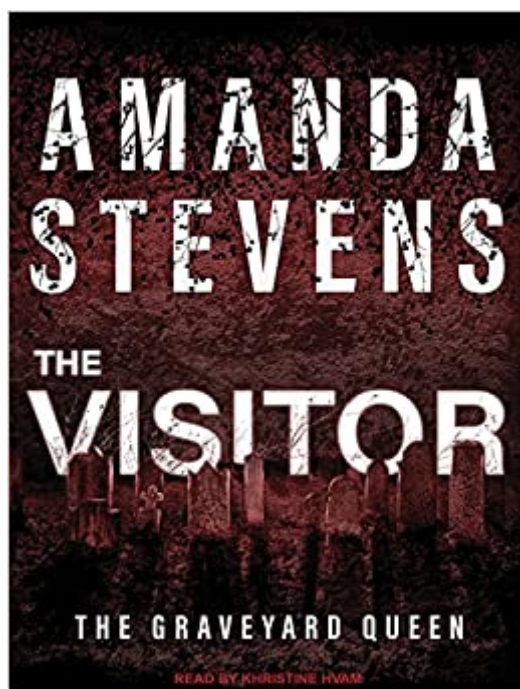


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The Visitor (Graveyard Queen)



Synopsis

My name is Amelia Gray. I'm the Graveyard Queen. Restoring lost and abandoned cemeteries is my profession, but I'm starting to believe that my true calling is deciphering the riddles of the dead. Legend has it that Kroll Cemetery is a puzzle no one has ever been able to solve. For over half a century, the answer has remained hidden within the strange headstone inscriptions and intricate engravings. Because uncovering the mystery of that tiny, remote graveyard may come at a terrible price. Years after their mass death, Ezra Kroll's disciples lie unquiet, their tormented souls trapped within the walls of Kroll Cemetery, waiting to be released by someone strong and clever enough to solve the puzzle. For whatever reason, I'm being summoned to that graveyard by both the living and the dead. Every lead I follow, every clue I unravel brings me closer to an unlikely killer and to a destiny that will threaten my sanity and a future with my love, John Devlin. Contains mature themes.

Book Information

Series: Graveyard Queen (Book 4)

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Customer Reviews

"[Khristine Hvam] is amazing and I don't think I have ever listened to anything she narrates and not fully enjoy it. "---Doctors Note's

Amanda Stevens is the award-winning author of over fifty novels, including the modern gothic Graveyard Queen series. Her books have been described as eerie and atmospheric, "a new take on the classic ghost story." Born and raised in the rural South, she now resides in Houston, Texas. Khristine Hvam is a professional voice artist whose work includes audiobooks, video games,

and voice-overs, including as Professor Juniper in the Pokemon television series.

I really liked the first book in the series and I like the author's writing style. This book ended on a cliff hanger though, which I hate. I don't mind series which have continuing story lines, but I like to feel that there is an end to any book I pay for and read. This one didn't feel like it ended... there were more unfinished pieces than completed ones.

I love the Graveyard Queen series. So dark and mysterious. A smart protagonist negotiating her way in a scary world with no map. Eerie secondary characters. I have unequivocally enjoyed the earlier books. But there were some things in this one that gave me pause. *Spoilers* Maybe I'm missing something, but there's a scene in which Amelia goes to meet Dr. Shaw in the Kroll Cemetery. She can't find him so she calls him and follows his ringtone. It leads her to his phone, but he is nowhere to be found. She pockets the phone but when she finally finds him, she never asks where he was and why he left his phone behind, and she never returns the phone to him. Later he excuses himself to make some phone calls, but based on what we've been told his phone is still in Amelia's pocket! Also, did we ever find out what the rest of the keys and numbers found in Rose's house signified? *End spoilers* Amelia and Devlin have devolved into bed buddies. They spend far more energy hiding things from each other than talking and when they do it's too often Devlin shutting down Amelia's attempts to express her experiences. Other than his frequently alluded to handsomeness, what does he bring to (what can only be loosely termed) their relationship? There is no there there.

I've been reading Amanda Stevens books for years, but I think she's really coming into her own with this series, and with this book in particular. The setting--Charleston--is one of my favorites and she describes it perfectly. I feel like I'm strolling down the sidewalks every time I start to read. And her main character, Amelia, is just as familiar to me as the streets are. But this time, it seems like she's got a darker side coming out that I've never seen before. I know I'm going to be surprised by the twists and turns because I always am with a book by this author but this time...wow. Kroll Cemetery and everything that goes on there is so creepy. I don't know how she comes up with this stuff but I hope she keeps it coming.

“Spirits can't step over or navigate crooked pathways. A superstitious community would have been especially cautious with suicides. The ghosts of those

who take their own lives are considered notorious wanderers. That probably explains the high walls that surround the cemetery. In the old days, they would have buried the bodies facedown to disorient them.

“The things you know.”

Overall I like this series. It has this eerie quality to it and I really enjoy the southern drawl of a book, I’m pretty sure a book can have a southern drawl. It is this slow and easy almost swaying in the wind kind of vibe sometimes. I probably should have reread the other books going into this one though. I had forgotten a lot of things about the secret order of the Coffin and the Claw and how Devlin was involved with them in the first place. I just felt like I was playing catch up a little too much. So if you can reread at least the last book going into this one. I was really hoping that after the events of the last book that Devlin would be a believer of at least some things supernatural but he is still forever the skeptic and the first half of the story I felt like Amelia told me a million times how they were drifting apart. I mean a small part was shown but overall it was just her telling the reader that things weren’t perfect between them. Which was sometimes strange as you could tell how much Devlin cared about her but it is a weird relationship where both parties seemed to be keeping all kinds of secrets from the other and you knew some big thing would have to happen for them to either start really trusting each other with everything in their lives or that a split would happen. I have read the other books for the ghost stories but also for the forbidden romance of Amelia and Devlin so I really hope they work that out. But because of the slow paced nature of the book it seemed to take a long time for things to really get going. But there are ghosts and a mystery to solve. We also have Amelia who has not let the other side know she can see them and that comes with a whole new bag of troubles as the spiritual realm keeps trying to contact her and she isn’t sure if they are friend or foe. Still that whole story was extremely interesting and I loved learning more about her special powers and what they are evolving into.

In Short - I really liked the ghost storyline of this but the relationship aspect left me wanting a lot more. I know the next book is out but I think I’ll wait until #6 is also done so I can read them back to back. I think that one is supposed to close out this storyline. The 2 star deduction is for the meandering that we have to endure and repetition of the relationship angst.

I’ve read all the books in this series including the prequel, *The Abandoned*, and this book has more twists and turns, creepiness, and imaginative aspects than all the rest put together. *The Visitor* can be read as a stand alone, but I think you’re doing yourself a disservice if you don’t start at the beginning of the series so that you really get to know Amelia and Devlin. All of Amanda’s books have been page turners that have kept me up late at night to finish and this one is no exception.

Can't wait for The Sinner in September. Besides this wonderful paranormal series, check out her books, The Whispering Room and The Devil's Footprints, two of my favorite books of all time.

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