



The Spook's Sacrifice

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As the Spook's apprentice Tom's first duty is to protect the County from the dark. But now Mam needs his help in her homeland of Greece. One of the most dangerous of the old gods, the Ordeen, is about to return there, bringing slaughter and devastation. Meanwhile, the Devil himself is still loose and if he and the Ordeen join forces, a new age of darkness will descend.

Mam has summoned a powerful group to her side but among them are Tom's old enemy, the Pendle witches, including the assassin Grimalkin, and the cunning clan leader Mab Moldheel. Can Tom go against all the Spook has taught him and ally himself to the witches? What is the secret that Mam is keeping from him? And what sacrifices must be made in the battle against the dark?

The Spook's Sacrifice Details

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From Reader Review The Spook's Sacrifice for online ebook

Adrielle says

A solid installment in the series. Tom continues to develop nicely, having faced so much. However, I didn't like the Greece addition. For some reason it takes away from the overall plot progression.

Katherine says

I don't know how to feel about lot of this book. :/

Tom Ward's mum went back to her homeland a while back, (which is in Greece) to help fight the forces of the dark. One foe in particular is going to awake, the Ordeen, one of the most dangerous of the old gods, who will bring slaughter and devastation to the earth. So Mam need's more people to help face this coming foe and has summoned a powerful group to her side, among them are Tom's old enemy, the Pendle witches, including the assassin Grimalkin (YES! I love her!), and the cunning clan leader Mab Moldheel - who Tom deferentially doesn't like.

So this arrangement and using powers of the dark to destroy the dark, was completely unacceptable to Tom's master the Spook and he leaves to go home... but not for long. And the Spook Bill come's too. (view spoiler)

I guessed by the end of the first book what Mam really is, and I knew she would play a bigger part in this series - and I was right!!! :D (view spoiler)

One of my problems with the 5th and 6th book is that in this book Tom is supposed to be 15, and I presume Alice is around the same age but they both act and speak the same as they did in the 1st book when they were 11. And Tom is constantly deferring to what his mother says or the Spook says, as if he is unable to think for himself. He has no backbone and doesn't seem to be a strong enough character for what he's supposed to achieve in here and for what is to come as the fight isn't over.

The Dark is coming Tom and the Fiend is closing in on you. Do you have what it takes to survive him and anything else he, and his minions of the Dark throw at you? Can you survive the Dark.

Richard says

7/10

Not the best in the series with the Spook and his apprentice heading to Greece of all places! Aren't the Greek's having enough issues at the minute without some paranormal activity going down?! Part of the fun of the series is the old worldly northern English feel and this loses some of its charm because of the whole Greek escapade.

Don't get me wrong, a weak Spooks novel is still probably a lot better than any YA stuff you'll get out there.

I applaud the lack of love triangles and teen angst throughout this series and the clever ideas that they keep coming up with.

In this one it starts off slow with the journey to Greece not taking place until half way through the novel but then, come the end, some serious things have happened that are sure to have repercussions in the future novels. The series has taken a different approach from the first few novels with an overarching plot taking place along with each specific "beast of the week" type element. I like the idea of the Fiend and Tom coming to blows at the end and also the part Alice and the Spook will play.

So whilst not the best in the series, it is still a good quick read with plenty of major points happening by the end which will no doubt shape the rest of this series. I look forward to see how this is going to play out.

If you liked this try: "Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone" by JK Rowling

Simona Stoica says

Poate cel mai dur roman din serie, dramatic si trist, insa evolutia lui Tom este uimitoare. Daca nu eram stresata cu licenta, citeam toata seria in 4 zile.

Cynthia says

This latest Tom Ward book was just as good as all the others. I tore through it in a matter of days and now I have to wait until August to read the 7th installment!

I just love the characters in this one. Tom Ward, the Last Apprentice himself, is such a touching character. He is innocent in many ways, and yet has seen great evil in his short life. His best friend/girlfriend, Alice, was born to a witch family and there is the constant threat that she may turn to the dark side, but she loves Tom more than anything, which keeps her on the side of good more often than not. The Spook himself, Tom's master, is another amazing and complex character--you really, really like him and yet you can be so frustrated with him at how he dislikes Alice simply for her lineage and cannot accept any of the good things she does for Tom. (She has saved Tom's life over and over. . .)

What I most love about this series though is that despite the outlandish nature of the evil encounters they face in each installment, I find myself drawn in by the incredible plots, round, fully-developed and real characters, the palpable sense one gets of the County, where Tom lives in England and the mood of the books.

Joseph Delaney is a master story-crafter--it would be a pity to miss out on this incredibly riveting series. . .

McCaid Paul says

Another action-packed, bloody adventure, this time to Greece. While it wasn't the best in the series, it was one of the most suspenseful ones, with a shocking twist in the middle that'll leave readers breathless. With the twist at the end of Wrath of the Bloodeye, I did not expect another so soon!

Will definitely be picking up the next in the series! I can't wait to see where Tom and Alice will end up next, and what the Fiend has in store for them.

Marla says

[
* Change of scenery, travel to Greece to help Mam
* Witch and Spook alliance
(hide spoiler)]

Miranda Reads says

Oh no. This one was a bit sad. Poor Spook.

Review to come.

Audiobook Comments

Read by Christopher Evan Welch - such a great reader!!

Trudi says

Didn't grab me in the first half like the others in the series, but by the end I was hooked as always. Can't wait to see what happens next. Seriously, if you have a reluctant reader in your life, child or adult, recommend this series. You will be doing them a solid!

Corinne says

I read somewhere that this book is a lot like a dungeon run on a video game. There is even a Boss at the end.

Tom is given an awful choice in this book and we do have some loses.

The story takes place in Greece. Mam has asked many of the characters we know to join her in her fight against her greatest enemy, The Ordeen ("the boss"). The Spook's principles are compromised but these are dark days and sometimes you have to use the dark to fight the dark.

Highness Atharva says

Wardstone Chronicles Book 6

The Spook's Sacrifice

SO here we are, now that I've finished the sixth book in the series it surely feels a lot more different. Again,

for the fifth time in the row, the story takes place at a different place than the Chipenden. This time the destination is Greece, the home of Tom's Mam and the antagonist is the Ordeen, yet another powerful malevolent Old Goddess. This is a very different book from the series, and its pace is not steady. Sometimes its too fast and sometimes too slow. I just have to say that it is full of emotion though. The plot is straightforward with one thing happening at one time, but takes a lot twists and turns. I won't bother to get into the story as you will find it anywhere. It mainly focuses on revealing the secrets of Tom's Mam (Mother). A lot of dark secrets and backstories follow as our young (and old) heroes get towards Greece. The book starts with an attack from the maenad assassin and then slowly the story starts developing faster and faster and then there's a lot of action and fight scenes, a lot of then. I'd like to inform you that there a only just a few lessons in the book given to Tom by the Spook. I personally think that there's a lot of new characters introduced in the book but most of them die, so that's not much of a big deal. I think that the plot of was slow in the beginning but i read it very quickly and later after the interlounge, the plot went very faster and it seemed that I read slow. It may seem controversial but it's true. I read this book for the fourth time, so there was not much of a surprise for me but still it was enchanting, especially in the end. There's a lot of change in the charachters, especially that of Tom and Alice. they seem distant and grown up and full of sadness. I don't know why but they do not seem to have their original qualities. Things have really grown darker after the summoning of the Fiend. (Damn those Pendle Witches!) I hate to break it to you but the most major character in the book after Tom is not the Spook or Alice but Tom's Mum. She may even be the central character. It's odd to see Mam summoning all those Pendle witches for help, the Spook and Tom think that its too dark and unnecessary for the witches to be an ally. The Spook just overdoes it, thankfully at the last moment he joins he team for their journey to Greece along with Mam. Sometimes, the Spook annoys me too much as he keeps talking how the dark influences Tom to get towards the dark side. To my Amazement, the book brings back amazing characters like Bill Arkwright, Grimalkin, Mab Mouldheel, the Fiend. The journey on the ship is also remarkable, with the attack of the Sirens and all. But most of the story takes place at Greece and what a great description! I must surely thank Delaney for such a great detail about the climate, landscape, bio-diversity in Greece. It seems as if you yourself are roaming the great arid deserts. As I said, Mam reveals a lot of history about how she was the first lamia witch and her conversion to the light and how she wants to bind and destroy the Ordeen once and for all. I love the storyline of the attack of lamias in the night, Alice's death in the cave(don't worry, Tom saves her using the Dark wish given to him by Grimalkin), approach to Kalambaka which is a town in Greece consisting of monks who pray for the light. Now, the most interesting that that I would like to inform you about this book is the architecture and the detailing of the Ord which is a large building in which the Ordeen will awaken. It has got hidden chambers, defence barriers made up of fire, traps, demons and elementals hidden in it. The creatures in the Ord are nothing compared to the ones in the county. Once, the delegation of thirteen consisting of Tom, Spook, Alice, Grimalkin, Mab are inside the Ord the story flows much faster and impressive. It just hooks you to read and complete the book. First, the impressive fight between Grimalkin and the servant of Ordeen is just gripping. Later, the result of the Or seen being released is shown to Tom by the devil and even reading it makes you shiver. All those flying vengars and the demons flying with Fiends unlimited backup of power is terrifying. There is not even a bit sign of joy and happiness in the book, which makes it monotonous and very serious. Arkwright gets killed while fighting an elemental. That was very sad. The next most interesting thing is the bargain with the Fiend. Tom risking his soul for the greater good is just heroic, not really. Then, the moment comes when atom faxes the Ordeen herself, at this moment you really realize that Delaney has planned this book very carefully, taking in consideration the minute details that will influence and change the plotline. Toms blood makes the Ordeen appear confused and gives him a few abilities. Anther skill of Tom is brought into spotlight, namely the ability to mock the tide of time as the Ordeen calls it. I forgot to tell you that the Ordeen look really gross, not scary but weird. And the moment Mam reveals her lamia form, its the moment that you will remember till the end of the Wardstone Chronicles, its unforgettable. Mam tries to ell Tom about his destiny and her sacrifice for him. This is surely a very emotional situation. The it's breaks as Mam and Ordeen fight and both die. Later, Alice saves Tom yet again from the Fiend, whoc arrives to

take Tom's soul. I personally think that Tom does not trust anybody, not even his Mam for some time. I think the Fiend has clouded his judgement, and rather than it being the Spook's sacrifice, I think that Mam was the real one to sacrifice herself, so there. There's a lot of inspiration in the book, especially in Mam's letters. It really motivates Tom to forget about the past and get ahead in the future. A great book, with a lot of sadness, action, journey, growth, inspiration and adventure. A real treat for the *Wardstone Chronicle* fans. Just let me warn you not to read this book more than once or it really spoils the magic, you won't be amazed if you read it more than once or max twice. Nice Reading!!!

Amelia, the pragmatic idealist says

In terms of excitement and non-stop action, *The Spook's Sacrifice* is right up there with the first book in the series. I read this installment in just 2 days' time and now I'm a little bummed that I read so fast, because this is it until May!

This book has a formula that I consider to be successful in nearly all cases: there's a quest - an actual journey that takes the characters out of a familiar setting and plunges them into a totally new atmosphere. That tension nearly always creates a fun and exciting read for me. Also, there's a battle: the whole story revolves around this major good-evil confrontation and the suspense surrounding the planning and execution of the goal. Action, when done right, is definitely a winning element. And Delaney is a master when it comes to setting up scenes, particularly in the visual elements. He's also really good at drawing you in to the suspense and excitement of what's going on, particularly through the narrative voice of the MC, Tom Ward.

- That being said, there were a few plot revelations that really didn't work for me. I'm one of the readers who believes that not everything an author writes has to be devoured with this "Oh sure thing!" attitude. I didn't like a few things that happened - they just seemed a little too far-fetched for my liking. But hey, I'm obviously not docking stars or anything...

- Characterization, though, has regressed a little throughout the last 2 books. I still like Tom and everything, but lately he's kind of gotten on my nerves, and he seems at times like a major walking contradiction, especially when it comes to how he deals with the Spook, his Mam, and Alice. He'll do something really noteworthy, and then just a little while later he'll revert back to the same old self that he was before...so I don't really know what to think of him sometimes. He's a well-rounded character, sure, but his actions/emotions seem very contradictory. I don't want to drop spoilers, so I won't elaborate. And this is bad for me since he's like one of the MCs, but I pretty much don't like the Spook. He annoys the crap out of me - gah he's so hypocritical! It drives me so crazy! I just want to thrust my hand through the page and smack him! It seems like everything the Spook says and does is justified by the author, because I'm not picking up on any "well, clearly the Spook is wrong" message, and that annoys me. I like my Authoritative Figures (the Dumbledores and the Chirons and other teacher-mentor characters) to either be relatively flawless OR flawed-and-used-as-an-example. But by the end of the book, the Spook seemed to have been slipped some Compassion Pills so maybe we're good...

If you haven't started this series already, they are highly recommended! I like to muse and rant, sure, but the bottom line is that this is a highly engrossing series by a very creative and talented author that you will DEVOUR! Now I'm off to Wal-Mart to find a pet boggart :P

Karen ?* says

My favourite middle-grade series along with Ranger's Apprentice, but as we head into book 6 Tom is turning 15 so the books are getting a bit darker and more YA.

I just love the characters, the continuing storylines, and of course the "spooky" stuff :)

Trisha says

"Be less than what you are so that you can become more."

This one was pretty good but I didn't love it. Tom has gotten farther in his training and Alice and he are still apart . Until his Mam comes back and says she needs his help to save the world.

So off they go to Greece. It was interesting to see them go so far from the County but less interesting than getting to know the area more. The time spent on the ship and in Greece was quick with a lot of new bad things introduced. Most of it was interesting and it was a fast paced story.

Elias Alexander says

I can't believe how fast this is going. I struggle a long time to get through book one. And now I can't seem to stop reading this series. Book 6 if 13 is done. And I'm a little bit sad. It's going for the end. Tom is growing up. He is now 15 years old. When we first meet him he was 12. This story's about him and his friends is written like it's suppos to be his journal. I can't believe how good it is.

Dragomir Mirela says

Young Thomas Ward is in danger once again!

He turns fifteen, and now is a grown man and becoming much more powerful, because of that the Darkness is trying to destroy him.

* It ripped my heart in pieces, but I would still recommend this serie*

Evgeny says

Tom Ward's mom went to her homeland to help fight the dark forces. Her homeland is Greece and if you recall Greek mythology you will realize there are a lot of supernatural bad creatures in there.

Much to Tom's surprise she came back asking him for help which would be essential in her plan to stop a coming Big Evil. The said evil is so big that she and Tom would be forced to ask local dark forces for help. This was completely unacceptable to Tom's master the Spook. Now Tom had to choose between the loyalty to his mom and his master - the two people he holds in the highest regard.

I already revealed the main theme of this book: can one use lesser evil to fight greater one? For the Spook it is absolutely out of the question. Tom however would end up in a lot of situations where such compromise was practically unavoidable if he was to save people dear to him. What are the consequences of these compromises?

It probably would not be a great spoiler if I mention that the biggest part of the book takes places in Greece. This makes for a change of scenery and it does not always work as quite a few of my friends gave this book a lower rating than usual. For me however the different shades of gray and practically complete absence of black-and-white contrast more than made up for the new scenery.

I should mention that quite a few good people die in the series. This book probably hold a record for a number of such deaths.

The final rating is 4 stars. I am not sure how good the following books are, but for now if you are looking for young adult horror reads - look no further than this series.

Empress Reece (Hooked on Books) says

The Last Apprentice/ Wardstone Chronicles Series-Book #6...

This has been a very consistent series; all of the books have been really good. I just finished the audio version of this sixth book, Clash of the Demons, and I liked it just as much as the other ones.

In this installment, Mam, Tom's mother, enlists the help of Tom, Alice, the Spook, the Pendle witches, Bill Arkwright and the assassin Grimalkin to travel to Greece to help her battle the Ordeen. Of course, the fighters of the dark are reluctant to actually join forces with their dark enemies but they agree that it's the only chance they have of successfully destroying the Ordeen.

In the end, a few lives are lost and Tom makes some heavy sacrifices that I'm sure he'll have to answer to the Fiend for in the near future. Overall, it was an entertaining story with all of the characters battling together. I also enjoyed the change of scenery to Greece and I'm curious to see how things play out between Tom and the Fiend.

Nathaniel ΘΣ says

This is the sixth book of the Wardstone Chronicles. It's been a while since I read the last one, almost a year but it wasn't too difficult to get back into the story. The previous ones had been getting a bit repetitive I thought but this book was completely different. Mam returns to the County and asks Tom (and the Spook) to go to Greece with her and help her fight the dark there. It was a nice change but at the same time, it was so completely different that it seemed to be rather outlandish in comparison. And that's saying something from a series that brought back the Devil in book 4. There was no explanation as to why this particular thing was happening in Greece - it was mentioned several times that the Ordeen returned every 7 years but as Mam had been over in Greece for some time, there's been no explanation as to what she was doing there or why. Is it linked to what's going on in the County, or to the Devil's return? Is this affecting the whole world? We're not told. It smacked a little bit of desperation, trying to make this book so vastly different from the previous ones

for some reason, that it made it too different and it doesn't seem to fit.

It was nice to finally find out about Mam but it just seemed to be so completely over the top. I had suspected that she might be a lamia witch but no, she turned out to be Lamia herself, the very first. There was a nice info dump about Lamia right at the start which told us that she had a serpent form and was killed by her children. When Tom asks Mam about the latter part, he is told 'don't believe all you read in books'. It didn't explain why she no longer had a serpent form either but then he never asked about that. It was a nice line, although it went so completely against the Spook's ideas of keeping records and a library of information to pass down to other Spooks. That has been a recurring theme throughout the series, the difference between Mam's ideals and ways of doing things and the Spook's, and also how Tom is caught in the middle of them both. It was certainly very evident in this book where Tom has to decide whether to go with his mother or with his master.

There are a lot of questions raised in this book but they're either not answered at all or are brushed off with a vague explanation. From the start, I had been wondering what had been in Mam's letter to the Spook that made him change his mind so drastically. When it's finally revealed at the end, I felt let down. There didn't seem to be anything in it that was worth such a massive change of heart from such a stubborn and arrogant person. It just didn't ring true. I think the biggest question that wasn't answered at all was the title. What exactly was the Spook's sacrifice? His dignity in changing his mind and helping Mam along with all the Pendle witches? It hardly seems something worthy of the title.

My only other gripe would be that there seems to be no character growth in Tom or Alice at all. Tom is supposed to be 15 at the end of the book - I presume Alice is around the same age - but they both act and speak the same as they did in the first book when they were 11. Tom is constantly deferring to what his mother says or the Spook says, as if he is unable to think for himself. He has no backbone and doesn't seem to be a strong enough character for what he's supposed to achieve. Still it was as enjoyable a read as all the others have been despite the completely outlandish plot.

Elrond says

Un vent de fraîcheur est enfin amené à la sage par le voyage en Grèce. La Malin resserre son étai... J'ai tellement envie de lire la suite ?
