



Secrets in the Grave

Karen Ann Hopkins

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Some Amish communities aren't so cozy.

Just when Sheriff Serenity Adams thinks life is getting back to normal, the death of a young, pregnant Amish woman rocks the community. Is it circumstance...or murder? It's up to Serenity and her ex-Amish boyfriend, Daniel Bachman, to discover the truth about the new shaman-type medicine man who's brought his dark secrets to Blood Rock.

But Serenity has secrets of her own, and if she and Daniel don't work it out, the reappearance of a woman from his past could threaten to ruin their relationship.

The deeper Serenity delves into the magical world of Amish herbal medicine, the phenomenon of laying of the hands and other cultural healing oddities, the more she wonders if miracles are real. What she witnesses with her own eyes may be too fantastical for her to believe.

In this riveting third installment of Serenity's Plain Secrets, beliefs are challenged, a way of life is questioned and family skeletons are unearthed, leaving no one untouched.

Secrets in the Grave Details

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From Reader Review Secrets in the Grave for online ebook

June says

Having read the first 2 Serenity books I settled down to enjoy the third - wrong! Serenity has some serious trust issues which have been discussed in the first two books so can we move on please. Daniel is ex amish and Serenity is the Sheriff there; Daniel would like to move on, marriage, children but Serenity is dragging her feet and really in my opinion becoming a bit whiney. This does detract from the storyline since it comes up often which is a shame because the background of the Amish community is very interesting and there are also murders to be solved. Perhaps in the next book Serenity will be able to come to grips with issues and move on (I hope)

Tammie says

Just when Sheriff Serenity Adams thinks life is getting back to normal, the death of a young, pregnant Amish woman rocks the community. Is it circumstance...or murder? It's up to Serenity and her ex-Amish boyfriend, Daniel Bachman, to discover the truth about the new shaman-type medicine man who's brought his dark secrets to Blood Rock.

But Serenity has secrets of her own, and if she and Daniel don't work it out, the reappearance of a woman from his past could threaten to ruin their relationship.

I liked Secrets in the Grave a little less than the first two books in the series, mainly because the main character, Serenity has begun to get on my nerves a little bit. Serenity's lack of trust in Daniel and petty jealousy is getting old. Also, we know Daniel is a good looking man, we don't need to be reminded of it at least twice every book. And Serenity is a 35 year old town sheriff; can she stop with the teenage stomach fluttering every time she looks at him? Serenity also made a pretty poor decision in this book and then freaked out at the possible consequences. (view spoiler) This probably bothered me more than the above mentioned things. Be an adult and be responsible for goodness sake, and don't freak out about it if you're not.

Despite those annoyances I still liked the book and I still like the series as a whole. I thought the mystery was pretty good, but easy to figure out. The same problem with typos and words or letters missing in sentences is still an issue in this book, but I'm still willing to overlook it because the books are entertaining. There is one more book that has been written in the series and I will read it, but I'm kind of hoping it is the last one. I'm not sure how much longer this series will hold my interest.

Review also posted at Writings of a Reader

Nan Wisner says

Plot a bit sensationalistic

From what I know of the Amish culture, I'd say 85% of the portrayal in this book is accurate. The plot is a bit dark and sensationalistic for a small rural community. Enjoyed the innocence, honesty and step back in time

of the life in the book in spite of the darkness. Struggles of the young Amish people between plain and fancy lifestyles was interesting. Is it all or nothing choice or are compromises taking place in the Amish world to keep the young people?

Amanda Meggs says

Excellent. A very exciting mystery about a sheriff named Serenity and her ex-Amish boyfriend. This 3rd book in the series didn't matter that I hadn't read the first two. Great fast paced action with believable characters and storyline.

Bonnie says

I gave this 2 stars because the book had apparently never been edited. The story was worth 3 stars but chapter after chapter there were grammar errors. Multiples times the word you was used rather than your. The verb are was used when it should have been is. I could go on and on. Because I do proof reading as part of my profession, it took away from the book when I was jolted with these errors.

Linda says

Sheriff Serenity Adams must investigate the mysterious death of a young, pregnant, Amish woman. The one person she suspects the most is the local Shaman for the Amish. When she learns that his own wife died mysteriously in child birth many years before she becomes even more suspicious.

Though I had an idea who the murderer was from the beginning I certainly did not know how they were connected and that made it interesting. I also had no idea that the Amish had healers or Shamans other than perhaps a midwife here or there.

An interesting read. I liked Serenity and her boyfriend, Daniel. Neither one was perfect bringing their own pasts and flaws to their relationship.

Judy Churchill says

Who knew there would be so much going on in the usually peaceful Amish community. Serenity, as Sheriff of Blood Rock, is building credibility and making friends. Her relationship with Daniel is developing in spite of her fear of commitment. Easy to read and characters who invite your involvement! I am on to the next episode.

Quillracer says

Hopkins again shows the Amish as darker than our standard perception of them. And Serenity as mercurial

as ever.

As in earlier books, there were many places here where I wasn't sure if Serenity or Daniel was the POV character. And there are so many places where Serenity and Daniel or some other character breaks out in an eye roll or raised eyebrows, they're epidemics that need investigating by the CDC.

This book had a bit of a soap opera-ish tone to it in the way Serenity carries on about Daniel's interactions with an old female friend. For a professional adult, she sure acts like a teen experiencing her first crush. And for a police officer trained to 'read' people, she's blind as a bat when it comes to reading Daniel. It may make for a better story but it's unrealistic here.

I have the next book in the series in my 'To Read' pile. But if it's more *As The World Turns* than *A Study In Scarlet*, it will be the last one I read.

Sheryl says

Another enjoyable installment in the series. Interesting case and characters. I wouldn't start with this one because you'll miss out on character and relationship development; plus, the cases from the previous two books are brought up so you couldn't go back and read them later without knowing what happened. I recommend reading this series in order.

I listened to most of this on audio but finished the last quarter on my kindle and I have to say that, given the choice of narrators, I recommend the print version over the audio. The book chapters are told from two different first person perspectives—Serenity's and Daniel's, but mostly Serenity's. There are different narrators for each, so the same characters have different voices depending on who is reading the chapter. It's a bit annoying. Also, the voice for Serenity doesn't match her character. It's not strong enough. She would probably be fine for a different book but I didn't care for her as Serenity. The book sounded so much better in my head when I read it in print.

Joleen Devens says

This was a great Amish mystery. I loved how Karen Ann Hopkins played on the differences between the Amish way and the worlds way. The plot really kept my attention. The last few chapters were so great, I could not put the book down.

Here is a description of the book from Amazon:

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Laura Barfield says

I really enjoyed the previous 2 Serenity's Plain stories but feel less enamored with this one. I still enjoyed the crime solving element, the shenanigans with the Amish, enjoyed spending time with all the characters I've come to know and love and I am still of the opinion that Karen Ann Hopkins is a good writer who knows how to spin a yarn. So why only 3 stars?

I found myself getting more and more frustrated with Serenity and her behavior towards Daniel as the book went on to the point that it distracted me from really enjoying the other elements of the book. I wouldn't have been surprised if Daniel had walked away from their "relationship" as she continued to push him away and believe the worst of him whilst at the same time professing to love him!

So you were badly betrayed and hurt in your only other serious relationship but that was years ago! For goodness sake, get over yourself woman and give the guy the benefit of the doubt once in a while!

Carolyn says

The story was very good. I enjoyed the mystery and the relationship of characters. BUT the book needed proof reading before publication. There are many instances where I got confused due to phrases repeated, and the same words used side by side in the same sentence. Also I found a few times where the personal pronoun was misused in regard to the person to whom it was intended. Daniel was a 'she' and other persons were 'he' when 'she' would be used.

Joanna says

This is the third instalment in the series. The book is well written although there are a few spelling mistakes which is annoying. The book is well constructed but now that I've read the third book in the series, the plot line is predictable. All three books have had the same plot - an incident happens in the current day but upon investigation, is linked to one of two in the past.

I'm also getting frustrated with Serenity herself. So she had one high school boyfriend cheat on her, get over it! It doesn't mean that every man is going to. I feel sorry for Daniel and I think as a character, he deserves more trust respect from Serenity. It's just annoying now how she pushes him away constantly.

Rebekah Jonesy says

I'll admit, the 35 year old sheriff acting so emotionally immature was a bit daunting. But it was also totally

realistic. We all know someone like that. So focused on their work and past hurts that they can't deal with their emotions, ignoring them instead. But all of that was secondary to the real plot of the book, which is a murder mystery. That part was very well done with complex characters complicated religious beliefs. The editing was a bit weak and deterred from the book, but the story itself was very solid.

Wendy says

BACK OF THE BOOK BLURB

(copied from Amazon.com)

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MY REVIEW

A great story here! Karen keeps you guessing, you think you have it figured out, OH but wait, not so fast, KEEP READING. Yes, I have really liked the story, even though there are some spots I don't appreciate, fewer in this book than the previous two I think, but I keep reading the stories because the stories are so good.
