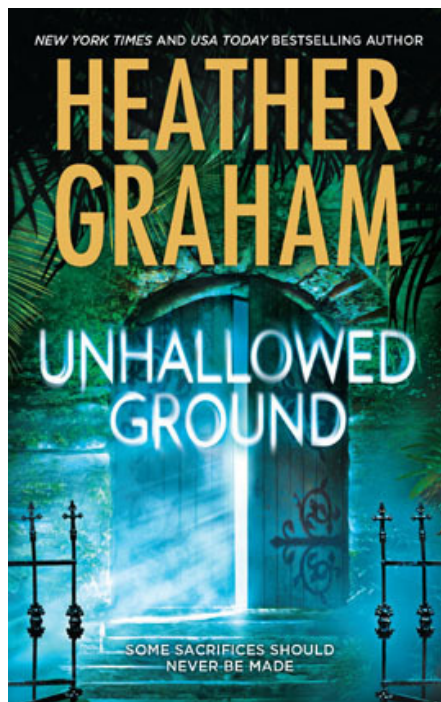




Unhallowed Ground

Heather Graham

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When Sarah McKinley is finally able to buy and restore the historic Florida mansion that she has always loved, she dismisses the horror stories of past residents vanishing and a long-dead housekeeper who practiced black magic. Then, in the midst of renovations, she makes a grim discovery. Hidden within the walls of Sarah's dream house are the remains of dozens of bodies - some dating back over a century.

The door to the past is blown wide open when Caleb Anderson, a private investigator, shows up at the mansion. He believes several current missing persons cases are linked to the house and its dark past. Working together to find the connection and stop a contemporary killer, Sarah and Caleb are compelled to research the history of the haunted house, growing closer to each other even as the solution to the murders eludes them.

But there is one who knows the truth...a spirit who follows every move they make. Soon Caleb begins to fear that if he can't stay a step ahead, he could lose Sarah to a killer with an ability to transcend time in a quest for blood and sacrifice.

Unhallowed Ground Details

Date : Published October 1st 2009 by MIRA (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Heather Graham

Format : Kindle Edition 367 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Suspense, Fiction

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From Reader Review Unhallowed Ground for online ebook

Nancy Ellis says

Ahhhh.....my guilty pleasure! Such an enjoyable light summer read! Actually did make me almost want to go to St. Augustine, though.

Lindsay Boitnott says

I first read Unhallowed Ground before I started writing reviews. I loved it. I re-read it a few months ago and I still enjoyed it even after approaching it with a reviewer's mindset. Heather Graham is great at ghost stories, and from what I can tell, good with the romance genre. I enjoy Unhallowed Ground for the ghost story; I invite all romance readers to chime in with their opinions!

Unhallowed Ground tells the story of Sarah, a young historian living in St. Augustine, Florida. She is happily working as a tour guide and restoring her historic home when Caleb enters her life. Caleb has a unique connection to the spirit world and is sent to St. Augustine in search of a missing girl. Soon the two are entwined in mysteries, both ancient and modern, and they must find the answers to keep Sarah safe.

I love Sarah's antique home and have begged my husband, to no avail, to let me have one of my own. He definitely wouldn't say yes after reading this story! Graham does a wonderful job of describing modern settings that are entrenched with history. This allows readers to feel connected to the ghost story throughout the novel and fuels the suspense. This writing style keeps me coming back to the novel year after year.

I also enjoy reading Sarah and Caleb. Caleb is the best written character in Unhallowed Ground and I found his straight forward personality refreshing. I easily connected with Sarah's passion for history (I am a historian after all). That is all I'm going to say about the characters because I feel that getting to know them as your reading makes Unhallowed Ground more enjoyable. My biggest complaint is that the ending read too fast. I like to soak in the 'who dunnit' revelation, so I was a little disappointed at the speed but happy to be totally surprised at the end.

Unhallowed Ground is a great spooky cozy mystery to take with you on a late fall vacation. Who else has read Unhallowed Ground?

Lindsay

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

3.5 Stars

I really enjoyed this one. The history and details about St Augustine were interesting and the mystery kept me guessing right until the end. In fact, I was really rather gobsmacked at who the baddie(s) ended up being!

This would have been a 4 star book had it not been for Sarah, who was pretty much a bitch to Caleb for the first half of the book for no apparent reason at all. It was bizarre to say the least, and I just never warmed up to her character. Also, the sex scenes were ridiculously overly flowery in there descriptions. I admit I pretty much laughed out loud when reading them!

Overall though I love how this author writes her mysteries, so she has a fan in me!

nurmawati says

sarah yg baru pindah ke rumah antik kaget dengan ditemukannya ratusan kerangka di balik dinding perpustakaanya yg mau dia restorasi....

ternyata rumah tempat sarah tinggal punya cerita msalalu yg berhubungan dengan pembunuhan berantai, penyihir dan gadis2 yg menghilang dan gak pernah ditemukan seratusan tahun lamanya...

caleb semacam detektif swasta yg ditugaskan oleh bos nya buat mencari anak temen bos nya yg menghilang selama 6 bulan tanpa kabar berita...

caleb pergi menyelidiki ke kota tempat sarah tinggal dimana si gadis yg dicari terakhir terlihat menuju kota itu..

di kota tsb juga terjadi kegemparan dengan menghilangnya seorang gadis lokal...

dan ada desas desus bahwa pembunuh berantai itu mengincar gadis berambut pirang...

sarah punya seorg sahabat yg cantik dan berambut pirang, caroline.

caleb dijuluki magnet penarik mayat krn dimanapun dia, selalu bertemu mayat...

pada saat mencari jenny (si gadis hilang) di danau, dia menemukan mayat laki2 di dalam mobil yg kondisinya sudah rusak parah..

walau keliatannya gak ada hubungannya dengan gadis2 yg hilang tapi caleb punya intuisi bahwa mayat laki2 tsb berhubungan dengan kasus yg dia cari jawabannya..

caleb merasakan ketertarikan instant kepada sarah...

sarah terkenal sebagai pribadi yg lumayan tertutup karena 3 tahun lalu dia kehilangan tunangannya akibat perang...

sarah bekerja di museum lokal bersama caroline dan teman2 nya...

suatu malam sarah melihat penampakan hantu yg wajahnya mirip sekali dengan caleb, sarah marah pada caleb karena dikira caleb menakuti dia menggunakan kostum kuno...padahal saat itu caleb sedang tidur dikamarnya..

akhirnya berdasarkan foto kuno yg caroline temukan, diketahui bahwa cato mc tavish, laki2 yg pernah memiliki rumah sarah berwajah sangat mirip dengan caleb dan ada kemungkinan merupakan moyang caleb..

cato di tuduh membunuh tunangannya sendiri (eleanora) dan juga gadis2 yg hilang pada masa perang saudara...

beberapa kali sarah dalam bahaya tapi muncul hantu cato buat menolongnya, so sarah gak percaya kalo cato seorg pembunuh...

sarah menemukan jurnal yg bercerita ttg seorg penyihir, martha tyler yg dulu sekali juga pernah tinggal di rumah itu...

martha penyihir jahat yg mengorbankan gadis2 muda buat diambil darahnya demi kepercayaan utk awet muda..

sampai khirnya penduduk menggantung martha yg di duga membunuh anak majikannya...

sebelum meninggal martha mengutuk kalau jurnal nya suatu hari akan ditemukan dan pembunuhan serupa akan terjadi..

so sarah dan caleb mencari jurnal tsb..

siapaun yg memilik jurnal tsb pasti si pembunuh yg meniru pembunuhan martha yg dilakukan ratusan tahun lalu dengan cara memeras darah korbannya sampa habis...

yg pasti si pembunuh adalah org di sekitar sarah yg sama sekali gak di curigai..

heather graham bagus banget dalam membuat novel thriller yg sarat hantu2 an...baca nya sampe menggigil..tapi tetep lanjut krn penasaran..

akhirnya semalam gak bobo sampe sahur dan sholat shubuh buat namatin buku ini...

gw kasih 4 bintang :)

Ashley Logan says

This is a great little ghost story. When Sarah buys her historic house and begins to renovate it, she finds out that there are bones in the walls. Along with that comes a ghost and the handsome new guy in town. She must find out more history on the house to try and figure out what happened in her house, and why there are girls in town disappearing. I really loved the history in this book. It was really interesting to read the memoir excerpts in the novel from the women of the past. It is a good novel if you like reading about legends.

Louisa says

Awesome book, great mystery, and who the bad turned out to be! Though the mystery of who put the bodies in the walls wasn't definitively figured out, we don't know for sure who did it!

Kirsten says

This is one of the better Harrison Investigation books. The couple are good together and I liked the ghost story. Very nice it wasn't set in New Orleans. (Sometimes, I really get tired of New Orleans.)

These books are always kind of fun because you have a paranormal element, but the real evil is being done by flesh and blood people.

Heather Graham is my go-to for a nice quick but suspenseful read.

Heather L says

I cannot, in all good consciousness, give this book a high rating. I have read others by this author and under this publisher, and liked what I read. With this book...*sigh*. I was intrigued by the premise. The prologue pulled me in. But then you couldn't go five pages without an editing error smacking you in the face and pulling you out of the story. The poor editing (or in this case, apparent lack thereof) that has, unfortunately, become synonymous with certain publishers these days is my biggest reading peeve. I have *never* been so angry and disappointed with a book from this author or publisher and, as a consumer, feel cheated. When I shell out money for a product -- *any* product -- I expect *quality*. This wasn't it.

Amy says

I had to give the second star because the premise was interesting enough that I read it all the way through, but this book was badly written. The author had some real problems with continuity, pacing, and how the characters spent their time while the author was trying to tell the story. I thought the characters were inconsistent and the ending was unconvincing.

On the plus side, as other reviewers have said, I was totally intererested in the history. I thought the male lead was the most dimensional character, I wanted to know more about him and Harrison investigations. Goodreads has this listed as part of a Harrison Investigations series.

Conversely, I had no interest in the female lead. I thought she was fairly two dimensional and I didn't care what happened to her. She was banal and I had a hard time believing she was an intelligent researcher. I love research mysteries, and that's also where the author blew it. When the historian started reading diaries from history, the voices were so bland and modern that I didnt believe for a minute that they were people from 150 years ago.

And of course, I hate the sex scenes. Everyone's romances were like horny teenagers. The tension between the characters was more intriguing before they slept together, and even if their affair needed to be consummated, I think it would have lent to the complexity of the story if the author had kept it behind closed doors. Trying to describe it to us just made it all the more shallow. Once again, I don't read romance novels and if I had thought that's what this was, I would have left it alone.

I picked up this book just from browsing the library shelves. The ghost story sounded so interesting, but both it and the writing were disappointing. How does this author merit half a shelf of her books at the library?

Susan says

I enjoyed this book. The story was intriguing and the setting was someplace I'd like to visit one day (minus the killings). It took a little while to keep all the characters straight and toward the end I had to stop reading to think for a minute who I was reading about.

There are just a few minor picky things I did not like about this book. This may contain spoilers so read further at your own risk. I got tired of hearing that the house was not evil, just the people and the evil they brought. Seems like this phrase was used over and over again. Next is the medical examiner saying "I'm just a M.E., not a *fill in the blank*". Didn't need to keep reading that line over and again. Finally, it seems like

one of the 'bad guys' was picked out of a hat. Some may say that no one had seen coming, and I agree, only because the character is very much on the peripheral of the story.

That being said, all in all I did enjoy the read. I just wish these few minor things could have been changed/deleted/enhanced, etc.

Barbara ★ says

Heather Graham has always been hit or miss with me. This one is great until the very end where the bad guy suddenly "comes out of the closet" rather abruptly. It almost seemed as if the characters weren't getting to the correct conclusion fast enough, so the author just throw the confession out there. This would have had a 5 star rating except for the ending.

Out-of-towner Caleb Anderson is in St. Augustine searching for two women gone missing a year apart. Caleb is a paranormal investigator usually investigating something ghost related. Here he is in the ghost capital of the US so something ghostly definitely has to be happening. Sarah McKinley is a native who just returned to St. Augustine and purchased an historical mansion. During the renovations, bones have been discovered in one of the walls. The mysteries keep adding up: a body washes ashore, a man is found in the river dead in his car, a woman is attacked but survives, one of the investigators is acting suspicious, the appearance of a civil war ghost, and we can't forget about the disturbed earth in the cemetery.

I was disappointed in the ending but all the events leading up to it were very suspenseful and there wasn't any clues to the baddie. I hadn't a clue and was genuinely surprised.

Christine Whittington says

"Hallowed Ground" is much better than average for what it is--a paranormal bodice-ripper in an intriguing historical setting with appealing characters. It resembles an engaging Nancy Drew or Trixie Belden book for grownups. It is Book 7 in the Harrison Investigation Series, about a company whose investigators have talents for communicating with the dead and other aspects of the paranormal, often in historic settings.

In "Unhallowed Ground," a group of friends, including several historians who are docents in a private history museum in St. Augustine, become involved with the investigation of several murdered and missing young women, and it is beginning to look like a serial killer is on the loose. Graham brings in St. Augustine (and vicinity) history and folklore, including stories about Chief Osceola, the Castillo, the potters field where the sinful were buried, Creole black magic, and the ritual "black drink" used by Native Americans in Florida.

This is a fun read, with a good bit of sly humor and both grisly and sexy bits. It has an over-the-top denouement.

One factor that pushed this to 4 stars for me was that it made me look up things. There really was a "black drink" and Cassadaga, Florida, still has a Spiritualist camp and is known for its psychics. It also made me want to visit St. Augustine.

"Hallowed Ground is fun and delicious. Even better, it arouses one's curiosity. Nice one! I plan to read the rest of the series.

Paula Gardner says

I just started reading this author and I love her so far. This book was one of those I had a hard time putting down for the evening. The story was captivating, the characters were wonderful. I thought I knew "who done it" until it was revealed, and I was wrong. Very well written. Gotta get the rest in this series. Great book, but give yourself a lot of time to read it as you will not want to put it down.

Shanon says

The story was interesting but I didn't feel involved with the characters. They are all so flat. I had a hard time keeping the secondary characters straight – which is a shame since they play such an integral role in the end. The villain came out of left-field and was rather disappointing.

meh... it was just okay. I won't be recommending it to others – either to read it or stay away from it.

Eleanor Thompson says

Repetitious drivel. Don't waste your time on this book or author.
