



Grave Intentions

Lori Sjoberg

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He's handsome, reliable, and punctual—the perfect gentleman when you want him to be. But this dream man is Death's best agent—and now he's got more than his soul to lose...

One act of mercy before dying was all it took to turn soldier David Anderson into a reaper—an immortal who guides souls-of-untimely-death into the afterlife. But the closer he gets to atoning for his mortal sin and finally escaping merciless Fate, the more he feels his own humanity slipping away for good. Until he encounters Sarah Griffith. This skeptical scientist can't be influenced by his powers—even though she has an unsuspected talent for sensing the dead. And her honesty and irreverent sense of humor reignite his reason for living—and a passion he can't afford to feel. Now Fate has summoned David to make a devastating last harvest. And he'll break every hellishly-strict netherworld rule to save Sarah...and gamble on a choice even an immortal can't win.

Grave Intentions Details

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Author : Lori Sjoberg

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From Reader Review Grave Intentions for online ebook

Beth (^v^)/ says

3 Grim Reaper-y Stars

David has been dead for a long time. As a punishment for a sin he created while he was alive, he's been made into a Grim Reaper. He has to continually, day after day, watch people die. He sends them to heaven or hell. His afterlife really sucks.

And then he meets Sarah. She's alive and life also sucks for her too. She works as a medical researcher. Every day, she's met with protestors. Also, her boss is sexually harassing her, and threatening to ruin her career. Also, she has a family history of insanity.

There's an instant connection, and the two are drawn together.

The story itself is interesting and fairly unique. But the beginning was very slow going, I had to struggle to keep going. When the two main characters finally met, the story really found it's stride. I only gave it three stars because the romance between the two characters was a little bit slow as well. And because of the beginning. Otherwise, it's worth a read.

Qwill / The Qwillery says

Grave Intentions is Lori Sjoberg's debut. It features, as main characters, a grim Reaper and a very skeptical Scientist – David and Sarah. Both are trying to do their jobs while facing difficulties. They are drawn together and face seemingly insurmountable odds of being together (as one expects in a Paranormal Romance). What makes Grave Intentions stand out is the Reapers' mythology and rules and the well done character building.

David and Sarah are both extremely likable. They don't experience instantaneous love at first sight. They actually spend time together and get to know each other. David and Sarah are just lovely as a couple. I had no idea how they would end up together. Ms. Sjoberg surprised me!

Throughout the story we learn about their jobs and meet some of the people that are in their lives. The other Reapers that work with David are interesting in their own right as well.

There are some heartbreaking and some downright creepy moments that, for me, enhanced the novel and helped bring the world of the Reapers to life. No hocus pocus here. The Reapers appear human and have to do their reaping without being caught, which is a change of pace from most stories that feature psychopomps of one sort or another.

On top of terrific character and myth building, the pacing of Grave Intentions is quite good. Grave Intentions is a really delightful and engaging read. I'm looking forward to more of Ms. Sjoberg's novels.

Michelle Hauck says

This is just a fun, fast read. The writing flowed without a hitch, making it a pleasure to turn pages. Main characters, David and Sarah, were believable and likable. It was easy to care about them. The reaper world caught my attention and going along on assignments with David and Adam was always an adventure.

Brandee (un)Conventional Bookworms says

I like reaper stories and I enjoyed this one. Grave Intentions provided a fresh spin on how reapers move among us and I'm always tickled to find a new spin on a supernatural being. :) I thought Ms. Sjoberg did a great job on creating something unique in that respect.

Sarah is a scientist and although she grew up around events that couldn't be explained - like being raised by a grandma who could talk to spirits - she shies away from anything that can't be scientifically or logically proven. But as her friend said,

"You know, one of these days you're going to come face to face with something you can't explain through the scientific method."

Sarah had no idea how prophetic that statement would turn out to be.

David is a reaper. It's taken him some time but he's figured out the formula for best enduring his current incarnation. That is to keep all emotions locked down tight. That's a tall order when your job is assisting souls who've experienced untimely deaths to the afterlife .

Fate has a strange sense of humor, it would seem, when she weaves these two souls together. Can Sarah let go of her need for scientific proof? Can David tear down the wall behind which his emotions are concealed?

I found the cast of supporting characters entertaining. Samuel, David's boss was a joy in his snobbery. David's fellow reapers Ruby, Adam, and Dmitri also offered their own charms and I look forward to getting to know them even better in future books in this series.

As I said, I really enjoyed this book. At times, I did feel it was a bit predictable. However, Ms. Sjoberg was still able to wring emotion from me. At one point, I knew what was coming and still I cried! And the ending...even though I thought I knew how things would end, Ms. Sjoberg didn't take the exact path I envisioned (guess my psychic skills are lacking! :) Overall, this was a pleasant read and I will check out the next in the series.

? Kimberly says

Holy hot reaper, Grave Intentions was a fun, sexy start to a new paranormal fantasy. Sjoberg introduces us to souls who have been enlisted to serve as Reapers. I loved the world building and the fleshed out characters. It looks like each book will deal with a reaper and his romance. I quickly consumed this as I laughed, giggled and swooned.

We meet David Anderson he has been a reaper since he died during the war. His job is to help souls who die from tragedy cross over. His boss is fate, and because of some fluke in the universe; souls that meet a tragic end need guidance to cross over and do so through a reaper. It is a hard job, arriving just before death and being helpless to stop it. In order to handle the emotional toll of the job, David cuts all of his emotions off. That is until his path crosses with his neighbor Sarah Griffin. She is different than most humans and he is astounding when he cannot plant suggestions in her mind. The tale that unfolds kept me enthralled as I waited to see what fate had in store for this couple.

David is smexy, built like a solidier with the sexiest grey eyes you have ever seen. *swoons* He does not regret the act(s) that caused him to become a reaper but after sixty years he is starting to lose some of his humanity. He is training a newbie named Adam. Who is cute, loves dog and was a police officer before he died. I cannot wait for his story. Sarah is interesting, and her family history and paranormal abilities were fascinating. I loved the slow building relationship between her and David. It felt genuine and oh so hot!! Other reapers and David's superior Samuel added to the tale causing problems. All of the characters had unique voices.

I really enjoyed Sjoberg's take on reapers and cannot wait for the next book. David's story was fascinating and his anguish felt real. I loved Fate and her interference. The story flowed at a wonderful pace and the climatic last few chapters completely removed me from reality. When I finished I immediately searched out information on the next book. Thankfully, there is a sneak peak in the back of this book, but it only says coming soon and isn't yet titled..Grrr hope it's soon!

Copy provided by publisher full review at Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Douglas Meeks says

Grave Intentions by Lori Sjoberg

My rating: 5 of 5 stars

This book took me by surprise, first of all since this is "paranormal" as obviously a book about Grim Reapers would be it is in reality a character driven romantic drama. The second thing that struck me as I read through the book was that for 80% or more of the book, the paranormal aspects played little if any part (except for the reapers having to show up at the scenes of the deaths). There is a bit of action in the story and the author has to spend some time introducing all the secondary characters which I am guessing will become the subjects of future books. Just for info they only have to show up for violent deaths, apparently dying in your sleep requires no help

The main story is character driven and the required bits of angst and self loathing that seems to be part of many novels in the recent past are here . To be honest this book reminded me quite a bit of early (really good) Dark-hunter books. This is a story of a very lonely man and a woman who worries that she is going to follow her family history of dementia and the author weaves a compelling tale that brings them together.

Almost any real 5 Star novel has a few things in common, this one is no different. You have the flawed but destined couple, noble sacrifice and hoped for ending that makes you close the last page with a sigh and the feeling all is right with the world.

If I have any complaints about this book it would be that one character did not get the justice he so richly deserved but I am a revenge junkie so that might not be as big a deal with many readers

Rating: I loved this book, I am not sure it was 100% original, it seemed familiar but none of that made it any less entertaining and heartfelt. If you love paranormal romance that actually has a romance then you will enjoy this and I hope to see more of what I hope will be a long running series. Highly recommended and 4.5/5 Stars. Another great ending you will see coming a mile away but you would not want it any other way.

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Beth says

David Anderson died a tragic death, but right before his death an act of mercy changed his fate. He is now working for Death as one of the Grim Reaper. You see, even though David is in a physical human form, he can't die, he doesn't age and his job is to go around and collect souls that have lost their way to the after life. Seeing tragedy every day for 60 years has a way of hardening your heart, until the fateful day Sarah Griffith moved into his building.

Sarah Griffith is a scientist working to cure dementia. She's lost her mother to dementia and now believes her grandmother is heading down the same path. They believe they see and hear spirits of the dead. Since it's unscientific, Sarah won't even consider it as a possibility...not until she sees her hot neighbor David sucking a soul out of a man that has just fallen and died. Now that everything she once believed has changed. Sarah must come to grips with her ability to see the spirits as well.

Chemistry ignites between David and Sarah. A decision will change their paths forever. The question is which soul will pay the ultimate price?

Grave Intentions has great characters, a very entertaining story line and a good amount of action. I really enjoyed this story. I laughed, got choked up and sighed in appreciation...Lori Sjoborg definitely did a fantastic job making her characters relatable. 4 Stars!

This ARC copy of **Grave Intentions** was given to me by Netgalley and Kensington Books in exchange for an honest review. Publish Date January 3, 2013.

Ami says

3.5 stars

Sjoborg is a new-to-me author and I'm happy to say I think her writing works with me. I enjoyed the work of the reapers here; and both the MCs were likable enough.

However, I also felt that the romance was not very prominent. David spent more of his time on page training Adam (whom I actually loved, especially when he decided to adopt a dog *laugh*) while Sarah was busy either with her work at the research lab, or visiting her grandmother. When David and Sarah were together, some scenes were also "summarized" as paragraphs.

So I enjoyed the paranormal aspect as well as reading about the life and mechanics of being Death agents. But on the romance front, it wasn't a winner. Having said that, I would still check out the next book. Probably because I was already invested with secondary characters of Reapers: Ruby, Dimitri, and of course Adam.

Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says

In case you don't know I love the Paranormal Romance genre. So when I read the synopsis of Grave Intentions I was really intrigued. There have been a few grim reaper books that I have read and have fallen in love with so I hoped this would be another one of those kinds of books.

It is! The plot moves at a wonderful pace and takes you on an adventure with David Anderson whose job is a Grim Reaper. He had died quite a while ago in a war and was brought back to help souls who died by a tragic ending to cross over to the other side. He also mentors new Grim Reapers and teaches them how to handle the job.

His neighbor is Sarah Griffin who is a scientist. She is also different from most humans because David can't plant suggestions in her mind and she is able to see exactly what he does...

I have to say the ending was not what I had expected and I like the story more because of that. The characters were all captivating and interesting. I am eagerly awaiting the next book in this series!

Gokce ~Muslin Myst~ says

Who doesn't think that death is an interesting subject? Especially in today's fascination with vampires, shapeshifters, demons and all the other undead or long living creatures, it's hard to think of death solely in the context of sadness. Nope, death makes an interesting life choice these days, presenting fantasies of eternal life. So it's no wonder when I came across this series that deals with reapers who collect souls for Fate, I was very very intrigued.

This time we're not talking about creatures who are either born or turned into immortals against their wills, but humans who are given a second chance at righting their wrongs in the form of becoming reapers. One such human is David, a long time dead soldier, and when I say long time, I mean about sixty or so years, who's balancing his undead life between reaping souls, dividing up schedules for his subordinate reapers and training his current newbie into the death business. He's quite a busy man, but things get busier when Sarah enters the picture, the human woman who very unexpectedly and surprisingly turns his routine upside down and dodges all his attempts at Jedi mind tricks.

Having read enough paranormal romance novels, I gotta say this, I love my dark and brooding hero. The

possessive hunk. The one that at first tries to keep his woman away until he realizes how futile that attempt is. I also love my sexy flirty hero, the one that works his charm at every opportunity and doesn't necessarily care for monogamy until the right woman. And then there was David. I guess one can say he was somewhat of a blend of the two. I loved how David was one of the most gentlemanly of heroes I've read so far. Sure, he has that possessiveness that we love in a man, but he was no asshole about it. It's a fine line which thankfully many of my favorite authors don't cross, but it's there. David though, he walked a good distance away from it. Even though his act was tough, he was all about emotions and Sarah, and that was very endearing.

What I loved about both their relationship and the two as individuals was that there was no big show, a back and forth that stretched out about an is-this-love issue. The parts where they both realized their thing was more than sex was over quickly without much denial and drama which I very much appreciated.

I must've said this many times, but I do have an uncontrollable pet peeve when it comes to women in romances. Especially paranormal stories. I'm always up for a woman who knows how to take care of herself, one who fights and kicks ass, but I also want her to have some weakness. A little something that makes her human, so to speak. I've found Sarah to be a great heroine. She was tough and determined, she knew what she wanted and how. She wasn't superhuman but she was stronger than many. And she fit the ideal heroine profile I have in my mind. Along with David, and all my favorite heroes and heroines, she had her flaws. But she also possessed strength and intelligence.

A very intriguing plotline, with characters that are very much likable and relatable, this was a refreshing, lively look at death and I personally cannot wait to read more of these poor unfortunate reapers finding their salvation.

Emily says

The last thing David Anderson needs is an unhealthy attraction to his neighbor Sarah Griffith, after all what could a reaper have in common with a mortal? Quite a bit actually and the more David gets to know the more he wishes for a different path, but his life is sealed and souls need collecting. An interesting thing happens when Fate sees David at a crossroads and his decision could change everything he believes will happen.

I thought this was highly creative and loved the kind of dark humor that David possessed. The side characters are dynamic and just add to the already fantastic story. Loved this story, highly recommend.

Kathie (katmom) says

Thank you, NetGalley and Kensington Books, for the opportunity to read GRAVE INTENTIONS by Lori Sjoberg.

David is a reaper. He guides souls-of-untimely-death into the afterlife. He has to do this for an indeterminate amount of time. His handler likes to threaten with extending the sentence. He just wants some peace. As the leader of the local reapers, he assigns the reapers to where the souls will breathe their last.

He's also training a new reaper, Adam. He rather hopes this one is going to take his place and he can move

on. He's a bit annoyed by the DOG that they pick up.

He meets Sarah and he's pretty much taken. She thinks he's pretty hot stuff, too. She's a scientist and pretty much only wants to believe in the FACTS. The "fact" that she has this extra sense is something she tries to ignore.

The climax was something that I expected, but the way this author got us there was fun.

I felt for David. That poor guy really deserved some HEA. His handler seemed to enjoy toying with him and I really wanted to see some kind of smack down for that.

An enjoyable premise and execution.

Sarah says

Oh, how I love this cover! Chest, abs, arms, sickle - all the requisite sex symbols! But more importantly I also loved the story. I believe this is the author's first published work, and Lori Sjoberg will be an author to watch. Her style is confident and consistent, the plot is tightly written and the pacing brisk. The characters are so fleshed out and realistic I feel like I know them.

David is my favorite kind of hero. He's strong, conflicted, stoic and brooding. After 60 plus years of reaping souls and stifling his emotions in order to deal with the horrific deaths, David is apathetic and numb, just waiting for his efforts to result in atonement. He has just started training the newest reaper for the Greater Orlando area, when he meets his apartment neighbor, Sarah.

Sarah has life complications of her own. Her grandmother Pearl is a fortune teller/con artist, but seems to have some legitimate psychic abilities. Unfortunately, she is using her real skills to tell her fellow nursing home residents when a death is coming. This has resulted in her getting kicked out of numerous facilities, and Sarah does not know what to do with her beloved grandmother. On top of that, Sarah is being sexually harassed at work by her boss just as her research is at a critical point.

When Sarah's creepy boss Angelo slashes her tires and then drugs her one night, David is there to rescue Sarah and threaten Angelo. From that point on they begin a friendship where they build mutual affection and respect while ignoring the serious chemistry between them. And then one day Sarah sees David doing his job. Except that as a mortal, she shouldn't be able to see the soul being harvested. Turns out Sarah has some unique psychic abilities of her own, and David sees no option but to tell her the truth. Sarah realizes her grandmother is not crazy but is really psychic, and she starts to spend a lot of time with both Pearl and David, asking them a million questions to learn more about this new dimension of her world. As the weeks go by, David and Sarah truly get to know each other and fall in love, but David refuses to act on this, terrified that if he lets his love for Sarah flow, then all the other emotions he has locked away for the last half century will come flooding back. And keeping his emotions locked away is the only thing that has kept him sane while reaping thousands of souls after their unnatural, often horrific deaths.

Eventually David decides that after 60 years he is willing to take a chance on love. I really liked the fact that David and Sarah had a relationship first, and their love grew from a delicious combination of chemistry, respect, humor and friendship. It was realistic and sexy as hell.

Everything is going beautifully, until the day Sarah's name comes up on David's weekly hit list. His decision to save her and cheat Death will come at a huge cost - his soul. Because the business of Fate, Death and reaping is one big bureaucratic structure of strict rules and regulations and there are no exceptions to these rules. At this point of the story, I was reminded of O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*. Mentioning that is spoiler enough, so I won't say anything further about the plot, except I actually shed a few tears, there is a happy ending, and you need to read this book!

I am so happy that the author is working on the next in the series, and it features one of David's fellow reapers named Ruby. That's a woman with a hell of a story, and I can't wait to read it! One of the strengths in *Grave Intentions* is the incredible cast of supporting characters. David's coworkers are all Reapers like him, humans who did something that damned their souls before they died, but Fate has decided they are capable of redemption. Each is worthy of their own story, so hopefully a series is in the works.

Shelley says

4.5

David Anderson is a reaper and one of Death's more experienced agents. He's been given the task of training a new reaper to collect souls.

Sarah Griffin lives in the same apartment building as David and is responsible for her grandmother, a psychic who lives in a home. Sarah doesn't believe in things that go bump in the night or her grandmother's visions. She works at Cava Technologies where she conducts trials and searches for cures for diseases like Alzheimer's.

With my love of paranormal romance, I was pre-disposed to like this book and it dragged me in from the first line – Death never took a holiday.

I enjoyed the plot and the way the two main characters David and Sarah met and interacted and the obvious attraction between them, but it was the secondary characters who lifted this book and made it extra entertaining. There was the grim reaper rookie Adam and the big dog he rescues, Sarah's grandmother and her horrid boss plus Samuel, the reaper's boss, and the other reapers working the same area. This sounds like a lot of secondary characters but it all works beautifully.

On the whole the plot was entertaining and kept me reading, although it could really only end one way and remain a romance. In that sense it was predictable.

One thing I didn't really understand was the reaping itself and how the sentences (the number of years) were decided. I got that it was blood spilled and lives taken but it seems to me that a soldier should get a bit of a pass unless they go mental and kill indiscriminately. I understand this is the start of a series and I hope this area will be explored a bit more in latter books.

Grave Intentions is a paranormal romance (not erotic) with a cast of strong characters and I enjoyed reading it very much. I look forward to further instalments.

This ebook was provided to me free of charge by Net Galley for the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments, and ratings are my own.

Rachel the Book Harlot says

Roses are red, violets are blue

Oh, *Grave Intentions*, I just can't seem to finish you.

Sadly, this will be tossed onto the DNF shelf. At 54%, I'm still waiting for a plot to emerge. One that ties in the Hero's soul reaping and the Heroine's job as a scientist. Something with a little conflict to make things interesting. Right now it feels as though there are two separate stories being told: one in which the Hero is teaching a newbie the ropes as a grim reaper, and the other in which the Heroine is facing job woes. And then a little of this happens, and then a little of that happens, and then some random thing over there, and then...zZZZZZZZZZZ.

The sad part is that the grim reaping parts are kind of fun, quirky, and interesting. I actually enjoyed those scenes. But everything else is so very bland. The Heroine is bland, and the romance is bland, and nothing is really happening. It basically feels like a day in the lives of the H/H. So, although some parts might be interesting, the overall effect is that it's lost me. The few enjoyable parts are not enough to keep me invested.

DNF: 54%
