



The Raven King

Maggie Stiefvater

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All her life, Blue has been warned that she will cause her true love's death. She doesn't believe in true love and never thought this would be a problem, but as her life becomes caught up in the strange and sinister world of the Raven Boys, she's not so sure anymore. In a starred review for Blue Lily, Lily Blue, Kirkus Reviews declared: "Expect this truly one-of-a-kind series to come to a thundering close."

The Raven King Details

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Author : Maggie Stiefvater

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From Reader Review The Raven King for online ebook

Katerina says

“He was a king. This was the year he was going to die.”

I think a little piece of me died after I finished The Raven King. I am **numb** and **energetic**, **happy** and **sad**, **satisfied** and **insatiable**.

And definitely **not okay**.

“Richard Gansey III had forgotten how many times he had been told he was destined for greatness.”

Depending on where you began the story, it was about **friendship**.

Courage. Dedication. Loyalty.

Magic.

While Cableswater kept fading, while Glendower remained hidden, Blue and her raven boys had to make important decisions, untangle their feelings, understand the metaphysical powers that threaded their web around Henrietta and face demons and corruption and opportunists and monsters. The fight was difficult, sometimes hopeless, but they were never alone. They had each other, and that was enough. For how long though?

“What a strange constellation they all were.”

I don't know what else to say about this series. I've already raved about Maggie Stiefvater's **poetic**, **soulful writing** and **subtle humour**, about the **enthraling plotline** and the **mystical ambience** and the **three dimensional characters** and the **all-consuming feelings** I've experienced thanks to them. The Raven King was more **desperate** though. **Grim**. You could hear the clock ticking, you could sense the impending doom but could do nothing about it. Only relish Blue and her boys' presense, their fights and their bickerings and their unbreakable bond and wish that this bond would survive. That *they* would survive.

“He was a book, and he was holding his final pages, and he wanted to get to the end to find out how it went, and he didn't want it to be over.”

That's precisely how I felt. Forgive me for the dramatic note of this review, I just find goodbyes really, really hard. But even though I sobbed uncontrollably, even though my insides were ripped open and my heart bled, **I loved this book. Blue. Gansey. Noah. Adam. Ronan. Fearfully, awesomely, worshipfully.** The same way Ronan worshipped Adam, and Gansey worshipped Blue. Some questions remained unanswered. Some characters' fates unresolved. (view spoiler) Yet somehow, I find it appropriate that a series thar started off with many secrets and questions finished the same way. Leaving you floating between reality and dreams. Not completely understanding everything but accepting it. It was a cycle. **A Raven Cycle.**

“Why do we breathe air? Because we love air? Because we don't want to suffocate. Why do we eat? Because we don't want to starve. How do I know I love her? Because I can sleep after I talk to her.”

But tears are liberating.

I feel blessed that I set off this **beautiful, heartwarming journey**. But now the time has come to say goodbye, and find a competent therapist.

See you on the other side.

Petrik says

2.5/5 stars

This will be the last YA book I read for the year 2017.

The Raven King, the final book in The Raven Cycle series sadly doesn't live up to the quality that the series had established. It is in my opinion that this is the weakest of the series, there are some great moments for sure but at the same time, there's too many problems I had with it.

Picture: The Raven King by John Fenerov

“He was a book, and he was holding his final pages, and he wanted to get to the end to find out how it went, and he didn't want it to be over.”

Let me start off by saying that I love the complexity in the plot that the series offered. The overall main plot of the Raven King continues to captivate me endlessly and I was never bored with how the book starts and concluded. The last 100 pages of this book for instance were so hard to put down for me and I enjoyed the ending of the series. The strong bizarre atmosphere and the amount of danger looming for the characters in particular is one of my favorite part of the book.

The main characters development also remained top notch and with the exception for Noah, I love how each main character's story concludes, especially Adam's which I believe to be the best part of the book and maybe even the series. He came so far from where he began and he undergoes the most well written developments compared to the other characters.

And, Maggie's prose again improved to be more engrossing and addictive to read. It's the only reason why I never had any trouble reading this series or book despite how many problems I had with it.

Let's start the part that didn't work for me.

First, my number one main problem with the book, the entire middle sections of this book are mindlessly useless and out of the blue (*no pun intended*) to read. Here's the thing, I will never agree with an author's decision when they suddenly include a totally new character in the last entry of the series and have him/her

be the new main character. Sadly, this particular problem can't simply be overlooked in this book.

Once, I had a drinking contest with my friends 10 years ago, we all drank way too much and somehow, we all literally slept on the asphalt of a parking lot cause we thought it was too comfortable to let go. This is a true story and it became a good memory indeed. Oh sorry, the purpose of my story for this review?

Absolutely nothing, just like Henry Cheng's purpose in the series.

Why in the world would Maggie thought it would be a good idea to have a completely new character appeared in the last book and have him included as the main character is something I will never understand.

Henry became Gansey's instant best friend faster than my instant noodle being cooked. It's not that Henry himself is badly written or he's a bad character, again, he's not. It's just that if you remove him from the story, it wouldn't affect the story whatsoever and the fact that he had more spotlight than Noah, one of the main characters since the first book doesn't really help the pacing of the book.

The worst part is, I'm pretty sure that Henry's useless story itself took almost 200 pages in total. Seriously, I really think that Maggie included him for the sake of diversity only. Hey, let me tell you this, I'm Asian and I want him removed from the story. Gone baby gone please you damn RoboBee (*yes this is again, a new thing included in the last book*).

Second, despite the main characters having a proper closure for their story, the amount of unresolved or unsatisfying conclusion to all the side character is insane. Almost all of them don't have any proper closure; this includes the 300 Fox Way ladies that have been there since the beginning of the story. I won't mention any of their names to avoid spoilers, all of them, that's all I can say.

Finally, this may be me being nitpicky but there are three new characters here that were again, pointless and the way they were called annoyed the hell out of me. All three of them are literally called the same name, Lamouier (*or something I forgot their name already*), I'm not kidding, the same name for all three of them. It really doesn't help in understanding the narrative on which character is which. Is it so hard to put Lamouier 1, 2 and 3 in the narrative????

In the end, I don't hate the series overall. The Raven Cycle is one of the most complex YA series I ever read (*heck the plot shouldn't even be categorized as one imo*) and it have the characterizations that rivaled some adult fantasy books I read. However, rather than saying I hate this series or book, it's more like I'm heavily disappointed by the last book because of the potential it had. Despite everything, I enjoyed my time reading this series and I didn't regret it. The Raven Cycle however will be the last YA series I read for this year, there are countless other priority books that deserve my attention and the disappointment I had with this book doesn't help in making me want to go back to this genre any time soon, not even as a break.

Overall series review:

The Raven Boys: 3/5 Stars

The Dream Thieves: 3.5/5 Stars

Blue Lily, Lily Blue: 4/5 Stars

The Raven King: 2.5/5 Stars

The Raven Cycle series: 13/20 Stars

This review is also featured on Booksprens where I'll be a guest reviewer for this series, check it out! :)

You can find the rest of my Adult Epic/High Fantasy & Sci-Fi reviews at BookNest

C.G. Drews says

REREAD, Oct 2017:

So it's probably *a little bit obvious* that (a) this is my favourite favourite series, and (b) I still HAVE NO WORDS TO SUMMARISE WHAT IT MEANS TO ME. There are just some books/series that mean the absolute world to you because they fill you with everything you need. My heart is just *that full* whenever I read about the Raven boys. I love them. I live their story. I see MORE every time I read the books.

Like just. HOLY FREAKING TREES. It was even better the second time and I may cry.

- so originally I thought I didn't know what happened to Noah?? But this time, nope. IT EXPLAINS IT. I don't know how I missed it!
- I actually have realised there is an astronomically catastrophic level of Not Enough Pynch.
- where is my Ronan trilogy I need it now
- the level of FORESHADOWING AND CLEVER PLOT WEAVING slays me
- slayed lots of people hahaha I'M SORRY IT'S TOO SOON
- it is so magical. it is pure magic
- it is complex and messy and beautiful
- I forgot that moment where Blue says "I want to be hanging out with my pretentious brat friends" and I'm like: same
- the ending makes me ache because I want more

Perfect book is perfect. That's all there is.

ORIGINAL REVIEW: April 2016

OKAY SO I'M FINALLY **READY TO TALK ABOUT MY FEELINGS OF THIS MAGNIFICENT CREATURE OF A BOOK.** I have waited for this for *so so long*. omg. SO LONG. And I would like to take a hipster moment to also say **I've been a fan of Maggie Stiefvater for YEARS.** Which leads me to always feeling her books are so very personal to me. Like they just get into my heart and make a little house there and stab me frequently with pointy knives and yet *I still love them so so much.*

I loved this book.

OBVIOUSLY.

(And all spoilers will be hidden in spoiler tags. But if you don't wanna know anything -- DON'T READ, OBVIOUSLY.)

...omg where do I even *start*?!?!!

Firstly: the build up was so insane and my expectations were humungous. Probably too high. I made too many theories and read too many tumblr posts and drooled over too much fanart and cried too many times in anticipation. **It didn't let me down, per se, NOPE. But it wasn't what I expected.** Which is fiiiiine, to me, because I TRUST Maggie Stiefvater.

I also knew a few things, from reading other Stiefvater books (like a MILLION TIMES) and I'm pleased that this is **still a very Stiefvater book**. She must've been under SO MUCH PRESSURE for this one. But it was good. **It was right.**

ANYWAY. **So let's compare my predictions/expectations to the realities:**

My predictions:

- Gansey would die and come back to life.
- Ronan might also die or at least *nearly* die, due to something Adam said in BLLB.
- That Gansey would come back as Glendower and possibly have to relearn what it is to be Gansey again with the help of Blue & Co.
- The Grey Man and Maura would be AN ITEM FOREVER.
- Calla would make pie.
- #PYNCH WOULD SAIL.

The Realities Of These Predictions:

(view spoiler)

A LOT of my expectations were met! SO WHAT MORE CAN I ASK FOR?!?

Sure I was disappointed about a few things...but the characters were disappointed about a few things. And the fact that I felt what *the characters felt* can ONLY equal excellent writing, OKAY?!?

And omg there were so. many. plot. twists.

MASSIVE PLOT TWISTS. Some had me nearly shrieking my head off. Which was awkward since I was listening to an audio and my family thought I was INSANE (what's new, I suppose) but omgggg SO MANY EMOTIONS SO SO CONSTANTLY. **I was an entire ball of anxiety.**

The shippy shipping was GOOD.

Maggie Stiefvater teased that there would be two kisses....*shrieks* THERE WERE TWO KISSES. PERFECT PERFECT PERFECT KISSES.

Also this book was downright freaking creepy.

Like the other books HAD been sorta creepy? But I don't know if this was just the audio...but this took the CREEP up a new level. I mean, we have a demon lurking around here now. But just the intensity of the darkness and how every sentence conveyed this leaking *demonic blackness* was just AMAZING. **I could feel it.** I was mildly terrified. Hahahha. Just, um, yeah, that's just the sound of my mind BREAKING..

DID I MENTION THAT I AM A BROKEN BEAN, YET?!?

BECAUSE I KINDA AM. IT WAS GOOD BUT THIS BOOK HURT OKAY????? I AM JUST AJFDKSLAFDJA I'M SO IN LOVE WITH IT AND JUST KIND OF A MESS OF BOOK HANGOVERS AND DREAMS AND BEAUTIFUL LYRICAL WRITING AND INTENSE CHARACTER LOVE.

All the characters changed and developed so so much.

And that's a huge reason I ADORE this series. The character development. They are REAL people and they all feel like my best friends. So I kinda feel like I'm *losing my best friends* now that this series is over.

(Is it acceptable to reread yet? NO BUT REALLY...when my hardcover copy arrives, I'm re-reading immediately.)

Okay, um, OH FORGET IT. I NEED TO TALK SPOILERS. ALL THE SPOILERS ---> (view spoiler)

SO OF COURSE I'M A RABID FAN OF THIS BOOK.

I love ALL Stiefvater books and this is no different. It's beautiful. It attacked my feels and got into my soul and totally CONSUMED my brain and I just *loved how it made me feel aaaaaall the things*. IT'S LEFT ME WANTING MORE. It's left me **believing in magic**.

I AM SO VERY HAPPY.

ALSO KINDA BROKEN.

BUT HAPPY BROKEN.

(PS I would love to discuss it with you, of course, but please put any potential spoilers in spoiler tags. THANK YOU.)

Maxwell says

No one talk to me.

Kat O'Keeffe says

FEBRUARY 2016?!

weeps in corner

destini mia says

He said, "I think it's time to find Glendower."

Adam said, "I think you're right."

YAYYY!! It's out now and I'm so excited to relive TRK through everyone else's eyes ♥

I'm sitting here now trying to string some decent words together, with dried tears on my cheeks, in hopes of being able to convey even a shred of the feelings warring inside me.

For three books, I have tried to describe exactly what this series means to me. And in those three attempts, I feel as if I have failed. At this point, **its beyond words**. It's more than happiness and sadness and the overwhelming feeling of wonder. **It's all those things and none of those things and five starts just doesn't seem like enough.**

Maggie Stiefvater has a way with words. Words that I've known for most my life and learned to string together. She manages to make something *more* of them. She fashions it into a story, and makes it sound like poetry. **She takes everything you've ever felt and gives it a name.**

The Raven King makes your heart pound and makes your heart stop. It makes you laugh and makes you have an impromptu sob session at 12:47am. The characters are **everything**, the story is **everything** and whatever the first three books were, *The Raven King* was more.

Outside of Henrietta, nestled on the ley line, something dark watched all this, everything in the Henrietta night, and said, I'm awake I'm awake I'm awake.

Everything is finally unraveling and coming together. This is definitely the creepiest book of them all. I'm a visual person, so I wouldn't exactly say I was *scared*. I mean, I was scared for Gansey's life and the state of my ships, but I wasn't scared in that horror movie kind of way. Because I'm a visual person. If this had been made into a movie of something, I would have been shitting myself into oblivion. If these things were **actually** happening to me, my ass would have been dead before Gansey could say Excelsior. However, I recognize creepiness when I read it, and this was **creepy™**.

"We should all be afraid," Noah said, his voice thing through the buzzing. "When you play with time –"

...you get Nightmare Fuel. Let's just call it what it is.

He was a king.

This was the year he was going to die.

TRK almost didn't feel real to me. I honestly, could hardly believe that I had the fourth and final book in my hand. I've never met a famous person, but I feel like it would be a lot like this. Like you just can't believe the person you've been watching on TV and seeing in magazines is actually in front of you, shaking your hand and asking if you'd like a picture. I couldn't believe that I was reading new content. In the beginning, I would just get a little jolt and think, wait... I haven't read this before. Because everything I new was from the first three books and it just wouldn't hit me that after months of wait and following Stiefvater's updates it was here.

Blue was filled with frustration that her life was so clearly demarcated.

Things that were not enough, but that she could have.

Things that were something more, that she couldn't.

It's almost too easy to be spellbound. The characters become dear to you-- I mean, who can't relate to someone who's always dreamt of *more*, or of being autonomous, or of being respected, or of being loved. You can easily find a bit of yourself in each character, or a bit of someone you want to become. Your mind buzzes with the characters and the endless possibilities. Of the fact that Gansey is going to die and two kisses have been written into the story and nothing will ever be like it once was.

Making Ronan Lynch smile felt as charged as making a bargain with Cableswater. These weren't forces to play with.

Which brings me my next topic: THE SHIPS. Oh, the ships. Oh, my heart. I think the fact that Maggie Stiefvater wrote two kisses in *The Raven King* says enough.

Well, **it really doesn't.**

But that's all you'll get out of me. Its glory can't be replicated in a review, only experienced. Or non-glory. As I said, nothing from me.

Something Maggie Stiefvater wrote: *I am really, really looking forward to the 26th, guys. I hope you love it or hate it, nothing in between.*

Any author that encourages their readers to feel passionate about their story, whether it's passionately loving it or passionately hating it, is an author for me. **Because the whole Raven Cycle experience just doesn't stop or begin with the books.** The author and the fandom have been a huge part in making this an incredible adventure. With the fan art and the author's willingness to answer questions and interact with readers, it's difficult not to leave with a sense of excitement and satisfaction.

But more than anything, something Maggie Stiefvater wrote on her blog struck me the hardest. It was her reminder while she was writing the series. **The worst thing that could happen to the characters is that they stop being friends.** And while I was here worried for them individually or worried about them in their respective ships, I had never really thought about that. But I was hit with how true it was. Because what I **couldn't stand** more than *anything*, more than Gansey dying, Pynch not happening, or Henrietta falling off the face of *The Raven Cycle* planet, was **them not being friends anymore.** Because more than anything, this is a story about friends. Friends and magic. Would this be much without it?

I am just going to finish with this: **Maggie Stiefvater is pressing down on the ORBMASTER that is my heart.**

Depending on where you began the story, it was about this place: the long stretch of mountain that straddled a particularly potent segment of the ley line.

...MY REVIEW FOR...:

- ? The Raven Boys (book 1)
- ? The Dream Thieves (book 2)
- ? Blue Lily, Lily Blue (book 3)

((f.d: the visuals above were edited by myself-- base images were found on google))

...UPDATE... (4/05/16)

? Prologue & Chapter One can be found here!

? Prologue & Chapter One read by Will Patton + Song by Maggie Stiefvater can be heard here!

UPDATE (2/15/15)

(view spoiler)

And to clarify:

(i'm not making this up, i am actually quoting)

question/statement: maggie, please don't make one of the two kisses that happens just a dream kiss (source)

maggie: I understand the fandom is full of trepidation due to a million and one instances of baiting on the part of mainstream media. But I have no interest in constructing some tricky tease in February and then disappointing a metric ton of readers in September. What would I possibly have to gain, except for an aggressive ulcer and possibly a gentle spattering of hate blogs? *The Raven King* is the last book in the cycle, and things are getting hairy, and there are a million things happening that I could tease; I have no reason to make something up to amuse myself or string readers along.

So when I say that I've written two kisses the fandom was looking forward to, I mean that they are genuine kisses, not ha-ha-it-was-all-a-dream or ha-ha-that's-just-the-schnapps-talking or ha-ha-it-was-actually-Noah-kissing-a-potted-plant.

When I say that I'm going to kill Gansey, I mean I'm going to kill Gansey.

And when I say there's something called the ORBMASTER in book four, I mean there's something called the ORBMASTER in book four.

Did I say that last one before? Well. I'm saying it now.

Please rest assured in your dark heart that I am working up to something intentional and respectful. Please rest assured, also, that if I tease something that sounds dire, it's gonna be dire. Please rest assured, thrice, that if I tease something that sounds great, it's gonna be great.

Consider these my final remarks upon this subject until I drop the weighty block of *The Raven King* into bookstores this September.

urs,

Stiefvater

So, there we have it.

Update (1/4/15)

i'm dead.

Here's a really well thought out theory: (source)

If you don't want to read through it all, here's the skinny. (view spoiler)

. . . *nervous laughter* butbutbutbut it's Gansey!

If Gansey dies, I will die.

Ally says

Two stars? Three stars? Four stars? *One star?*

I don't even know how to rate this. I don't even know how to feel.

I loved it. I hated it. I'm disappointed. I'm confused. I don't know man. *I don't know.*

Richard Gansey III had forgotten how many times he had been told he was destined for greatness.

This is my biggest disappointment of the year so far. I was so ready for this to be stellar. We have waited so long, the release date was pushed back *twice*. I'm in love with *The Raven Cycle*. I'm in love with this world, with these characters, with the magic of it all, with the mystery. The previous three books were straight up five star reads for me. And yet I have no idea how to rate *The Raven King*.

There were some parts I adored. A few scenes here and there were completely beautiful. Some of the

interactions between Adam and Ronan were perfect, the relationship the Gray Man developed with Blue was wonderful. Adam struggling with his gift and Gansey's ever increasing desperation to finally find Glendower all with the shadow of Gansey's impending doom hanging over them was suspenseful, tense and emotional.

But there was a *lot* of this book that was just straight up shit. And that's what I'm wrestling with.

This didn't feel like a final book because the conclusion absolutely, completely and totally *sucked*. In my opinion, it bombed. And it bombed *hard*. And I'm heartbroken. I've invested so much time and emotion into this story. I've thought about Blue and her Raven boys for months, I've anticipated, I've read the other three books in *The Raven Cycle* series *three times* and I'm really not one for rereading so that's the level of enjoyment I got out of this story. And then to be thrown that lame-ass ending?

Not happy.

The ending feels as though Maggie Steifvater was just done. It feels like she was so over this world and these characters and just wanted it done. I mean, I could be wrong. There could be some deep and incredibly profound meaning hidden in there that went way over my head, but the way it reads is like she just wanted it finished and damn all those loose ends. And there were a lot of loose ends:

- The ending Noah received fucking sucked. Straight up, crap. There was some *thing* about the whole circularity of time and it was *him* who whispered to Gansey that he would live after he got stung by hornets all those years ago. Which, okay, was neat and fine and I actually quite liked it because it was the revelation that Gansey was *always* searching for something that was in fact right there in front of him the whole time. It was friendship and compassion that brought him to life and indeed, kept him alive during his time in Henrietta. Okay, I liked that. *A lot*. But then to simply never hear of Noah again?

What the fuck was that? What was *that*? Noah was a Raven boy. We've empathised with him since the first book. We've seen him go through some shit and he's been there for them and been a big part of the group and then he just *fizzles out*?! No. Crap.

- The Gray Man had zero conclusion either. Yeah, okay there was the whole thing with "*I can never return to keep you safe and for reasons*" but it wasn't good enough. You can't create this layered and interesting character who has become such a big part of the other character's lives and then just have him vanish in a puff of smoke. I understand that the Gray Man is a very vague character in general. That's the way he lives his life and that's fair. But I was enjoying the way that falling in love with Maura and becoming something like a father figure to Blue was drawing him out of a life of crime and back into the real world. I loved his development over the series and I felt like he was really fleshed out and playing an important role. So to then not even have a definite conclusion for him, not even an actual reason for him simply never being mentioned again, not even one, solitary sentence or round-up felt really awkward and nonsensical.

- Maura and the psychics were other characters that just vanished into the ether. The last we saw of them, they were standing outside 300 Fox Way, not sure where Blue and the gang were headed, not sure if they were going to live or die, not sure what their part to play was going to be. And that's it. We never see them or hear from them again. They're completely disregarded in the finale and the epilogue. I mean, one fucking line. Is that too much to ask?! For all I know, Maura et al were killed in some horrendous gas explosion inside 300 Fox Way and their ghosts are now doomed to stalk the earth, seeking revenge for whoever left the stove on for all eternity. I mean, I could literally just pull anything outta my ass because Maggie Stiefvater

obviously had no ideas.

We have to talk about Gansey's death.

sigh

It was crap. We've been waiting for it to happen for three books and then when it does happen it is the most anti-climactic bullshit ever concocted. I mean, I sort of understand (kinda) why. It wasn't supposed to be the main focus really, I *think* I get that. There so much else going on in the lives of the main characters, they've come so far and learned so much about themselves and each other and they all *knew* Gansey was destined to die. And that it would be Blue who would inadvertently wield the blade (if her lips can be counted as a blade) but to have him just fucking *drop*.

"Get him," Ronan started and then had to gather himself to finish, in a snarl, "Get him off the road. He's not an *animal*."

There were a few really powerful sentences in there. But that's all they were. *Sentences*. The whole episode was literally over and done with in one breath. It's such a *huge* moment. It's the culmination of everything that has happened for four books and it should have fucking smacked me in the face but instead it was a tap on the shoulder. It was shit. There's no other way to put it.

The worst part about Gansey's death wasn't actually this incredibly lacklustre demise. The worst part is how it wrapped up because it even further took the punch out of the event. If Gansey had been left dead, I could have gotten on board with it. I could have taken his very plain death to be some kind of statement about the fragility of life, the futility of his quest, that the only thing that really matters in life is how you live it, the relationships you develop, the impression you leave on people. I mean, I would have been grasping at straws *slightly* as we are really only given the bare bones of these ideas, but I could have fucking made it work because I wanted to so badly. But then, to have him *come back to life*.

It made the whole thing seem so pointless because it removed all consequences. These boys (and Blue) are dabbling in some pretty serious shit. Some fucking mind-bending crap. But hey, no worries because the fucking forest will just spring us back to life! And the fact that Cabeswater had to be destroyed for this feat to be accomplished? Who cares? Ronan will just dream us up another one! There are so many ways this could have gone down to create some kind of meaning rather than the empty vacuum we were left with:

- Gansey could have stayed fucking dead

- We could have had him join Noah with his remains placed on the lay line

- Ronan could have dreamed us up a copy and then the results of the group either knowing or not knowing and Ronan's subsequent guilt could have been explored

There were a million ways it could have gone down. But no. He pinged back to life. And don't come at me with the whole "*Cabeswater changed him*" bullshit. That was such a cop-out. So what's changed? Time slips? Big whoop, so he has to check his watch more often? This could have been awesome. He could have come back as an entirely new seeming person, or his memories could have been disrupted or he could even

have just had two different fucking coloured eyes and I would have been happier. But there was no hint of the changes *inside* Gansey aside from the dumb time thing which I think we were supposed to be intrigued by as he had been experiencing slips in time continuously for a while so I'm taking it this is another nod to the circularity of time? But then that's a giant gaping plot whole because every damn character has been experiencing the same phenomenon with the whole 06:21 repeatedly debacle which actually never came to anything either.

I thought the time shifting constantly to 06:21 was some kind of foreshadowing, maybe to Gansey's impending death, or some kind of event surrounding Glendower. But it didn't seem to mean *anything*. Did I miss a bit? Was the importance of that time explained and I *missed it*? Were there clues I didn't pick up on along the way?

This is precisely my beef with *The Raven King*: in the previous books there have been so many little things like this that have eventually amalgamated into the conclusion with the pieces slotting together cleverly and in a satisfying way. This final book had none of that. There was so much left hanging. Take Blue and her useless father for example:

"How did you meet my mother?"

"She came to the spirit road intending to communicate with trees, and that is what she did."

Blue started, then stopped, then started again. "Am I human?"

"Maura is human." He did not say *and so am I*. He was not a wizard, a human who could be in trees. He was something else.

So we have this *massive* revelation about Blue's origin. She's finally getting some answers about who her father is and discovers him to be a race that can become one with trees. It's heavily, *heavily* hinted that in fact, Blue is also one of them. And yet . . . nothing. We hear no more about it. That's it. One conversation, one poorly described dream sequence and we're all over the fact that Blue is some mythical creature who belongs amongst the stars. This should have been a big moment. And no matter what way you swing it, no matter how you try to reason that Blue loves Gansey and the Raven boys so much that she wants to disregard her nature, she's focussed on their quest, they keep her grounded because she's loves them so much, the day you find out you're not human *is still a big fucking deal*.

And her curse?

Zero explanation. Zero conclusion. We have no idea what the rules are here. Can she never kiss anyone again? Was her curse simply incidental as Gansey was fated to die anyway? Was her kiss more a result of belief in a curse than an actual curse? Was the prediction more about the death of the true love than the actual kiss? Is her saliva poison? We'll never know.

Henry Cheng. We gotta talk about Henry Cheng. He was fucking shoe-horned in there so tight I'm surprised he wasn't asphyxiated. My interpretation is that Henry Cheng was there to aid Maggie Stiefvater out of the corner she had written herself into. He didn't gel with the other characters because we don't know him. He came out of the wood-work only to make sure that Gansey got where he needed to go. The whole Robo-Bee thing was simply bizarre. I have no idea if Henry has any kind of power or any link to the ley line. If he has some kind of capability. I don't know what the deal with his shady mother was. I feel like he was completely redundant other than to serve as a plot devise. Nothing about Henry Cheng was clarified. He gave Blue a glimpse into a life she wanted, of travelling and meeting other people. But for him then to then continue to

tag along and play such a huge role in the final scenes felt incredibly awkward. Glendower was never his quest and I think he knew that. He seemed happy just to be friends with Gansey, but when shit is going down and going down *hard*, making a new friend seems kinda inconsequential. I hated the role Henry Cheng played. I thought he was going to be there to throw some kinda spanner in the works, create some kinda twist. I thought he was evil masquerading as a helpful passerby, but nope. Turns out all he wanted was a buddy? *What?*

I did not care for the whole treasure hunting foe. It was shit and lame. The whole Laumonier thing was just plain stupid and again, never truly came to anything as it was a simply case of shooting them in the face to vanquish them. Same with Piper. One shot and she's down. Again, clutching for a meaning amongst all this I could say that there's nothing to fear from mere men when demons are raining down on us. Or that the true villain wasn't Piper but what she had become? Or I dunno, that sometimes life doesn't need complex solutions because we're all inherently fragile beings? Fuck, I don't know. I'm trying really hard to make this work, guys.

I just felt like, generally the treasure hunters, antiques dealers, magical artefact collectors, whatever you wanna call them were not threatening enough. There felt like no urgency there. The peril wasn't real. It felt thrown in there for the sake of needing something to add a little pressure to the characters as they attempted to fight the demon, who was also kinda crap. I mean, a demon? One of the things I've loved about this series is that it's been free from cliché. It's fresh and different. Until we arrive at this fucking demon. It feels like such a cop-out. Clutching at straws for a villain? Throw a demon in there! I mean, there was no explanation for the demon. We can assume it's been sleeping in that cave system, okay. But why? How did it relate to the quest as a whole? Who put it there? *What is going on?*

I mean, I could go ahead and try and squeeze it into some kind of statement about good and evil, and the nature of Ronan's ability as Greywaren and his creation of objects from nothing and there needing to be consequences as a result. Or I could try and piece together some kind of explanation from Piper and her greed and the folly of disregarding what you destroy when all you do is take. But I'd be making it up. I'd be fucking *making it up* because it wouldn't be canon. Because the canon presents us with this fucking demon and nothing more.

You can see how hard I wanted this to work.

I mean, the sleepers thing was a giant let down too because Glendower is dead. So in actual fact, there ain't no sleepers and whoever said that there were three was talking out their fucking ass. Buuuut . . . I actually did kinda like the fact that Glendower was dead. It wasn't what I was expecting and it was kinda lame, but it gave us the groups' friendship and their knowledge of each other as a reward for this long fought quest Gansey has been on. There were some emotional scenes following this revelation that felt genuine and heartfelt. Gansey's deep disappointment was well portrayed and sort of beautiful in an incredibly sad kind of way. I can piece together that the quest left them with so much more than if they had discovered Glendower alive and just napping, and I think that's a powerful thought, that it's not always the result, but what we learn along the way that has the most impact and provides the biggest prize. But again, I'm piecing it together and in a finale I don't feel like that's the way it's supposed to be.

You know, I wanted to talk about Ronan and Adam and the unsatisfying way that their relationship was revealed and Adam's dead-eyes and how forced and clunky it felt and how disconnected they were not only from each other but from the group as a whole but I'm running out of characters here so I guess that's for another day.

This book made me so sad and for all the wrong reasons. I should have been saddened because of a powerful and emotional ending for characters who I adore and feel like I know. But instead I'm sad because it was shit. There are some *really* great chapters in here, but it's all overshadowed by so much *crap*. None of it hangs together, it feels like a collection of scenes at times with no cohesive plot running throughout. There is some really beautiful writing and some very quotable passages, but at the same time there are sentences that are completely redundant or feel like filler, or even make no sense at all. I was expecting this to be something I would love and I kinda hate it.

Oh, I so didn't want it to be this way.

(I get that this is a long review, and for that I apologise but unlike Maggie Steifvater, I wanted to cover all the bases.)

Virginia Ronan ♥ Herondale ♥ says

"The head is too wise. The heart is all fire."

There's no better way to start this review than with this quote, because after reading this series my heart is truly all fire. When I began to read **"The Raven Boys"** in October 2017 I had no idea that I'd love this series so much. I was completely oblivious to the fact that those boys would take over my entire world and I had no clue that I'd become so attached to them. I just didn't know what I was getting myself into but after finishing the last book I can say that I don't regret anything!!! XD

Over those last seven months I've been on a long journey with my boys. I cheered for them, I suffered with them, I was sad and despaired, I was hopeful and happy. I sighed, I laughed, I cried, I tore at my hair, I screamed, I dreamed, and I died about a thousand deaths!
In short: I lived and breathed those books!!!

They became an integral part of me and my life and I actually feel like I've become one of the Raven Boys as well. I guess that means that in some way I kind of made a bargain with Cakeswater too. Uh oh! XD

Well, anyway!

What I want to say is that I love those characters so much, I feel like every attempt to put it into words is automatically bound to fail. There are no words to describe how intensely I feel about those boys and even if I'd become a hundred years, I still wouldn't be able to express all of my feelings. It's an impossible task and maybe this is good the way it is. It's part of the magic of those books and truth be told, I'm convinced we all need a little magic in our lives every once in a while. ;-)

So, speaking of magic:

There was lightning and thunder outside of my window when I finished this book.
It **looked** like the end of the world.

To read those final pages of **"The Raven King"**?!
It **FELT** like the end of the world...

I will miss my boys and Maggie's unique magic so damn much! T_T *sobs and is inconsolable*

The plot:

"You were the one who told me, Ronan, that something was starting, all those months ago. Now's not the time to be going rogue. Someone's going to get killed. No more playing around. There's no more time for anything but truth. We're supposed to be in this together, whatever this is."

I think this quote is kind of giving direction to the entire last book because after the third sleeper was woken up a lot of strange things begin to happen. Our boys have a lot of different troubles to face and to say they are in deep doo-doo would be putting it more than just mildly. *lol* They don't only have to work on the discrepancies among each other, but also outside of their magical world and inside of Cakeswater. In short: There's a whole wagon of feels that's going to hit you, and it's going to hit you hard! Don't say I didn't warn you! ;-P

The characters:

"Leaves," Ronan Lynch's voice said, full of intention.

"Dust," Adam Parrish said.

"Wind," Blue Sargent said.

"Shit," Henry Cheng added.

I'm sure this is the moment the people who know my reviews have been waiting for. Yes, you already know what's coming. ;-) Let's make it official then: This is my spoiler section and if you don't want to be spoiled you better leave now! Because this was the last and final book and I'm going to spoil the hell out of you if you didn't read the other three. XD Fair warning, sound advice! Take it or leave it! It's up to you! ;-P

Gansey – The King:

"He was a book, and he was holding his final pages, and he wanted to get to the end to find out how it went, and he didn't want it to be over."

Oh, Gansey. My troubled soul! I once again felt so sorry for him and to top it all off we finally found out that he actually knows he's going to die. Of course I should have known that he would figure it out, but for some reason I thought he was unaware of his impending death. Well, turns out he knew it all along. *sigh* The way it all happened in the end was so unexpected though. I didn't see this coming... NOT AT ALL and I think I was at least as devastated as Gansey when he found out that Glendower had been dead for years. My heart bled for him... for him and his wishes and all his unfulfilled dreams. T_T

"It was this: this moment and no other moment, and for the first time that Gansey could remember, he knew what it would feel like to be present in his own life."

"Gansey's death had been foretold for this year. It was him. It was always going to be him.

Glendower was dead. He'd always been dead.

And Gansey kind of wanted to live."

Blue – The Mirror Tree:

"Her hair had got wilder since he first met her, less contained by all of her clips, and her mouth had got messier since he met her, more desirous of forbidden kisses, and her stance had got harder, her spine sharpened by grief and peril."

It was really nice to find out about Artemus' origins and it caused me understand Blue a little bit better. It explained why she always felt wrong in her own skin and I guess it also explains why Gansey and she had this special connection. XD Still, in some way the reveal of her background story only confused me even more and I don't even dare to say it but after four entire books, I still don't feel like I really know her character. *lol* After BLLB her character became less tangible again and I really don't know why. Maybe Maggie, that genius master mind, planned it that way? I guess I'll never know. *shrugs*

"Blue was filled with frustration that her life was so clearly demarcated. Things that were not enough, but that she could have. Things that were something more, that she couldn't."

Adam – The Magician:

"It seemed like he should become stranger, more other, when he was near Cableswater, but in reality, the closer he was to Cableswater, the more firmly present he remained. His mind didn't have to wander far to communicate with Cableswater when his body was able to lift a hand to touch it."

I AM AND ALWAYS WILL BE IN LOVE WITH ADAM PARRISH! There I said it out loud! *lol* Don't get me wrong, of course I still love Ronan too, but Ronan reminds me too much of myself. XD I love him in sense of Philia and Agape whereas Adam Parrish is my Eros and Agape. Haha! Does that make sense? Guess to all of you who had some serious Greek philosophy lessons it does. ;-P Well anyway, I love Adam and what he has become and I was so damn proud of him throughout the entire book. Despite his father and everything that happened to him he's become a beautiful human being and I just love him for it! <333 He's strong now, he found his way and nothing can stop him. Not even a stupid demon that's trying to possess him! YAY! Gosh I just love my boy!!! My Adam! <333 *heart eyes* Still, Maggie why did you have to hurt him so much?! T_T

"Stop saying privilege. Love isn't privilege. But Gansey had always had love, had always been capable of love. Now that Adam had discovered his feelings in himself, he was more certain than ever that he was right. Need was Adam's baseline, his resting pulse. Love was a privilege. Adam was privileged; he didn't want to give it up. He wanted to remember again and again how it felt."

"For Adam, it meant linking in to the ley line that pulsed beneath the forest, unwrapping himself and allowing the bigger pattern inside. It was a process that was both eerie and awesome to watch from the outside. Adam; then Adam vacated; then Adam, more."

"Do you know what hurts the most? What this means you think of me. You didn't even give me the chance to be OK with it. You were just so sure I'd be eaten by jealousy. That's how you see me?"

Ronan – The Greywaren:

"It was too cold for fireflies, but a multitude of them glistened in and out of being above the fields nonetheless. Those were his. Fanciful, purposeless, but lovely. Ronan Lynch loved to dream about light."

As it seems Ronan is always good for a surprise. *lol* I didn't expect that Matthew was one of his dreams and I certainly didn't expect the revelation about Cableswater! XD I mean OMG!! Ronan dreamed Cableswater into life!!! To dream a place like that? Gosh, he must be so damn powerful and skilled af!! Sounds like my boy? Yes, it does! ;-) I loved that he finally made peace with Declan and that the three Lynch brothers got along so well in the end. It made me happy to see them like that and I wish it could have stayed that way, but no Maggie had to break my heart into thousand pieces. As Ronan's twin I felt with him when Aurora died and boy was it painful!!! **WHY MAGGIE!!!! WHY??!! GOSH DAMN IT! RONAN LOST HIS FATHER AND NOW YOU HAD TO TAKE HIS MOTHER AS WELL????** You made him and

orphan!!! He would have deserved so much better than that!!! T_T To see Ronan suffer and cry? It hurt so damn much... I can't even.... *sobs*

"In this other place, it was easy to tell that the music was the sound of Ronan's soul. Hungry and prayerful, it whispered of dark places, old places, fire and sex."

"Ronan Lynch's stare was a snake on the pavement where you wanted to walk. It was a match left on your pillow. It was pressing your lips together and tasting your own blood."

"Ronan skidded to his knees, his arms around her, and it hurt Adam, somehow, to watch how ferociously he hugged his little strange dream creature, and how she buried her face into his shoulder. He stood with her in his arms, holding her tightly, and he heard him saying, No, you did good, it's going to be OK, we're waking up."

"Ronan crouched beside him, black still smeared on his face under his nose and around his ears. His dreamt firefly rested on Gansey's heart. "Wake up, you bastard," he said. "You fucker. I can't believe that you would..."
And he began to cry.

Noah – The Ghost:

"My mom always said he was a firecracker, which just meant he was always getting speeding tickets and jumping on tables at family reunions and stuff. He always had so many ideas. He was so hyper."

I don't know about you, but I would have loved to get to know this hyper Noah. His story made me so damn sad and I really wish he would have had a chance to get his happily ever after. Unfortunately he didn't get what he deserved and I can only hope that he's happy wherever he is now. The way I see it Noah chose to save Gansey when he died the first time. He did it in order to guarantee that Cabe's water could save him the second time around and in a strange way this actually makes sense. XD Still, Noah Czerny is adorable and precious and he would have deserved the world!!! T_T RIP Noah! <333

"Blue didn't care that he – it – Noah – was strange and decaying and frightening. She knew that he – it – Noah was strange and decayed and frightened, and she knew that she loved him anyway."

"Goodbye," Noah said. "Don't throw it away."

Henry – The Special Extra:

"Once, you got me coffee," Henry said. "When I was losing my mind. Consider the favour returned."

Why was Henry introduced so late?! I loved that boy!!! He's amazing and funny and honest and pure!!! I really wish he would have been a bigger part of this! I would have loved to read more about him and I instantly felt a connection to this awesome boy! I was so sorry when I found out that he had been kidnapped and I truly loved him for acting to save Blue's principles in front of the others. *lol* It makes me sad that I probably will never read about him again and I really hope Maggie will include him in one of her future stories. Please, Maggie! *makes huge puppy eyes*

"What do you want me to say?"

"Nothing yet," Henry said. "I want you to think about it. And then I hope you will choose to trust me. Because I'm overfull on secrets and underfed on friends."

"But it wasn't that Henry was less of himself in English. He was less of himself out loud. His native language

was thought.”

The Demon & Piper:

I already didn't like Piper in “Blue Lily, Lily Blue” but my initial dislike for her grew into an even bigger monster in this book. I really started to hate her with a fierce passion and in the end all I wanted was for her to drop dead. *lol* I know those are strong and negative feelings coming from me but I really hated her so much! XD Piper and that mean demon almost killed my lovely boys so I think I'm kind of entitled to feel that way. I always knew that the demon would kill her and if you ask me he waited way too long to do it. *lol* Whoopsie, was that mean? *smiles innocently*

The friendships:

Henry & Gansey:

“Now get out,” Henry said.

Gansey looked at him. “I beg your pardon?”

“Stop driving,” he said. “I know you need to. You’ve needed to since we left. Get. Out.”

I loved the chemistry between Gansey and Henry! Yep, chemistry! Don't even try to say there is none because it was all over the place!!! XD It was so amazing to watch and I couldn't help but marvel at their interactions. It was wonderful how Henry always knew what Gansey needed and it was so funny that Gansey had no other choice than to accept it because he knew Henry was right. =)) I really wish we could have seen more of them and I truly hope there will be some sort of short story in the future. I know Maggie is busy, but I can always hope, right?! ;-P

“It’s like we’ve met each other before. No, not really. We are friends at once, we would instantly do what friends would do for each other. Not just pals. Friends. Blood brothers. You just feel it. We instead of you and me. That’s jeong.”

Ronan & Blue:

“Emptying another student’s backpack over his car. I don’t really want to talk about it.”

“I do,” Ronan said.

“Well, I don’t. I’m not proud of it.”

Ronan patted her leg. “I’ll be proud for you.”

Those two!!! *LOL* I will say it again and again! I love how close they became over those last few books and whenever they spoke with each other it always made me smile. Ronan's reaction to her scar was priceless and it was so damn adorable that he was proud of her getting suspended! XD Their dynamic is so much fun and I'm so glad they started to get along so well. =)))

“Look, Sargent,” Ronan retorted. “I was gonna dream you some eye cream last night since clearly modern medicine’s doing jack shit for you, but I nearly had my ass handed to me by a death snake from the fourth circle of dream hell, so you’re welcome.”

Blue looked appropriately touched. “Ah, thanks, man.”

“No problem, bro.”

The ships:

Ronan & Adam aka Ronam:

"Adam felt a surge of both accomplishment and nerves. He skated an edge here. Making Ronan Lynch smile felt as charged as making a bargain with Cabeswater. These weren't forces to play with."

I CAN'T EVEN!! MY HEART!!! **MY. HEART.!!!** I loved every little moment between them, every single gesture, every eye contact, every smile, every playful remark!!! THEY ARE EVERYTHING!!! Their first kiss blew me away and I was so happy I couldn't stop smiling for two days! And OMG!!! Ronan thinking about Adam's hands? It was my undoing! I love hands, I love Adam, I love Ronan! ARGH! I think I'm going to die! And what a wonderful death it would be!!! Still, nothing, really nothing could prepare me for CHAPTER 39!!! **PERFECTION, UTTER AND SHEER PERFECTION!!!** I read this chapter about a thousand times. It still moves me, it makes me cry! <333 *shakes head and fights tears* I just love them so much... Thank you Maggie! *sobs*

"He had memorized the shape of Adam's hands in particular: the way his thumb jutted awkwardly, boyishly; the roads of the prominent veins; the large knuckles that punctuated his long fingers. In dreams Ronan put them to his mouth.

His feelings for Adam were an oil spill; he'd let them overflow and now there wasn't a damn place in the ocean that wouldn't catch fire if he dropped a match."

"Asshole," Ronan said.

Adam smiled cheerily. Ronan would start wars and burn cities for that true smile, elastic and amiable."

"When Adam kissed him, it was every mile per hour Ronan had ever gone over the speed limit. It was every window-down, goose-bumps-on-skin, teeth-chattering-cold night drive. It was Adam's ribs under Ronan's hands and Adam's mouth on his mouth, again and again and again. It was stubble on lips and Ronan having to stop, to get his breath, to restart his heart. They were both hungry animals, but Adam had been starving for longer."

"They sprawled on the living room sofa and Adam studied the tattoo that covered Ronan's back: all the sharp edges that hooked wondrously and fearfully into each other.

"Unguibus et rostro," Adam said.

Ronan put Adam's fingers to his mouth.

He was never sleeping again.

Blue & Gansey:

"And third, most importantly, Gansey was outrageously and eternally driven to distraction by the image of her behind the wheel of his car. Ronan and Adam weren't with them, so there was no one to catch them in what felt like an incredibly indecent act."

Don't you love it that Gansey thinks Blue driving his Camaro is an "incredibly indecent act"? *LOL* Those two are so innocent it's not even normal. Haha! Where Adam and Ronan are all fire, tension and heat, Gansey and Blue are almost too shy and sweet. XD I was so happy they finally decided to tell the others and the chapter of Henry Cheng's toga party gave me life!!! Seriously, I loved this party so damn much! It's a perfect example of Maggie's awesome writing skills and I truly wish this chapter would have never ended. =))) I'm so happy they can be together now and forgive me this pun, but I think their first kiss was rather breathtaking, don't you agree? ;-P *lol*

"It was Blue's shoulder and her collarbone and her legs and her throat and her laugh her laugh her laugh. He couldn't stop looking at her, and here, it didn't matter, because no one here cared that they were together. Here, he could play his fingers over her fingers as they stood close, she could lean her cheek on his bare shoulder, he could hook his ankle playfully in hers, she could catch herself with an arm around his waist. Here he was unbelievably greedy for that laugh."

"Right after he spoke, Blue threw her arms tightly around his neck. Right after he spoke, she pressed her face into the side of his. Right after he spoke, she held him like a shouted word. Love, love, love.

The conclusion:

It was such a wonderful journey! I'm so sad it's over now. T_T I will miss my boys so much! I will miss their comments, their unconditional love, their easy banter. *sniff* This series goes straight to my favourite shelf and it will stay there forever! <333
Thank you, Maggie!

Also, a big thanks to my lovely Adam! Thank you for holding my hand throughout the entire book. I was so lucky to have you at my side. I think I couldn't have done this without your support and I'm so glad we read this together! <333

"That's all there is."

(No, not really! I could have gone on and on but I already reached the gr word limit. So, yeah I'm sorry guys! *lol*)

Maggie Stiefvater says

this book has gross parts

Nat says

"Gansey." A pause. "That's all there is."

How much can I rave about these books?

This review contains ***spoilers***.

I've been waiting for this moment for months now, but I can finally say that I've finished reading **The Raven King**. I was so nervous going into this because my expectations were sky-high, but it is everything I could've dreamed it to be and more. I felt like my heart was cracking throughout this whole experience.

Depending on where you began the story, it was about Gansey and the revelation that he knows that this might be his last year to find the King and complete his ongoing quest once and for all.

The Raven King is set a week after the events of the last book, Maura is back home with Artemus, who knows more than he is saying and is acting rather peculiar- especially when Gwenllian is around. And Blue and her raven boys are still on their quest to find the King.

The uncertainty over everything kept me on the edge for the entire story. It felt like the end of everything. I was hooked as soon as I read the first sentence. And I was so into the story that I couldn't stop reading until the last page (and I unfortunately had a huge headache after reading so much).
But I laughed, I cried, I mourned.

What more could I ask of Stiefvater, a master storyteller?

She creates these atmospheric, impressionistic scenes with this quiet but impeccable style.

I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW HER TALENTS BUT I DON'T WANT TO SHARE HER WITH ANYONE.

For the past month I've talked and ranted so much about these characters that even my mom got invested and was waiting for me to tell her what happened in the final book. (By the way, she said that Gansey wasn't going to die) (Thanks Mom for believing.)

As I mentioned before, it starts with Gansey's incredibly rich and unique tale and continues with his found family.

"Where the hell is Ronan?" Gansey asked, echoing the words that thousands of humans had uttered since mankind developed speech."

What is my review worth without mentioning Ronan too many times?

But seriously, he continues to amaze me and he's just an all-time favorite of mine that I won't be letting go of any time soon.

Also, I'm in love with this fanart of him:

Source

"Gansey asked, "Do you have time to run an errand with us? Do you have work? Homework?"

"No homework. I got suspended," Blue replied.

"Get the fuck out," Ronan said, but with admiration. "Sargent, you asshole."

Blue reluctantly allowed him to bump fists with her as Gansey eyed her meaningfully in the rearview mirror."

My life, I love Ronan too much. My new goal is for him to say the exact same things to me.

"For what?"

"Emptying another student's backpack over his car. I don't really want to talk about it."

"I do," Ronan said.

"Well, I don't. I'm not proud of it."

Ronan patted her leg. "I'll be proud for you."

He's seriously the best.

"Strange he hadn't had a premonition of what this place would become to him all those months ago. "

Adam perfectly described how I feel about this series. These books have become my home and I cannot believe it took me so long to discover. I love it in a way that nearly overwhelms me with gratitude

I also loved that this book focused on the romance (among many other happenings), and it was slow, uncertain and exquisitely written. My heart is still happy and beating like crazy.

"Each of the trees they passed sounded with a processed thud, until the sound around them was the pulsing electronic beat that invariably played in Ronan's car or headphones.

"Oh God," Gansey said, but he was laughing. "Do we have to endure that here, too? Ronan!"

"It wasn't me," Ronan said. He looked to Blue, who shrugged. He caught Adam's eye. When Adam's mouth quirked, Ronan's expression stilled for a moment before turning to the loose smile he ordinarily reserved for Matthew's silliness. Adam felt a surge of both accomplishment and nerves. He skated an edge here. Making Ronan Lynch smile felt as charged as making a bargain with Cabeswater. These weren't forces to play with."

And while I'm on the topic of Ronan, I finally got to see him with his brothers and it was too good to be true. I was so happy Maggie included it.

"Where are you? In your room?"

"Dur."

"I'm serious."

"Hur."

"Matthew."

"Yah, yah, I'm in my room. SL hates you. It's like two or sumthin'. Whatdya want?"

Ronan didn't reply right away. Matthew couldn't see him, but he was curled on his bed back at Monmouth, forehead resting on his knees, one hand gripping the back of his own skull, phone pressed to his ear. "Just to know you're all right."

" 'm all right."

"Go to sleep, then."

"Still sleeping now."

The brothers hung up."

Ronan is seriously messing me up. I love him with all my heart.

And another favorite part in this book was when Declan and Ronan finally sat down and just talked.

"Declan started: "We need to talk about your future."

"No," Ronan said. "No, no, we don't."

He was already most of the way out of the car, leaves snapping dead under his shoes.

"Ronan, wait!"

Ronan did not wait.

"Ronan! Before he died, when he and I were out together, Dad told me a story about you."

It was wickedly unfair.

It was wickedly unfair because there was nothing else that would have stopped Ronan from walking away."

Why does his childhood make me cry?

"Declan paused then, sighing, as if the weight of the story was a tangible thing, and he needed to take a moment to regain his strength. It was true that the memory of the ritual was heavy enough. Ronan was all tangled up in half-formed images of his father sitting on the end of Matthew's bed, the brothers tumbled together at its head, his mother perched on that tatty desk chair no one else would sit at. She loved these stories, too, especially the ones about her."

I really love hearing about his childhood.

"On the outside, the three Lynch brothers appeared remarkably dissimilar: Declan, a butter-smooth politician; Ronan, a bull in a china-shop world; Matthew, a sunlit child.

On the inside, the Lynch brothers were remarkably similar: They all loved cars, themselves, and each other."

Ronan and his family are unlike anyone else and I love how everyone is involved in this book and that the adults care about the kids and vice versa and nobody is excluded and it's just great great great.

Also great great great, were Adam and Ronan:

“What are you trying to find out?”

Adam described the circumstances surrounding his eye and his hand with the same level tone he would use to answer a question in class. He allowed Ronan to lean in to compare his eyes – close enough that Ronan felt his breath on his cheek – and he allowed Ronan to study the palm of his hand. The latter was not strictly necessary, and they both knew it, but Adam watched Ronan closely as he lightly traced the lines there.”

Maggie knows exactly where to hit home for me.

“Why are we here?” he asked.

“Wrong devil,” Adam replied quietly.

It had not been that long since the court case against his father. He knew that Ronan remained righteously furious over the outcome: Robert Parrish, a first-time offender in the eyes of the court, had walked away with a fine and probation. ”

“What Ronan didn’t realize was that the victory hadn’t been in the punishment. Adam didn’t need his father to go to jail. He had merely needed someone outside the situation to look at it and confirm that yes, a crime had been committed. Adam had not invented it, spurred it, deserved it. It said so on the court paperwork. Robert Parrish, guilty. Adam Parrish, free.”

I love Adam and yes, he continues to break my heart. Adam is the one I related to the most, and I’m so proud of him and his character growth. And I love how Ronan and Adam support one another.

I was barely recovering from them when I got to see Gansey and Blue being so sweet. All I can say is that Gansey has got a way with words.

“It was this: Gansey starting down the stairs to the kitchen, Blue starting up, meeting in the middle. It was Gansey stepping aside to let her pass, but changing his mind. He caught her arm and then the rest of her. She was warm, alive, vibrant beneath the thin cotton; he was warm, alive, vibrant beneath his. Blue slid her hand over his bare shoulder and then on to his chest, her palm spread out flat on his breastbone, her fingers pressed curiously into his skin.

I thought you would be hairier, she whispered.

Sorry to disappoint. The legs have a bit more going on.

Mine too.”

I’m really glad he and Blue stopped trying to hide their relationship from the group. And Gansey being, as Maggie said in her recap, a Dick but not a dick:

“He gathered himself. Adam saw his gaze land on Blue. Judging, perhaps, whether or not she knew what he was about to say, or whether he should say it. He touched his thumb to his lower lip, caught himself at it, lowered his hand.

“Blue and I have been seeing each other,” he said. “I don’t want to hurt any feelings, but I want to keep seeing her. I don’t want to hide it any more. It’s eating me, and nights like this, having to stand here and look at Blue with her face like this and pretend like —” He drew himself to a stop, a full stop, a silence so intense that no one tipped any other sound into it. Then he finished, repeating, “I cannot ask you to do things I haven’t been doing myself. I’m sorry for being a hypocrite.”

“Blue took Gansey’s hand.

Adam was glad she did.

“Gross,” Ronan said, which was the most juvenile response possible.

But Gansey said, “Thanks for the input, Ronan,” with a proper look on his face again, and Adam saw how cleverly Ronan had released the tension of the moment. They could all breathe again.”

This is exactly why I love Ronan so much. If anyone asked me why, I would just show this one quote.

I think this book might be my favorite in the series because so much happened and I am in awe by Maggie Stiefvater's ability to write something so beautiful and descriptive, so exciting and so heartbreaking.

And as she also promised in her recap, Henry Cheng shows up more and I really liked him in this book, which I honestly wasn't expecting.

"What are you doing here!" Blue demanded. She was feeling – she wasn't sure. She was feeling a lot. "I'm here to talk about the men in your life. To talk about the men in my life. I like the dress, by the way. Very boho chic or whatever. I was on my way home, and I wanted to find out if you had a good time at the toga party and also make sure that our plans for Zimbabwe were still on. I see you tried to claw your own eye out; it's edgy."

"Blue said, "I can't get in this car. Do you see what's happening behind me? I don't even want to look." Henry said, "How about you give me the finger and shout at me now and withdraw with your principles?" He smiled winningly and held up three fingers. He counted to two with devil horns.

"This is incredibly unnecessary," Blue told him, but she could feel herself smiling.

"Life's a show," he replied. He counted one with his middle finger, and then his face melted into exaggerated shock.

Blue shouted, "Drop dead, you bastard!"

"FINE!" Henry screamed back, with slightly more hysteria than the role required."

He was such an intriguing character, especially with the whole RoboBee situation.

And then the book circles back to Ronan and Adam, and I'm not freaking out or smiling or anything like that:

"He wordlessly crossed the floor and sat beside Adam on the mattress. When he held out his hand, Adam put the model into it.

"This old thing," Ronan said. He turned the front tyre, and again the music played out of it. They sat like that for a few minutes, as Ronan examined the car and turned each wheel to play a different tune. Adam watched how intently Ronan studied the seams, his eyelashes low over his light eyes. Ronan let out a breath, put the model down on the bed beside him, and kissed Adam."

He surprised me so much that my heart started beating too fast. It was such a perfectly build up moment and I'm speechless and in love and in tears and and and. Time stopped for me. This is giving me life right now, this is giving me so much life.

"He was pretty sure he had just been Ronan's first kiss."

I reread that page so many times that I now remember every single word. Someone finally got kissed, **my favorite someone**, and it was such a genuine and real moment. Too good for words.

I was speechless for so long, but Henry managed to perfectly describe how I was feeling:

"His mother was the only one who knew what Henry meant when he said that he wasn't good with words. She was always trying to explain things to his father, especially when she had decided to become Seondeok instead of his wife. It is that, she for ever said, but also something more. "

This is exactly how I feel when I try to explain my love for this series and the characters within.

But then, you know what's happening next, the most painful moment that I dreaded and hoped hoped wouldn't happen. (But secretly wanted to see played out— but also didn't.)

"Tell me where Owen Glendower is," he said to the darkness. Crisp and sure, with the same power he had

used to command Noah, to command the skeletons in the cave. "Show me where the Raven King is."

"Wait. You're going to junk up your nice coat, white man. Take this." He shouldered out of his Aglionby sweater and proffered it.

"So you're literally giving me the shirt off your back," Gansey said, swapping him for his coat. He was grateful. He looked up to Henry. "See you on the other side. Excelsior."

I started crying here because no, Henry, no.

But then Gansey and the group find Glendower and go in, only to find it to be not as they imagined:

"The only thing was that Gansey had always feared that he would find Glendower just a little too late. Minutes, days, months after death. But this man had been dead for centuries. The helmet and skull were only metal and bone."

"Gansey touched the skull, the raised cheekbone, the face of his promised and ruined king. Everything was dry and gray.

It was over.

This man was not going to ever be anything to Gansey.

"Gansey?" Blue asked.

Every minute was giving way to another and then another, and slowly it sank into his heart, all the way to the centre:

It was over."

But it wasn't really.

"One of the great things about Blue Sargent was that she never really gave up hope. He would have told her this, but he knew it would only upset her more. He said, "I can't watch Ronan die, Blue. And Adam – and Matthew – and all this? We don't have anything else. You already saw my spirit. You already know what we chose!"

Blue closed her eyes, and two tears ran out of them. She did not cry noisily, or in a way that asked him to say anything different. She was a hopeful creature, but she was also a sensible creature."

I was hopeful till the last page.

"There was no time.

"Thanks for everything, Henry," Gansey said. "You're a prince among men."

Henry's face was blank.

Blue said, "I hate this."

It was right, though. Gansey felt the feeling of time slipping – one last time. The sense of having done this before. He gently laid the backs of his hands on her cheeks. He whispered, "It'll be OK. I'm ready. Blue, kiss me."

The power to stay quiet in the middle of the night while crying was nearly impossible, especially when listening to sad music.

"He pulled back from her.

Out loud, with intention, with the voice that left no room for doubt, he said, "Let it be to kill the demon."

Right after he spoke, Blue threw her arms tightly around his neck. Right after he spoke, she pressed her face into the side of his. Right after he spoke, she held him like a shouted word. Love, love, love.

He fell quietly from her arms.

He was a king."

Maggie really knew how to destroy me, I needed him back.

“Ronan crouched beside him, black still smeared on his face under his nose and around his ears. His dreamt firefly rested on Gansey’s heart. “Wake up, you bastard,” he said. “You fucker. I can’t believe that you would ...”
And he began to cry.”

“I just don’t understand,” Henry said. “I was so sure that this was going to ... change everything. I didn’t think it would end like this.”
“I always knew it was going to end like this,” she said, “but it still doesn’t feel right. Would this ever feel right?”
Would it?

“The minute hand quivered. It quivered again.
Blue was already tired of a timeline without Gansey in it.
Adam looked up from where he was folded in the grass. His voice was small. “What about Cableswater?”
“What about it?” Ronan asked. “It’s not powerful enough to do anything any more.”
“I know,” Adam replied. “But if you asked – it might die for him.”

I seriously cannot remember a time when I’ve felt so deeply for a character’s (near) death.

“The last tree fell, and the forest was gone, and everything was absolutely silent.
Blue touched Gansey’s face. She whispered, “Wake up.”

I truly applaud Stiefvater for everything she managed to conclude in this book. She really brought him back. And Ronan and Adam and Blue and everyone and just *Thank You*.

“He closed his eyes and he began to dream.”

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Raeleen Lemay says

I tried reading this book right when it came out, and I got about 100 pages in before I had to put it down. I'm not sure if I'm just no longer interested in the plot/character development, or if it's actually something about this book in particular that I couldn't click with. Either way, I don't have any plans to finish it any time soon.

AFTER THE COVER REVEAL:

OH MY GOODNESS HOW IRONIC THAT I USED A POA GIF EARLIER BECAUSE THE COVER LOOKS LIKE A STAG PATRONUS HAAHAHAKHSKDLFH it's so pretty though I love it

before there was a cover...

no cover yet? NO COVER? k

Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

before reading

So many Gansey x Blue shippers on this page. Such basic taste. I can't even. Apparently, ya'll never heard of Pynch.

#DealWithIt

Let's chant together **PYNCH! PYNCH! PYNCH!**

after reading

I am a mess and I need some time to process everything but here are my initial thoughts about The Raven King:

- This book is about Gansey being a special snowflake who's only worry in life is to avoid bees. haha
- Blue got lost in this story and she didn't have any memorable scenes(that I can think of)
- Ronan is flawless and so is everything he touches including Chainsaw, Orphan Girl(YAAAS Pynch daughter), his car and ahem,ahem... Adam.
- Adam. He's come a long way since his early, angry days. I've loved him from the start even though so many of you don't agree with me but I'll fight you on this till the day I die. (?'-'?)?
- Why the hell were those 'bad guys' from previous books in this one as well? Their storylines kind of faded into nothingness and they became irrelevant.
- Everything was over so fast. Especially the 'battle' scene. :(
- PYNCH!!! Lord knows I've waited 84 years and I did mess up by posting spoilery status updates. Yep! I may or may not have played sappy songs while (re)reading their scenes, over and over again.

Maggie Stiefvater deserves all the awards for creating these books! They are like poetry to my peasant mind. Wish she would write about our heroes' college adventures. Let's be real. I'm including Blue and Gansey in this wish just so no one comments about me only caring about Pynch.

Kai says

"The head is too wise. The heart is all fire."

There's two feelings currently fighting with each other: 1. Happiness 2. Disappointment. *The Raven King* was marvelous in so many ways, but unsatisfactory in the most important.

Maggie Stiefvater is a favourite author of mine because of reasons. Her stories are poetic and magnificent. Most of all, they live through their characters. Detailed and original, they are why I fell in love with the world around them. It's their realness that fascinates me, and their interaction that makes me happy. We have the Raven Boys, Blue, Blue's family and friends, the Grey Man, Piper, Gwenllian, Jesse Dittley, Orphan Girl,

Kerah and Kavinsky. They are so alive. I'm a little in love with all of them.

A few topics I'd like to address:

Henry Cheng

A nice but unnecessary addition to an already complete and amazing cast. Throughout the novel I was uncertain if Henry was upfront or would turn out to be a backstabbing liar. I could have done without him and don't really understand his role in the first place.

Noah

Really, apart from being scary and dead, he didn't really do much in this book. I wished for more, if only for his sake. He deserved it.

Foretelling and Foreshadowing

This is what built up my expectations, what speeded up my heartbeat. There's nothing that creates curiosity, thrill and despair more than prophecies. Thanks for being so clever and cruel, Maggie.

The one big issue I have with the book, is the ending. (view spoiler)

To say the least, there's too many loose ends. Too many, what-happeneds, too much uncertainty, too many unanswered questions. At least for my taste. (Please feel free to comment, discuss this book, and enlighten me.)

However, the one big boost was Pynch. (view spoiler)

I take this end, this conclusion, and tell myself that it was about the journey and not the destination. And I think so much is true. Maggie Stiefvater gave me such a colorful set of characters and put them in a lovely and magical place. She put them into words, bound them between pages and hid them underneath such beautiful covers (no, really, just look at this beautiful cover!), only so I - so we - could live in this world and feel their feelings.

It was an unbelievable journey, one that I will relive many, many times.

Find more of my books on Instagram

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

SPOILER FREE REVIEW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igtgn...>

This whole series was an absolute masterpiece. I feel like I've been a part of something wonderful and I am so grateful for it.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

I vowed The Raven King would be the last Stiefvater's book I'm going to read. Even though that's the case, I was genuinely optimistic for it. I want to wrap up The Raven Cycle in a satisfying note. I had fond memories

of the characters, and I thought it's only fitting.

However, the hopefulness ends right there.

Here's some of the fundamental things I could tell you about this book:

- If you hate the writing of this series, you probably won't like it *still*
- The swirling direction of the plot is confusing
- The author introduced a web of new plot, accompanied by new characters; it's expected a lot of things are going to be sidelined, and forgotten
- It's predictable. I anticipated the majority of the twist and concrete plan of the author

This is the every bit of part that made my skin crawl.

This contains spoilers and text from the book.

The way Henry was introduced in BLLB was unforgettable. We saw him making an offhand rape comment. This is pretty common. See All For the Game series by Nora Sakavic where their *lone!good!moc* could be seen making the same proclamation throughout the series. I am willing to let it slide, maybe, this is not about race.

In The Raven King, we get to know Henry Cheng better. He's half Chinese and half Korean. His mother Seondeok is a Korean dealer of illegal antiquities. White authors can't seem to write East Asians without associating them with mob, yakuza, and mafia? Another example: All For the Game series by Nora Sakavic

This is the part where it gets nauseating.

"Principles? Henry Cheng's principles are all about getting larger font in the school newsletter," Ronan said. He did a vaguely offensive version of Henry's voice: "Serif? Sans serif? More bold, less italics."

Blue saw Adam both smirk and turn his face away in a hurry so that Gansey wouldn't see, but it was too late.

"Et tu, Brute?" Gansey asked Adam. "Disappointing."

"I didn't say anything," Adam replied.

It was explicitly stated Henry's second language is English. I'm going to assume Ronan is mocking the way Henry speaks, the intonation or accent of his voice. Whichever fucking way I look it is racist. Nobody even called Ronan out. The gross thing, the author made it into an "inside joke" for pynch.

This didn't end right there. We have another pynch scene where they made a punchline out of Henry's ethnicity.

"Adam made puerile jokes at Henry's expense (He's half Chinese? "Which half?") and sniggered clannishly; Blue called them on it ("Jealous, much?"): Gansey told them to put aside their preconceptions and think about him.

Really? This made into the final publication? Minority's ethnical identity isn't a subject for crass puns. Blue and Gansey's meek intervention is not going to pacify me. I'm not here for this. Once again, this become a "cutesy" pynch scene.

These vile ~scenes~ about Henry's otherization serves no purpose. It doesn't contribute anything to the plot.

You can reason out the narrative is implying Adam and Ronan are jealous (of Gansey's new attachment to Henry,) but the author could've made a different approach of executing that. This is deliberate.

Another troubling scene with Henry and Blue

It was this: Blue, teetering on the edge of offence, saying, I don't understand why you keep saying such awful things about Koreans. About yourself. And Henry saying. I will do it before anyone else can. It is the only way to not be angry all of the time.

Great another Korean character written by white author who might or might not be experiencing internalized racism. Sounds familiar? See Ellen Oh's intake of Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell.

I shipped pynch, but after this I'll always associate them as that, "white gay couple who are lowkey racist." The only comfort I have is I'm finally free of this series.
