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Jana Oliver , Mark Helwig (Illustrator)

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A Demon Trappers Novella

A legendary Demon Trapper, Riley Blackthorne frequently battles with Hell's minions. So when she travels to Scotland to meet up with her hunky boyfriend, and celebrate her eighteenth birthday, she's thrilled at the chance to leave Atlanta and its troubles behind.

Denver Beck, who has been studying for months to become a Grand Master – a rare and highly dangerous job -- is just as eager to see his girl. He's anticipating a romantic reunion, keen to take their relationship to the next level.

But Riley's twisted history with Hell has garnered unwelcome interest by people willing to use her for their own purposes. Trouble is brewing in the land of the heather, the kind that will drive a wedge between her and Beck, and prove the ultimate test of their love . . . and their survival skills.

Bonus content includes demon illustrations and two Demon Trappers short stories.

Grave Matters Details

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Author : Jana Oliver , Mark Helwig (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Grave Matters for online ebook

Sarah says

Riley and Beck have been apart for months while Beck is in Scotland studying to become a Grand Master but they're finally about to see each other again now that Riley is travelling to join him to celebrate her eighteenth birthday. Unfortunately their reunion doesn't go smoothly thanks to a shocking betrayal by one of the other demon trappers.

I absolutely loved this series so I was excited to get the chance to spend more time with Riley and Beck. It was also nice to see the couple outside of their usual hunting ground in Atlanta spending time together in Scotland. I'll admit that I didn't like seeing their relationship on rocky ground though, they've been through so much together that I had hoped they would be stronger than that. Thankfully they soon work through their differences and band together to stop their enemies though.

Grave Matters is a fairly short novella but I enjoyed every minute of it and my main complaint was just that I wanted more. The book also includes four illustrations by **Mark Helwig** of some of the different demons we've encountered throughout the series and two other demon trappers short stories written by **Jana Oliver**. You may have already read **Retro Demonology** which is a story about Riley's first solo attempt at trapping a demon and is already available as a free ebook but it's nice to now have this story available in print for the first time. The other story is called Personal Demons and it's another prequel to the series this time from Beck's point of view when he's hunting with Riley's father. Both of these short stories give us glimpses into younger versions of the characters we know and love from the series and were a great addition to the book.

This book isn't a good starting point for people who are new to the series but I'm sure Demon Trappers fans will love **Grave Matters** as much as I did. I'm going to keep my fingers crossed that **Jana Oliver** decides to revisit these characters again in the future but in the meantime I feel a series reread coming on.

Kat says

cant wait to read the 5th one! this novella was so cute!

Kitvaria Sarene says

While I really loved the three main books I read, this novella was quite a let down.

It was riddled with errors - missing words like "to" at least 20 times in the short novella. I wonder if it was even proofread - not even talking about an editor...

The word "guy" is used 58 times. It feels like every other sentence is "her guy" or something of the like.

Beck behaves like a real douchebag. If any man treated me like that, I would wish them good riddance. The whole love story between the two felt completely off in this one - and I wanted to strangle them both, but especially Beck most of the way through. If ONE problem will have the whole relationship on unstable ground, it might not be meant to be...

Riley felt quite weak and like a damsel in distress... Instead of kicking ass herself she would most of the time sit around helpless and wait to be saved by *her guy*.

I really hope book 5 will be as good as the first ones again!

Ferdy says

Spoilers

-This wasn't as good as the main *Demon Trapper* novels but it was still a decent enough read.

-I was expecting Riley/Beck to be all lovey-dovey with each other as they were finally a proper couple but they weren't like that at all, for the most part they were pretty much the opposite. I didn't want them to be all perfect together but what I wanted even less was them being angsty and idiotic with each other.

-What's what: Riley (demon trapper) travels to Scotland to spend time with Beck who's training to be a master trapper or something. Things don't go to plan, Riley gets kidnapped, she acts angsty, and chaos ensues.

-Beck's attitude pissed me off. When Riley turned down his marriage proposal he acted like a right dick... She didn't lead him on or owe him anything. She'd only just turned eighteen, it was unfair of him to expect her to say yes, maybe she wasn't ready for marriage. Did he not consider that she might just be happy with the way things were? Ugh. Why couldn't he be a supportive and understanding boyfriend instead of a douche who turned on the girl he supposedly loved as soon as she didn't worship the ground he walked on. The bastard.

-Why was Beck so cool with Brennan when he was responsible for almost getting Riley killed?! Brennan let a bunch of wankers kidnap her, then he kept poisoning her, he held a knife to her throat, and was involved in a plot that involved her death. Beck should have kicked his arse.

-What was with Riley's magic at the end? I didn't like her suddenly being all speshul and powerful, it just made her less interesting and somewhat of a Mary Sue.

-I didn't find Riley and Beck's engagement romantic at all. Riley was eighteen and she'd only been dating Beck for a few months. I don't care if they end up waiting a few years to get married, I just find teenagers getting engaged cringey.

-All in all, the story was fairly entertaining but I did have issues with Beck's character, and the whole engagement.

Jackie says

I hate to say that the very short *extra stories* that were included at the end of this novella were more to my taste than the actual book. It was not what I expected and even though it did have a HFN ending there was no definitive indication that Denver and Riley would ever get their HEA together.

Good thing is there is another full length novel that takes place after Grave Matters which picks up where it left off and hopefully will give the pair what series fans have longed for since they became a couple.

Margaux says

It's a short story who's taking place between the fourth and the fifth book. It was nice to see Beck and Riley again. I am so in love with her she's such a badass! It's a little cheesy around the edge (marriage at eighteen really??) but i don't know it kind of feel right anyway. On my way to start the next book !

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Riley and Beck have survived the war and are finally a couple. They can't seem to get enough of each other so when they discover Beck is being sent to Scotland to begin his Grand Master training Riley is devastated. But Riley wants Beck to have this chance to prove himself as a Grand Master.

Riley goes to Scotland for a visit when she encounters some kidnappers and Beck acting strangely. Riley isn't so sure she made the right decision in coming to see Beck. Even though things start off on a bad note they end up on a good note.

There are so many twists and turns in this novella it will have you on the end of your seat waiting for what is coming next. Will their week together be a good one or will it be a bad one?

Alice Liu says

4.5 stars. The thing I like best about self-publishing is that authors are able to continue their stories when their publishers have obviously gone insane and discontinued a fantastic series. What I love about Grave Matters is that we see Riley and Denver moving on to a new life. Of course, the past comes back to haunt Riley as every nutcase in the world now wants to challenge her based on her reputation. The best part is that they know only the barest of what she has been through, and so the comeuppance is exceptionally gratifying. One thing that is great about this series is that even though there is religious symbolism, the characters don't act out of their standard, boring religious archetypes. The concept of demons, as expressed by Jana Oliver, is far more interesting and fluid than religion could ever express.

Grave Matters reveals some interesting things about both Riley and Denver, that they are more than they were both raised to be. The discovery of that, however, takes them on a hard and painful path. Riley has nagging doubts that bring out Denver's insecurities. My only complaint here is that Denver has gained confidence in recent months, yet he is rehashing the same old self doubt of just being a simple man. The sentiment fell a bit flat for me as I would have expected more conflict between his new confidence and his old lack. Riley's constant one-liner inner monologues were a bit redundant sometimes as well.

The two short stories at the end were great. Set before the first book of the series, they are action packed and funny, and far better than the average bonus short story. I have to say that Jana Oliver has found the best use of Melville's "Moby Dick." Ever. I also got a kick out of Riley's reference to an Ilona Andrews book -- very funny! Read the first books of this series, then buy this one. You'll be happy you did!

Joti says

LOVED IT!!!!!! SO RILEY WENT TO SCOTLAND & EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL - SHE'S KIDNAPPED & BECK'S GOT FOOD POISONING & SHE'S TAKEN TO THE GRAVEYARD WHERE SOME IDIOTIC SUMMONERS WANT TO HELP SAVE SOME WOMAN'S DAUGHTER BUT THE SUMMONER IN CHARGE CALLS UP A FALLEN WAS IT? AND RILEY GETS HURT BUT GETS RID OF THE DEMON-SPAWN (OR IT WAS AN ARCHFIEND ??? OMG MEMORY LOSS) SO THINGS ARE A BIT WEIRD BETWEEN RILEY & BECK - HE POPS THE QUESTION ONE DAY & OMFGGG RILEY TURNED HIM DOWN OMGOMGOMGOMGOMGAROGVIFHVOAHFVAHFVA SHE SAID NO!!!

NO!!!!

:O

AND SUMMONER FAYNE COMES OVER FOR DINNER & SHE'S A BITCH & SHE'S THE ONE WHO PUT A SPELL ON RILEY - BRENNAN KIDNAPS HER AGAIN & TAKES HER TO THE GRAVEYARD WHERE FAYNE WANTS TO SUMMON AN ARCHFIEND OR FALLEN ANGEL & LET BRENNAN KILL IT SO HE'LL BE A MASTER TRAPPER & BE 'GOOD ENOUGH' & SHE'S USING A SPELL ON RILEY & RILEY'S GOT A KNIFE AT HER OWN THROAT & SHE'S TRYING TO STOP HERSELF FROM SLASHING HER OWN FREAKING THROAT & FAYNE ALSO SUMMONS UP DEAD WARRIORS & RILEY BREAKS THE SPELL & BECK COMES BARGING WITH THE OTHER MASTER TRAPPERS - & THEY SAVE RILEY & BRENNAN'S ALIVE - SOME OTHER SUMMONERS COME SEE RILEY AFTER TO 'UNDERSTAND WTF HAPPENED' & THEY TRY TO TWIST SHIT AROUND & RILEY STANDS UP FOR HERSELF & TELLS THEM HOW SHIT'S GONNA GO :D

AND THAT'S ALL TAKEN CARE OF NICELY

BECK ASKS RILEY TO MARRY HIM AGAIN...

AND SHE YES

YES!!! YAYAYAYYA!!!! THEY'RE PERFECT TOGETHER!!!!

AND SHE HEADS BACK TO ATLANTA & THEY SAY GOODBYE AT THE AIRPORT & AFTER RILEY GOES TO THE SUMMONER MORT TO ASK HIM TO TEACH HER MAGIC CUZ SHE'S REALIZED PPL R NEVER GONNA LEAVE THEM ALONE & SHE'S GOTTA BE ABLE TO PROTECT HERSELF + SHE MEETS MORT'S NEPHEW, ALEX

AHHHH!!!!!!

PERFECT PERFECT ENDING TO THE SERIES!! I READ IT A FEW DAYS AGO BUT WAS WAITING FOR IT TO BE PUT UP ON GR SO I COULD FREAK OUT IN A REVIEW!!

BECK & RILEY <3

DID I MENTION GORGEOUS COVER??? RILEY'S OMFGGG SO PRETTY!!!!

Julie-anne says

Riley goes to Scotland for her 18th birthday to meet up with Beck mid-training. As soon as she gets off the plane, she's in danger and then when she meets up with Beck - she's paranoid. They figure out what's wrong and aim to fix it - along with their relationship.

I was so upset when this series ended - especially as it came as a bit of a surprise to me, I never knew it was the last book until I was reading it! I love Riley and I love Beck. I love the world that Jana Oliver has built

here and vaguely post-apocalyptic view on the world. So I was excited to get another wee (too wee) look at the world.

Also love that this is set in my homeland! Don't ask me why but I love reading a story with street names and places that I can actually picture, everything set elsewhere is a total blindside for me. Although as much as I love these books, this series and this author - I always hate reading Scottish characters written by non-Scots authors. The words don't read right for me, all the "ya" and "ta", I can't say that in my head - it sounds wrong. Of course, that may just be me - I am unaware of how other Scots feel on this manner but I feel this way about most Scottish characters I read. Our language is hard to write, especially if you don't speak it - considering the main differences in our language are all to do with pronunciation, it is hard to make it come across purely in the written word.

If you've read the other books in the series, read this. If you haven't read the rest of the books in the series they go Forsaken, Forbidden, Forgiven & Foretold - go buy them and you're welcome in advance.

Jaysa says

Such a great insight into the life of Riley and Den when they spent time together in Scotland!

Jessica Tomes says

This was a short but sweet book in the demon trappers series. It was a 4 star read for me. I enjoyed the plot and change of scenery in this novella. The development of the grand masters and understanding just how few there are was compelling. I enjoyed how much Beck has grown up and how far he has come from the first book. Beck has been troubled and complicated for most of the series and it was good to see him settled and how maturely he handled the challenges presented in this novella. Riley continues to mature into a strong young woman who can overcome whatever challenge is thrown at her. I did like how Riley was faced with self doubt and how she found the inner strength to overcome this and realise that it was due to something more complex. The plot felt a bit rushed however that is always the case with such short novellas.

This book also contained two short stories, one for Beck set 3 years before the first book. I loved seeing a young novice apprentice Beck. Seeing the parallels between his apprentice days and Riley's shows how they are two peas in one pod!

Riley's short story was also a flashback story about her first solo trapping job. The girl can't catch a break with Biblio fiends! It took more of the comedic tones that subtly run through this series. Both short stories were fun little snippets into the protagonists' pasts.

Rute Canhoto says

<http://rutecanhoto.blogspot.pt/2015/0...>

Sapphyria says

****Please read Books 1-4 before reading Grave Matters****

****There may be Grave Matters spoilers in my review. It's not intentional but necessary to the quality of my review****

I've really missed Riley and Beck, so when Jana Oliver announced a novella I jumped all over it. I started by reading excerpts of Grave Matters on her website <http://gravematters.janaoliver.com/>. Then when the novella was available in print, I purchased it right away. I own all 4 of the full length novels in the series and it's nice to be able to add Grave Matters to the collection. The novella also contains 2 short stories, including Retro Demonology, which has only been available previously as a free eBook.

Riley and Beck get a lot of face time in the novella and not all of it is good. Treachery occurs as soon as Riley lands in Scotland and it's up to Riley, Beck, and the occupants of the home where Beck is completing his training, to figure out who's after Riley this time. The finally realized relationship between Riley and Beck is in jeopardy, Riley's life is in danger, and Beck will have to come to terms with what being a Grand Master will actually entail. All of this is squeezed into the 142 pages of Grave Matters.

I loved the concept of the novella and, really, you can't ever go wrong with Riley and Beck. The friction that develops between Riley and Beck is unexpected and played out quite well. The cause and effects of the trouble certainly plays upon the reader's emotions. After working so hard to get their relationship to where it was at the end of Foretold, I was distraught when the relationship began to crumble. Well played, Jana Oliver, well played! The dissolution of Riley and Beck is fully dependent upon the other actions within the book. There is action, adventure, misunderstandings, and of course, the attempt to use Riley for, and by, the forces of evil.

I must admit that Grave Matters wasn't nearly as dynamic as the four full length novels in the series. There just didn't seem to be as much suspense and nail biting build up in the novella. The ultimate reason for all of the happenings in Grave Matter were written cleanly and cohesively, however, and the entire novella was still very good. I'm glad I purchased the novella for my bookshelf.

I certainly hope this isn't the last we hear about Riley and Beck. They are one of my absolute favorite power couples. I'd almost like to see them cross over from the young adult genre into the adult genre and see where that takes them; especially now that Riley is eighteen.

Review Copy Courtesy Of: My Bookshelf

Darcy says

I really liked seeing Riley out of her element on her trip to see Beck in Scotland. It's too bad that the rotten luck that she seems to have followed her and as soon as she touched down things went to crap. I would have thought that Beck would have realized something was wrong with Riley sooner when seemed so different. I did like that Riley learned something about herself on the trip. Not sure yet if it's a good thing or not. She'll have to decided that once she gets a handle on things.
