



## Dark Grace

*M. Lauryl Lewis*

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Now months into the zombie plague, a group of survivors are dealing with broken trusts, evolution of the living dead, and the horrors of the evil side of humanity. The group becomes separated and struggles to reunite. The infection is spreading. The death toll is tragically high.

## Dark Grace Details

Date : Published May 21st 2015 by Smashwords (first published June 1st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : M. Lauryl Lewis

Format : ebook

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Romance, Adventure, Survival

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## **From Reader Review Dark Grace for online ebook**

### **Janice Colbert says**

I almost don't know where to begin. Zoe's pregnancy is rather different than the norm. Gus and Zoe have connected...in more ways than one. I literally was beside myself with what happens to Emilie. I don't think I have ever disliked a character/s more in my time of reading books than I have with this series. The people from that compound they got involved with has filled me with so much dislike for them. Their constant harassment toward Zoe and her "family" is getting under my skin! The walking dead constantly being a thorn on their side. They just can't seem to get a break!

My heart broke for Emilie and now for Jane. Not knowing exactly what happened to her has left a hole...unanswered questions. As for Agnes and Linus who are brother and sister, I began to enjoy their characters and thought they blended well with the group. They eventually leave the group but I really hope to see them again and have them reintroduced to the story/group.

I am completely on pins and needles and can't wait to start the fourth book in the series. The last sentence of the book left me a bit uneasy. "I moved my ear over an inch, searching for the beat of his heart that I loved so much, but found it to be still and silent". I can't take another heartbreak...I really hope it's not what it seems.

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### **Shanna Tidwell says**

Zoe is still going strong. Gus is becoming an even bigger part of the story. We have a few new character to look forward to getting to know. Boggs is being an even bigger ass...

Great series and it just keeps getting better starting the next book now.

Great narration & I'm glad to see the rest of the series is he same narrator.

I was voluntarily provided this review copy at no charge by the author, publisher and or narrator.

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### **Heather says**

I am enjoying this series. I'm not someone who normally reads zombie stories but this one is worth it.

I'm glad to start seeing tension and dislike occurring between the characters. I feel like in the first book of the series everyone seemed to get along but by this book there are definitely some dislike and hurt feelings.

I feel that Zoe is starting to grow a little as a character as well. She is starting to seem a little less weak and needy. I would have liked to see her progress a little farther along that way but a start is something.

Since I was lucky enough get all 5 books at once I am power reading through them all and can't wait to get started on book 4.

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## **Jennifer says**

**More spoilers in this review. A great series to read.**

I was a little miffed by the fit Zoe was throwing at first in the book. What did she expect? She cheated on Boggs with Gus, betraying her friend, Em and Boggs. She didn't tell Boggs until later in the book that Gus and her had a brief affair.

I was saddened by the deaths of Em, Zoe and Boggs baby, Molly, and Jane. I kind of understood having to kill Em off so the author could put Zoe and Gus together, but found I was upset by the death of Jane. Maybe it was because she was a small child, but it didn't seem fair she died. Then when Molly, Zoe's baby died, I just wanted to quit reading. It just didn't seem fair. I know zombie world isn't fair or right.

I am still liking the turn the author is doing with the zombies. Now at the end of the book, Zoe feels a presence that isn't runner or roamer zombies. This is something new, smarter, and more evil than can be imaged. It actually gave me the chills.

I like this series and this book so far is my favorite despite the deaths. I highly recommend this book and series to anyone who likes zombies and romance.

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## **Jaclyn Doyle says**

Love the whole series

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## **Allie Rashkow says**

You know, I always had an "ick" kind of feeling about Boggs and he REALLY proved me right in this one here! Boggs needs to GROW up and stop acting like a three year old! Other than that, I cannot BELIEVE how amazingly awesome this book was! I LOVE Zoe as the protagonist. There were sharp turns around corners that I NEVER saw coming and they took my breath away. There were tears (lots of them) and love and warmth. I hate that what makes an amazing zombie book is the author's non-fear of killing off characters. In a world like that created in a Zombie Apocalypse not everyone is going to make it, not everyone is going to be killed by zombies, humans are even more dangerous and idiots get people killed. The last lines of this installment in the "Grace" series totally blew my mind! I don't even know what to think, other than that I cannot believe I must wait until 2014 for the next time I meet up with Zoe and the Gang! Good job Ms. M. Lauryl Lewis. Good-freaking-amazing-job!!!!

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## **Melissa Levine says**

Heads up, this is not a stand-alone book. Unfortunately, the author didn't provide much in the way of backstory either. My fault though. I did receive it for free through the publisher. I chose it because I love anything relating to zombies. Now I'm guessing the great ratings I see from other reviewers are from those who started the series at book one because I'm not really sure why this book as such great reviews in all honesty.

On that note, this was an okay listen. While there were a few zombies here and there, none of them really

took center stage, so to speak. Most of the time it was like, oh, there goes a zombie, and that was it. I wasn't a fan of the love triangle at all. It seemed like the story was more about the relationship between Zoe, Gus, and Bogg and them moving from one location to another. I wasn't a fan of the writing style that much either. There was a lot of redundancy/repetition and sentences/phrases that didn't flow very smoothly, in my opinion. One such example: "He looked as red as the crabs we had boiled had turned." Or "The fresh air was refreshing." Stuff like that really sticks out like a sore thumb to me.

I'm not really sure if I liked any of the characters. I can say that I felt bad for Boggs though, he definitely deserved someone better even though in a prior book he hit Zoe (not sure why). I wouldn't describe Zoe, the female lead, as a strong female character. She came across as clueless (lacking a common sense) very emotional, especially in the whiny area and always seemed to need help with everything (usually from Gus or Boggs). And Gus...while he came across as a nice guy overall, he was sending out the weirdo vibes (the bad ones). I felt like he interacted with Zoe like she was a little kid, even though that's how I felt she acted. Their relationship was just questionable.

I liked the narrator; she provided a variety of voices and made it easy to understand which character was talking. Unfortunately, there were many times when it seemed like she moved away from the microphone or got closer. She did a lot of random pausing between words that I couldn't figure out as to why, and there were other times when I could hear her swallow her spit. Overall, she did a pretty good job.

Questions/Comments:

So the group is on an island, hiding away from the zombies. I found it questionable what their dinner consisted of the first night (the first meal at the beginning of the story). First, chili is made, and everyone eats it. Then someone decides it's time to make the fish they caught before they go bad. Why wouldn't they have just made that and save the chili for another night? Does anyone want dessert? Let's eat as much food as possible because we have a limited supply of food, right? Here's some canned fruit then. Who eats dessert when there's a zombie apocalypse going on around you? No one. It's all about food conservation. Yet, even though there's mention of having a limited food supply, the conservation part doesn't seem to matter.

Obviously, I should have read/listened to books 1 and 2 prior to listening to book 3. On that note, Zoe loves both Gus and Boggs it seems, although she's pregnant with Boggs' baby. I didn't understand how she could keep going back and forth between the two guys.

What year is this story taking place in? I ask because I question why Gus is so eager to find a hand-held heart monitor for the baby when it would probably be easier to find a stethoscope.

Before Zoe is introduced to Sadie and her friend (the little guy) that they later kill, she takes note that she can't tell if they're human. Yet, she takes note that they react in a human way when she and Bogg call to them, and they were talking, but she couldn't hear what they were saying.

So, Zoe and Emily are supposedly best friends. Yet, Zoe seems to have no problem sleeping (repeatedly) with Emily's man, Gus. Then when Emily is killed...personally, I felt Zoe overdid it with all her crying and wanting people to feel sorry for her.

Why did they bother to remove the dead/zombie dog from the vet office? I couldn't figure that part out.

With Gus' injuries, Nathan suggests they give him more meds every six hours. So he's given his medicine then they head over to the camping store for supplies. They meet the siblings that have been hanging out in

the store, then head back to the vet office where the rest of the group is. When someone asks when Gus was last given his medicine, Nathan or Susan say it was six hours. How did they take eight hours in the camping store? Did they take a long nap and that part was just left out?

Zoe and Gus find a bag of Doritos. Yay! But, seriously...who in the world would wipe their cheesy Doritos fingers on the blanket they're sitting on? Why didn't she lick the cheese off? That was pure craziness!

Obviously, I've missed out on a lot of background information/storyline, but who would get pregnant during the zombie apocalypse?

How is Zoe surprised that Boggs is still mad at her? I mean seriously? You'd think she'd have some common sense and at least get her own room once arriving at the motel, but nope. She decides to sleep with Gus in his room. That will make things better.

How did the zombies know where they were? And if they knew that they were in the safe room, why didn't they hang around longer?

The final love/sex scene between Gus and Zoe was disgusting. Picture a twenty-something girl with a twice-her-age man. He did something medically-related in his prior life, or so I assume and wanted to help Zoe expel her breastmilk. Now, I know you can massage it out, but obviously, Gus wanted to make the situation weird at least for the reader. Now it's one thing to drink her breastmilk (barf), but it's whole 'nother story to masturbate her while doing so and then responding with "Good girl" right after she orgasms (gross). Sorry, but no.

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## **Robin Wings says**

Okay, so I know I sort of seem like the odd-man-out with this series, since my opinions don't seem to mesh with anyone else's. Maybe that's because I've been on an all-out reading rampage of late, and I've been gobbling up one enormously great book after another, thus consistently raising the bar until I'm almost unmollifiable. Or maybe it's just one of those "to each his own" sort of deals. I don't know. The good news here is that, while I almost didn't continue onto the third book, I am rather glad I opted to stick with the series after all...

Though I continue to have many of the same complaints that have plagued me since book 1, I did find 'Dark Grace' to be more rewarding in many ways. In my opinion, Lewis' writing strengthened considerably from book 2 to book 3, and though I don't think Zoe (or any of the characters, to be frank) will ever factor in amongst my favorite fictional peeps, I definitely found myself hating most of them a whole lot less. I mean, Zoe was still rather idiotic (more often than not), and she did continue to come off as whiny and far too reliant on her male companions, but there was palpable growth. Finally. On the other hand, while Gus is also growing on me, I did find myself hating Boggs a whole lot more than in previous installments, but in this case I actually feel like that's what the writer wants... not just an accidental side-effect.

It sure felt like a lot more happened in this book than in the previous two; like less time was taken up in superfluous, overly-wordy description of prosaic details, thus freeing up said time to actually move the story forward in (what I felt was) a more fluid direction. Even the ridiculously unnecessary sex scenes eased up a bit. Halleluiah!! As to those sex scenes (of which I only recall two, I think, possibly three?) I continue to find them rather unsexy, ill-timed and redundant, but at least there's less of them.

I guess my biggest complaint about this book would have to do with Molly. It felt like Lewis was leading up to something important with this child--like a lot of our journey so far has orbited this one plot point. To

have that branch of the story cut off as quickly and drastically as it did felt, to me, like a bit of a swindle. On the flipside of that though, is the fact that the loss of Molly was the first time in the series that I actually felt some sort of emotional connection to Zoe, and that empathy is largely responsible for my more favourable view of this book.

Overall I found the story a lot more compelling in book 3, and for the first time since picking this series up, I'm actually rather excited to move on to the next book.

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### **Charlie ☆ WLTB Blog ☆ says**

Each one gets better and better.

These characters are really growing on me, some I really wanted to slap in this one though. So good onto the next book.

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### **Kylee says**

This series has been a really good series so far! I have read 3 books and I'm not stopping now. I love Zoes abilities and I think it's cute that Gus has abilities related to Zoe. Gus has grown on me more than Boggs did. When he slapped Zoe, that made me mad. Gus was there and really started to grow on me. I have to say I really like Zoe and Gus, they are my favorite. I really like the zombies in the book because they are not like the normal slow zombies.

Overall, a very good book and looking forward to the next one.

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### **Petra Garcia says**

\*Contains "BAD WORDS" and several grammatical errors. I tend to get excited while writing a review and forget to check what I wrote\*

This book WOULD have gotten its 5 stars if it werent for that goddamn cliffhanger.

I was scared the whole time...well nervous.

I fucking hated Boggs in this book and LOVED Gus even more.

I still cant believe the shit that went down in this book. Nate, Susan, Zoe, Gus, Abbey,Jane, Emily and Boggs cant get a damn break. This book seemed much more real because the author isnt as concerned killing off characters that you have emotionally invested into. What a fucking let down...right?!But...this is a ZOMBIE book and lives are not always guaranteed. Like I said before the author gets real original with these zombies which makes me even more paranoid. Runners and Roamers....WTF!!!! I dont think Daryl Dixxon might save us from these. Then...THAT MOTHERFUCKING ENDING!!!!!! This series is highly recommended.

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## **Dena says**

I am toally surprised the characters have lasted this long with their stupendous planning. I mean really it just lacks sense and quite frankly I do not expect anything more which is a shame because the story plot is awesome. I mean I cannot wait to find out what happens next but the characters are just not getting any better. I love the changes and how smooth it goes. I love how she keeps the high going throughout the story that you don't have any idea what will happen next. What I do not like? are the characters they are naive and stupid. I feel like they should be dead and start over.

Overall I love the story however the characters need work.

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## **Carys Wiggans says**

These books are just getting better and better

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## **Sarah-Jayne Briggs says**

(I received this book for free as part of Goodreads First Reads giveaways).

(This review may contain spoilers).

This book was less creepy than I expected, probably because it brought me right into the story. The narrator of this book, Zoe, was a character who was fairly interesting and one who didn't actually irritate me. Even though she did some things she really shouldn't have, I could still emphasise with her and still find her fairly likable.

I'm not very clear about what the green markings on some of the characters are meant to be. I originally thought that they might be signs of infection - like bites or scratches - but the zombie epidemic doesn't seem to follow the normal rules of a zombie virus outbreak. It seems someone doesn't need to even be bitten or scratched to return as one of the undead. (I'd like to know why some of them return as Runners and others as Roamers).

I liked the relationships between the characters. One thing I particularly liked was the sense of family between them, though those bonds weren't as strong towards the end of the book. I especially liked the way the guys called each other 'brother' - indicating that they might not be a family related by blood, but they're still family.

I was really saddened by what happened with Jane and Molly. I think I would have liked to know for sure if those dreams Zoe had were simply dreams, or if she truly was catching glimpses of her friends.

Apart from the people from the compound (and the zombies, of course), there weren't any characters I particularly disliked. Yes, several of the characters made mistakes - but that simply made them more human and well-rounded characters.



I did notice several errors in the book. In one of them, the name of the character was missing (the tagline read 'said exclaimed'), so it took me a few minutes to figure out who was speaking at that point.

I especially liked Bobby's character. I was a bit surprised that Gus was so much older than Zoe, but it wasn't something that bothered me. I did feel like he was the sort of person I'd like to meet if I ever got involved in a zombie epidemic. I also liked Jane and Abbey. And Molly was especially sweet during her brief appearance.

This is a fairly good book and one I'd recommend to people who like books like this. At some point, I would definitely be interested in reading the other books in the series.

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### **Joanna says**

Still like the series, even more annoyed with Zoe and her whining, center of everyone's world, I can't live without this guy, but I can't live without that guy either, and they should just accept I want them both attitude. The romance is getting ridiculous. It's a zombie apocalypse not high school for Christ's sake. I could do without the sexual stuff, I find it hard to believe anyone would be that sexually active at such odd times. I want more zombie - less "doing it".

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