



The Witching Hour

Marie Hall

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After watching her husband die in a hit and run accident, Eve Philips thought she could never love again. Years pass and her sisters worry that she'll become an old crone like so many other witches. They've made it their personal mission to help her find her next true love. But Eve wants none of that. Instead, she throws herself into her potions shop, *Witch's Brew*, determined to work and not focus on her shattered love life.

That is, until the day she sees *him*. Cian is gorgeous and mysterious, frightening Eve by the desires he brings out in her—a passion that rivals even the love she'd felt for her husband.

But Cian isn't what he seems. He's fae, but more than that, he's the grim reaper of legend and his mission means her death. She shouldn't have seen him. His kind moves in stealth, but the moment her golden eyes meet his, he knows his world will never be the same. He'll defy his orders and his Queen to keep her.

Will Eve want what he offers when she discovers the truth?

90,000 words.

The Witching Hour Details

Date : Published September 1st 2012 by Marie Hall

ISBN :

Author : Marie Hall

Format : Kindle Edition 265 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Magic

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From Reader Review The Witching Hour for online ebook

Ariella says

I love this book. I feel bad for Cian in the beginning of the book and he get's better in the end. I love all the mysterious paranormal in the cities. Overall I love this book giving it 5 stars.

A.R. Von says

An Excellent paranormal read that held a little of everything for its readers. We're talking romance, action, sadness & loss, originality, various paranormals, humor, sensuality, surprises, an amazing build and GREAT characters (I fell in love twice!) Any fan of the genre will definitely enjoy their time spent with The Witching Hour :)

Eve is one of three sisters. All are beautiful and all are witches. Eve is the only one that has married out of the trio and sadly experienced the loss of her husband at a high point of their relationship. She lives for a couple of years still holding on to the loss, closing herself off to the world. No longer truly living as she should. That is until she meets Cian...

Cian is a fae, also known as a grim reaper. He's given tasks to accomplish and has no choice but to get them done. He never has a choice, but finds his current task brings him pause. He just CAN'T! There's something about it that's preventing him from moving forward and accomplishing what he's been set out to do. One of them being the most beautiful female he has ever seen, Eve.

An amazing story of fate, peace among all paranormals, choice, free will, a very touching romance and much, much more. While very satisfied with the story, I found myself wanting more of the world and characters Marie created (*hint hint*).

Shirley says

I received Death's Lover in exchange for a fair and honest review.

"When a book has you totally emotionally invested in the characters and heartbroken before the end of the first chapter, you know it's gonna be good."

That was my first status update on GoodReads when I started Death's Lover – and it wasn't an exaggeration. This book grabbed me and wouldn't let go from the very first chapter. I love it when that happens – even if it's breaking my heart in the process. *sigh*

Eve was the kind of character that I knew I was going to like from the very beginning. I loved her spunk, her sense of humor, the love she had for her sisters, the obvious love she had for her husband and most of all her strength. She survived tragedy and although she didn't feel like she could open up her heart, she didn't

crumble either. Basically, she was someone I'd love to get to know.

Cian was broken, but determined. His brokenness didn't come from a love lost, or one specific tragedy. He was broken by his circumstance. He hated what he was and what defined him. He knew from the moment that he saw Eve that she was worth saving. Falling in love with her was just an added incentive to protect her from the inevitable.

I loved the world that Marie Hall created in *Death's Lover*. What better place than San Francisco for supernaturals to congregate and feel safe? They lived among the humans and even though they were 'on display' they lived in relative peace without hiding who or what they were. There were quite a variety of 'species' but they didn't mix, at least not any more than they had to. The fact that the Fey were the outcasts in this menagerie of supernatural beings just reinforced Cian's low opinion of himself. Eve was comfortable with the world she lived in and didn't see the danger that Cian knew existed.

This series promises to be intense if *Death's Lover* is any indication. There was plenty of action, the supporting characters were more than just 'there' – including the bad guys. There were twists and turns in the direction the story took as well as what side of the proverbial fence the characters placed themselves. Although some mysteries were solved, there are even more to be uncovered and I can't wait to see what's in store for San Francisco's supernaturals as the series continues. The next book, *Death's Redemption*, comes out in March of 2014.

Liz F says

Reviewed for Sara at www.HarlequinJunkie.com

Review copy courtesy of the publisher via NetGalley

I'm slowly finding out that, for me, a book needs to be in the vicinity of 300 pages (250+) for me to feel like it's a fully formed novel with whole, complete characters. I'm thrilled to let you know that *Death's Lover* was a great read... with a small caveat (of course!).

The heroine, Eve, was excellent! I thought she was sufficiently complex and real. At the start of the book, she's married to an amazing guy and she's completely in love with him. I knew this wouldn't last but I kind of wanted it to. I won't reveal what happens but I can tell you that, for me, Eve's emotions were very real and my heart was broken almost as much as hers was. But there's a lot more to Eve, and this book, than sadness and heartbreak. It was actually a lot of fun to read! In this world, supernatural creatures are real and they're living out in the open...in San Francisco. But things aren't all hunkey dorey. There are humans that aren't okay with supernaturals and there are supernaturals that don't want to try and live in harmony with humans. But that conflict is kind of a back drop. Eve is a witch. Like, a real, live, powerful witch. And she has two sisters who, as you could guess, she loves very much but they're also a pain in her behind! Her sisters are the source of a lot of laughs and they're able to bring Eve out of her shell, which is nice to see. I was really rooting for Eve and it was a lot of fun to read a woman going out and trying to get what she wants...whether it's a man or a career or whatever.

Cian is the hero and he sounds so freaking yummy! But he's not perfect. He's... kind of... well, he's Death. Like, the Grim Reaper. And that can't be great for a guy's dating prospects, ya know? Cian isn't the only Grim Reaper. They're actually, like, a sort of sub-race of the fae and the fae are generally pretty hated by supernatural folks. I must have missed it because I'm not quite sure WHY the fae are hated so much. Maybe they're dangerous? Or maybe they started the last Great War between humans and supernaturals? I don't

know. I'm pretty sure it was covered in the book but I must not have been processing the story at that point? Anyways! Cian is super hot but kind of strange looking. He's described as really tall, nicely built but with black and white hair. I wasn't sure if it was Cruella DeVille-like with white on one side and black on another or if it was all mixed in, like salt and pepper hair? But whatever it was, Eve really dug it. And I have to say, I kind of did too! I'm starting to really enjoy heroes with longer hair. Probably because I picture some form of this:

(Yeah, yeah, that's Jared Padalecki as Sam Winchester. Photo credit to justjared.com)

I thought that Eve and Cian were decently hot together but this is where my caveat comes in. Now, I know at least SOME of you are dirty, dirty girls and you read these books just for the smut content. Hey, I'm not judging. I'm usually one of YOU!! LOL! But my point is, if you're looking for smut or lots of Sexy Time, you won't find it here. It has a lot of sensuality and a lot of longing but not a lot of the gettin' down and dirty, if you know what I mean... So if you're looking for a sexy little romance, this might be for you. If you're looking for hot, monkey sex... uhh, this ain't it.

But overall, I really liked this book. It wasn't overtly funny or sad. It was just good and engaging. It looks like this is Book 1 of Marie Hall's Grim Reaper series. Another Grim Reaper has a secondary role here and if he and Cian are anything to judge the series by, I will for SURE be continuing to read them! Yowza! This was a pretty great love story without an overabundance of heat. If that's what you're looking for in your paranormal romance, you should definitely give this book a chance!

Laura Greenwood says

<http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

Title: Death's Lover

Series: Eternal Lovers (#1)

Author: Marie Hall

From: Amazon

Genre: Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance

Release Date:

Challenges: COYER Scavenger Hunt

Links: Goodreads – Amazon

Eve and Michael are happily married and trying for a baby when life as they know it is changed for good. Victims of a hit and run, they are both marked for death, until Death, named Cian, can't take Eve and breaks with the rules of his court. When the Morrigan finds out that Cian didn't reap Eve's soul it sets in motion a series of events that could lead to both Eve and Cian's deaths. Cian can't forget about the witch whose life he stayed, and he finds himself drawn back to her in a way he can't describe...

I wasn't too sure what to expect when I started Death's Lover, I've read a fair few Marie Hall books and they've all been completely unique so that didn't give me that much of a clue! Like her other books, Death's Lover was unique, a true blending of reaper lore and urban fantasy.

I liked the fact that there was only the one place where werewolves, witches and vampires could live openly, and that it was a kind of beta test, and I liked the way that most of them seemed to care for the world around them. It made for an interesting setting, especially considering that they didn't have to hide what they were.

The Reaper lore used was interesting, and I really liked the way that it also weaved into the Fae courts, that wasn't something that I've seen before. I also liked that attention was paid to the little details, like how a reaper's hand reacts when a soul is ready to be reaped.

Death's Lover did leave me wondering exactly what was going on with the higher powers in the story. They clearly had their own agenda but it was quite difficult to work out what that was at some points. I'm intrigued though and want to know more for sure!

The romance was quite a slow one. There was a fair bit of chemistry between Eve and Cian right from the start, but they were quite slow to act on it for several reasons, meaning that it wasn't the main focus at most points, though the connection between them was the reason behind a lot of the plot.

I enjoyed Death's Lover, it was different and entertaining.

Ian says

A very good independently released love story about a Fae (the grim reaper no less) who falls in love with a witch whose soul he is sent to harvest.

Witches, demons, vampires, were-creatures and fae are all packed into this book.

It's not perfect but it's still great fun.

Paula says

R2R: The Witching Hour

(I received a free copy, in exchange for a review)

Cian, an age old Fae has a job that even his own people shun, the job of passing souls onto the next realm. He is Death, the one you fear. But Death, upon seeing Eve, is filled with feelings of protection and ownership, the complete opposite of what he should be feeling. Eve, a witch, is not aware of Death following her, until one night, she catches a glimpse of him. From that moment on, she feels that there is something else that she is missing. A thought that is lost upon waking, she cannot figure it out. Tragedy strikes and then the games begin.

'Human depictions always has the Grim Reaper wearing the traditional black cowl with a sickle in their skeletal grip. The truth, reapers were as normal as man. You could pass them on the street, commenting on their remarkable beauty, little knowing that beneath the white smile and ever-present glove lurked the killer of legend.'

This story sucked me right in and unfortunately I will never know what will happen after all of this. Unless of course, the author decides that she has some more to write (wink, wink.) It was such an easy read to get so involved in. I have heard her other books are equally wonderful, so I will have to satisfy my reading, with another one of her series.

Book Reading Gals says

Title: Death's Lover

Series: Eternal Lover's Series Book #1

Author: Marie Hall

Genre: Sci-Fi Fantasy, Romance, Erotica

Blurb: Eve Philips thought she could never love again. After her husband died in a hit-and-run accident, Eve poured her heart into her potions shop, Witch's Brew, and hasn't given any man a second glance-until Cian. As soon as she locks eyes with him, Eve knows she'll never be the same. Gorgeous and mysterious, he incites a passion in her that she's never felt before. And it's almost otherworldly . . .

Cian knows Eve is special the minute they lay eyes on each other. He's a supernatural being with a dangerous duty, and being seen is not part of the job description. But when he meets the kind, beautiful Eve, all the rules go out the window. Now that his superiors have gotten wind of it, he has a wicked enemy on his tail. Yet all he cares about is Eve: loving her, protecting her-and finding the right time to tell her his dark and terrible secret, a secret that threatens both of their lives . . .

Thoughts: For some reason this book was listed as Erotica (at least in Netgalley). I didn't really see it as an erotica novel myself, more of a paranormal or sci-fi/fantasy romance. I really liked the author's unusual take on the grim reapers and how they are actually fae whose duty it is to come and harvest the souls. I thought the idea of their hand and arm turning skeletal when they sense the dead or dying was really original. I liked the development of the story, however the ending was a bit far-fetched and 'let's just make up something totally out there to achieve our happily ever after'. It was just a little too convenient.

Other than that, my only complaint is a lack of connect with the book itself and the characters. I can't really pinpoint exactly why, I mean the book was good, I just didn't get caught up in it or invested in the story like I thought I would. Again, I'm not sure why - Hall is a good writer, there are enough twists to the reapers to make it interesting, the storyline is one I enjoy, etc. It just didn't all come together for me.

I have read one other novel by Hall, and I must say out of the two I much preferred this one. Overall, a good book, but not one I was up all night clamoring to finish. But a solid read nevertheless.

Rate: B

Review by: Sarah

<http://www.thebookreadinggals.com>

Gaele says

Quickly captivated and drawn in to the uniquely defined characterizations and world created for the ancients, a plausible introduction of their influence into a newly reimagined present day world clearly set this reader up for a wild ride. With Eve still grieving for the husband she lost, not realizing that she was spared from her own death by the intervention of one very sexy fae, Cian: against all reason and compulsion. Cian pits the Morrigan (Chaos) and her husband Dagda (Father of all) against one another as the fate of the earth, and humankind will hang in the balance.

In San Francisco, there is a culture of 'openness' where human and others have agreed to co-exist peacefully:

while there are still pockets of violence and danger, many of the paranormal have found a way to exist and profit from human sightseers and tourists. Eve and her two sisters are powerful and capable witches, and they have a successful shop that caters to paranormal and tourist alike. Eve has no conscious memory of Cian, but is inexorably and inexplicably drawn to him, much to her own confusion and guilt over it being 'so soon' since losing her husband to a hit and run driver.

From the moment that Eve and Cian encounter one another, there are palpable sparks flying. With revelations that appear as the story progresses, Marie Hall has managed to reconfigure the tales of the Great Wars and the paranormals that appear throughout the story in ways that hold interest and give background needed throughout the story. With clever inclusions of humor, bits of cityscape and even some meddling sisters and the words bring those scenes to life in the reader's imagination.

The romance is one that completely portrays the 'meant to be' moniker, the attraction is instant and unrelenting, sexy scenes are incredibly steamy and imaginative, exuding sensuality and emotion. And this story wraps with a sweetly romantic scene that provides answers to questions formed at the start of the story. It's a great stand-alone story, that leaves plenty of room for more in the series, although the author has said that the characters have stopped clamoring for their story to be told.

This is a great introduction to Marie Hall's work and should lead you to reading her other titles. She's one of my favorite authors that integrate old legend, fairy tales, paranormal and other pop culture references into her work.

I received an eBook copy from the author for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

PepperP0t says

3.5stars actually

Reaper Cian is sent to collect the souls of powerful witch Eve Phillips and her human husband Michael at the site of an auto accident. Cian is both amazed and glad to feel Eve's humanity, power and her love for her husband. So amazed that he is willing to risk grave punishment for not completing the assignment. After punishment's been administered, the Gods of the Reapers have different objectives to fulfill and have decided Eve's soul will be the battleground and act accordingly. Cian is sent to Eve's side with no direction or instruction and his brother Reaper, Frenzy, has been sent down with very vague direction and instruction. Meanwhile Cian's feelings for Eve continue to grow to obsession proportions while Eve has had her mourning magically removed opening the heart gates for both love and lust to bloom.

I wanted to like this so much more than I did. So many different POV's were confusing at times as the leads, Frenzy and the Reaper Gods all gave guided tours into their thoughts explaining their actions. Where this may have been designed to make the characters seem more complex, to my thinking it did not. For this reader it had the opposite effect and the thinness of their characters were underscored instead. As a reader I also wanted a more seamless story, while not exactly choppy the flow was not as smooth as I would have liked as it transitioned between the different POV's, actions and set pieces. Although I was intrigued with the very good premise and the fairly good writing style, I thought the pacing and the storyline could have been a bit tighter. I'd read this writer again but I'm uncertain if I would continue this series.

MJ says

Recently I have made a habit of picking some very average books - thankfully most have been just average and not horrible.

So when I decided to read the first chapter of this puppy just to see what I was getting into before bed, I was not expecting to have to force myself to put the book down well after midnight! This one had me from the start.

Right the way thru, I enjoyed the characters, the plot hints, and the story line. The only reason I didn't give 4 stars is because it really did seem to take the entire book to 'get to the point'. I know that sounds weird, because hey... That's what an ending is all about right? Well right, but hopefully I can still get my point across.

It just seemed to me that we knew relatively early what the plot goals of this book were without actually getting there for a hell of a lot longer. And yes we got there and thankfully (unlike a lot of other books), this 'gap' wasn't filled with 'dead words' just to bide time. The story remained enjoyable and things still happened. To me it just seemed to take 95% of the book to get there and 5% to wrap it up. Again, it wasn't bad and I still enjoyed it... But I personally would have enjoyed a little more time and detail in the finish.

On that note... I am def going to be reading #2 (Frenzy), and will keep myself busy in the mean time with a few of MH's other books that have caught my attention ?

I received a free copy of this book for an honest review.

Lizzie says

I am a big fan of Marie Hall, I enjoy reading what she writes. This book is no exception. It took me a while before I settle down long enough, once I did though the book really took off for me. Cian story was as heartbreaking as Eve's. I felt for both of them separately and together. The storyline was captivating; in a genre that is flooded by similar books, this will stand out.

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

~ 3.5 Death Stars ~

Marie Hall is an amazing writer and story teller. I love her **Kingdom** series and when I saw the cover and read the blurb for **Death's Lover** I was interested. A Grim Reaper (Death) as a leading man sounded appealing. **Death's Lover** is book one in Marie Hall's **The Eternal Lovers** series.

I enjoyed this story, but not as much as I wanted too. I had a hard time getting into the story/plot at first, but once things settled down, the book took off. Marie brings to us a verity of creatures in **Death's Lover** , but our main focus is the Grim Reaper(s) and their future.

Eve is a witch, who projects powerful magic (emotions). She seems to have no control over projecting her emotions all over the place, but I got the impression that before her husband died she had control. With this

aspect we see a vulnerability to Eve we might not have seen. We also see that she is very powerful, but the author does not give us much on this. It would have been nice to have a better understanding of her powers. We see bits and pieces, but only her projection power is understood.

Cian is Death, the Grim Reaper, but he is not the only Grim Reaper. He's haunted by his job, numb to feelings, and feels he will never love. He's been around for a very long time, so some of his old speak seeps in with a little Irish accent. ***Sigh*** Who doesn't like an accent? Once he lays eyes on Eve things start to change and when he has to take her soul well something happens to change him.

The story is told from several perspectives. The transition between points of view were not always immediately clear, but it was nice to see what was going on in everyone's mind. At the start of the book Eve is married and completely in love, but something happens to change all this. Cian and Eve are both complex characters. Eve's emotions are very real and at times heartbreaking. Cian battles with himself, his desire to protect Eve and the love growing. Both characters emotions and struggles come across to the reader. With the romance Ms. Hall does a great job building up to those moments in the book. We feel the heat just before an all consuming kiss. At the end I really felt for Cian and his plight. The fae especially the Grim Reaper(s) are hated (*it's not fully explained why?*), and somethings are said between Eve and Cian that hurts his feelings. I wanted to smack Eve at that moment when things were revealed and all she could do was the poor me routine. As for the ending, it wasn't the best.

*All and all **Death's Lover** is a good read. For some reason it did not give me that great Ah moment or fulfillment that I usually get from Ms. Hall, but I am interested to see where the plot is going in **The Eternal Lovers** series.*

This book may be unsuitable for people under 17 years of age due to its use of sexual content, drug and alcohol use, and/or violence.

Berls says

My Initial Reaction...

I fell in love with Eve and Cian so easily and rooted for their romance from the start. I also loved the concept for Death's Lover and look forward to reading the next book in the series.

The Characters...

The characters in Death's Lover were complex and incredibly easy to fall for. The story is told from several perspectives, which could be a bit jarring at times, since the transitions between points of view weren't always immediately clear. But it was great to be able to see what was going on in their minds. Eve is a witch, who projects (pretty powerfully, I might add) her emotions. I got the sense that she once had better control, perhaps before the death of her husband, but as we get to know her she's projecting all over the place. I loved this aspect of her, because it adds a layer of both honesty and vulnerability that's so endearing. You never doubted that what she felt was genuine. And perhaps the best word to describe Eve: genuine. To a fault. She's the kind of woman who says what she's thinking (because why bother hiding it, everyone can feel it anyway, right?). She's also clearly powerful, though I really wish we'd gotten to understand her powers a bit better. We see bits here and there, but the only power I got to understand fully was her projection.

Eve is most powerful when with her sisters, Tamryn and Celeste, who are also witches. Eve's relationship with her sisters was a favorite element for me. They are clearly very close, they tease and nag each other,

they support each other, they kick butt together. Again, I would have really loved to see their powers at a heightened level, but I guess that's what makes Death's Lover a paranormal romance, rather than an urban fantasy. The sisters own a shop together, where they sell their brews and other supplies to both the magical and human community.

And then there's Cian. Sigh. Who'd have thought the grim reaper could be so hot and so lovable? Cian is a fey – in this world there are several castes of fey and he belongs to the caste that work as death (or grim reapers, basically). He's pretty haunted by the job he has and doesn't have hope of love or happiness in life. Just the duty of reaping souls. He's been around for a millenia, so he has all these old mannerisms that are charming and an Irish accent to boot! *sigh* I loved watching Cian battle his desire to protect Eve, his sense of what he was and what that meant, all alongside the fact that he was falling in love with her.

The Story...

Death's Lover was a great love story. Marie does a wonderful job not only making us fall in love with the characters, but wanting their love story to work. Eve and Cian's love is basically a forbidden love deep down, and it's made even more complex by all the Cian know's that Eve doesn't. He was the reaper that took her husband's life and was supposed to take hers. But he couldn't. And that doesn't mean she's safe. All he wants to do is protect her, but he's falling for her – whom he cannot have – and she doesn't even know who he really is. I cheered them on, grew anxious about Cian's ability to save Eve, and how Eve would react to the truth if/when she learned it. It was a love story worth routing for. And it got pretty fabulously steamy at moments, but not before the tension has driven you gloriously crazy ;)

Death's Lover also had the potential for a great fantasy world. On that level, it fell just a bit short for me – but I have high hopes for the next book. We're in an alternate version of Earth, where humans and supernaturals live side-by-side, maintaining an uncertain peace. Eve lives in San Francisco, one of the only places where supernaturals can live openly without too much fear. There are mentions of a great war and throughout tensions about their fragile peace – between humans and perhaps even between supernaturals – but quite a bit is left very vague. There's also some moments in Fey lands that are pretty cool, sometimes very graphic, but again, I wanted more. As Death's Lover concludes, however, there's a pretty big punch toward a much more complex world than we've had a chance to grasp as of yet. So I have serious hopes that the next book in the series will pick up where that left off. And I'm also hoping to see the powers of Eve, her sisters, and Cian on greater display.

Concluding Sentiments...

Death's Lover was a great love story, with characters I loved cheering towards their HEA. The world has all the makings of an incredible fantasy and I really hope to see it come to fruition as the series continues.

This book may be unsuitable for people under 17 years of age due to its use of sexual content, drug and alcohol use, and/or violence.

I received this book for free from Author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Melindeeloo says

3.5 stars = I liked it. For some reason romances with a reaper (as in Grim Reaper) as a leading man appeal to me. Taking that hook and making it a slam dunk isn't always a given, but I liked the vulnerable reaper Cian who pays the price for refusing to do his duty and take the soul of the witch Eve - she stirs long forgotten emotions and is so vibrant a soul that Cian just can't let her die.

It helps that Eve (with a little godly help) has had a chance to recover from the accident that took her husband's life and left her seriously injured before Cian begins his quest to make sure that the reaping he refused to do isn't finished by another reaper. I liked how he tries to stay in the shadows but how Cian is drawn to meet Eve and how appealing off kilter he is in the dating department. Even though the time period of the 'courting' part of the story is short, I thought that there was enough of a relationship established between the pair - outside of the strong physical attraction - that the I love you's didn't feel rushed. I also liked that Cian has a champion who takes Eve to task when she reacts badly to the discovering that Cian isn't the vamp that she thought him to be.

I am not sure where the larger story arc - with various gods, goddesses and other omniscient immortals pulling the strings - is going to go. But I did find the sequel bait reaper Frenzy to be intriguing and am looking forward to his story.
