



A REVIEW OF JEANIENE FROST'S "HALFWAY TO THE GRAVE" **By Debbie Kuhn**

Book One of the Night Huntress series is a perfect blend of urban fantasy and paranormal romance. After reading it I was hooked - and I'm even willing to admit it's now my favorite series with regards to vampire fiction.

22 year old feisty Catherine Crawford (Cat for short) is ashamed and bitter about being half-vampire. Ever since finding out the truth at 16 about how her mother was attacked, Cat has obliged her mother's wishes and made it her business to slay as many of the creatures as she possibly could. Cat would like nothing better than to track down and kill her villain of a father, Max, but a run-in with a master vampire/bounty hunter named Bones has complicated her mission.

Bones is the best vampire hero I've come across in years. Sexy, intelligent, witty and handsome - oh, and did I mention he has a British accent? Bones is fascinated with Cat's lineage - and her beauty. He captures her and strikes a deal - he will teach her lethal fighting skills to help her stay alive and aid her in tracking down Max if she will help him find the vampires responsible for running a white slavery ring. Cat has no choice but to agree, and before long Bones proves to her that not all vampires are evil.

I've heard several reviewers say that this series would please any Buffy fan, and I agree. Bones reminds me of Spike a bit and Cat has a few things in common with Buffy as well. I could easily see the Night Huntress series being turned into a TV show. This book has a wonderfully entertaining, fast-paced plot. It was hard to guess what would happen next, and usually I couldn't. If you like a lot of action, sassy dialogue and sizzling love scenes, you won't be disappointed in "Halfway to the Grave."



A REVIEW OF KAREN MARIE MONING'S "DARKFEVER" by Debbie Kuhn

This is book one of a dark fantasy series - dark being the key word here. The author realizes that it's become a tad controversial where her fans are concerned. There's supposed to be five novels in all, and I've read the first four. I kept going back for more because I'm a writer and I expect cliffhanger endings for books that are part of a continuing series and I fully expect bad things to happen to nice heroines. I also knew going in that Karen Marie Moning does not consider the Fever Series to be paranormal romance - her usual fare. Readers who expect a lot - or even a little - steamy sex will be disappointed. You will find a few risqué scenes involving a Death-by-Sex Fae, and there is also a bit of sexual tension between the two main characters.

Meet the heroine, MacKayla Lane, a pretty young southern belle from a small town in Georgia. (People call her Mac for short.) In the beginning Mac's greatest concerns are hiding her tan lines and making sure she never runs out of her favorite pink nail polish. That all changes one late summer day as she's sunbathing next to her parents' pool. Her older sister leaves her a desperate, cryptic message on her cell phone, and a few hours later Mac learns that she's been murdered while abroad at college. Fearing the Irish police have given up too soon, Mac travels to Dublin to investigate her sister's death. It doesn't take long for her to realize that her carefree days are over for good. The past was a lie. She and her sister were born "special," and magic and monsters are very real. Mac is able to see the Fae for who they really are, despite the glamour they use to fool humans, and this means they want her dead. Luckily, she stumbles upon Barrons' Books & Baubles, on the edge of the dangerous Dead Zone, and meets the darkly handsome, extremely mysterious Jericho Barrons. When Jericho realizes her special powers, he enlists her aid in searching for the Sinsar Dubh - an ancient Dark Book that attracts evil. Anyone who possesses the book has the ability to tear down the walls separating the human and Fae worlds. In return, Jericho promises to help Mac find the villain responsible for killing her sister. But can he really be trusted?

I enjoyed the conflict and sassy banter that goes on between Mac and Barrons. I happen to like my fiction dark and gritty. Do you? If so, this series will not disappoint.



A REVIEW OF MICHELE LEE'S "ROT"

by Debbie Kuhn

"Rot" is a different kind of zombie story, otherwise I wouldn't be reviewing it. (Give me sexy, mysterious vampires anytime over the stinky, dim-witted *other* walking dead. That's just my preference.) I wasn't disappointed in Lee's novelette. The story's concept was just too interesting to resist. Intelligent zombies out in the "real world" - a world unprepared to deal with them.

"Zombies can be such a burden."

So, you decide you want to raise your loved one from the dead, but you had no idea how hard it would be to take care of them, control them. Luckily for you, the Silver Springs Specialty Care Community is ready to incarcerate your loved one - for a fee, of course. They'll be fed raw meat and given daily exercise until they rot away.

Let the fun begin. The main character, Dean, is retired from the military and is now running security at Silver Springs. It's not too long before Dean begins to suspect the facility is not on the up and up. Why do some of the "inmates" show signs of abuse? Why do some of them suddenly disappear from their holding cells? What happens when a zombie's family stops paying for their care?

Lots of questions, and Dean enlists the aid of a zombie office worker, Patrick, to help him find the answers. They go on the run to investigate the disappearance of their undead friend, Amy. Will they find her in time to save her from a fate worse than death? Will the decomposing Patrick have to be "put down" before they discover the sordid truth? Will the bad guys face justice? You'll have to buy the book to find out.

Lee's fictional world felt real to me, and both the characters and dialogue were believable. Do yourself a favor and give "Rot" a chance.