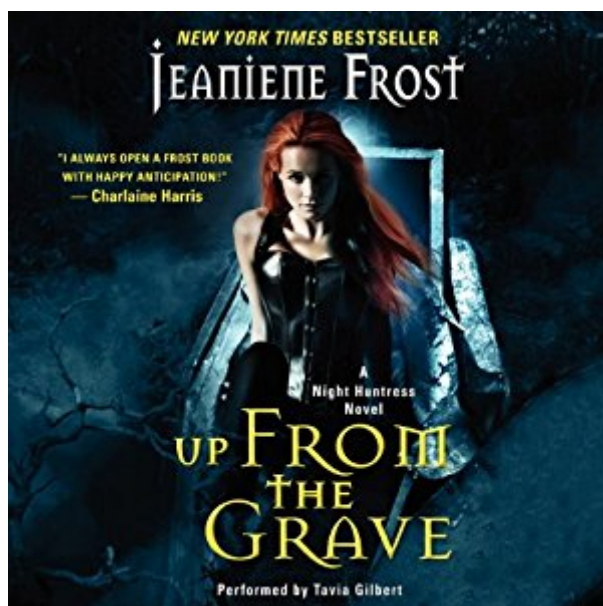


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Up From The Grave: Night Huntress, Book 7



Synopsis

There's always one more grave to dig. Lately, life has been unnaturally calm for vampires Cat Crawfield and her husband, Bones. They should have known better than to relax their guard, because a shocking revelation sends them back into action to stop an all-out war.... A rogue CIA agent is involved in horrifying secret activities that threaten to raise tensions between humans and the undead to dangerous heights. Now Cat and Bones are in a race against time to save their friends from a fate worse than death...because the more secrets they unravel, the deadlier the consequences. And if they fail, their lives - and those of everyone they hold dear - will be hovering on the edge of the grave.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It has been a long time since Cat and Bones got to shine in a Night Huntress book ... a long time. I had thought that perhaps their story was done. So it was a pleasant surprise to see that Up From the Grave was being published as a grand finale for the series that I have enjoyed so much. How was it? Well ... for the first two-thirds of the book I really enjoyed it. Now that Cat and Bones are a solid couple there is not the focus on steamy romance that was present in many of the previous books in this series. Instead this is a story of two people who have a strong and enduring relationship who work together to solve the problems that threaten them. If you are looking for a lot of swoon worthy moments, you aren't going to find them in this story. But there is a lot of evidence of the deep and lasting love that these two main characters have for each other. There is action ...

lots and lots of action. The action drives the plot in many ways, and Jeaniene Frost writes those scenes wonderfully. The first two-thirds of the book focuses on Cat and Bones trying to discover what has happened to the members of Cat's former team who are now missing, presumably being held captive by Madigan, the new head of the team. Things don't look good. Somehow they have to find a way to save these men from experiments taking place ... a horror that Cat and Bones discover as they try to uncover what Madigan is up to. If the story had simply focused on this giant dilemma I think it would have been great. I would have loved to spend more time with these secondary characters who were so richly developed in previous stories. I would have loved to spend more time working through all the ethical, physical, and mental dilemmas that come about because of what is going on in these secret government facilities. Once they figured out exactly who was running the show I would have liked to spend more time exploring exactly who this guy is and why he is so bent on pushing this mission. I would have liked to spend a lot more time with Cat and Bones and the romance that was so wonderful to read in the first books of this series. Any of those story lines would have made me super happy as I finished this series. But at the two-thirds mark of this story a giant revelation came out and ... I HATED IT!!!! absolutely hated it. There are so many reasons that I hated the big reveal of this story that I could fill paragraphs with my complaints. But I won't. I can't. To do so would be to spoil that revelation. I will just say that it was so Twilight-esque that it ruined the ending of this book so much. So. So. Much. I hate that I felt that way. Maybe if you were someone who didn't mind that twist from the Twilight series this wouldn't bother you. But ... oh man! ... it really bothered me. After the big twist I just couldn't feel all warm and fuzzy about the story. At that point it seemed like every single piece of the plot was simply a way to have a giant reunion show where everyone has everything go absolutely swimmingly. I love happy endings. Really. I LOVE them! I expect them. I rejoice when they happen. But every once in awhile I read a concluding book in a series where I just feel like the author vomits a lot of quick happy moments together just so we can all say that everything ended perfectly. And yet, somehow, through the perfection of the ending it ends up coming across as not perfect at all and inauthentic. That's how I felt with this one, but, like I say, my lack of love for all the happiness at the end may have simply been a result of my distaste for the big plot reveal at the latter end of the story. So I think I would conclude by saying that this book is candy for huge fans of the series. It allows us one more glimpse at the couple that we fell in love with in the beginning. We get to see favorite characters from past books (even if some of them seemed to be thrown briefly into the plot simply so that we could say "Oh yeah! I remember him!"). There is much to like in this finale. Unfortunately for me there was one GIANT plot issue that kept me from loving this story. But still ... I love Cat and Bones! Three stars!

I have to say, I had my misgivings even before buying the book after reading a couple of the reviews from fans on it, but since I fell in love with Cat and Bones and enjoyed all the other books, including spin-offs and short novellas, I decided to go ahead anyway. Besides, being the last book about Cat and Bones, I couldn't NOT say good-bye. And if you are like me, you probably won't be able to resist, despite all the negative comments, because regardless of whether the book sucks or not, who can resist bidding farewell to such loved characters? Having said that, boy, was I disappointed! I didn't hate it because deep down (somewhere very deep down), it is still Cat and Bones, but separating my love for the characters, I did NOT like the book itself. **SPOILER ALERT** First of, the whole book just felt like the author couldn't wait to be over with it, it felt like a school project that had to be handed in and had to meet certain characteristics, you could almost see the items being ticked off as you read along. It felt way too short (finished it in a day and a half), most of the characters lacked their usual strength, a lot of them made a couple of lame comments at most and may as well have been completely absent from the book. The "bad guys", well... they're just not scary enough and they're not built up enough, plus it's over so quickly you don't have time to really hate them before they're done in for. One of them is reduced to a babbling idiot, really! And to top it off, the final twist and ending! It is sickeningly happily ever after to the point of Disney Happy Ending. It simply feels completely out of character for Cat, plus whatever maturity she'd apparently gained from lessons learned in the past couple of books, completely gone out the window. To top it off, Cat and Bones get saddled with a third wheel, and it had to be a character that I am quite sure nobody really ended up loving at all. I have to say it again, I am very disappointed with the way Cat and Bones' story ended, I expected so much more for a final book in a series I have come to love, and was so sorely let down that the ending feels like a huge betrayal of the whole story....

SPOILERS! So this series is dead. I'm so tired of authors doing this to strong female characters. You go through all the heartache with Cat when she finds out she can't have kids, you go through the amazing relationship growth with her and Bones, you go through a lot of side characters going through growth throughout the books. You grow a little with everyone, you learn to love them, and then this happens. Not every freaking lead female in a book series needs to be a mother. I was SO EXCITED That for Once the strong, kick ass, female lead in a book series couldn't end up as a mother because there was nothing to ruin the momentum of the series. As soon as they started mentioning a kid with amazing abilities I knew what was going to happen. I'm SO disappointed with this Instant Motherly Love crap that authors seem to think will make every woman on earth

swoon. This was such an abrupt departure from the previous books in the series that I am left feeling seriously disappointed. This is an obvious cut off of the series, and it's not even an ending that I can feel happy about. I thought, how can she possibly top her last book with this one? I was so hesitant to read it, and then I got excited after the first little bit thinking that this really was going to be another great Cat and Bones adventure - only to watch the Author flush the series down the toilet. No wonder they did a cameo with EVERY SINGLE CHARACTER from the series. Ugh. I'm so completely disappointed.

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