



The Laughing Corpse

Laurell K. Hamilton

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The novels of *New York Times* bestselling author Laurell K. Hamilton take readers into the dangerous life of Anita Blake, animator and vampire hunter; a woman as good at raising the dead as she is at slaying the undead. Now, a creature from beyond the grave is tearing a swath of murder through St. Louis. And Anita will learn that there are some secrets better left buried and some people better off dead...

The Laughing Corpse Details

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From Reader Review The Laughing Corpse for online ebook

Evgeny says

Anita got an offer to raise an ancient dead body as a zombie. The corpse is so old the only sacrifice sufficient to the occasion is a human one. Anita refused and got plenty of troubles as a result. At the same time something undead kept killing people wholesale and Anita, being a part of police Spook Squad had to find culprit and lay it to final rest as well as get the creature's creator. During her investigation she managed to piss off a powerful voodoo priestess and got plenty of troubles as a result. At the same time the Master vampire of the city unsuccessfully tried to get a date with her. Failing his wish could result in (you guessed it) plenty of troubles.

This book is better than the first one. The stupid parts of the plot are gone - almost. Also gone are boring characters: I am looking at you, Edward. The plot was moving with decent speed never leaving me bored. There were some genuinely creepy moments as well as gruesome ones. The latter showed me I became immune to such: modern news took care of it. Name me any day and I will find more sickening stuff in real life than a description of a bloody toddler parts scattered around.

We - humans - suck and can be very sick.

One minor nitpick I would like to mention: for a self-proclaimed Vampire Executioner Anita did not do a whole lot of vampire executions this time (so you have no reason to worry, Buffy).

This might be a good thing as vampire suck - both literally and figuratively. Figuratively speaking I think they overstayed their welcome in popular culture: sparkling and non-sparkling kind.

By the way in case anybody doubt Anita Blake is an ancestor of Kate Daniels: one scene in this book has strong resemblance of that in Magic Binds. I am talking about the scene of Anita trying on a bridesmaid dress.

So I liked the book well enough to rate it with 4 stars. Your mileage may vary. To each his (her) own. Tastes differ; I am even willing to admit my taste in literature is non-existent. And so on.

Darby says

I have read all of the Anita Blake series and The Laughing Corpse is the second book in the series. Again it is really great entertainment. I enjoy all the characters and the plot. Anita comes into more powers by being Jean Claude's human servant so you get to see that and also her zombie-raising skills come into play. The second book is definitely one of the good ones.

Jennymort ? The Dark Lordette ? House of Slytheread says

I forgot how much I loved the beginning of this series. More action and blood and guts and -

JEAN-CLAUDE.

Jilly says

When I read the Kate Daniels series, I would see a lot of reviews that compared her to Anita Blake, and Kate would always come out on top. I could see some similarities, obviously, but I find Anita a little disappointing in how dumb she is. She really doesn't know how to shut the hell up so that someone would NOT want to kill her for a change.

"I'm going to kill you," he hissed.

"Take a number," I said.

She'll need to buy more number machines if she keeps up this pace of pissing people off...

I mean, seriously, this woman threatens and antagonizes everyone she meets. It just isn't smart. Can't she just simmer with rage and kill people in her head like the rest of us do?

now, that's a healthy attitude!

So, in this book, there are a boatload of people who want to kill Anita. She's trying to help the police with a murder investigation and her standard way of interviewing people goes along the lines of this:

Anita: "Did you kill people?"

Person: "no".

Anita: "Well, I think you are a terrible person and should die, so I will be killing you as soon as possible."

Person: "Not if I kill you first."

Anita: "Did I mention that you are ugly and that I had sex with your mother? Also, I'm going to kill you."

Person: "Alright this is getting personal, now I'm going to torture you and then kill you."

Anita: "I'd like to see you try, bitch!"

Person: "Lady, I'm just trying to take your order. Do you want fries with that or not?"

And, then she is shocked when people keep trying to kill her! In this book, an old Voodoo lady tells her straight out that she is going to send a zombie to Anita's house to attack her while she sleeps that night. That night, lo and behold, a zombie tries to kill her. Then, Anita acts all shocked about it. That seems a little dumb to me. I mean, the lady was pretty clear on the plan. It really shouldn't have been shocking at all. I think that Anita has so many people telling her they are going to kill her each day that she can't keep up with all of the

threats. She needs one of those day-planners to keep track. That's what they had back in the 90's right? When people still had to use pen & paper for stuff. Fucking barbaric!

Anyway, I have to say, despite it all, I am still entertained. I'm going to go on to the next book to see how many people try to kill Anita in that one. Also, I'm intrigued by her fashion sense. Don't worry, I will be discussing that in greater detail in my next review. There has been mention of a fanny-pack. That is just too good to devote only a sentence or two on. It deserves the star treatment in my next review.

Donna says

I like these books. They are fun and entertaining. I like the MC, Anita. There certainly are character traits that annoy me about her, but they aren't deal breakers. I can't ever take this type of urban fantasy seriously. But with that said, the author has a way with words in her descriptive strokes. Sometimes it has me rolling my eyes, but mostly she does a great job of taking descriptions and adding layers to them. That is what I like the most. This is the 3rd book I've read by her and I have thought this same thing about each of them.

So far, the entertainment value of these are fairly high, but I have to say the same thing about the negative reviews. They are a riot to read. I laugh because I actually agree with their grievances, but apparently it hasn't sucked the joy out of these books....at least not yet anyway.

Lena says

"I could teach you so much, Anita, so very much."

- Señora Salvador

Another bad ass Anita Blake story. A mad flesh eating zombie is ravaging perfectly good suburbanites during the summer heatwave.

Anita must work with the police to find out who is driving the zombie and for what possible motive.

Some of my casting:

The ending was EPIC.

"I am a necromancer. The dead are my specialty."

- Anita Blake

Laura says

Ok this series just turned bloody brilliant I mean.....

I didn't want it to finish need MORE!!!!

The audio I been listening to is fantastic too..... I get that old 80's horror music whenever something scary is about to happen or someone is giving chase, it really gave me the creeps.... I mean the Zombies in this were freakin scary if Anita wasn't controlling them! sometimes even when she did.

This story opens even more possibilities and doors I could ever imagine... wow on this Authors imagination....

Also it made me really feel like I knew and respected side characters like Dolfe, Jean Claude swoon... though he Does scare me a bit tbh... when Anita constantly mentions his stillness comparing it to a snake (makes me think of them watching you before they strike.....) Hamilton paints such a vivid picture about every character (sometimes bone chilling)

I am officially scared but its the first book in a long time to do that..... so I'm gonna read some fluff before starting book 3... but cant wait.....

Angela James says

Doing a re-read after years away from the series, and after quitting the series about 10 books in. Interested to see if I want to keep going this time, now that I know that things fall apart a little romance-wise later on, rather than going in with hopes of happy endings!

HFK says

Buddy read with Jessica. Our Anita Blake marathon continues with the second installment in the series.

One of the key things while reading this series is to remind myself of it being the product of its time, it makes it easier to forgive the overused, familiar elements and go with the flow. A lot has happened since the first publication, but going back to the past also shows how little anything has really changed within the genre. The development is astonishingly minimal in many ways.

I liked *The Laughing Corpse* much better than the first installment; *Guilty Pleasures*. It comes from having more supernatural elements, more gory details, more darkness, more world building with more action packed binding. It was an easy, fast read albeit not consistent with its flow and pace, which is most likely due to writing that still continues to be shockingly unedited, and just not very good with its repetitiousness.

I am still unsure of what to make out of Anita Blake as a character. She has few traits that are appealing to me, but mostly she comes across judgemental and unlikable character. This, however, continues to be a nonissue. But what I would like to know is what is up with all this repetitive gun touching, gun thinking, constant problems with sweat that seem to be a medical condition to each character, and not least to Anita

herself. This makes me suspect the coming sexy feast will be awkwardly written sweaty rain.

Words says

There was something about Hamilton's first, then second book that irritated the hell out of me, but I couldn't quite figure it out. Then one day I saw a picture of her on the book and I understood what it was. It annoys me when authors make themselves the hero/ine of their books, and then just change the name and the environment to make it fantasy fiction. But even more so when you must keep reading about how powerful, and how unconsciously sexy, and how tough that character is (*why* is she trying to prove how gutsy she is to other male officers..by playing around with a dead baby's body parts?). What flaws she does have are laughable - like I care that she *almost* gave in to Jean the vampire's advances despite her no-sex-til-marriage vow.

Maybe subsequent books get better.

Krissy says

I shouldn't have waited so long to read this book after finishing book 1. I had a difficult time remembering all the secondary characters. But luckily despite that I still enjoyed this book. What I did *not* enjoy was all the sound effects in the audiobook. They were loud and annoying and distracted from the narration. I could barely hear the narrator! The only thing the sound effects managed to do was give me a headache. If the narrator is good enough they can build suspense with just a change in their voice. No sound effects needed.

Tilly Slaton says

This book took my by surprise!

I have read it twice now, and there are parts that are still heart-wrenching.

In the second book of the Anita Blake series, *The Laughing Corpse* rips you from reality and tosses you unexpectedly into a world of voodoo, betrayal and forced submission.

Following the first book, this begins centered around Anita Blake and her job as an animator as well as the consulting work she does for the paranormal police division that investigates homicides that are obviously performed by something other than human.

The murder scenes are quite gruesome. I found myself continuing to hold my breath while my heart pounded in my chest. Almost saying to myself .. "Oh nono please .." And reading as quickly as possible to find out if what I was dreading would be true.

Anita is confronted by an old voo doo priestess that scares the living hell out of anyone nearby, and even those whom feel they are unreachable. Safe. Unfortunately, sleeping in bed, quietly and feeling safe, relaxed .. the nightmares can still find you. Death can still come crawling through your windows.

The twists of betrayal, and sudden insights of a friend that leaves Anita unsure if the friendship will continue. Other friends are forced into life or death decisions, forced to consider crossing their moral lines of what is and what is not acceptable.

The end of the book was somewhat rushed, and as climatic as it was .. I was left wanting. Cliff hangers are a wonderful thing I suppose, but I wanted more. I wanted so much more than what the ending offered me.

Kudos to the author, I'm 1/4 into the next book

I recommend this read to anyone interested in bloody and gruesome books that are centered around the paranormal and the slight progression of possible romantic relationships.

Phire says

What a rush!!!

I'm officially part of the Anita Blake fan club. I would love to see this on TV (it would be terribly gory, even worse than The Walking Dead, I'd have to skip those parts, I have a weak stomach).

Anita Blake is once again in trouble, this time she has to deal with some kind of meat-eating zombie, she doesn't really know what it is, and she fears it may be the worst thing she will ever have to catch. This monster ate a family of three members, leaving only blood splattered everywhere and a few half-eaten remains (yum!).

She also gets another job proposal, this time from a very dangerous man called Harold Gaynor, who offers her a million dollars to raise a 300-year-old corpse. However, to raise a dead body this old she must sacrifice a "white goat", aka a human being. Evidently she refuses to do so, as it breaks all moral codes she has. Gaynor doesn't take her refusal well. (let's keep it that way)

The third person who threatens Anita's life is the voodoo priestess Senora Dominga Salvador, a very dangerous woman who Anita suspects has had a hand in raising the zombie who's been murdering families. Dominga Salvador wishes to train her, to make Anita reach her true potential. Again, Anita refuses to have anything to do with her, especially after she sees what Dominga has hidden in her basement.

Also, there is still the remaining problem with vampire Master hottie, Jean-Claude who wants Anita to become his human slave.

Trust me guys, there a lot of wtf/mind-blowing moments...

Again, I really enjoyed myself, LKH is a master at keeping me thoroughly addicted and at the same time completely grossed out. This series is definitely not your cup of tea if you don't like to read stuff about corpses getting eaten or ripped apart, as these kind of things tend to happen a lot.

All I can say is that I will keep reading, I can't stop now, I literally can't stop flipping the pages!

Crystal Starr Light says

Anita Blake receives an offer to raise a 280 year old Zombie. But such a raising would require a human sacrifice, and Anita draws the line there. Dolph then summons her to the grisly scene of a crime--the remains of a family. Anita must now find the killer...before anyone else dies.

Even though I didn't care for either the novel or the graphic novel of Guilty Pleasures, I decided to give this series another chance. I am glad I did, because this book was a lot more enjoyable than the previous book was.

Anita Blake comes off far more likeable this time around. Sure, the chip on her shoulder threatens to devour her small frame, she could definitely use some anger management, and she has some views that seem a bit harsh (such as her angry tirade when a man wants to let his wife know what he will be doing late at night and how he is basically being pansy-whipped), but I at least cared about what happened to her. I also started to get some understanding of her background, of her beliefs, and of her struggles between what she does and how she justifies it to herself.

The character list is much shorter this time around too, which helped me get more acquainted with some background characters. I continue to adore Ronnie, and I even have a new favorite character: Manny. That guy was totally awesome. Burt, Anita's boss, was bland, Gainer was pretty meh, Dominga was interesting (but I didn't like what happened to her), and Wheelchair Wanda wasn't too bad. Jean-Claude definitely has the sex appeal down pat, though I can't really say there was anything that really jumped out at me about him. He feels a lot like arm candy for Anita--he likes her because she hates him and that's where the Unresolved Sexual Tension comes from. Of course, there have been FAR WORSE male romantic interests out there, who have absolutely NO chemistry with the leading lady, so I don't want to give the impression that I despise him. Just that I can't see his purpose very clearly.

One thing I didn't like about the characters was the racial stereotyping and the sexism. The male police officers sexually harass Anita--and no one does anything. Not acceptable. A Latina woman bemoans how Anita makes enough money to take care of herself and thus not make her want to find a man. All bodyguards are beefy and somewhat brainless; blondes tend to be stupid and airheads (unless they are Ronnie). After awhile, I wanted to start apologizing for their portrayal.

The story this time around was told in a much cleaner, more traditional format that made it much easier for me to follow. Anita gets client, refuses offer. Police call her to scene, she starts to investigate. Makes sense. However, Anita still did very little investigating on the murder case. She did investigate why Gainer was after her, but that plotline almost dominated. In fact, Anita spent so much time on the Gainer plot that a total of THREE families were brutally murdered. Of course, her own life is important, but Anita spent WAY more time about something she WASN'T getting paid for. Seemed weird. She also spends WAY too much time yakking it up with Jean-Claude, getting him to explain the whole human servant thing and then having him escort her around the Tenderloin (which I couldn't help but snicker and yell, "STEAK!" at). (view spoiler)

The writing is serviceable, but certainly nothing to write home about. LKH has this tendency to latch onto certain words and repeat them over...and over...and over. Here are a few excerpts:

"She had meant to **kill** me...Why **kill** me? I couldn't stop her legally; she knew that. So why

make such a damned serious attempt to **kill** me? Dominga had given her word she hadn't raised the **killer** zombie...she had something to do with the **killer** zombie...she'd raised the beast or why **kill** me the night after I talked to her?...She wouldn't just raise a **killer** zombie and let it loose."

"He **stood** in front of me, hands at his sides. He **stood** very still. Snakes or birds can **stand** utterly still, but even a snake has a sense of aliveness...Jean-Claude **stood** there with no sense of anything."

"I lifted the **hand** from the carpet...I wouldn't really have thrown the **hand**. I wouldn't. I cradled the tiny **hand** in my **hands**. It felt heavy, as if the fingers should curl around my **hand**...I dropped the **hand** on the carpet."

"I decided to take the **beating**...I was going to get **beat** up, not pleasant, but I had made my mind up to take the **beating**...if my choices were A) getting **beat** up or B) performing human sacrifice, I'd take the **beating**."

And then we have the gore. I didn't mention it last book because it wasn't that noteworthy, but this time around, **WOWEE**, there is a lot of blood and guts. We get description of at least **THREE** grisly death scenes and at least one has a child brutally mauled. We have Anita fighting, and she fights dirty at times. Do not read while eating or if you are mild of stomach.

This is definitely an improvement over "Guilty Pleasures", which I thought was rambling and centered more on Anita avoiding death than investigating anything. Sure, this has loads of problems, but they are a quick read/listen and it wasn't too bad. I might check out a few more and see where to go from there.

Meredith Holley says

This was **TERRIBLE**. Terrible!!! Why are you here book??? Why do you exist?? Why do you suck **SO MUCH**??? Ugh!! I was listening to this while walking to work in the morning, and I'm pretty sure I was waking up whole neighborhoods with my loud, "UGGGGGHHHHHHH"s because I could not refrain from reacting to what a bitch this book is. This book is such a little bitch. It is not **SO** bad to start out with, just your normal Anita Blake bitchiness, like, "girls shouldn't wear pink; girls shouldn't shop; girls shouldn't be feminine; girls shouldn't like boys." And then the boys like her sooooo much because she is such an asshole. So, don't worry, slatherings of male approval if you don't wear pink.

OH MY GOD. UGGGGGGHHHHH.

And **THEN**, after you trudge through Anita's complete lack of personality and **LAME** sense of humor, why not throw on some racism, homophobia, and a huge helping of ableism? **WHY THE FUCK NOT??** UGGGHHH. I want to punch this book in its smug little curly-haired kisser. It makes me figuratively puke.

According to people who have read beyond this book, at some point, Anita starts having sex with random monsters, which . . . whatever. I don't even care about that because she is so obnoxiously prudish in these first two books. And, the thing is, if you don't want to have sex with a vampire, more power to ya girl. But **THEN** the simpering self-congratulation about it. It makes me crazy. You suck so much, Anita Blake. You

are everything wrong about anything to do with gender.

I figure there are numerous ways women can react to sexism when they realize it is there, so I've made a little chart to illustrate my thoughts on the matter:

[image error]

As you can see, in my mind, all choices except doing whatever the fuck you want lead to a woman's life being basically sacrificed to sexism. And this probably works the same with masculinity, too, obv's. I feel like I've forgotten another manifestation of women accepting sexism that looks almost like feminism, but I can't think what it is. And Anita Blake, all through this stupid book, is calling herself a feminist. You know she's a feminist because all the boys think she a spunky little hottie. Puke. This fake bullshit is such an easy justification for people saying they aren't feminists. But, how can you say anything is feminist that hates women and only seeks male approval? Puke.

On the one hand, I am so grateful to the women who came before me and forced people to recognize their skills and abilities so that hopefully in the future this stupid conversation will never even happen. So grateful. On the other hand, I think it is disgusting that the lives of capable women are sacrifices to either some kind of awkward attempt to be men or to a fight for the mere survival of girls because they are girls. I would consider someone like Lisbeth Salander an example of a woman who is painful to read about because her life is totally sacrifice to the mere survival of women. I don't think that's bad on Lisbeth's part, just depressing. I would consider Anita Blake a grotesque caricature of a woman trying to prove she is a man. Ugh. So uncomfortable to watch and annoying to hear about. Dude, just let girls wear pink if they want to wear pink. Pink is just a color, so dislike it if you want; but, also, pink is our childhood. And girlhood is not bad, so to the extent pink symbolizes women at our most innocently feminine, it pains me to hear women criticize it with the weight of rejecting their own innocent femininity. Again, like or dislike pink. Whatever you want. But, there is nothing noble or professional about hating the decorations of girlhood.

Aside from that, oh my god, the ableism in this book is absolutely disgusting. There is this whole section about a prostitute in a wheelchair, and Anita is like, "OH MY! KINKY! That is disgusting that anyone would want to have sex with a woman in a wheelchair!" No, you are disgusting, Anita Blake.

This is totally just a personal pet peeve, but it also really, really annoyed me the way Hamilton imagined being hardened to crime. Anita is hardened to crime here, so that means that she tosses around body parts at a crime scene and dares police officers not to puke in a room where the carpet is soaked in blood.

(Sidebar: it only really bothers her when she sees the dead bodies of children. Which, okay, I agree that it is, for whatever reason, exponentially more disturbing to hear about violence to children than adults. In a room soaked in blood, however, it strikes me as weird that she would not be bothered at all by a police officer jiggling a boob attached to a bloody rib cage, but a child's hand would make her swoon.)

I have been privy to some pretty hilarious I-work-in-the-criminal-justice-system jokes lately, and, here, Hamilton did not even come close to what those sound like. Because they are only funny if they are respectful, if they have some kind of hope that some good will come of all of the criminal justice bullshit. This was so disrespectful. Not even close to funny. This link is totally NSFW, but it is How You Do criminal justice system investigation comedy. Hamilton's jokes are stupid, and her protagonist is stupider, and her snotty attitude about everyone who isn't a 5'3", 107 lb., curly-haired sprite is stupidest. Gross. UGGGHHHH. I hate you, book.

The audio reader was still good, though. I don't know how she managed reading this whole series. Voice of steel. Ugh, puke again on behalf of the poor reader.
