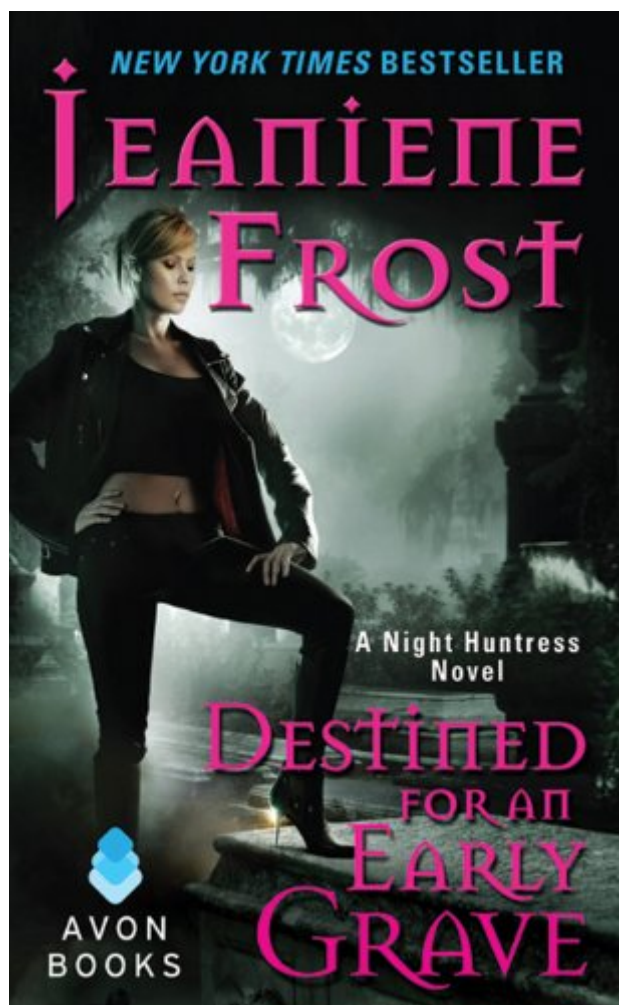


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Destined For An Early Grave (Night Huntress, Book 4): A Night Huntress Novel



Synopsis

Her deadly dreams leave her in grave danger 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 he 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.

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Customer Reviews

When I had finished *At Grave's End*, the third book in Jeaniene Frost's *Night Huntress* series, I was on the fence whether I wanted to go ahead and read *Destined For An Early Grave*. I can say with much certainty that *Destined For an Early Grave* is Jeaniene's way of basically sitting on top of me and say- "I won't let you go without a fight!". This book was a wild ride with a lot of action, drama and more snark than ever before. And the steamy, passionate love that Bones and Cat share that I

found lacking in *At Grave's End*? That has been pushed up a notch. Bones does love to use his fangs on Cat in so many ways. *Destined For an Early Grave* digs deep into the psyche and emotions of Cat and Bones. This time they are not only tested by both outside sources, but also their inner turmoil. There is one such individual who wants Cat because he had her first before Bones. And then there are those doubts Cat still has when it comes to Bones. Cat may know how to kill the bad guys with great skill, but when it comes to Bones she shuts off. And because of these esteem issues she has, she is the one responsible for the possible destruction of her relationship with Bones. *Destined For an Early Grave* begins with Cat and Bones going on a much needed vacation. Cat wants to go to Paris for no reason that she can think of. Bones is all for it because he wants to give his lady love and vampire wife the world. Off they go not expecting an adventure that may ruin their whole foundation of devotion and trust. Cat shares her heart and body with Bones but won't allow him access into her mind and deepest thoughts. Bones feels hurt even though he knows the Cat has problems with letting others get too close to her. I really do wish these two would go through some marriage counseling.

I am a humongous fan of this series. *Hu-mon-gous*. In a world where there's so much to read and so little time, I've reread "*Halfway to the Grave*" at least three times since I got my kindle 2 back in March of 09. It's the characters! They're so compelling. Bones is my favorite male lead of any romance series I've ever read. He's beautiful, he's badass, he's got a great sense of humor, and he's emotionally balanced. Cat is also a compelling heroine. In the first three books, she's hard-nosed, courageous, and vulnerable, but she's also afraid of her feelings and judgmental. I liked that, misguided as she is sometimes, she loves Bones so much that she's willing to sacrifice her own happiness for his safety. The plots of the first three books are great, but it's this dynamic between Kat and Bones that keeps me coming back over and over.... Which, of course, is why I was horribly disappointed to find it missing entirely from this book until the very end. Cat spent the entire book guzzling gin and stuffing her face full of ice cream. She was wenchy and whiny and stupidly headstrong. Where was my stubborn and courageous heroine? Why did she spend nearly no time kicking vampire booty? Why did she turn from the Reaper into a ruffled house frau, sucking down gin while suspecting her hubby of humping around on her? (I solemnly promise never to use the word hump ever again.) And Bones? Why did he turn from a lovely, emotionally-centered vampire into a neanderthal? He spent the entire book keeping Cat at a distance, either emotionally or physically or both. The final nail in the coffin (har) was that this book had several instances of "Easily Preventable Angst."

****Caution: this review may contain spoilers as it is part of a series and I really need to rant about it. Proceed at your own risk****Any regular follow of this blog can tell you that I LOVED the first three books in Jeaniene Frost's Night Huntress series. I devoured them all in as many days and enjoyed them so much that I hosted a contest to give the series away to one lucky reader. When people have asked for recommendations of a fun, non-sparkly vampire series to read I've happily offered up the story of Bones and Cat for them. So when *Destined for an Early Grave* was released in July you can assure yourself that I rushed right out to buy it. And then despite numerous attempts to start it I'd only read a few pages before losing interest and putting it down. This saddened me because I had such high hopes for it. I recently picked it up again and while I managed to read it to the end a part of me almost wishes that I hadn't. This book had stilted dialogue, poor editing (as in it seems vital transition scenes were axed making some things flow badly), and a plot that was drawn out way to long. One example of the poor transition editing comes on page 212 when Cat is heading up a rescue mission to get Bones out of New Orleans the scene reads as follows: "On-screen, I saw [Geri] nearing Bones. He was at Pat O'Brien's, in the outside area, drinking what I guessed was his usual whiskey. His arm was slung around a pretty brunette, who was almost glued to him. Even now, her hand ran along his hip. I clenched my fists. B***h, you and I are going to have a long, bloody chat after this. Canelle couldn't hear my mental warning..."

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