



The Phantom Room

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Experience the world of Skeleton Creek through Ryan's journal and all new online videos. Ryan and Sarah have lived in Skeleton Creek all their lives, uncovering ghostly mysteries no one else can figure out. But when their investigations lead to the Skeleton Creek cemetery and a haunted room, they discover a chilling secret even they're not ready for. Nothing could prepare them for what they found in the Phantom Room. The Phantom Room. Enter if you dare.

The Phantom Room Details

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From Reader Review The Phantom Room for online ebook

Sarah says

I can't believe this book is even written by the same author. It reads like poorly written fanfiction by someone who has a vague grasp of the characters. It lacks the genuine tone of the other books that I love teaching. The videos in this book rely on jump scares and feel too overdone, unlike Sarah's videos that felt more realistic in prior books.

There are so many plot holes and confusing moments in this book that I spent more time thinking about what was going on than I actually wanted to.

One thing I liked about the old books was that there was a mystery with clues that the reader could solve as they went. This book is a poorly executed ghost story that I wish hadn't happened. It mars the first four books, so I'd like to think this one doesn't even exist.

hilary says

I did not enjoy the way this book started. It jumped right into gear, giving a rushed explanation of the Crossbones and not even attempting to ease into the story. Right off the bat -- Fitz is "missing". And then, two pages later, they find him. And then The Raven is missing. And suddenly Fitz has a house that's backyard is bordering the cemetery and a dog named Steve and oh yes let's not forget that his dead mother's old room is haunted. And it's only 20 pages in.

Also, this book lacked a great deal of continuity. It never explains why Sarah is suddenly back in Skeleton Creek when she spent the previous two books living in Boston with her parents (when she wasn't spending the summer road tripping across America). Not to mention that in The Raven Ryan says that there's two cemeteries in Skeleton Creek -- an old one that hasn't been used in decades and a new one -- but then completely contradicts himself by saying that the solitary cemetery behind Fitz's house is the only one for many miles. Also, Fitz says that "Open means yes, closed means no", and yet later he states that closed means yes.

I'm all for a real ghost (excuse me, "phantom"), but it all played off like it was a hoax until Sarah went in alone. That scene in the book was the best part in my opinion, because it felt the most similar to the other books. Sarah goes in alone to investigate and Ryan is off the grid.

There were fewer videos and they weren't as (how do I put this?) "personal". I wasn't engrossed in them like I was when watching Sarah and Ryan investigate the Dredge or Sarah finding the Apostle's clues. And because Ryan mostly explained what happened after giving the password, I felt as though I didn't even need to watch the video, no matter how much he urged me to (seriously, that got annoying).

Ryan's writing style was also different. There were times when it felt the same as the previous books, but most of the time I was disappointed at the lack of personality. In the earlier books, Ryan's journal felt more like what it was supposed to be -- a journal. He would write in it whenever he could and it felt more personal. It had more depth. In The Phantom Room, it was more like he was telling a story than relaying "actual" events. And I didn't particularly like the "chapter titles" in replace of the date and time.

I was completely confused by the ending. It was wrapped up much too quickly. And what the heck is the death slayer and how does it work? Why didn't Sarah or Ryan do any research about Karl Snedicker and why was Fitz's mom only able to say "S.I.D." over and over? If it was an actual name I would understand, but the fact that it turned out to be an acronym was ridiculous and unbelievable.

I also found a couple grammar and spelling mistakes. At one point Sarah says "You're house" instead of "Your house", and Ryan says that Skeleton Creek is completely "disserted" instead of "deserted". "Disserted" isn't even a word. Very sloppy.

I can only hope the next book (if there is one, although they completely set up for one) is better.

Alexander says

This book as far as I know is the last in its series, Skeleton Creek. I gave The Phantom Room a high praise of five stars, higher than the other ones because in the first four books it was only about Old Joe Bush, The Apostle and The Raven as the antagonists. Where the Crossbones was now the protagonists from the end of book #4 when Fitz used the clause and read of the oath retiring the old Crossbones members and in their place, Ryan McCray to treasure, Sarah Fincher to record and Sam Fitzsimons to protect.

This book is by far my favorite in its series, it is one of the few where I can say, "Wow!, what a grand finale." I thought the story with Old Joe Bush was starting to get a little boring, and he wasn't even a real ghost! He was just Henry in a suit. I really liked the dog Steve That Fitz got, Steve is a little dog with one 'snaggletooth' as they say in the front of his mouth, it was really cool that the phantom turned out to be Fitz's mom's ghost. The only thing that I wish was in the story that would have made it better, was if Fitz's dad could have been in the story. Other than that, this book was definitely worth its five stars.

jay Andersen says

the best book

Cora Robles says

I'm very disappointed; I loved the first books in this series. This one? It was just bad. Bad writing. Bad storytelling. Disappointing videos. Stupid little scenes. Just kind of a let down:/

Stephen says

By far the weakest book in the series thus far. Although the story does have some decent parts, and Roy is a really cool addition as a character, this book is thoroughly mediocre. Most disappointing is how few videos there are...and the ones that do exist are pretty boring compared with past entries.

Amanda Bishop says

Two stars for the creepy, edge-of-your-seat videos. The videos were the only thing that felt vaguely like the original *Skeleton Creek* books. Everything else felt like a cheap imitation - none of the characters acted or talked like they always did before, the book had ridiculous spelling errors ('you're' instead of 'your', which I

noticed several times), and the story itself just wasn't exciting. The entire thing felt rushed through, and it ended abruptly with an overly cheesy happily-ever-after type of ending, which felt completely out of place for a town like Skeleton Creek. I'm extremely disappointed; after loving the first four books so much, I'd expected this to continue the creep-fest. At least the videos were good.

Wesley Battle says

Skeleton Creek was nice 4 book series with great characters, well-executed videos, and a nice concept. From books 3 and 4 it was sort of obvious that Patrick Carmen was milking Skeleton Creek for all its worth, but at least they both did something new and creative. Like many, I thought book number 4, "The Raven" was a fitting end to the series.

Well too bad, cause Carmen thought it was a good idea to add a 5th book in the series. This literally feels slapped on and rushed with no thought other than to make a quick buck. Instead of leaning towards supernatural, the author goes all out, and jumps the shark!

You know how each book had at least 10+ videos? Guess, how many this book has. 5, and there all the same location, with the same stuff happening. It doesn't even feature the original cast! Those pictures on the cover, only one is an actual image from the book, the rest are from books 1 and 2. The "special effects" are not even on par with films like "Paranormal Activity 1-6."

This book has no charm, no effort and no care. This was a blatant cash grab, plain and simple.

Emily K says

There was no need for another book in this series. The fourth book warped the story up perfectly. There was also some inconsistencies between the last book and this one that was not explained at all. The book was also written in a different format that just didn't work for me. However it was still a good story I just could not get over the major changes that were made with no explanations whatsoever.

Kade Gobel says

the book was about a room that is haunted by a ghost. Sarah and her boyfriend what to figure out the mystery. I recommend this book to anyone who loves scary books and scary videos.

Brice says

Really really scary. I mean not Stephen King scary but still. The videos made me die a little inside. GREAT BOOK. Not for younger kids but I adore all the Skeleton Creek series books.

Audrey B says

I definitely didn't enjoy this book as much as the first four. It still had a good story line to it though. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good mystery or paranormal book. I really hope Patrick Carman will write more books to the Skeleton Creek series. I also liked how he added in new characters into the book. I think this book could have been a lot better. Overall, this book had a cool story line and it was an okay book.

Vince Home says

Got rid of the journal aspect for a more traditional story telling method that displays the awful writing more. Also the racist characiture of the black graveyard keeper didn't help things.

Justine Ngow says

Too scary to carry on reading.

Margo says

This book is quite different from the other skeleton creek books, not necessarily in a bad way, just different. The book reads more like a fluid narrative rather than a journal format that you get in the first four books. I actually found this book to move more quickly and to make more sense for my students as a read aloud because I didn't have to explain when entries were starting and stopping. This book adds a nice finishing touch to life after The Raven now that the three new members of the Crossbones have taken on their responsibilities. The movies in this book are much simpler than the other books, but still very entertaining for students to read. I was excited to see that Patrick Carman had put out a new book in the series since my students love the other books so much. Hoping to see more to add to the collection!
