



# An Ice Cold Grave

*Charlaine Harris*

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## **An Ice Cold Grave** Charlaine Harris

Hired to find a boy gone missing in Doraville, North Carolina, Harper Connelly and her brother Tolliver head there, only to discover that the boy was the only one left of several who had disappeared over the previous five years. All of them teenagers. All unlikely runaways.

All calling for Harper.

Harper soon finds them—eight victims, buried in the half-frozen ground, all come to an unspeakable end. Afterward, what she most wants to do is collect her fee and get out of town ahead of the media storm that's soon to descend. But when she's attacked and prevented from leaving, she reluctantly becomes a part of the investigation as she learns more than she cares to about the dark mysteries and long-hidden secrets of Doraville—knowledge that makes her the next person likely to rest in an ice-cold grave.

## **An Ice Cold Grave Details**

Date : Published September 25th 2007 by Berkley (first published September 22nd 2007)

ISBN : 9780425217290

Author : Charlaine Harris

Format : Hardcover 280 pages

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# From Reader Review *An Ice Cold Grave* for online ebook

## Rachel Reads Ravenously says

4 stars!

This was the best book in the series so far! Harper Connelly was struck by lightning when she was fifteen. Since then she has been able to locate dead bodies and determine their cause of death. Harper and her step-brother Tolliver travel the US using her ability to make a living. Harper and Tolliver are brought to North Carolina on their most recent job in an effort to locate missing teenage boys. Not only does Harper locate their bodies, but it turns out there is a serial killer in this small town and he's not happy that Harper has ruined his fun.

*An Ice Cold Grave* was the best book in the series by far. I felt the mystery was way more interesting in this book and the way it unraveled had a nice flow, compared to the first two novels where it was very all of the sudden. The murders were much more gruesome than previous novels, which was a bit surprising.

But my favorite part was watching Harper and Tolliver FINALLY reveal their attraction to each other. It's not gross to me because they're not related, and they know each other better than anyone else. It made sense. Plus it was a bonus knowing Tolliver had been way more aware of it than Harper had. He was just waiting for her to realize it, too.

So if you like paranormal mystery with some romance thrown in, this is the series for you. I'm going to hold off on reading the next book as I don't want this series to end!!!

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## Lins says

I loved this book! But to tell you why, exactly, would spoil it... so I'll tell a little about why else I like this series.

What I have loved about this series is that despite being oriented around dead bodies and a mystery, they don't read like the hundreds of crime thrillers and forensic mysteries out there. Harper Connelly is not a forensic expert and she knows it; she doesn't attempt to do the police and other experts jobs for them, in fact she bluntly refuses! This character with her unique gifts uses them the best way she knows how to help people find answers. Of course, they aren't always the answers they wanted to hear.

This particular book concentrates on a serial killing which is extremely brutal. This book seemed much more gritty and violent than the first two, which were based on family and small town discord. To tell the truth, it was a bit sickening at times and I am not easily sickened, but I think my discomfort was partly because I just hadn't expected the violence given the past books. And it matched the discomfort that Harper feels through most of the book.

And the spoiler? (view spoiler)

Now I'm torn. I desperately want to read more of Harper Connelly, but I also love, love, LOVE the Southern Vampire Mysteries... Can we clone Charlaine Harris?! ;)

eta: Just discovered that the fourth book is the final one apparently. Now I'm torn about reading it, knowing it will be the last. I am awful about this, it took me months to watch David Tennant's last episodes as the Doctor since I didn't want it to end...

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### **?Susan? says**

I have never read any books in this series or by Charlaine Harris and did not realize that she was the author of the very popular Sookie Stackhouse series until after I started it. I thoroughly enjoyed the premise and fast moving story line. Quite an interesting twist to put on a paranormal book. After a young woman is struck by lightening she has the ability to find the dead and tell you how they died. She and her once step brother make a living at it while searching for her sister who was killed.

When they are hired by a grieving grandmother to find her grandson in a small town, it becomes clear that his body is going to lead them into an investigation to find a serial killer. Parts of the story get very graphic and there are sex scenes. Even though this was a very good book I wish I would have started with the first book because there are definitely parts that I had missed. Now that I have read this one, however, too much is revealed to start at the beginning so I will just move forward in the series.

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### **Lauren says**

#### **Ice Cold Grave**

4 Stars

Harper and Tolliver travel to Doraville, North Carolina when they are hired to find a missing teenager. Harper soon realizes that she has bitten off more than she can chew when she discovers the horrific burial ground of a deranged killer who has been committing unspeakable crimes for quite a while and has no intention of allowing Harper to get in his way ...

This installment in the Harper Connolly series takes a darker turn toward the serial killer thriller genre rather than cozy mystery. Nevertheless, the plot is gripping with several heart-stopping descriptions and nail-biting scenes to keep the reader on the edge of their seat.

Harris captures the nuances of small town life so well. Doraville epitomizes the idea of still waters running deep and people remaining unaware of the terrible atrocities that occur right under their noses committed by neighbors they have known all their lives. The villains in this book are true abominations not only due to their despicable actions, but because they conceal their true natures so easily - actual devils in disguise.

**\*\*\*Warning: Mild spoiler ahead\*\*\***

The romance between Harper and Tolliver seems to be the main bone of contention for many reviewers who

view their relationship as creepy and incestuous. For me, it contributes to rather than detracts from the appeal of the story. The subtle chemistry and attraction between the two is apparent from book one and the progression to a sexual relationship is not only natural, but inevitable given that they are not biological siblings and care so deeply for one another.

All in all, **Ice Cold Grave** is a fantastic addition to the series although readers who prefer less gruesome cozies may be disappointed.

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### **Shae says**

No. No no no no no. This book was bad. The mystery bit and the plotty bits were kind of all right, I would even say this was one of the best in the series if it hadn't been for the amount of creepiness in the book. OMFG DON'T SLEEP WITH YOUR BROTHER YOU MORON. I was so creeped out by the relationship in this book it ruined the entire thing. Okay, so they aren't biological brother and sister, but have been living together as siblings for about 10 years. It was just sooo awkward and sooo creepy. Ruined everything.

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### **Michelle says**

I really enjoy books written by Charlaine Harris. This series was not quite as good as the Sookie Stackhouse series, but I still liked it.

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### **Tatiana says**

Harris is losing me again. This series is taking a weird turn, just like her Lily Bard series, which I abandoned after book 2. I like Harris for her stories set in small towns, with colorful characters, with families full of dark secrets and back stories. "An Ice Cold Grave" is just too dark for my taste - mass graves, serial killers, teenage sociopath torturing animals... That's not what I care for. Plus the relationship between Tolliver and Harper - not comfortable with it. Too quick of a transition from brother/sister (even though biologically they aren't) to lovers. Too ewww for my taste. I might have been OK with the entire thing if their relationship was portrayed as tender and romantic, but no - it is too lustful and outright gross at times. As for the sex scenes - ew again. Harris definitely pushes the envelope here - she makes these scenes risqué and rather unsavory and dirty.

I am planning to read the 4th (last) book in the series just to get done with it, but without much excitement.

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### **Jen says**

***4.5 stars - great!***

This third story featuring Harper Connelly and Tolliver Lang is the best one, yet, in my opinion. And not just because I ended it with tears in my eyes. The story was very suspenseful, full of mystery and danger. And those responsible for the atrocities Harper uncovered managed to stay hidden for a long, long time. (I

figured it out a bit sooner than Harper did, but not all that much sooner. I just realized the significance of what a certain person said right away, while it sort of went over Harper's head and was left for her to ruminate over later.)

So it was a "fun" mystery. And Harper (view spoiler) I had been suspecting that Tolliver (view spoiler) And I was right! But reading about how I was right was a little awkward. After seeing Harper (view spoiler) A little circumspection in this book would have been MUCH appreciated, but it was not to be, sadly. I think that's why this book isn't hitting my "it was wonderful! 5 stars!" radar.

About the continuity issue I mentioned in my status update, I'm so turned around that I don't know which way is up any longer. Things have been out of place and wrong in all three books and I just can't remember which way they're supposed to be any longer. But one thing does stand out: on page 25, Harper tells Twyla that her sister Cameron has been missing for eight years. This contradicts what we were told in Grave Surprise, which was that she'd been missing for six years (p.34). Now they were in Memphis (in Grave Surprise) in November (p.2). In An Ice Cold Grave, we're told that it's the "end of an especially nasty January" on page 2. And on page 5 we find out that it's been just weeks since the end of the the events in Memphis. So why did Cameron go from being missing for six years to being missing for eight years when only about three months have passed? ARGH!!!! :-)

The potential continuity issue that I was actually referring to in my status update was the fact that in this book, Harper mentions that Cameron was her older sister (p.63) who was taken when she was eighteen (p.65). I did a bit of looking in the first two books, but I can't find anywhere that says that Harper was the elder sister and Cameron was only 15 or so when she was taken. I guess that was just an impression I had. So, NO CONTINUITY ISSUE HERE. But the aforementioned one, about the length of time Cameron's been missing, is definitely a continuity issue. :'(

But thankfully, the one true continuity issue I discovered was just a minor blip and, since no other issues or errors jumped out at me, I was able to fall in love with this book. :-) As I said above, this story didn't hit my "it was amazing! 5 stars!" radar, but it still managed to be pretty great. And as I said at the beginning, this was the best book in this series so far. I did really love it. So, "4.5 stars - great!" is an accurate rating for how I feel. :-)

Oops! Almost forgot... I should say a few words on how this story ends:

Harper (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)] So that's the ending. It was pretty wonderful (for me). I really loved it, and this story. :-)

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## Pat says

I love all 3 books in this series by Charlaine Harris. Harper, the protag, was hit by lightning as a child and suddenly was able to sense the presence of dead bodies and how they died.

She and her "not" brother (her mother married his father) travel the country, helping families find closure when their missing dead are found.

Two things I love: the relationship of Harper and Tolliver (her "not" brother )is genuine and sweet. They are mutually supportive and fiercely protective. The other thing (as a self-employed person, myself) is that they are not ashamed to charge people for the valuable services they provide, despite the fact that they are scorned, hassled, even reviled, because they need to make a living doing the work they do.

As always, Ms. Charlaine does a fab job of introducing the reader to a wide variety of characters and making us love or hate 'em. :)

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### **Bill says**

An excellent series; I've enjoyed every book in the Harper Connelly series thus far. I like the main characters, Harper and Tolliver very much, especially Harper, with her unique talent of being able to sense how people have died. This story has many twists in it, both crime-wise and relationship-wise and it kept the story interesting and moving along at an excellent pace. I'm very happy for some of the developments (will let you find out for yourself) and the mystery led me down paths I didn't expect. It was nice to see that sometimes Harper's talents (gift) are respected by law enforcement, rather than being treated as strictly ghoulish. I enjoyed this very much and will have to ensure I get the remaining books in the series.

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### **Jilly says**

This one is pretty dark because the murders are of young boys who were tortured. So, be aware that it's disturbing and I definitely reminded myself that these murders were fiction.

Okay, now on to the fun stuff!

So, we all knew that brother and sister were going to start getting it on at some point, but that they were both in deep denial about their feelings. I think one of the biggest hurdles in this whole thing is how publicly they have called themselves brother and sister when they aren't really related. Once they get together there is going to be a whole lot of "What? Eww!" going on. So, Tolliver starts changing things up.

***"I'm Tolliver Lang, and I accompany this lady, Harper Connelly."***

Good job, Tolliver! That's not awkward at all!

It reminds me of the geeky boy who calls girls "My Lady" and acts like a Renaissance Fair worker. Just stop, kid. Please. You are so going to regret this later.

So, they finally get together, and then comes the strangest description of a sex scene I have ever read (and that's saying something. look at my "books read" amount)

I am going to give you an accurate transcription of some of the things Harper says, so beware. It's awkward. I'll spoiler it so that my more sensitive viewers won't freak out.

(view spoiler)

Okay, that's enough. I just threw up in my mouth a little bit.

Is that the weirdest thing ever, or what? She said "phallus"? In her head? She thought the word "phallus"? I can honestly say that that word has never been a part of my inner monologue.

I was horrified, and yet I had to laugh. Neither of those reactions are typical or probably intended by the author.

I felt like this kid:

Other than that weird moment, I really enjoyed the book. The killings were creepy, the sex was creepier, and there were plenty of suspects for the mystery.

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### **Tiffany\_Reads says**

Love this book. Can't wait to start the next one. I listened to the audiobook of this and the narrator does a superb job with this series.

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### **Kristen says**

The third in this series about Harper Connolly, who can detect corpses, continues with her first serial killer case. The limitations of her ability, as always, make it hard for her to help figure out "who done it," especially when all she wants to do is leave Doraville. An ice storm helps ensure that she and Tolliver get stuck there, however. The denouement is excellently scary and dangerous (though I figured out the threat a bit faster than Harper did). I could've done without the long detailed sex scene (most of which I skipped), but Harris had been leading up to it through both the previous books, so I guess some fans were anticipating it. Still a great series and a good book - including appearances by the wacky (and sometimes scarily accurate) seeress and her weird-looking son, and events in which minor characters get to play important roles too.

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### **Diana says**

Arriving in a small town in North Carolina to find a missing boy, Harper instead finds eight, and the hunt for a serial killer is on. When Harper is attacked, she and her stepbrother Tolliver are stuck in town, and are drawn into the mystery of who could be killing these boys.

This one was slightly more interesting, but with a darker twist. Things are a little hard to follow, like usual. The romance between Harper and Tolliver feels slightly skeezy.



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## Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Quick review:

**Cover:** Interesting

**Rating:** NC-17

**Steaminess:** SO HOT

**Thumbs Up:** 4

**Overall:** I enjoyed it

**Characters:** Well Done

**Plot:** First, finally. Then, there is a serial killer on the loose

**Page Turner:** Yes

**Series Cont.?** Yes

**Recommend:** Yes

**Book Boyfriend:** Manfred

### SUMMARY (50 words or less)

I feel like I could breathe. This story finally got somewhere in the romance department. The mystery in this one sucks with a serial killer on the loose. It's just really sad to read about whether fact or fiction. I figured out the killer pretty quick once introduced.

For a full review and yummy pic, see my blog post at:

<http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...>

### Audio Review

Alyssa Bresnahan did a really good job with this series. She really brought this series to life for me.

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## Jim says

The third book in the Harper Connelly series, it was a fun, quick read. Harper was struck by lightning & now can find dead people. She can tell how they died, but that's it. This time she runs into a serial killing & a lot of trouble. Kind of predictable overall, the details were fun to read. There are some added twists & turns to the plot that were fun.

I'd give this book 4 stars, just because it was such a fun, quick & relaxing read, but Harris just annoys me by constantly bringing up Harper's past. Yes, I know it defines her, but quit beating me over the head with it! There are entire paragraphs of self-pity that I continually have to skip over. She could reference it in a few words, a sentence at the most, but no! She has to recap it again & again. Not only have we read it in previous books, but also in this one! Enough already!!!

Still, I want to read the next one. Her works are like chips. They're not all that filling & I can't seem to put them down. I have to read just one more....

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### **Melissa McShane says**

This book was quite a bit darker than the first two, with a serial killer/sexual predator and Harper's horrific discovery of the man's eight victims. The fact that he's still out there, a member of a small town who could be anyone Harper and Tolliver meet, adds to the tension. This is also the book in which Harper and Tolliver's relationship goes to a more intimate level (though seriously, did anyone besides those two fail to understand what "in the time of ice" meant? Duh.) without really overcoming, entirely, the ick factor of Harper still calling him her brother when she forgets herself. Except for that one little thing, though, I didn't see their relationship as incestuous in any way, and overall it was an enjoyable and exciting suspense novel.

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### **Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says**

My second read/listen - picked up in audible sale. Made a long car ride go quickly. I was surprised that I liked all in the series - **4 stars**

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### **Jamie Collins says**

I like Charlaine Harris's writing, and she captures small-town southern life very well, but I find this series depressing. Harper's narrative is a perpetually gloomy monotone, reflecting her dismal life, the details of which are repeated ad nauseam in every book. To make matters worse this one is about a serial killer who targets children, and I hate reading about serial killers.

... spoilers ...

The relationship between Harper and Tolliver is creepy. Even though they're not blood relatives, they lived together as brother and sister too long for it not to feel incestuous.

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### **Nikki says**

Okay, this book was kinda gross, and I don't mean because of the incestuous vibes. The murders were much nastier, there was more risk to Harper and Tolliver, and yet Harper's focus on the case felt so much less because of the developments in her relationship. I can understand why people didn't like that aspect of this book: I've seen it coming, and was actually quite hopeful about it, but I don't see why after two books suddenly there has to be a bunch of explicit (if somewhat mechanical) sex. I remember the sex in the first book being a lot less graphic, and I'd rather it stuck like that.

Still, it's a pretty enjoyable book for what it is, if you're not looking for too deep and involving a read. There're some recurring characters, developments in a certain over-arching plot, and while I might not like some of the narrative choices to do with the newly-developing relationship, I've been hoping for it and emotionally it was well done.

Definite trigger warnings for rape, incest and torture. Not all terribly explicit, but bad enough. And I'm not sure I don't feel like there's a bit of homophobia in it, too.

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