

REVIEWS FOR THE WHITE RAVEN

A novel by Carrie D. Miller

Publication Date: April 1st, 1997

Genres: Contemporary Fantasy, Magical Realism

Pages: 412



READERS' FAVORITE

<https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/the-white-raven>

I enjoy books with bold plots and quirky perspectives and *The White Raven* by Carrie D. Miller offered more than that. In some strange way, the author had me thinking about Sita, the lead character in Christopher Pike's *Thirst*. Aven is living her thirteenth life, and she isn't sure how many more lives she will have to live. It could have been easier for her to keep on living one life after another, except that her past lives catch up with her. Shadowed by a white raven, Aven isn't sure if the raven has the key to her freedom or if she is the cause of the curse. Now she is settled in Salem, owns a shop, and explores the possibility of love. But then a shocking discovery disrupts everything. Can she survive the dark magic this time?



The narrative voice is captivating, and it comes across very strongly in the first person narrative. Written in the present tense, the author seems to have the unusual knack for drawing the reader irresistibly into the narrator's viewpoint. The writing is excellent and it features a lot of insightful descriptions that capture the emotions of the characters in the minutest detail. I love the strong plot, the originality of the story and the great characters. The conflict is masterfully handled and it isn't hard to love the characters, to feel their pain and frustration. *The White Raven* is a great story for fans of fantasy and anyone who loves reading about witches and magic. Carrie D. Miller was able to capture my heart throughout the entire story.

FANGIRNATION.COM

<http://fangirlnation.com/2017/04/01/the-white-raven/>



The White Raven is out! Happy Book Birthday (insert many balloons and streamers and champagne here) Carrie D. Miller!!! A new book release is always a special thing, even more so when I have just finished reading that book and it is fantastic! You might think I'm exaggerating, but no, I really, really liked this book (I'm a writer so I can come up with better descriptors than *really*, but it's 6 am, so forgive me).

The White Raven is a romance wrapped up in a magical story with just enough thrill to keep you butt-in-seat until the book is done. Or at least, that's how it worked for me. I started to read it a days ago but couldn't finish, so I made sure to sit down last night and finish the last 95% of it I had left and it was no problem for me to do so. Seriously, a great story. It hooks you in and doesn't let go.

The White Raven centers on Aven, a witch who's been alive for a millennia and doesn't see end in sight. She's so powerful that she's been solitary for the majority of her lives, yes, she's on her 13th. I so don't want to spoil this, so this is hard, but the title comes from Aven's constant companion through all her lives, a white raven who she knows is there but can't quite see or touch. Always just there on her peripheral vision but so far away. Throughout the story we come to find out just how important that raven, Ren, is. And through this journey, this 13th life that Aven leads, she makes friends, falls in love and performs some seriously cool magic.

The author, Carrie D. Miller, does a fantastic job of pulling you into this world of magic and making you cozy and want to stay. Even through the rough times, and there are some rough times, you root for Aven and her crew. She's been through so much and you, the reader understand that she deserves a happy ending. Though, to be fair, I'm not sure if that is what she gets (spoilers!). Either way, I'm so glad I got a chance to read this book. It is always fun to find a new magic to read about. You think the genre is overdone until you find something bright and fresh like this, so that is cool *The White Raven* is out today so look for it wherever you buy books!

THE BOOK BOX

<https://theonlybookbox.wordpress.com/2017/03/28/the-white-raven-carrie-d-miller/>



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

Before I even begin with my review of *The White Raven* I must admit to being very excited to read it (little kid at Christmas kind of excited) as this book follows a similar genre to one of my all-time favourite books! As soon as I started to read *The White Raven*, I couldn't put it down. It captivated me right from the beginning (as if by magic) and all the way through I couldn't stop smiling as I went on this amazing journey Carrie D. Miller provided!

Now, on with the review...

Firstly, we follow the life of Aven Dovenelle (a real witch) who is cursed to live life after life with all her memories of her previous lives (including her horrific deaths). Straight away Aven's character is so intriguing, wanting to know more about her curse and her new life in Salem I didn't have a problem in following her story word for word. In her thirteenth life she seems to have found some peace with her endless curse, having her own shop to sell magical items and true friends by her side, I loved reading about Aven's journey and truly felt as if I knew her, understood her pain, her frustration, her love and friendships.

The prospect of this book turning into a romance genre wasn't entirely a bad thing (who doesn't love a good romance) but as it already has fantasy, magic, friendship and tragedy muddled within, it gave this book a perfect mixture to satisfy all readers. The relationships that Aven encounters (Calvin being one) really proves that love can be hard to come by when you are different, but Aven inspired me by proving everyone wrong that a strong independent woman (witch) can have happiness and I was swept up with the romance that blossomed between her and Cal (even if there were a few rocky patches!).

One part I thoroughly enjoyed throughout (it is very hard to pick just one!) was the chapters where the White Raven (Ren) had an inner monologue, it was a very unique writing style and quite frankly a brilliant way to tie up the relationship between Aven and the White Raven, showing a softer side to her as well as giving us some insight into how she felt about Aven and the struggle they both must go through! How their relationship whilst somewhat a mystery proved to be something much more powerful and inspiring. It broke up the usual narrative perfectly and really gave me a different side to the story that I was very grateful for!

Learning about the curse was a huge shock! Although a few twists were put in place which completely threw me. I honestly didn't see it coming and I couldn't imagine it being announced any better, no spoilers will be mentioned but I was completely in awe of how the whole book finished...

I think that the book was written beautifully and honestly I don't think my words can do it justice, I do feel as if *The White Raven* is a perfect read if you wish to escape reality and enter a world of magic, curses and friendships. My only downside would be that it wasn't longer (but fingers are crossed for a sequel). I will most definitely be looking out for any other books Carrie D. Miller brings out because her writing is truly wonderful!

D WILLIAM LANDBOROUGH

<http://www.dlandsborough.com/blog/2017/4/1/should-you-read-it-the-white-raven>



SHOULD YOU READ IT: THE WHITE RAVEN

REVIEWS

I had the absolute privilege of being able to read Carrie D Miller's debut novel, *The White Raven*, before its official release. Luckily for everyone reading this, you now have the chance to read it as well, since today marks the day when the book goes live for purchase. But you may be asking yourself: Is *The White Raven* worth reading?

Before I get too far into the review, I want to state clearly that I was given *The White Raven* for free in exchange for a review. Normally I opt to purchase an ebook of the novels I am reviewing to support authors, though this was not really possible for this situation! Despite it being free of charge, rest assured that my review is my honest opinion - I would do myself, you, or the author the disservice of skewing my thoughts.

Now, let's get going.

The White Raven is a modern-day fantasy, magical realism novel. It is told from the first-person perspective of Aven Dovenelle, a witch who has been cursed to live a seemingly endless number of lifetimes. Aven is now living her thirteenth life, nearly reaching the one thousand year mark. In her current lifetime, Aven has found a more accepting climate for those practicing witchcraft in the infamous town of Salem. She is even opening a shop where she will sell trinkets and homemade goods that are sometimes more than they appear.

What Aven does not realize is that something from one of her former lives is still holding a grudge. It is looking for revenge and will do whatever it can to get it.

I enjoyed reading *The White Raven*. It boasts a strong female lead, a unique take on modern fantasy and the curse itself, and a very intimate and realistic connection to witchcraft.

The main star of the show is Aven. Since the story is told from her point of view - for the most part - we get a bunch of insights into her thoughts and her past lives. To be fair, I actually didn't like Aven for the first few chapters. She came across as angry and short-tempered, but this quickly developed into more of strong will and independence, rather than a short fuse (which she admits to having, herself). As we learn about the terrible things that she has been through and how she has suffered, it becomes more understandable that she has become hardened. As Aven explains many times, this is the first lifetime where she feels happy and safe. Nearly a thousand years of living in fear, being persecuted and killed will take its toll on anyone, even a witch as incredibly powerful as Aven.

And the incredible power that Aven possesses is extremely important in conveying one of the strongest messages in the story. A common theme I found within *The White Raven* was that, no matter how powerful Aven is, her actions have consequences. And usually the worst of these consequences are a direct result of Aven's temper, when her fury gets the best of her. Whether it be reprimanding a thief, cursing someone who hates her, or merely displaying her grandiose power and wealth, Aven is often the instigator of her own misfortune. You don't want bad things to happen for her, but her faults help make Aven, someone strong enough to influence Nature itself, more human and relatable.

We grow to love the other characters as well. Without delving into too much spoiling detail, the other characters - primarily Aven's friends - act realistically and are usually a fun, sarcastic addition to the story. Even the namesake of the story, the white raven, has its own personality and was one of my favourite characters.

There was one part of the novel that I wish was a bit different, though. The story almost feels like two stories in one. On the one hand, we are introduced to the Spirit of Morris Stiles as a hateful Spirit looking for revenge. He shows up in the first act of the book, then all but disappears until the very end. In between we follow Aven, Jo, and Sylvia trying to figure out why Aven is cursed and how to fix it. I think it might have been preferable to either focus wholly on one story or the other, for this first book, or have Morris show up or grow every now and then throughout the story, since both arcs could have stood on their own right.

That being said, *The White Raven* is a strong debut for Miller. Aven is almost like a force of Nature herself, a witch that is awe-inspiring in her abilities, yet relatable through her mistakes and tragedies. Yet she is cursed to live and die, over and over. She has been persecuted to no end, and even now, in the modern era, she is not safe.

Is *The White Raven* worth reading?

Absolutely. If you are a fan of magical realism, modern fantasy, real life witchcraft, a splash of romance, and a strong female protagonist, be sure to treat your imagination to Miller's debut novel.

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