



Haunted

Kay Hooper

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How do you make peace with the dead if the dead aren't ready to forgive? In *New York Times* bestselling author Kay Hooper's new novel, the answer lies in the twisting shadows of a small town, and its secrets yet unearthed...

When Deacon James's younger sister Melanie calls him, terrified, he goes to her aid in the small Georgia town of Sociable. What he finds is a scared young woman in the grip of what she insists is a paranormal nightmare—and murder. Two local men have been killed under mysterious circumstances. And Melanie is the prime suspect.

Trinity Nichols left a high-stress job for quiet, small-town life. But news of the murders has left her—and the town—on edge, especially when there is nothing remotely ordinary about how the men died. And her investigation is yielding more than she bargained for, including a group of strangers who have descended on Sociable, some with abilities Trinity finds hard to believe, and agendas she refuses to trust. For some reason, they know a lot more than they should about what's happening in town. And what's happening is growing stranger by the minute.

Now Trinity, Deacon, and this odd band of FBI agents must work together to solve a series of disturbances so incredible that Trinity, and the town of Sociable, will be changed forever. She just isn't certain who—or what—will be left standing when it's all over.

Haunted Details

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From Reader Review Haunted for online ebook

V says

Again the narrator made a huge impact in my rating, she is amazing!!

Ballerina60 says

SO disappointed! at the beginning, the sheriff encounters "evil" which she seems to recognize, but can't remember when....never addressed. a side note about a gay deputy.....unnecessary and has nothing to do with the plot. they never "figure out" the parsonage or the church. braden the wonder dog is never adequately explained---and there's no emotional connection between the sheriff and the dog. for me, the excessive grisliness was gratuitous. they never figured out why only one person died with absolutely no suffering. how did the last person get kidnapped with absolutely nobody seeing anything? not explained. lots of young attractive people not noticing each other. bummer!

Chloe says

Even though I love most of Noah Bishop series and Hollis DeMarco pair are my favorite but I found this book predictable and a bit boring .

In the city Sociable , Georgia there are people being murdered in the Group. The Group is made of high school friends that have returned to their hometown .The sheriff Trinity quickly realizes she is out of depth and calls FBI for help . Hollis Templeton and Reese DeMarco along with Deacon come to help with the investigation and soon find out that the killer has special psychic abilities and might be the toughest enemy Hollis has ever faced .

I loved reading about Hollis and DeMarco but the favorite character in the book was the dog Branden with special abilities . Overall an ok book and would rate it 3 stars

Islansya says

An OK storyline, but I'm sick to death of Hollis. I found myself half-hoping this book might actually finish her off, as I'd previously hoped that wrapping up her romantic storyline in a previous book would see the end of her.

That said, there were a few too many people in The Group, some of whom never even seemed to show up beyond just their names being dropped. There were also some loose ends that I would've loved to see explained, rather than more about how Hollis is developing as a psychic.

PLEASE CAN WE SEE AN END TO HER ALREADY?

Nirmala Subraj says

Predictable

Same story written for about the 5th time. Best character is the dog. No character development no chemistry between characters.

Julija says

Actual summary of Haunted: Hollis Templeton is everything. And she deserves to be happy.

Honestly, I don't have anything else to say. Because I've been waiting for this book, this Hollis moment for what feels like an eternity. Hollis is a character who appeared very early in the series and what a traumatic appearance that was. But since then, she steadily invaded pretty much every book in the series, not stealing the spotlight, but certainly developing shiny new toys in the background. While not facing any of her demons. No wonder every SCU member was watching her like a hawk, waiting for the inevitable breaking point.

Haunted is that breaking point. And it is as brutal as her starting point. That final confrontation with an old and powerful and familiar enemy... **HOLLIS TEMPLETON IS EVERYTHING, OKAY**. And she will be fine. One day, she will be fine. And happy.

But, of course, Haunted isn't just about Hollis. (Or even Hollis and Reese. Reese, who truly shines in this book. Or any book. What a man. **WHAT A MAN**.) Sheriff Trinity may talk too much, but I think she kept up the small town charm and atmosphere almost all on her own. It's adorable. Also admirable. Plus, **DOG APPRECIATION**. Much love. (Also, **ANYONE** who manages to say #bo to Bishop deserves to be applauded. So, I applaud.)

Deacon and Melanie, on the other hand... While both are pleasant and likeable, was there any point to them? Like, seriously? I have nothing against either of them but they just... Felt so unnecessary. I honestly don't understand why they are in this book. (Bishop, who appears in like two scenes, provides more to the plot than these two together. But then, I'm biased.)

So, yes, Hollis Templeton is everything. And for the entirety of this book, I was thanking the universe for Reese DeMarco. (Then came the Author's Note. And I cried.)

Barbara ★ says

Another excellent addition to this series. Though a tad bit creepy and rather disgusting.

I liked revisiting Hollis and DeMarco. It was strange that there wasn't a romantic pairing in this book when there usually is.

Anita says

[And Hollis gets her clo

Teresa says

Haunted is book 15 in a long line of SCU novels. The SCU team is a Special Crime Unit that happens to have Special Abilities and deals with extraordinary cases. This Novel finds three of the SCU team helping Sheriff Trinity Nichols in Sociable, Georgia, hunt for a serial killer. In a strange twist the murderer is leaving behind a calling card eerily reminiscent of a previous SCU case. Special Agent Hollis Templeton: Profiler & Medium, Special Agent Reese DeMarco: Telepath, and Special Agent Deacon James: Empath are helping Sheriff Nichols find the killer before he performs gruesome acts on new targets. Hollis is a vital member of the task force by not only being a survivor of the killer but also by being a Medium/Healer as a result of the attack. Haunted successfully captures elements of multiple book genres: Thriller, Paranormal, Mystery, and Suspense. My only regret is first reading a novel of this series in book 15 and not book 1.

Book Teaser:

“Well, I doubt he got drunk or high and managed to break his neck without leaving even a bruise. And if he had, there still would have been signs of some kind of disturbance, surely. A chair knocked over. A wrinkle in the rug at the foot of his bed. Something.”

“Granted. Unless a drug was used to knock him out so he could be more easily dispatched.” DeMarco added, “All signs of which the killer took with him after making sure the room was left nice and neat and then using his mad skills to throw a security deadbolt from outside the apartment door without leaving so much as a scratch on the metal.”

“It’s a puzzle,” Hollis agreed.

FTC Disclaimer:

"I received this book for free from “First to Read” for this review."

Dolly says

I have read this complete series for what seems like forever. Still they more than keep me on my toes and entertain and sometimes scare the crap out of me.

What I liked: There are always so very many twists in this series and Ms Hooper is a master of the macabre. Haunted is no exception. It has one of my favorites in the whole Bishop SCU Series, Hollis. She's had such an unbelievable journey from her very first appearance. The things Ms Hooper has put Hollis through are almost indescribable. Yet, Hollis perseveres and grows and learns. At this point, I don't think anyone in the

Unit knows what Hollis might become. Her powers keep growing and changing. Well, except for one that she desperately needs. To compensate, her partner uses his shields to protect and ground Hollis. A psychic with no shields is extremely vulnerable.

This case is no exception to the darkness and mystery that Bishop's teams usually face. The murders are a puzzle though. One set of murders are occurring in the mountains and another in the small Appalachian town of Sociable, Georgia. The sheriff of Sociable is one smart cookie. Born and raised there but she is more than capable with her law enforcement training in Atlanta and even some courses through the FBI. When a close friend and fellow member of The Group (former classmates and longtime residents of Sociable), is discovered dead in his locked apartment by Sheriff Trinity Nichols, she wastes no time in enlisting help from the FBI SCU. While Hollis is one of the female leads, Trinity is the other. Where Hollis is a somewhat tragic figure, Trinity is just the opposite. She's very calm, accepting and just has an air of confidence. She handles things most people would be wringing their hands over. I not only enjoyed her character but her loyal very smart companion, Braden. He's an exceptional dog in more ways than one.

What I didn't like: While I do more than enjoy this series, there is a long span between books. They are usually written as trilogies and it can be about a year or so between books; this makes picking up the books and just reading very difficult. I usually try and go back and re-read my reviews to catch up on the storyline. The books are filled with details that mean something and picking up a year later can certainly strain your recall.

Recommended for readers who have followed the series from the beginning. In other words, start with the first book!

Robin (Bridge Four) says

This is The Profiler + Medium + Criminal Intent or CSI. It is a murder mystery involving a lot of different paranormal aspects with a team of FBI agents who each have a psychic ability or two and are used to looking for monsters that are outside the normal realm of evil.

When I received this book from First to Read I really didn't know that it is book 15 of a series however I believe that it is also the first book of a smaller trilogy within said series. BUT, that doesn't matter it stands well on its own. There is enough of a re-cap and some explanations that it would have been a richer story had I read a few of the other books but it still isn't necessary.

There are quite a few characters in the book if this is your first time reading the series. After the first 5-6 chapters the introduction of players dies off and it is easy to get caught up in the story.

There is the team of FBI agents only three of whom are predominant for the actual case. Hollis has been through hell to open up the abilities she possesses and she might have to go through it again by the time this case is over. She was so likable, I felt her pain for her past and the reluctance she has to share that baggage with her partner Reese Demarco.

Demarco has baggage of his own as well but he and Hollis work great as a team and he hopes that one day she will let him in so he can share the burden of her past. Their abilities compliment each other and as they work to solve the crime.

Then there is the Town of Sociable that is a character all of its own to the story. Everyone knows everyone else's business and there is a group of thirty-somethings that have been friends forever that seem to be the target of a string of serial murders in this quiet town. There is something different about the town of Sociable and I wouldn't be surprised if the rest of the trilogy is finished out here.

The story remained interesting and I really enjoyed delving into the supernatural. One of my favorite things was the idea of a dog with some sort of psychic ability of its own, like Lassie on steroids. The culmination of the story and resolution of this arc was done well but went off a little more cleanly than I would have liked. But that said I think I'll check out some of the other books in this series as I really enjoyed the Paranormal Crime Unit, much like the X-Files with less aliens and more ghosts.

Drw says

While you have to be able to suspend belief to enjoy the Bishop SCU series in the first place, you don't usually have to yawn your way through the books. Unfortunately, this entry in the series was all verbiage with all the action left for about 5-7 pages of the book. Even Hollis and DeMarco finally getting together was boring because all that happened was them continually repeating what had happened in prior books. Haunted really felt like a required book report pasted together from work turned in during previous classes.

I've about become convinced, with most of the authors that I've loved over a couple of decades, that they need to find another set of characters and story lines to refresh their own energies. This book is a real good example of this theory. I hate to see my old pals go away but frankly they're going to go away for me anyway because the stories are just getting too much like an author on deadline; not an author who's interested.

Sharelle Toomey says

Here is Kay Hooper's set formula for writing this SCU series - start with some horrible crimes, have the infallible and highly talented Bishop and his wife vaguely intuit said crimes or their perpetrator but not inform the agents of much at all, then spend 90% of the book talking about the many psychic problems and talents of the agents (both those mentioned in the book and those characters from past books - and there are many many of them, so many you wish Kay would just focus on and stay with a few) and explain the psychic world to any new law enforcement agent (even if the agents mentioned don't actually appear in the current book), then have a very rushed and unsatisfying anti-climatic ending where all the vaunted psychic talents of these agents which Kay has spent so long expounding on may or may not be used in the end to overcome the evil villain. Perhaps kill off one agent just for drama and no particular good reason otherwise ... Is Kay just churning them out for the money now?

Kay (and her editors) continuously break one of the basic laws of good writing - that is, to "show and not tell". Oh, the endless talking and dialogues over the angst of the characters and explaining their powers in detail instead of just showing us through their actions. Where is the action? The end scene with the dramatic confrontation and neutralizing of the 'monster' is always frustratingly short and easy compared to the long buildup. The tiresome people discussions and long unnecessary descriptions of the town and environment drain all the power out of the pitifully few action scenes. I want to see the characters using their powers, not

just hearing about them. We do not need the backstory and talent of every character in every single book repeated endlessly. Let those who have not read the series be tempted into reading them with teasers of other storylines and powers.

I am ready to give up on this series, even though I have loved it for so long and been a loyal fan. Enough is enough!

Michael says

This is an excellent book with an amazing ending, it's a real page turner. I think a lot of people who like twists, murders, and paranormal will really enjoy this book.

Renee says

It was a struggle for me. I've read the others in this series, and I guess I'm just tired of it. Evil bad killing people gruesomely, various interchangeable psychic detectives defeating evil bad. Maybe. Or maybe it comes back later in another book. There have been so many, and so much time in between that I don't remember who people are and their backstory; and don't really care enough to find out. That's what's missing the most for me - the emotion. There really isn't any, and as such, I'm not particularly invested. It was just sort of "Darn, another one of my close friends was gruesomely murdered."

It makes me sad, as Kay Hooper is one of my favorite authors and her romance series were simply fabulous. Nearly three decades later, I could still tell you all about the plot and characters of a number of them. These suspense novels - too forgettable. After each one, I tell myself I won't read the next, but then I do - hoping to hit the magic again. I'm glad others like the books, but they're just not working for me.
