



The Black Parade

Kyoko M.

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Jordan Amador. 21. New Yorker. Waitress. Mild alcoholic. Murderer.

Two years ago, Jordan accidentally shot and killed a Seer: a person who can see, hear, and talk to ghosts with unfinished business. Her crime came with a hefty price, too. She has two years to help a hundred souls cross over to the afterlife or her soul is bound for hell. Tough break.

As if that weren't bad enough, two days before her deadline a handsome pain-in-the-ass poltergeist named Michael strolls into her life. His soul is the key to her salvation, but the cost just might be more than she can handle. Solving his death puts her right in the crosshairs of Belial: a vain, bloodthirsty archdemon who won't rest until she's his slave. Can she rescue Michael and save her own soul, or will they both be dragged down into the clutches of the eternal black parade?

The Black Parade Details

Date : Published July 20th 2013 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN : 9781490911502

Author : Kyoko M.

Format : Paperback 346 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Angels, Romance

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From Reader Review The Black Parade for online ebook

carol. says

carol.'s guideline for identifying sub-optimal YA books:

- 1) Everyone is supermodel attractive, even the villains.
- 2) They all 'smirk.' (36 times, to be exact).

I don't really like to leave a less than raving review on a new author's work, but since there isn't much out there, I'll share my thoughts. Though this does fall into paranormal territory, I picked it up because Ilona Andrews raved about it on a blog post. Of course, Andrews also recommends her BFF Jeanie Frost, who wrote *Halfway to the Grave*, so I knew there was potential for suck. But the free didn't hurt, either.

Divided into three parts, I found myself experiencing diminishing returns. First section was very good, the second decent, and the third pretty much resulted in skimming. It follows a woman working as a waitress as she frees ghosts from the issues anchoring them to the earth. One night she runs into a ghost that has a more solid presence but still suffers from typical ghost amnesia. It turns out he and her angel chaperone recognize each other, which ends up being the basis for the first section.

Overall, the book was decent but still notable for genre tropes. Hot men everywhere. A female BFF that is largely in the background. Speshul powers. Insta-attraction that can't be consummated. The first book is interesting enough to mitigate some of those issues, but by the time the battle in the third comes around, I had lost interest. TSTL mistakes in the second and third sections moved it into 'vaguely annoying' territory. Regarding world-building, it bothered me that (view spoiler)

For me, the story leading up to the start of the book has the potential to be the most interesting: how did she escort almost 200 souls on to their final destination? I certainly wouldn't rule Kyoko out in the future, but as it is, paranormal is just not my genre. In that sense, Ilona is right: Kyoko probably would have hit it big had it been written 7 years ago when paranormal was at a peak.

? Emerson ? says

Free on Amazon today!

Cathy Pratt says

I did not think I was going to like it, but as I read it, I absolutely loved it. Wish I could afford the other books but that is ok?

Justine L2r says

I do not really care for paranormal books: I like them even less when the characters are drawn from Judeo/Christian lore and the writers do not remain true to what the characters should be.

The angel Michael is supposed to be the general of God's army... perhaps it's just me, but I would expect him to be able to fight his way out of a wet paper bag.

And how many times will that idiotic heroine go off on her own? What a darn basket case of stupidity. Then again, having Michael accompany her wouldn't amount to much anyhow - given he can't fight.

Why in books and movies are demons always at least nine steps ahead?

Why are there always some idiotic, asinine attempts to try to explain why God doesn't get involved? The attempted reasoning makes no sense, and hence the main reason why drawing on these characters will always be a problem.

MrsJoseph says

DNF at 52%

Why? From my status update:

*"I am not sure what to say or how to feel. The MC has kissed Archangel Michael and there are feelings involved. I want to reading this but its feeling a bit compulsive." — Dec 13, 2018
10:59AM*

Part 1 was interesting. But her kissing/getting intimate one of the guys that featured heavily in my childhood bedtime prayers felt kinda disgusting and oh so gross.

Claire says

Wow.

This book started in a totally different place than where it ended up...I loved this!

Jordan is our main character that we follow. We're pretty much thrown in to the story and feel our way around, but its not hard to catch up with everything as its explained really well through the pages.

Its technically split into 3 small books, each with its own storyline, but following the same people with the story running almost like they're NOT separate books.

Jordan has to find 100 souls to help to heaven to repent her tragic mistake before the book begins.

Angel Gabriel is often in her kitchen looking at the Repenting Book (as she calls it!), and is impressed with her quick work with collecting souls.

Her 100th comes in the form of a poltergeist.....or seemingly so....

Hes called Michael, and has no memory of how he died or why....

Between Jordan and Michael they resolve this mystery (i don't want to give the storyline away!).

The next 2 books follow Jordan and Michael closely. It turns into the ever going battle between demons and angels, and Jordan is caught in the middle and refuses to stand by and let these demons win.

There is a strong, physical and emotional attachment between Jordan and Michael but for reasons that will become apparent when you read, their love is forbidden....or is it?

A great book to read. A good twist on angels and demons and their existence, and makes you think as well. Really enjoyed it, recommend it.

Reviewed on behalf of BEWITCHING TOURS for an honest review

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

After what felt like slogging through an endless series of colorist-fail IR's in which every heroine had light skin, good hair, gray/green eyes and a body like Lil' Kim (before all the scary surgeries), I was close to throwing the towel in on the genre when I came across this first novel. Bear in mind I'd long since grown disenchanted with the paranormal genre as well, so I was actually surprised that I ended up really liking this first novel from author Kyoko M.. She's definitely a talent to watch.

For one thing, it was nice to read about an Afro-Latina heroine with dark skin, though she says lack of sleep from her nightly paranormal duties has lightened it unhealthily. Jordan Amador has a hell of a life--as a Seer she helps ghosts cross over and it's definitely NOT The Ghost Whisperer. She's also a waitress and her best friends/guardians just so happen to be angels.

The REAL ones. With wings.

Jordan's acerbic, anti-social and skirting the edge of functional alcoholism just to deal with all the spirits (no pun intended). I like heroines who are complex and imperfect. I really don't know how many damn times I need to say this to some paranormal authors, but a heroine who cannot or is not willing to learn to handle herself in the midst of beings with fur, fangs, claws, snouts or breathe fire, is asking to be food. Frankly, any heroine like that deserves to be vamp/were bait and I'm going to gleefully cheer her demise.

There were instances Jordan made me want to smack her for putting herself in danger, though she was more than capable of handling herself. And she's going to need not just her physical skills, but help from on high as she finds herself right smack in the midst of the ongoing war between Heaven and Hell.

Honestly I was rather ambivalent about the romance between her and Michael--guardian angel in the truest sense of the world. The sexual tension was definitely there and that part I liked. The banter between Jordan and Michael was fun; she never seemed to let his angelic status get in the way of bad puns and sexual innuendo. The romance read strangely to me. It felt like a distraction or that it was tossed in because readers

expected that payoff. I don't always want romance in my urban fantasy because the heroine tends to lose her autonomy. I did like Michael as a character, but just like the series Moonlighting or the 60's BBC series The Avengers, what makes a relationship feel actualized for me is that tension and the banter. The will they or won't they

I had never read anything from this author and I love when I discover those gems who really have a passion for great storytelling. This was an interesting read, well-edited and better still, featured a diverse cast in the real world of New York and New Jersey. No whitewash here.

Meka♥books says

Is it possible to find light in the darkness?

This is one of many questions posed in this high energy paranormal book. I've never read anything like this before. I cannot speak highly enough of **The Black Parade**. This is a well written interracial read where the heroine, Jordan is a strong, witty, quick tongued, woman of Spanish and African American heritage. She is also a waitress that happens to be a kick ass seer. The story incorporates archangels Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, & Uriel making elements reminiscent of the TV show and movie Ghost Whisper & Constantine but better. Other seers and demons round out the cast of characters making for an epic battle of good vs. evil.

The Black Parade is one of those stories where it's engaging from page one until the end. Quickly revealed is Jordan's gift of seeing dead people. She has been charged with the task of assisting 100 roaming souls cross over from Earth to the afterlife as retribution for killing a man. Adding to the stress of this task is a completion date of two years or her soul is guaranteed a spot in hell and falling head over heels for one of the archangels (view spoiler). I appreciated author Kyoko M. writing style that focused on storytelling and not romance even though Jordan and *her* archangel engage in amusing banter and sexual innuendos.

I liked all the characters even demons, Belial and Mulciber. Characters were well developed and placed appropriately throughout the read. Every angel had an interesting *specialty*:

to heal

to defend

to attack

There is no review I could write that would accurately express how much I loved this book and all the revelations that are discovered. I will be continuing this series and am anxious to read the remaining books The Deadly Seven, She Who Fights Monsters, & The Holy Dark. If you like funny reads on Heaven/hell, good vs. evil, angels vs. demons then **The Black Parade** is for you.

My **Black Parade** series reviews

Book 2: The Deadly Seven

Book 3: She Who Fights Monsters

Book 4: The Holy Dark

Cathy (cathepsut) says

Angels and demons are not my thing and I am generally a bit tired of UF, but Ilona Andrews recommended this and it's for free on kindle...

Maria Dimitrova says

Because the IA gods recommended it.

Devann says

This started out interesting enough but by the 25-30% mark it was hitting so many horrible paranormal romance cliches that there was literally no chance of me enjoying it. A woman who helps ghosts with unfinished business is an interesting concept to me [even if the way she came into said job is flimsy at best], but an incredibly cliched romance between a ~super speshul~ heroine and a [mild spoilers] archangel is not, especially when these adults / immortal entities are written to act like teenagers. I love the diverse cast but unfortunately it's not enough to make up for my complete lack of interest in anything that's actually happening in the book. If you want a good urban fantasy book featuring a female protagonist who can see ghosts and also ends up tangling with angels and demons then I would recommend the Niki Slobidian series instead.

? percy ♡ says

"the black parade" ok, you have my attention.

Cathryn says

3/20/18: Ilona Andrews recommended it and it's free today so of course I picked it up.

Katyana says

2.5

I wanted to like this a lot more than I did.

Let's start with the good: I found the Judeo-Christian framework to be interesting, the way that it didn't

exclude other religion (in the few parts that it touched on other religion) but rather treated them all as ... almost metaphors for what is. A very unitarian perspective. The angels were also interesting. Very human, really. As were the demons.

But it was outweighed, for me, by the bad. Primarily, that the heroine was just horribly TSTL. I can't ever connect to a heroine who will just bull her way through situations without even a moment of thought. She makes the wrong choice in pretty much every circumstance, and is weirdly bitter about the angels helping her, even though she's needed to be healed from the brink of death. Like, take the help asshole. There aren't strings attached - the angels are literally just forces of help/aid, and not even a little judgy. They are kinder than I've seen angels portrayed in UF before.

Further, she's a Seer, and I feel like ... she gets info in her dreams that make an upcoming twist so obvious that she feels like a moron for not seeing it coming. In some books you expect to know more than the hero. In this book, we are sharing her perspective, so we don't see any more than she does. For the reader to see the whole plot coming from a mile away because of (somewhat heavy-handed) dream visions, and her not to see it at all, makes her feel really stupid.

My other point of criticism is ... the angels seem kind of weak-ass. They get their asses beat by the demons a lot. I mean, like, in every encounter. I don't understand why the demons feel the need to go to some elaborate lengths in a grand and complex plan at all, given that in a head-on fight, they pretty simply take down even the Commander of God's Army. I am just not that impressed. I don't see the angels as a threat to the demons at all.

I have some general curiosity about where the overall plot is going, but honestly not enough to counterbalance how ridiculously annoying I find the main character, so ... meh. This is probably as far as I go.

T.C. says

The Black Parade is a book that has what every top-notch novel should: a great premise, strong characters, great character development, powerful conflicts, and an excellent build up to the awesome climax. This is a story in which once you start reading, you won't want to put it down until you've finished the book.

The main character Jordan Amador is a strong character who happens to be a woman of color-which is lacking in the world of novels. As a strong character, she has specific, detailed motivation for what she does. Jordan also has weaknesses and flaws, however, a good novel is a story of transformation and Miss Kyoko M. shows the reader how Jordan grows and change, and how she overcomes her problems and flaws from start to finish. Readers will be rooting for Jordan right from the start.

The novel also has powerful conflicts. The conflicts in this book will keep reader turning pages, and keep them wondering, "What's going to happen next? There's are lots of moments of tension, high stakes, and crackling disagreements. There are points in the story where readers will go "I didn't see that coming!" The author creates great conflict, by giving her characters powerful, opposing goals. There's also emotional impact throughout the novel. Readers will be able to feel what is happening in the story. There are lots of places to laugh, cry, and sigh. Miss Kyoko M. vividly writes her characters' emotions which will make the readers feel the character's emotions.

The Black Parade will keep readers invested in the story. There is never a dull moment, there's action, tension, romance, and comedy in the almost 350 pages. I truly enjoyed this book and I'm looking forward to the sequel *She Fights Monsters*. If you haven't purchased this book please do so it's an enjoyable read and you'll won't put it down until you finish the story.
