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17 year old Ember Denning has made an art of isolating herself. She prefers the dead. She spends her days skipping school in old cemeteries and her nights hiding from her alcoholic father at the funeral home where she works. When her own father dies, Ember learns her whole life is a lie. Standing in the cemetery that's been her sanctuary, she's threatened by the most beautiful boy she's ever seen and rescued by two people who claim to be her family. They say she's special, that she has a supernatural gift like them...they just don't know exactly what it is.

They take her to a small Florida town, where Ember's life takes a turn for the weird. She's living with her reaper cousins, an orphaned werewolf pack, a faery and a human genius. Ember's powers are growing stronger, morphing into something bigger than anything anybody anticipated. Ember has questions but nobody has answers. Nobody knows what she is. They only know her mysterious magical gift is trying to kill them and that beautiful dangerous boy from the cemetery may be the only thing standing between her and death.

As Ember's talents are revealed so are the secrets her father hid and those in power who would seek to destroy her. What's worse, saving Ember has put her cousins in danger and turned her friend's lives upside down. Ember must learn to embrace her magic or risk losing the family she's pieced together.

Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things Details

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From Reader Review Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things for online ebook

Nik says

Really enjoyable read!

Becca says

I was sent this book in exchange for an honest review:

First off, I have to say I went into this book with high expectations. I mean, come one, check out that cover. Unfortunately, very early on I knew it was going to be a chore to get through this one. It ended up being one of my least favorite books I read this year.

The writing didn't flow well for me and I was taken out of the story when some paragraphs were basically the same sentence repeated in different wording for 3-4 sentences. I just felt as though there were so many unnecessary details even early on in the book, but I still wanted to give it a chance.

The book is structured with multiple POVs and I don't think it worked well in the beginning at all. Around 2/3 of the way through, the story lines start splitting up enough for a shifting POV to work a bit better, and chapters started ending on semi-cliffhangers, which I liked.

Overall, I just think that the author had too many ideas that she wanted to fit into one story. We have just about any paranormal creature you could think of: werewolves, faeries, witches, reapers, banshees, necromancers, ghosts, zombies, oracles, gods/goddesses and even re-animators. I found it difficult to latch on to any of the characters or the overall story because there was just so much happening it made my head spin.

Honestly, the only reason I gave this book 2 stars instead of one was that there was a slight mysterious undertone to the main plot, however, which kept me invested in the book because I wanted to know what was going to happen next. I honestly didn't entirely see the ending coming and I do think there were many parts when the book could have ended but then something else would happen.

The family dynamics in the story were very reminiscent of the Cullen's in the Twilight Saga, which I actually really enjoyed. I saw a lot of parallels between Twilight and this book and found it a little amusing that vampires were one of the creatures that weren't in the book.

The romances that were in this book were very strange and I don't think that they were well thought out. Overall, this whole world didn't seem very well developed and in turn it made everything feel really jumbled and thrown together.

I wanted to like this book so bad, I really did. I generally really enjoy paranormal books, but I really felt like this book was all over the place. There were parts of it I genuinely enjoyed and found interesting, but I didn't end up enjoying this book as a whole. I might continue on with the series, but I haven't decided yet.

Nicole Hewitt says

This review and many more can be found on my blog: Feed Your Fiction Addiction

This book was a fantastic introduction to a very dark magical world. I loved all of the paranormal elements to the story – there are shifters, banshees, reapers, witches, demons … this list could go on and on. But McAtee manages to meld it all together well and give us a supernatural world that's both frightening and fascinating. When Ember is kidnapped by her cousins, she has no idea what's in store for her – and when she finds out, it's more than a little overwhelming. Figuring out who to trust when just about everyone would like to use her in some way – or kill her – is nearly impossible. Ember's discovery of who she truly is and what she is capable of throws her life into chaos in a lot of ways – but it also helps her to make sense of a lot of pain in her life that she previously couldn't understand.

There are lots of elements of family, friendship and loyalty that are explored, which I loved. There are also a few romances in bloom. I wasn't completely on board with the relationship that developed between Mace and Ember because I felt like there wasn't enough substance to it, but I was rooting for Tristin and Quinn. Kai and Rhys were definitely my favorite couple, though – probably because the romance between these two is most developed and takes center stage quite often. (I should note that it's a M/M romance, but none of the storyline has to do with characters coming to terms with their sexuality or anything like that – which is kind of refreshing.)

Overall, a great book, though the complexity of the worldbuilding and the paranormal elements make for a little slower read. I give it 4/5 stars.

****Disclosure: I received these books from the publisher via YA Bound Book Tours in exchange for an honest review. No other compensation was given and all opinions are my own.****

Janice perry says

I loved the characters and the story. this book was a great read, that got emotional at times.

Ashley Tomlinson says

Reapers, Shifters and witches, oh my -also fae, necromancers, banshees, zombies and so much more. This book is freaking amazing and it has so many paranormal elements that it's hard not to love. I'm a huge paranormal fan so to see so many different creatures wrapped up in one big book was beyond incredible, it was addicting as hell. It was basically my book brand of heroin - I'm aware of how weird that sounds but you'll have to read it to understand what I mean.

The book is centered around four peoples POV, Ember, Mace, Kai and Tristen and though that sounds like it would be confusing it's not. It works so well because each character was highly entertaining to read and easy to get invested in. I like how every individual POV blended together so well and ended up coming together at the end with no stone left unturned. The story was fast and so easy to follow and I wasn't kidding when I

said addicting. I read over 300 pages in a day because I didn't want to stop reading and the chapters were short, so it was easy to say one more chapter, just one more. I had plenty of question going through this book but I was left with none, almost none. I have only one question after that ending and it is, when is book two coming out? I need it like yesterday!

I'm actually a huge fan of books dealing with reapers, there aren't many out there sadly so I was glad they were in here. Kai was great though it reaper-ness didn't get much of a chance to show in this book but that just makes me excited for book two. To see how the author will take his story and his powers, I think that will be very interesting. This was also the first book that I've read that had a banshee, which was freaking awesome. And come on necromancers are always cool. The entire paranormal world fascinates me and this is no exception though this world may be my favorite now.

When it comes to the characters I think they were all great. They were funny and mixed well together and kind of made me jealous that I don't exist in this world- I personally think I would make a good reaper or shifter or anything really. Mace and Ember were my favorite just how they were together was cute, eventually. Kai and Tristen were funny when they were dealing with each other especially that beginning argument. It was hysterical this book also made me want a twin to argue with. I think what I liked the most about the characters were how real and life like they seemed, the supernatural stuff aside, of course. The way they talked to each other felt like it was real, like it was how I would talk with my own friends and family.

Don't let the size of this book intimidate you, I know it's big but it's so entertaining and fast paced that it'll be worth it. I happen to like big books so I was thrilled but I know some people scare easily, just trust me on this one and give this book a chance. I can't wait for book two so I can see what happens with everyone and how badass these characters are going to become.

Julie Daniels says

Amazing amazing book with so many feels and wonderful characters! CSPWDT will definitely be in my best books of the year! This is not an "acquired taste" book but one that is universally awesome! I would recommend it to absolutely everyone!! Writing and editing my review this weekend- should have it posted as well as a blog post by Monday! Do yourself a favor and pick it up asap! I don't say that often so when I do you know I mean it!

Full review:

You want feels? This book has ALL. THE. FEELS! I'm literally at a loss for words to describe just how amazing CSPWDT is! I didn't just love it, I LOVED it! I need the next book like yesterday! Before I even finished it I was on Amazon looking to see if I could preorder the next installment in the Reanimator Series. Martina McAtee blew me away! This is a book that should be at the top of the NYT bestsellers list! This isn't an "acquired taste"- it's universally amazing! I would most definitely recommend CSPWDT to EVERYONE! I can't find a single thing that I don't absolutely LOVE about this book! It would be a travesty to just call it "good!"

The characters in CSPWDT are the cornerstone of this book. They jump right out of the book and become real as you're reading. They're very dynamic characters. I feel like "three-dimensional" is a bit over-used but there is no better way to describe these characters! Ember and company will forever be in my heart now! I could go on forever just raving about these amazing characters but I'm just going to be brief. I loved them all.

Each person was so well-created. There were plenty of times that Tristin crawled right under my skin but I can't help but love her as well. Her heart is in the right place where and when it counts. Isa is a favorite for sure as well as Kia and Mace. And Ember- oh Ember! I love her so so much! I felt I could relate to her in so many ways. Her relationship with her father especially touched me- they had a rocky relationship while he was alive but She later learns that there was much more to him and his love for her. All of the characters in this book became real to me as I was reading and are still with me after I've finished.

The world-building in CSPWDT was amazing as well. Very original, detailed, believable, and thorough. The author did such an amazing job with everything- the legends behind the story show just how much work and research she put into this book.

The plot was original- I have read no other books like this one and the types of creatures in the book were very original as well. It was very refreshing to read a book with new types of beings in it instead of the same old, overused ones. Even the familiar creatures in this book had a fresh, new spin on their mythology and background/workings. Martina McAtee has such a polished writing style that is truly a joy to read and experience. It reminds me of Charlaine Harris(Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood books among many others) and she has the same knack for creating amazingly real and lovable characters that play off of each other very well that Richelle Mead has. Needless to say she is now with them as one of my favorite authors!

With such lovable characters and an amazingly engaging plotline, this book is nothing short of favorite material! It's one I will want to read again and again- and those are the very best ones! There is absolutely no question that I would recommend this book to everyone. What are you waiting for?!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review

Zsaia says

Very original concept and all-consuming novel. Could not put it down for 3 straight days while I finished it. 5 stars all around.

Ember Rain says

This book is written as a full length novel containing over 50 chapters of greatness! I love the authors new age writing style and the story line is one not soon to be forgotten! With so many different paranormal creatures and love connections this book is sure to leave you with a smile on your face! I won't spoil anything here, but can say I really love everything about the book! I give it a solid 5 star rating and think it is appropriate for YA and above. Great work Martina McAtee!

Georgi_Lvs_Books says

Where do I begin?

This book was just absolutely spectacular.

This is probably the best supernatural, paranormal, fantasy book I have ever read.

From start to finish I was mesmerised in this story.

So many amazing characters, I loved all of them. The family they created for each other was lovely to read.

Many twists that popped up leaving me desperate to continue reading non-stop.

The ending? Ahhhh, so desperate for book 2, "Dark Dreams And Dead Things" coming in 2016... Can't come quick enough!!!

Thank you Martina for such an amazing book!

If I could rate this 10 stars I would!

Casey Ann Books says

I like to think myself as a weird graveyard girl. I don't know what it is I just find them so interesting and peaceful so when I heard the premise of "Children shouldn't play with dead things" my first thought was "SIGN ME UP". I'm so glad I read this book! I'm a huge fan of the paranormal genre and this was perfect.

Reapers, Shape shifters, wizards, demons, witches, slaugh, reanimators and necromancers. I mean everything you would want in a book personally!

Ember doesn't know she is special....however she can talk to dead people! not in the creepy "I SEE DEAD PEOPLE WAY". She has issues at home with her alcoholic father and just tries to get away from it by drawing, working at the funeral home, and talking to dead people...again yes dead people.

There are four main characters in this book Ember, Tristin, Kai, and Mace. And all of them bring something amazing to the table. They are not at all two dimensional! I want to all know them and hang out!

I loved the adventure in this book and the edge of the seat moments! Embers reaper cousins take her away from her troubles and into a world she never expected. A world of things not as they seem. I loved the writing style! I found it such a page turner There are people looking to save her and people looking to kill her. Ember isn't sure who to trust. Go pick this up if you haven't, you will not regret it! <3

Hollie says

~3.5 stars~

This book had 83 reviews on Amazon with an overall rating of 4.9 stars, so I was eager to give it a try. Here's my breakdown:

Pros:

- * Creative storyline
- * Paranormal creatures galore
- * Beautiful cover
- * Offered as a kindleunlimited

Cons:

- * The book title gave it no justice: "Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things" That just sounds lame in my opinion
- * At times it felt as if there were too many characters - every few pages a new character seemed to be introduced and it seemed to take away from the main characters development
- * Speaking of an abundance of characters this book also rotated between various points of view. A couple characters POVs is ok, but after 2 I feel as if I'm being pulled in too many different directions.
- * Much to be desired upon closure
- * The romance was incredibly lacking

Overall, I wanted more in the sense of closure, but since this book was offered as a kindleunlimited at least I can go ahead and give book 2 a shot. I just hope book 2 doesn't end with a cliffhanger etc. or that will be the end of this series for me personally.

Kristy Centeno says

I'll be the first to admit the premise, along with the great cover, is what drew me to this story. However, Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things, definitely did not disappoint.

We begin our story with our quirky, somewhat strange yet, slightly relatable heroine as she is abruptly tossed into a chaotic, supernatural world she knew nothing of. Or more like couldn't remember being a part of. Ember has no idea she's far more special than her alcoholic, completely unattached father ever allowed her to believe and his death marks the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

This is where things start to get real!

The plot moves along nicely, leaving very little questions unanswered. As with every great read every new chapter reveals a bit more of information, but continues to build up suspense, enough to keep you sufficiently intrigued and invested to keep turning the pages.

We get to experience the story through four different POV. Ember, Mace, Kai, and Tristin. I loved all the characters, but Mace and Kai were my favorite by far. I couldn't stop laughing when they came into the mix and found them both equally fascinating.

In hindsight, I thoroughly enjoyed all the paranormal elements and how they were tied together. I couldn't get enough of the story and wish I had book two like, right after I finished this one. Really want to know what the author has in store for us next.

Jade Klinger says

17 year old Ember Denning has made an art of isolating herself. She prefers the dead. She spends her days skipping school in old cemeteries and her nights hiding from her alcoholic father at the funeral home where she works. When her own father dies, Ember learns her whole life is a lie. Standing in the cemetery that's been her sanctuary, she's threatened by the most beautiful boy she's ever seen and rescued by two people who claim to be her family. They say she's special, that she has a supernatural gift like them.... they just don't know exactly what it is.

All I have to say is that Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things literally was the most captivating, exhilarating, and overall amazing book I've read in a very long time! The plot is so delicately planned, and the writing style is outstanding!

There are four main characters in the first book of the Dead Things series, who are all falling around the main character Ember Denning (November Lonergan). Ember goes about her days by trying her best to avoid her crazy alcoholic father. Who she constantly has to pick up at local bars. She finds peace by drawing, working at the funeral home, and talking to dead people. She just doesn't know that she's special...

Then one day unexplainable things happen, Ember doesn't understand what's wrong with her.. She just doesn't feel right, it feels like she's burning from the inside out... she feels like she's dying.

Then the pain just goes away. Later on she gets threatened by this beautiful, stunning, mysterious guy who's been secretly stalking her. Her cousins Kai and Tristin save her in the nick of time.

Kai and Tristin, both brother and sister thought that their cousin November was dead. Why has she popped up all of a sudden?? They knew something was wrong. Ember soon learns that she has uncontrollable supernatural powers and at first she doesn't know what to do with herself..

Until Mace shows up, the guy who threatened to kill her.

Ember's and Mace's powers take a liking to one another. Since Ember's powers are everywhere, Mace offers to help redirect her powers through him so she can learn to gain control.

Throughout the book Mace, Ember, Tristin, and Kai learn many shocking things about Ember's powers as well as their own, that they didn't even know they were capable of.

As I began to understand the traits of each character more in depth, I started to be more connected and even attached to them. And in any great book, spending time with each character and learning about them is the most joyous and interesting part of reading. These characters proved to be possibly the most enjoyable and enthralling people in any book I've read yet, that and truly sets Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things apart.

The idea behind Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things isn't like your typical supernatural YA book. It connects on a deeper level than other books in this genre, and is not as vain or as cliché as most paranormal/supernatural novels.

This book is so utterly amazing! I'm patiently waiting for the second book to come out in the Dead Things series... Next year feels too far away..

Natasha says

This amazing book was given to me by the author in exchange of an honest review. Now, you guys know my reviewing is messy and I mostly just review when it is about books I've loved. This one, oh I do loved.

Honestly I am feeling all the fangirl feelings like: containing pterodactyl noises, staring at the book hoping to read more when there's nothing left to read and wanting to write nonsense like ghdfguubjjvb.

Some amazing things about this book:

1. I usually get frustrated at paranormal books because there are a lot of questions but rarely any answers that make sense. In here, even though there's many secrets, you'll be getting answers.
2. This book evolves around four different perspectives and all of them are entertaining.
3. This book has tons of different paranormal creatures so everyone gets a taste of a little bit of everything.
4. There's a lot of funny things in it. And there's also a lot of scenes that get your heart racing or...tied up in knots.
5. There's lgbtq representation.
6. Witches aren't cool in this book. There's far more important stuff than witches.
7. Feelings. Feelings everywhere.
8. This book is huge and I love huge books. Also it was addicting as hell. (Oh where are you book number two?)

Hmmm I think these are the good points I could point out for now. Martina has created a hell of an epic book.

Go get this one. Gogogogogo!

Dianne says

Ember seems to have an affinity for the dead, but it wasn't until her father died that she learned why. She would also learn that not everyone can be trusted, no matter how handsome or charming they are and that family is more than blood, it is belonging, caring and being there for each other.

Imagine finally finding a place to fit in among beings from fantasy and fairytales and that is what happened to Ember, just when she needed family most, when she discovers she has powers that will baffle even the most unusual creatures. Those powers are growing stronger, out of control and makes Ember a target from both "friend" and foe, alike. So who can Ember trust? Who has her back and who is continuing to lie to her? Who really does love her for herself and who wants to use what she can do?

CHILDREN SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH DEAD THINGS by Martina McAtee is a story of loss, jealousy, love, attraction and learning who to trust, as well as listening to your heart. This isn't a quick read, Ms. McAtee gives us pages of story, pages of conflicts and a cast of characters that are like a ragtag family with all the flaws that families have. There is so much going on, so many subplots and so many high tension moments, and this author gives it to us in one fantastic book, making for a tremendous foundation to a new series. It was a pleasure to have so much story to live in, as each character comes to life, and grows right along with this impressive plot! Settle in, this is a journey into another world, not just a quick trip!

Series: Dead Things - Book 1

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>
