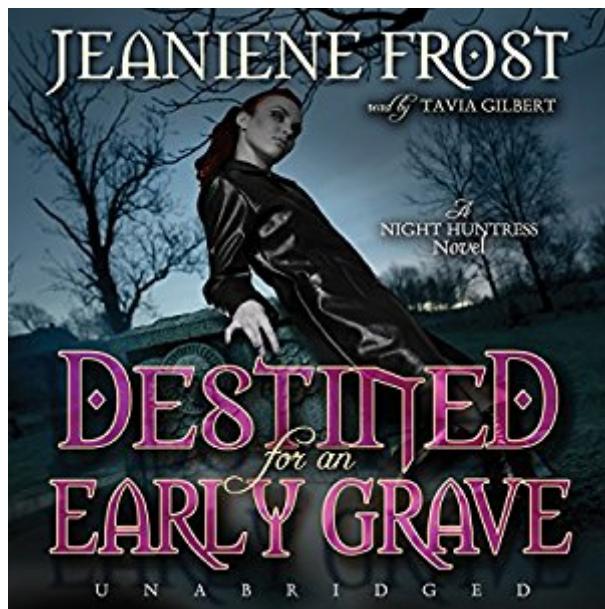


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Destined For An Early Grave: Night Huntress, Book 4



Synopsis

Since half-vampire Cat Crawfield and her undead lover Bones met six years ago, they've fought against the rogue undead, battled a vengeful Master vampire, and pledged their devotion with a blood bond. Now it's time for a vacation. But their hopes for a perfect Paris holiday are dashed when Cat awakes one night in terror. She's having visions of a vampire named Gregor, who's more powerful than Bones and has ties to her past that even Cat herself didn't know about. Gregor believes Cat is his and won't stop until he has her. As the battle begins between the vamp who haunts her nightmares and the one who holds her heart, only Cat can break Gregor's hold over her. She'll need all the power she can summon in order to bring down the baddest bloodsucker she's ever faced ... even if getting that power will result in an early grave.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Destined For An Early Grave is the fourth book in the Night Huntress series. Cat & Bones have been married for some time, but even in marriage there are challenges. Enter an evil, power-hungry vamp named Gregor. Turns out, Gregor has visions of the future, and he saw how powerful Cat would become a long time ago. Apparently, when she was sixteen, Gregor glamoured Cat's mother and whisked her off to Paris to marry her. Master vamp & Bones grandsire, Mencheres, who also sees the future finds out about Gregor's plan. Mencheres rescues the teenage Cat, buries all memory of Gregor and imprisons the evil vamp. (Are we supposed to overlook the fact that Cat is supposedly immune to vamp glamour?) Now, over a decade later, Gregor escapes custody and wants his bride back. Sounds stupid,

doesn't it? That's what I thought too. In fact, I started this book and got distracted by JR Ward and took my time coming back to it. I do have to say though that it gets better. By the middle of the book, my emotional investment into the characters was coming back. By the time it got the scene where Bones leaves Cat, I felt like my heart was getting ripped out. One thing that Frost does very well is capture the emotion in her characters and Destined For An Early Grave nails it, even if the plot didn't. Overall, I give Destined For An Early Grave 1 bookmark (Beginning implausible, but some good stuff at the end if you can hold on for it.)

Character Development 2 bookmarks

Fight Scenes 3 bookmarks

Love Story 3 bookmarks

(Saved the book in my opinion.)

Dream Cast (otherwise known as who I pictured while reading)

Did not change since I reviewed the first book. The cover model on the book (Cat) & David Anders (Bones).

I'm not going to provide a synopsis as that has been successfully done by others. My review will be a reflection my opinion and reaction to "Destined for an Early Grave". First let me qualify my review, I am a true reader and I have read the first three books in Ms. Frost's Night Huntress series. This book reminds me of soup, comforting; but, a gourmet meal is more impressive. The author chopped and threw stuff in the pot with a low heat, it was good; but, the meal could have been much better if the author had put more effort into preparing the meal. I understood Bones sentiments and actions but Cat got on my nerves "ye of little faith". Like Spade, I knew Bones wasn't cheating but setting a trap. If Cat listened to his "tirade" she would have known it too. Her lack of maturity is so draining. Cat's disrespect for Bones experience and abilities is destructive. Okay so she is new to relationships; but, give me a break, this circumstance is old. We're in book 4, where is Cat's growth? Please Ms. Frost no more. After all of the tests presented by "Destined for an Early Grave", Bones has proven himself repeatedly. You can't marry someone as old as Bones who is in his first monogamous relationship and expect him not to want to protect the love of his life. This book was far too catty. Nobody was stopping Cat from carrying money. Really, Ms. Frost that whole tantrum wasn't needed. After tolerating all that fighting, there should have been some flaming sex scenes. Cat's reasons for wanting to become a Vampire should have included her wanting to share more with her husband, a means to prove that she believed in him and their love for one another. I wasn't thrilled with the whole Gregor storyline; but, I gave it a chance. It could have been written better if the focus of the book wasn't on Cat and Bones engaging in needless bickering. The story would have been better if Cat and Bones worked together to defeat a common enemy rather than battling each other.

After reliving his deception and probable rape of her, why didn't Cat kill Gregor when she had the knife in him? Teenage crush my ass. Why wasn't the fact that Cat did not consummate her marriage to Gregor an issue? What about the marriage being annulled since it was founded on lies and deceptions? Why not let Gregor cut himself with the knife but before Cat could have cut her hand something happened before their hands joined his wasn't bleeding; hence, their blood did not mingle so they marriage wasn't valid? Why was Justine Gregor's property when clearly Max had Justine first which should have made her Ian's line / property? Menchere's strong enough to imprison Gregor in an instant; but, he isn't strong enough to put him back? Not strong enough to stop him from killing Rodney? I definitely enjoyed Vlad's role and stance in this tale. He proved himself to be a great friend and ally. Ahh, Annette was a nice surprise this go round. A mature vampire who is willing to share her wisdom (enlightenment) with the woman her man loves in the interest of his happiness. Fabian is a great addition to the series. I'm going to miss Rodney. He was a true and loyal friend. I would have liked to see more scenes of him taming Justine. Considering the ghouls were concerned about Cat being a threat to them, Rodney should have placed a role in dispelling their fears or had a center role in defeating the ghouls in a battle over Cat. "Destined for an Early Grave" can be a stand alone read; however, the reader will have a better feel for the relationship dynamics and personalities of the characters if the first three books are read first. Definitely, this is the weakest book in the series; but, I'm going to ride or die with JR to the end of this series.

Clearly, in the reviews there is some dissatisfaction with this book, even among series fans. We'll get to that in a moment, but first let's take a collective breath and recognize that J. Frost has really improved as an author since the first book. (That's not intended as a criticism). Anyway, I read and enjoyed the plot and premise of the early books enough that I was willing to overlook some plot holes and coincidence-driven occurrences as well as some writing redundancies and the shallowness of a main character who dedicates her life to murdering vampires out of revenge for her mother's rape, which always seemed a bit extreme to me, especially since she herself was half vampire. In general, I'd characterize it as saying that in the early books, Frost's story telling was high while her writing craft was more average. Since then, in my opinion, her writing craft has improved noticeably. So, then, we come to this 4th novel in the series. The plot, while certainly thrilling in an edge-of-your-seat way, did feel a bit contrived, with Cat going to Paris and having a memory of [...Self editing here to prevent spoilage]. Anyway, this all caused a rift between Bones and Kat that just felt a bit off, too unbelievable, then too strongly antagonistic or something. I'm

honestly not sure. And their refusal to talk to each other felt forced, too. Still, for me, this problem was a minor irritant that hardly detracted from an immensely enjoyable novel reading experience. So, to read or not to read? If the believability of the romantic relationship and interplay is what does it for you, then you may be disappointed in this novel. If you are more interested in the series arc or each novel's suspense and action, then I think you, like me, would enjoy some pleasant hours in the company of this book. **SB Frank Recommends:** Definitely start with the first book in the series. Δ *Halfway to the Grave* (Night Huntress, Book 1) For an interesting and somewhat humorous take on the urban fantasy genre, try the book by Cheyenne McCray, *Demons Not Included.* Δ *Demons Not Included: A Night Tracker Novel*

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