



Cruise of the Undead (Zombies in Paradise #1)

Laura A. Hansen

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Tags: Young adult / horror / paranormal / zombies

Zombies on a cruise ship. What would you do?

Fifteen-year-old Charlie is P.O.'ed that his parents have wasted a perfectly good Christmas break by forcing him on a cruise with a bunch of oldies. But the old people are a piece of cake compared to the dead people. Some late night sneaking around by Charlie and his brother Jack convince them that the unimaginable is really happening: the recently dead are walking the ship. After a gruesome attack at the Death by Chocolate Buffet, a seriously scary comedy of clashing personalities occurs when intense Charlie and his hip hop, extroverted younger brother Jack forge an alliance to defeat the zombie menace. The boys and their friends take on the zombie crew in a gripping struggle to save themselves, their families and the other passengers from an ugly undeath.

With horror, humor, and a dash of romance, this fast-paced adventure races through the zombie-infested South Pacific.

SAMPLE REVIEWS

"This was a great page turner. Great zombie story that kept me up reading late. It was fun from beginning to end. Great story, and really fun characters. Enjoyed it thoroughly." ? J. Severson

"I just finished [Cruise of the Undead] and I couldn't put it down. I must say it was amazing." ? Nick H.

"Amazing, a perfect mix of romance and zombies." ? Alex W.

"Loved this book! Once I got through the first day of the cruise I couldn't put it down. Great characters . . . reminded me of kids I know who would have reacted the same way." ? Fran

"I laughed, I cried, I wet my pants." ? David R.

"This is the coolest zombie read out there. Nonstop action and a great plot, plus some really funny scenes. I couldn't put it down until the last page. Can't wait for the next one." ? Eric

ABOUT THE SERIES

Cruise of the Undead is the first book in the new *Zombies in Paradise* series. Each book in the series takes the reader to a new and fabulous setting, where the reader confronts an increasingly deadly paranormal menace. The next book in the *Zombies in Paradise* series will be released in the spring of 2013. The books are available at [Amazon.com](#) and [CruiseoftheUndead.com](#) in both paperback and kindle versions.

Cruise of the Undead (Zombies in Paradise #1) Details

Date : Published July 2012 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

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Author : Laura A. Hansen

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Genre : Horror, Zombies

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From Reader Review Cruise of the Undead (Zombies in Paradise #1) for online ebook

John Clark says

This is a story that grabs you quickly and drags you in, keeping you enthralled all the way through. Getting stuck on a cruise ship over Christmas break when you're a fifteen year old guy is definitely not at the top of Charlie's list. He's observant and quickly put off by the gluttony he sees in many of the older passengers at mealtime. Good thing he's made friends with Savannah, who's pretty, smart and his age. Too bad the creepy magician whose show Charlie attends gets bit by the huge rat he pulls from his hat. Really bad is said magician dying, but coming back to life as a zombie and biting numerous crew members before anyone but Charlie realizes what's happening. At that point, things get really scary. Adults don't believe the kids who have reluctantly rallied around Charlie once they've seen zombies in action, even threatening them with being grounded, or locked in their staterooms.

What ensues has smart, but scared kids using their wits and everything they can lay their hands on, taking on a shipful of zombies and clueless adults. How that plays out makes for a smooth, smart and fun read.

Shawn Stanley says

Fun read

This is probably perfect for kids to read as it echoes how they feel and gives them important roles, plus it's fun to see a zombie cruise from their point of view, I'd definitely read another!

Justine says

Last year I had entered a giveaway, and won a signed copy of Cruise of the Undead, unfortunately I hadn't had time to read it until now. Firstly, I just want to say " Hello, who wouldn't like this book? It has zombies duh!!!" Now these aren't The Walking Dead zombies by any means, this story is intended for a younger audience. They were still flesh eating zombies, just not as intense. I loved how this book had such a fresh take on the zombie Apocalypse. Have you ever read a book about zombies on a cruise ship? Me neither until now! I found it believe able at first how the parents of the main characters didn't believe them about the zombies and said they played too many video games, then when their parents saw for themselves what was happening they sang a different tune. But the parents fell short as heros for me, because they didn't really have any idea what to do which lead the kids to essentially because the "adults".

I feel like Laura A. Hansen hit the nail on the head with these characters. Charlie was way too cool to be on a cruise with his parents and younger brother, I mean he is 15. Jack, his younger brother was still young enough to play with other kids on the ship, leading Charlie to be even moodier because he had no one to hang out with. That was until he spotted Savannah, the only other teenager. Did I mention she was a girl. Probably a hot little thing. They are grouped together and became quite the little zombie hunting team saving the adults from certain death.

I can't wait to read the second book in the series and see where they end up next. I hope that the same characters are in the next one. I would recommend this book for younger Ya readers, 15 and under, due to some of the simplicity of the story.

Thanks Laura A Hansen for the great read and a trophy book for the collection!!

Easily Mused says

I jumped on *Cruise of the Undead* as soon as it came in for review for two reasons. The first being zombies—they just happen to be one of my favorite things. The other reason is because it was listed as Young Adult (YA). Not only am I a voracious reader of YA fiction, but also because I am a bacon-fueled zombie, consuming books by the dozens. I was a little skeptical when I read the cover letter Laura A. Hansen sent in with her submission. She mentioned that this book was “family friendly”. I tried then to wrap my head around that concept, but didn’t waste too much time—I had to read it.

Cruise of the Undead started out so strong and almost perfect for me. The very first sentence set the stage for what I felt was going to be an awesome ride—voiced by a typical, angsty teen tortured by the family vacation. The first chapter set the book up, and for a moment I thought that this “family friendly” book just might be able to cross over into zombie land. It didn’t quite live up to my expectations.

What I loved: I love the very idea of this book. I can’t think of what would be scarier than floating in the Pacific—completely surrounded by water—in a vessel filled with zombies. There’s so much potential there—nightmare fuel for a lifetime.

Hansen didn’t waste time getting into the thick of it either—another thing I loved. It was a quick, easy read that was somewhat palate clearing since I just came off of a 600 page novel. It was short without being too short and a nice change of pace for me.

What I didn’t love: There were several parts of this book that just didn’t work for me when I viewed it as YA, so I also tried to look at it from a Middle Grade point of view. I’m a reader of both genres, and I wanted to keep an open mind. I do feel like a younger audience would more likely embrace this book—the main character, Charlie, is fifteen, but the other children at the heart of the story are twelve and younger. YA tends to be more complex with dynamic characters and character growth, *Cruise of the Undead* seemed very light with simple plot lines and dialogue that a younger audience would appreciate.

By Hansen making the book “family friendly”, she left out an important thing—emotion. The children in this book, not only go on multiple zombie-killing sprees, but they don’t bat an eye—they make light conversation or joke. The only person who shows a smidge of emotion is a girl—Charlie’s love interest, Savannah. No one seems scared, and the parents are OK with letting their kids handle the situation—zombie killing. This just isn’t believable, and a bit disturbing—not in a good way. To me, emotionless killing children are way more disturbing than smashing in a thousand zombie heads, spelling your name out in zombie entrails, or even slathering yourself head-to-toe in zombie juice to mingle among other zombies.

Overall: I really wanted to love *Cruise of the Undead*, but I just couldn’t. I’m not saying I wouldn’t read another zombie book by Laura Hansen, because this one had some brilliant moments, and like I said, there is a lot of potential here. I just hope this review doesn’t discourage her from requesting another review for the next book in this series.

(book originally reviewed at EasilyMused.com)

Bettyb says

I read this because the author lives in my area and donated a copy to the library. It isn't the best book I've ever read nor the best writing, but it is fun and well-plotted. I love the idea of a zombie outbreak on a cruise ship. The author does, in my opinion, show great potential and will improve as she continues to write. Hansen is writing a sequel and I will certainly read it to see what happens next.

Will Knight says

Originally posted at Bibliophilia, Please.

I must say I enjoyed this book. I stopped being a fan of YA when the fourth book of the Percy Jackson series grabbed the part of me that liked YA and broke its kneecaps, slapped it around, killed its puppy and gave it a wedgy. You may think I'm overreacting, and maybe I am, but that's the way it felt. It made me want to punch Percy in the throat. Which is kinda funny considering Kayla was advocating in Team Percy over at good reads. Nice to have met you!

Oh, wait. Still alive? No sniper shot to the back of the head? Kayla must be busy. *No Will, I'm here, and I'm watching you.* So, on to the review of Cruise of the Undead!

What's worse than zombies? Zombies in a closed environment. What's worse than that? To be stuck with your parents and little brother on a cruise while dealing with a zombie outbreak. I feared this book would bring back all the anti-YA feelings I had stored up inside. Stored under my fear of clowns. IT really messed me up. Freaky, big-shoed bastards. *shiver*

But it didn't. I actually enjoyed the book. It moved fast, the teens weren't AS teennoying as I feared they would be, and I liked the story too. I found myself liking the characters, except some of the adults. Douches. 'Specially you in Deck 8. Ass!

I'm used to reading zombies in vast pieces of land, armies involved, or maybe even superheroes. This time it was kids, from 12 to 16 year olds, and inside a cruise ship. It was a refreshing change of pace. No world shattering consequences, no aliens, no doomsday prophecy, no magical weapon to find. Just kids trying to survive both zombies and hormones.

I think I would have found some of the actions of Charlie, the main character, really annoying if I hadn't had some uncomfortable flashbacks of my own teenage years of being a douche. But other than that, I had a good time reading the book. I especially liked Jack, Charlie's little brother. He was funny. Charlie was pretty good too, when he wasn't being a teenager.

I must say though. There were two reasons why I decided to give YA another chance. First, I needed a break from all the high fantasy and sci-fi. I love them, but every now and then you need to step out and have a breath of fresh air. Second, this was the first review request that was actually addressed to me, by name, which made me a happy reviewer. Bonus reason, zombies. Cause... ZOMBIES!

All in all, a good palate cleanser and an enjoyable YA adventure. Opened me up to maybe trying another YA in the future. Hopefully as fun a read as this one. And even more hopefully, there's another Zombies in

Paradise in the works. I wonder where the story will go next. A resort maybe? In Mexico? *Or Chile?* Uuhhh, in a plane!

I have had it with these monstertrucking zombies on this monstertrucking plane! (replace monstertrucking with your preferred rhyming curse word.)

Stephanie says

Great book--easy read!

Mandy says

I received *Cruise of the Undead* from the author Laura A. Hansen in return for a honest review. Charlie with his little brother Jack are spending their Christmas break on a cruise ship with their parents. Charlie isn't thrilled with the idea, and when his little brother befriends some younger boys he's even less thrilled but there is one bright light Savannah the older sister to one of the boys. Charlie heads down below looking for a dark place to hid and listen to music on his Iphone. He ducks into the theater to catch a magic act from Harry; however the act is giant disaster when Harry is attacked by the rat he pulls out of the hat.

Charlie decides to check what happened to Harry when he hears about him dying from the rat attack but then finds the shambling shell of Harry. Charlie and Jack attend a tea on this ship with his mother while stuffing themselves with deserts when suddenly Harry shows up and begins to attack the guest. The tea is a panic as everyone flees to their rooms. It's when they get to their rooms that Charlie decides he needs to find out what's really going on. Charlie and Jack began to prepare for what they both know is coming a zombie Apocalypse aboard the ship they decide the best choice is to get off while they still can.

The pair team up with Savannah Nolan and Truman loading their rooms with weapons, food and supplies they will need while they attempt to rid the ship of the zombies. Charlie's parents don't believe him they think he's gone off the crazy end ranting about zombies so he does what everyone else in his position does he locks them up safe and sets out to save the crew. They ship stops next to their next port but no boats are lowered and the group decides to go ashore on their own to call for help but there freedom from the zombies is short lived when they find them coming from the boat after them. They do however get a call out but none of them are sure if help will come in time and they set off for the ship to save rest of the boat, plus their chances are better and too many zombies on the island.

I love a good zombie story and *Cruise of the Undead* delivers just that. It's a fast paced adventure story that you can easily get lost in till you reach the end. I've always had a fear of zombies especially with the news lately but I can't seem to get enough of them. I jumped at the chance to read a story about zombies on a cruise ship however my hubby may not be thrilled I'm not dying to take a cruise anymore. I love the characters Charlie is a great character add in his brother Jacks sense of humor and you have a great mix to keep the story flowing. The story is written with enough comic to it that you can't help laughing thought the story it's a great mix of horror and humor making for an entertaining read. I just really loved the story the author takes the zombie concept and puts her own unique twist on the story creating a book I had a hard time putting down. I can't wait to get my hands on the next on in the series, I'm curious to see where our next adventure will be.

Regan says

I really enjoyed this book.... main reason.. zombies! You can never go wrong with zombies. The author did a great job with character building, story line and plot. As soon as I started this book, I found myself finishing it quickly. I think it is a great book for young adults, especially with the uprising in zombie lore and fantasy. The author has found her niche'.

The author does a great job with editing, grammar and spelling. It is strung together rather well. One of the better zombie genre books out there.
