girl who has her face, or rather the face she would have were it not for all the scars. Annah knows without a doubt the girl is her long-lost identical twin, Abigail, whom she and Elias left in the forest all those years ago. Guilt-stricken, there hasn't been a day in which Annah hasn't thought about Abigail, about her fate--whether she found her way back to their village or not.

Annah attempts to get to Abigail who, ironically enough, is entering the Dark City. She fails because of the excessive, though entirely necessary security measures in place. Helplessly she watches Abigail pass by, hoping she can locate her after she returns to the city. Around the same time a young man, also entering the city, becomes the focus of nearly everybody's attention when security dogs start barking at him, identifying him as infected. Turns out Abigail is traveling with the young man and helps him escape from the peacekeepers. In turn they take her into custody while Annah looks on, horrified.

And this, folks, is when things get truly interesting but I'm going to have to finish reviewing this book later as my five year old needs attention RIGHT NOW! (Seriously, the world might just end if I don't do her bidding.)

Original short review:

More like 3.9 stars but I went ahead and rounded it up because it is the series finale and it ended well. The protagonist is the strongest Ryan has written to-date, though a little too much of a tortured soul from time to time. There are times in which I found myself choking on her pain, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

It's just that Ryan writes heartbreak and rejection so well, I found myself sort of reliving some of the nastier, best-left-forgotten experiences from my adolescence. I was choking on bitterness on the MC's behalf and I even hated the 'other girl'. So glad I'm no longer a teenager, but I digress.

I'll write a full review when I get to my computer as typing this out from a phone isn't very fun.

Morgan F says

In some parts, it was my favorite. In others, it was my least favorite.

Angie says

The first book in this series "The Forest of Hands and Teeth" was such a great story, then the second book "The Dead Tossed Waves" wasn't really a sequel, it was a whole different story with mostly different characters and it didn't make references to the first book very often, so you didn't get any answers to the

questions that the first book raised. This last book "The Dark and Hollow Places" is a sequel to "The Dead Tossed Waves", I started skimming about mid book because I thought it was getting a little bit boring and repetitive. There wasn't much of a big finale, and it didn't really go in the direction I thought it would, it just sort of faded into an ending, "and they rode off into the sunset" sort of a thing. Very inconclusive, and very disappointing.

Carlos says

Second audiobook I will enter towards my reading challenge, sadly I had never heard about this series , so when I chose this book I didn't know this was the third book in a trilogy, however this book was a good stand alone book . The narrative was simple and the plot was nothing out of this world , this is the classic zombie, survival, dystopian society we find in all zombie related books. Did not like the main character, she whines all through the book and is reliant on other characters to keep her safe . All in all a good simple book, not the greatest, not the worstmaybe I would have given it more stars if I had read book 1 and 2.

?Kimari? says

After reading and reviewing The Dead Tossed Waves, I wasn't planning on reading the final book in this series. But, I hate starting a series and not finishing it, and I really hoped this book would be better.

The plot follows the previous two books; there's the whiny, self-pitying girl, the love triangle, and the need to escape. The writing hasn't improved either. Something is always almost like something else, unimaginative similes abound. Someone is always retching or vomiting. When hands, fingers, or knuckles are mentioned, they're raw, ragged, bloody, or bruised. Throats and voices are raw and ragged too. If you need an adjective, any adjective, just use one of these four.

Annah is always whining about her scars and hiding behind her hair. It makes her look meek. Instead of being invisible, she stands out as an easy target. Like Catcher, I was tired of having her 'badge' thrown in my face. It's her personality and her refusal to open up, not her scars, that makes her ugly.

In contrast, Gabry is more mature and steady. She's much more likable than in the previous book. Catcher and Elias are nice guys, even if they're not very multi-dimensional. The remaining characters were just filler, bad guy #1, bad guy #2, victim #1, etc. No personality or motives needed.

This could have been a 2 star book, except for one thing. The escape at the end is *beyond* ridiculous. (view spoiler)

If you liked this series, you might also enjoy:

★ The Clockwork Century series

Steph Sinclair says

You know how when you are reading a book and you can sort of tell when the author lets her characters off the hook or saves them from a potentially devastating situation? Well, Carrie Ryan spares no sort of mercy for her characters. In fact, she leaves your soul begging for a way out for them. I found myself bargaining with Ryan to please cut them some slack! But Alas, such is not the way in any of the Forest of Hands and Teeth novels. While the POV changed from each of the three books, one constant always remained:

Or the “Unconsecrated,” “Mudo,” or “Plague Rats” depending which book you’re on.

The Dark and Hollow Places (or the series in general) is epic. I can honestly say I really, really liked it, perhaps even loved it. However, it is not an adventure I would want to read again. It is just too damn depressing. And I’ll probably have Zombie filled dreams the next night I sleep. The world Ryan creates is so grim, so full of darkness and despair. Honestly, its awesome. It feels like you are watching a horror movie.

The book picks up with Gabry’s twin sister, Annah. What a broken character! At first, I thought Annah was sure to annoy the hell out of me with her constant complaints of her scars. But she quickly grew on me. Annah is a very strong, solid, female protagonist. Is she flawed? Sure. She is so used to depending on herself for everything, that she is afraid to let anyone get close to her. Throughout the novel, she learns that if she or her loved ones are going to make it, she has to learn to trust again.

Annah can not take a break in this novel. Ryan puts her through some pretty hellish situations that left me doing something like this: Or this: I was on the edge of my seat for most of the book. Nowhere was safe, not from the Zombies or the recruiters. Many times they all just wanted to give up. But really, who could blame them? Ryan brought up a very good question in this book: What is the difference from surviving and simply existing? What do you do when you only have a short time to live? Well, you LIVE. You continuing fighting, feeling, believing.

So, if you haven’t read this book or series...what are you waiting for?! The Return?!

More reviews and more at [Cuddlebuggery Book Blog](http://www.cuddlebuggerybookblog.com).
