



The Curse Defiers

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For centuries the gods have waited—for the betrayal that will release them, for the traitors who will defend them, for the warrior who will challenge them. Now at long last the gate between the human and spirit worlds is open, and with it, an army of vengeful demons poised to swarm the earth. Only the Curse Keepers, Ellie Lancaster and Collin Dailey, can stop it...if they can break free from a tangled web of treachery, jealousy, and lies.

Torn between two men—her heart belongs to David, yet her soul is bound to Collin's—Ellie no longer knows who she can trust. Demons slipping through the gate are leaving a trail of bodies in their wake, each death a chilling reminder of the power of the ancient spirits to bring humanity to its knees. Faced with an unimaginable future, Ellie realizes the time has come to turn her back on prophecy and choose her own destiny—even if it means defying the gods themselves.

The Curse Defiers Details

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From Reader Review The Curse Defiers for online ebook

Marina (Living In Our Own Story) says

OMFG!!!

I love this series so I was extremely happy when I got the chance to read the book early. I was waiting for this one since I finished the second part on release day and I can tell you that were a torturous few months.

Considering my high expectations of the book, I was extremely happy that it didn't disappoint. Not that I expected it to. Come on, it's a Denise Grover Swank book ;)

I loved all the intrigue and suspense in this book. It really kept me glued to my couch with all the revealed secrets, the heartbreak, the love... There isn't even one page that can bore you which considering that the book is close to 400p is really tough to do.

The characters are so real that it feels like I know them. They are imperfect, they make mistakes and their actions are quite frustrating sometimes but I think that's what makes them so lovable :) For me, Ellie is the most stubborn and frustrating character of all and quite often in the book I didn't agree with her actions. But by the end, I think she finally came to terms with her destiny and started doing things right.

On the other hand I am definitely torn between the two male leads in the series, David and Collin. Originally, I was all for Collin winning Ellie's heart, but now I am not so sure that he is the right one for her. But I mean, come on, what's not to like on both of them. On one side we have the ultimate bad boy, Collin, with a record and a dark rugged look and on the other side we have the extremely hot British professor. How is a girl supposed to choose between those two?

I have to mention, that for me a really big winning point for the series is it's that it is based on historical facts and real mysteries which makes it even more captivating :)

In a few words the book is amazing. To be honest the whole series is. And if you haven't read it yet, I definitely recommend it. You won't be disappointed. I can guarantee that.

Beth says

This is definitely my favorite book in the series! It was PACKED full of revelations and was non-stop action. There seemed to be something new we were learning at every turn. Ellie continued to grow into her Curse Keeper role and became a heroine you can't help but love. We were introduced to some interesting new "other worldly" characters throughout the installment as well. I especially loved how Collin came back into the story and redeemed himself in my eyes. I can't wait to see how the story continues to unfold and how the characters continue to work together to save the world!

Megan says

WOW! This series just keeps getting better and better! I was on the edge of my seat the entire time. Learning so much more in this book than we have before. The growth of Ellie and Collin was so magnificent to see, especially Collin. With all their relationships strengthening I can only imagine how the next one will be even more fantastic. I was saddened at so many parts between the struggles and the deaths but as always Denise has a magic in her words that she can give you a bit of humor to balance it out. I was so emotionally invested in this book and loved every moment of it.

Tabitha (Lovely Books Blog) says

Read more reviews like this at <http://lovelybooksblog.blogspot.com>!

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started this novel, since I had some mixed feelings about the last one, but I definitely wasn't expecting *The Curse Defiers* to be the best book in the *Curse Keepers* series yet! Though I was under the impression this was going to be the last book in the series it looks like there's going to be even more books about Ellie and Collin and I can't wait to get my hands on them!

The Curse Defiers was easily the most action packed and exciting novel in the series. With a new type of demon, the Raven Mockers, a jealous ex-girlfriend, and a kidnapping there was hardly a dull moment. I was glued to the page for the majority of the novel and I just love the references to Native American mythology. There aren't enough books out there that focus on this aspect of mythology and I'm so happy to see at least one that's doing it, and doing it right. The folklore and references to Roanoke continue to be one of my favorite parts of the story and I'm excited to see what Ahone and Okeus get up to next!

I was also pleased to see Collin playing a bigger role in this novel than in the previous novel. Even though he can be a bit of a jerk I really enjoy reading about him and I much prefer him over David. I love the connection between him and Ellie and though he knows that Ellie doesn't love him (right now anyway) he still continues to do everything in his power to help her, even if it means doing something he doesn't really want to do. This novel also gives Collin a little bit of a chance to explain why he did what he did and let the gate open, I was glad to finally see his side of things and now I finally understand, at least a little bit, what made him do it.

The only thing I didn't like was the ever present love triangle. For whatever reason David just drives me insane, I think he's just a little too perfect for me to properly connect to him. I don't really feel the connection between Ellie and David and though he's not a bad character I wish he was more of a friend than love interest. I could really see the romance going either way, especially with the connection Ellie and Collin have because of their marks. With all the secrets flying around between them I could see those two ending up together, even if it breaks David's heart.

Overall I would definitely recommend this series to fans of both historical and paranormal romance. Those who hate love triangles may want to be a little wary, but behind the love triangle is a wonderful series full of Native American gods, demons, and an action packed plot!

Amy says

The *Curse Defires* picks up right where the last book left off and takes you on one exciting ride. Just when

you think you have things figured out, another twist is thrown in there and will have you questioning everything. The search for answers is more and more urgent now. David and Ellie use every resource they have to try to get those answers. But, answers come at a cost. Will the cost save humanity prove to be too high?

I think all of the characters have grown a lot since the first book. Ellie is still stubborn, but is finally learning to lean on others. I think Ellie and David's relationship is much stronger now. There's still some trust issues there and some jealousy where Collin is concerned, but I'm Team David! He is a wonderful partner and a great asset to Ellie. And Collin....Even though I was against him, I will say that he finally has a chance to redeem himself and he takes it.

The Curse Defires had so many great twists, turns and paranormal aspects. This book does wrap up a lot of the loose ends, but definitely left things open for another book. Usually I'm not a fan of an open ended ending, but for this particular series, it works really well. So, if this is the end, I'm ok with that. But like any other book fan out there, I would love to have one more book. The possibilities with this series are endless!

This is an excellent addition to this series and is one of those books, that once you start, you won't be able to stop reading it. I know I devoured it! The Curse Defires will have you on the edge of your seat holding your breath and impatiently waiting to see what will happen next. This is a definite must read for fans of this series!

*ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

You can also see my review at: <http://www.onceuponabookblog.com/blog...>

Jamie says

Ellie, the main character, has certainly come a long way with me. In the first book, she frustrated me with her naivety and ignorance. By the end of this book she is one to be proud of. Strong-willed, independent and has lost her ignorance is bliss attitude.

This book is more violent than the last books in the series. Ellie, David and Collin need to step up to the plate to survive. New twists are thrown at the reader. Sides are taken but which side is good. Or, for that matter, less evil? Ahone, Okeaus and other spirits have all made their moves and so far our human heroes have just been pawns. But in this last installment, it is their turn to make the moves.

Claire's character becomes more vital in this one and lives will be lost. Each of our main characters will experience loss. And Ellie still has some major decisions about where she stands with both men.

Most questions are answered but the ending is a bit open-ended for my taste. Still, I am reasonably satisfied. This book is by far my favorite of the series. From disgust and anger, to heartbreak to cheering on Ellie and the team, this book left me feeling very involved which I love in a book.

*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own. *

Jamie Davis says

Defying Limitations

Moments ago I finished *The Curse Defiers*, and my mind is a jumbled heap of thoughts and emotion. I'm excited by every single book Denise Grover Swank writes, and each time I finish one I think I can't possible love a book more than that one. Then she writes the next book, and I'm swept up yet again. This book, however, felt as though you were reading and feelings bits of Denise's own heart and soul more so than usual. She always puts so much into every book, whether a full length novel or a novella, but something in this one resonates on such a deeper level.

The Curse Defiers is, by far, the most intense of the Curse series. As I sought a way to define Ellie, I didn't feel like heroine was the correct word. It fit, yet it was missing something. Denise herself clarified precisely what I was seeking. Reluctant Heroine. Ellie Lancaster is a reluctant heroine. This was never a life she sought after. By the time this book began, she was trying to survive and figure out a way to keep not only the people she loved safe but also the innocents that continued to suffer because the gate was opened.

The Ellie of *The Curse Defiers* is not the Ellie from the previous books. As in real life, characters can't enter something of such magnitude and come out unchanged. She continues to evolve even through even this book until she emerges at the end a person she never dreamt of becoming. She's so much more than a Curse Keeper. She's not just a daughter, nor girlfriend, but someone who has been stripped down and rebuilt. Yet she never believes she has all of the knowledge or power. She realizes she has so much left to learn.

I honestly cannot choose between David and Collin. It's impossible to separate Ellie's need for both men. Each man brings necessary qualities to Ellie's life, and to choose one over the other might appear that she NEEDS one more than the other. I have always believed it is possible to love two people at the same time because you love them differently and for different reasons. The Curse Keeper series as a whole teaches you never to make assumptions about a character in a book written by Denise. She will surprise you at every turn if you attempt to put them in a box or confine them to specific traits.

Tsagasi is a character that is both enigmatic and endearing. His introduction to Ellie's life is vital, and she will need him in order to make it through as things spiral seemingly out of control.

The Curse Defiers reiterates that life itself has so many situations that cannot be defined by the strict parameters of absolute right or absolute wrong. Even decisions they believe to irreversible have ways around them, and characters you believe to be extreme in one direction will surprise you before the book is done . . . then surprise you again!

If you haven't read *The Curse Keeper* series, back up and start immediately! If you have read the books preceding this one, hang on because no matter how fabulous they are, *The Curse Defiers* blows them away!!! Knowing we are not finished with Ellie, Collin, and David is a great comfort in the aftermath of emotions from finishing *Defiers*.

One of my favorite quotes from the book seems so appropriate to end this review with:

" . . . yet the sun still rose. The world still spun. Life went on." Write on, Denise! I'm waiting anxiously for

the next!

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

The Curse Defiers by Denise Grover Swank is book three in the Curse Keepers series. Ms. Swank has done it again with this book. It is full of history, demon magic, love, lies and deceit, and one tough curse keeper determined to save the world and all those she holds dear to her heart.

Ellie is sick and tired of being pushed around by Ahone and Okeus. They are both determined to own her and both are manipulating events to bend her to their will. The demons are loose and people are dying.

David has pledged his love to Ellie and is helping in any way he can to unravel the mysteries of the curse. Ellie's feelings are growing for David every day but she is in constant turmoil as to whether she can justify keeping him with her since this puts him in constant danger. Can she let him go in order to protect him? I have actually loved David from the start. I have to admit, though, that he lost a few points when he and Ellie experienced a particular tragedy and I didn't care for the way he reacted towards Ellie. He does become known by the good demons, though as: The One Who Guides the Curse Keeper!

Then there is Collin Daily, oh dear Collin. Collin is Ellie's other half, the other Curse Keeper. Where Ellie is the daughter of the sea, Collin is the son of the land and earth. Ellie needs him whether she likes it or not. Collin has done everything wrong in the previous books. He has betrayed Ellie at every turn. But in this book, he won me back. He really does love Ellie and wants to make things right, even though he knows that part of that is letting her be with David. But he has made a promise to Ellie to be there now. To be honest with her and help her in any possible to right the wrongs he has created.

Ellie really comes into her own in this book. She realizes the power she has and that she doesn't need Colin to find it. She also finally is able to tap into her childhood memories which explain so much. We also come to understand more of what made Collin do some of the things he did.

Hang on to your hats because the ending of this book will give you a heart attack. Intense is nowhere close to describing what happens. I love how Ellie, David, Collin and Claire have become a team and are united in their effort to send the demons back to where they came from. It is obvious that D.G. Swank has done a tremendous amount of research for this series to get all of the historical details correct. If I had one complaint, I would say that at times I kind of felt my brain just kind of zoning out when there were a lot of details. Still, though, I am completely invested in this story and these characters and can't wait to see what

happens next. Even though there seems to be some confusion as to if this was a conclusion or not, I recently read a post from Ms. Swank promising that there are more books to come. So I will be first in line when the next book is released. Thank you so much to Denise Grover Swank, 47 North, and NetGalley for allowing me the opportunity to read this book for an honest review.

Barb says

HOLY WHAT?!?!

Just when you think you have things figured out.... NOPE

Just when you decide you're team Collin or David.... NOPE

Just when you realize you need to get to sleep because you work in 6 hours... NOPE

Book 3 in the Curse Keepers series was absolutely amazing. I can not wait to see where Ellie and her growing entourage will take us next!!

I absolutely LOVE the changes in the characters as they are maturing and finding their way. (also the addition of Tsagasi, I kinda love this little dude) Now that Ellie has become more comfortable and created her own rules.... Watch out demons and gods, you pushed too many buttons!

Denise has constructed quite the delicate web of a love triangle... I may need some sort of therapy!

This is a definite "re-read" book!

The only disappointment in this book? That is going to be the wait for book 4!

Monique says

If you are a lover of Urban Fantasy, and you haven't found this series yet, you're missing out!

If you have started this series, and wanted to know if it was worth getting the third book, Hell Yeah!

Don't worry if you can not remember all the details from the previous two books, Denise cleverly and quickly revises the major parts in the first couple of chapters, then it is full on excitement from there.

It has you on edge wondering what is next for Ellie and David and Collin. There were times I was gripping the iPad so hard, my hands started hurting! Things just don't come easy for Ellie being a Curse Keeper, and I'm not talking about Collin Daily! There are Demons, Gods and Ghost all out to either hinder or help her along with her quest. It will take you on a roller coaster of emotions and at one point, you are going to need some tissues.

I am impressed with the detail and research that must have gone into this book, it takes in a lot of Native American history and legends.

There is also that love triangle thing still happening. And you can never get enough of Collin "Freakin" Daily! But to be honest, I'm not sure which team to be on, love them both. #TeamDavid #TeamCollin

I don't think anyone will be disappointed with this book, it has it all. Thank you Denise!

Barbara Mills says

He'll of a ride! Hold onto the edge of seat because this book was exciting and suspenseful. The story holds you the entire time. I felt drained and exhausted after reading it. Denise has done it again. So many questions are answered from the first two books in this incredible series. Looking forward to more from these beloved characters.

Kelly Mccurdy says

~~I received this in exchange for an honest review~~

This is the third installment of The Curse Keepers series. This book wrapped up so much, but it left me wanting a whole bunch more!! Ellie, Collin, and David are still on the quest to shutting the gate to Hell. But, along the way, they hit a snag, well, not just one snag, several snags. Ellie and David have to take a trip up to Chapel Hill in order to go to the University Library. Ellie is looking for a little R&R and just get to know what some things are, like the Demons that like to talk to her at 3 am. BUT, things aren't what they seem. There is something that is brewing, something that I didn't even see coming at all. Can David and Ellie remain strong together? Will Collin break Ellie's trust once again? And will Big Nasty come back to make Ellie its lunch?

OK, where do I even begin with this? I was waiting patiently for this book to come out and man, I am glad that I didn't throw a child sized tantrum in St. Louis at the Penned Con when I saw the book and held it in my hands (yes it felt amazing to hold in my hands, an actual book-and yes, I even sniffed the pages (sorry Angela P. lol)). I set it down and walked away from it dying inside a little. BUT, It is out now so you can all relax! I am so glad that I waited. This is the best book of the series!!! It answered some of the questions that I have had through out the entire series, Like "Why are they going to her and bugging her all the time, and NOT Collin?" Totally answered that question in this book.

Denise writes like she knows what the hell she is writing about. It is like she spent years and years researching legends and Native American gods and goddesses for this book. The detail that she puts in this book is unbelievable. She also describes Chapel Hill like she grew up there, she writes like she has an intimate knowledge of the area. This book is well written. Her undying loyalty to the books and to her readers, are shown through on the pages of this book. She puts herself out there, and she doesn't let you down.

Joelle says

"The fate of every being in creation was in danger."

I find it almost impossible to locate a series that you like, but even more incredible and stunning when each

book in a series becomes surprisingly better. I am truly astounded by Denise's level of talent. Her ability to make each character grow and become intertwined without appearing overly fake or rushed. Her ability to tell a story and make you believe you know what is going to happen next, and yet really you have it all backwards.

I love how all the characters in book three come together, one family making their own rules. Ellie has grown and had no idea the level of support she had around her, until she let them in. Tsagasi, Claire, Tom, David, Collin...she needs them all and they all have their special gifts to help save the world! I hope this isn't the end....and I agree we need t-shirts. ;)

Emily Pearson says

My love for this series is never ending. I have been engrossed since book one and Denise has done it yet again. My heart. My poor, fragile little heart. Ellie is such a dynamic character. She makes you laugh and she makes you cry and she makes you frustrated. She is tough and by far my favorite all time heroine. The Curse Defiers picks up with Breakers left off and boy does it take you for a ride through hell and back! Between the lies and the deceit Collin and the Gods left in their wake, Ellie struggles to trust anyone.

Denise is a brilliant writer and this story is woven in such a way that sucks you in and eats you alive. I cannot WAIT for the next installment. I need me some more Collin F'n Daily!

Bookish says

In the interests of full disclosure, you should know that I received a free advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I promise you, this is a really honest review!

Let me start by saying that this is my favorite book in the series. As the clues come together and the curses, prophecies, and secrets all point in the same direction, I finally understand what the heck is going on here!

First of all, Denise Grover Swank gets better with every book she writes (which, when you consider how many books she publishes each year is pretty impressive!) and this entry is proof of that. While I liked the first book, The Curse Keepers, and I liked the second book, The Curse Breakers, I really enjoyed the heck out of this book.

Our heroine, Ellie, is finally - FINALLY! - learning not to go off half-cocked. Well, okay, there are a couple of exceptions here, but at last Ellie is making sensible choices. One of my complaints about the first part of this series was that Elinor Dare Lancaster wasn't the intelligent, sensible woman she should be in this mess. She always wanted us to think she was, and finally we can start to count on her acting like it. Yay!

David, Ellie's lover and historical expert, is along for the ride and their relationship matures here. David is pivotal to Ellie's understanding of the situations she finds herself in, and he's immensely helpful in unraveling some of the mysteries that present themselves.

Collin shows up and grows up. I don't want to give too much away here, but Collin and Ellie's best friend Claire take on expanded, vital, more supportive roles than they have in the past. It's refreshing.

If I had to find a quibble with this series, I'd say that it's often difficult for me to keep the supernatural players (gods, demons, various spirits and evil-doers) straight. There are a lot of them. I also find it distracting when presented with names that are difficult to pronounce and no pronunciation is given. At some point, it would have been nice if someone had mispronounced Mishiginebig and been corrected so I wouldn't have stopped every time s/he is mentioned to try to decide how to say it. But, that may just be me. Please note, though, that these are very small bits of a big and very enjoyable saga, though, and not worth worrying about.

The writing here is, as usual, very good. Swank can string a sentence or two together with the best of them. She can also create a real mystery that is creepy, compelling, and truly intriguing. Add to that a good romance, some romantic angst and regret, and answers to most of the questions you've had reading this series, and what you've got is a satisfying read that, if you're anything like me, you'll finish off in short order.

Basically, we're here to finally resolve the titular curse, and to answer the questions of what Ellie's and Collin's powers and heritage mean. And we do. Mostly. Swank has clearly kept the door open for epilogues of some sort, and I'm looking forward to whatever happens next.
