



## Lake of Sorrows

*Erin Hart*

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## Lake of Sorrows Erin Hart

Acclaimed by the critics for her luminous first novel, "Haunted Ground," Erin Hart returns with a magnificent new tale of death and destiny, past and present, in an Ireland rich with tradition, myth, and mystery. American forensic pathologist Nora Gavin has been called to an archaeological site in the bleak midlands west of Dublin to assist at an excavation where a well-preserved Iron Age body has been found buried in a peat bog.

How many hundreds or thousands of years ago was the man killed? Was his a ritual death, some kind of human sacrifice? These academic questions are intriguing, but of much more urgent interest is the second body found nearby -- of a man wearing a wristwatch, hardly an Iron Age accessory. But his corpse does show strange similarities to that of his ancient counterpart. Both bodies bear signs of "triple death," a primitive practice in which a victim was ritually slain three ways, perhaps to appease some pagan trinity.

Nora and archaeologist Cormac Maguire, embroiled in a tumultuous love affair, must team up again professionally, and are soon enmeshed in the web of tangled desires and terrible secrets that surround this untimely death. When the triple deaths continue, Nora and Cormac know they are in the middle of a deadly game.

Everyone they meet seems to have something to hide: archaeologist Ursula Downes and bog manager Owen Cadogan can barely contain their mutual antipathy; bog worker Charlie Brazil and archaeology student Rachel Briscoe are eccentric misfits with family troubles; police detective Liam Ward has never completely recovered from his wife's suicide. And watching them all from the periphery is the shadowy figure of Brona Scully, who hasn't uttered a word in the last ten years.

The danger mounts, fueled by illicit liaisons, rumors of ancient gold, and one person's thirst for vengeance. Nora and Cormac must tread carefully, for as they draw closer to the truth, they come ever nearer to becoming the next victims of a ruthless killer.

A gripping follow-up to Hart's sensational debut, weaving together history, folklore, and forensics, and following in the evocative tradition of writers such as Elizabeth George and Daphne du Maurier, "Lake of Sorrows" is a passionate novel of suspense from a superbly gifted new crime-writing star.

## Lake of Sorrows Details

Date : Published February 28th 2006 by Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group (first published January 1st 2004)

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Author : Erin Hart

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## From Reader Review Lake of Sorrows for online ebook

### Toni Osborne says

2nd book featuring Nora Gavin

This is an Irish mystery that stands above the typical murder novel of today. The story is atmospheric, the writing so colourful it is easy to fall into a spell and feel we are with Nora every part of the way. The story is very exciting; we follow a delightful female protagonist and her passion investigating ritual murders that have been committed many centuries ago and some recently. The author has filled the story with neat twists to keep her readers wondering what will happen next, it is hard to foresee the next move.

The story opens when workers discover the remains of a man in the Loughnabrone Bog. Called to examine the well preserved corpse is American pathologist Nora Gavin. Preliminary examination of the body shows he may have been killed in a Pagan ritual manner known as triple death. As Nora reaches the crime scene, another victim who appears to have died under similar circumstances is unearthed. Why would someone come to this desolate place to hide their dreadful handiwork and does the Bog have any other victims to reveal? While there, it is brought to Nora's attention that a member of the team has suddenly disappeared...Is there a connection?

As Nora is pulled deeper into the mystery, her tumultuous love affair with archaeologist Cormac Maguire intensifies and the reader is plunged into a suspense charged thriller

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### Anne Hawn Smith says

I enjoyed this book. The setting of Irish bogs is different from so many mysteries and adds a bit of interest because of the discoveries surrounding the prehistoric bog bodies found there. Forensic pathologist, Nora Gavin, has been asked to help with the discovery of another bog body who seems to have been killed in a prehistoric ritual "triple death." When a more recent body turns up with the same "triple death" characteristics, the mystery widens. Is the ritual still being practiced?

-Archaeologist, Cormac MacGuire, is on the scene again too and he has the cottage where his mentor has lived when working on the bogs. Nora was invited to stay there and the two continue their relationship, but not without trials. Cormac knows that he loves Nora, but Nora is being pulled back to her home in the United States by the tragic and brutal death of her sister. When the identity of the second body is discovered, a cast of local characters are introduced and the link to their ancient roots is probed. As always, the colorful world of Irish music and dancing also adds to the feeling of the book

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### Hannah says

**Rating Clarification: 3.5 Stars**

Good follow up to Hart's debut novel, Haunted Ground. I enjoyed the plot and pacing of this one marginally better than her first novel. The characters, while depressive, were well drawn, and the mystery itself was an intriguing one (it's always good to unearth more bog bodies...)

This is definitely a series with promise, and one I will continue with.

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Also recommended for fans of Hart: the books of S.J. Bolton.

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### **Julie Durnell says**

An extremely well written/plotted atmospheric mystery. This had a lot of murders, both recent and an ages-old bog body but the subplots of the cast of characters is most intriguing.

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### **Beth says**

Lake of Sorrows, is Hart's 2nd novel with American pathologist Nora Gavin and Irish archaeologist Cormac Maguire. Lake of Sorrows once again takes the reader out to a mysterious peat bog where an ancient body has just been uncovered preserved. Dr. Gavin heads out to the bog to study the discovered body, and upon her arrival another body is found, this one from the 21st century. Thus the mystery begins....

Hart writes a great character driven mystery that is an easy read when you're looking for something light to read fast! It was a page turner that had me second guessing my own thoughts as to who the murderer might have been and what their motive was. I have enjoyed both of Hart's books. If you can I would begin with Haunted Ground just so that you can get the background on Nora and Cormac. It is also a great read and a great modern day mystery intertwined with an ancient one.

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### **Amy says**

4 1/2 stars

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### **Sue says**

My first venture into the books of Minnesota author, Erin Hart. I found Lake of Sorrows so interesting and engaging. Great writing. Interesting characters. Some history. A little archeology. Add in some ancient customs, a few murders and a romance. I truly couldn't wait to get back to reading it little by little each day. Set in the bog lands of Ireland, Nora Gavin an American pathologist, is called to help with an unidentified Iron Age body discovered in a bog. As that excavation begins, another more modern body is also discovered and thus launches the mysteries and subsequent murders all committed using an ancient triple killing

technique. The bog also held Iron Age treasures that compound the whodunnit and give several characters murder motives. Who was responsible for each murder? Did someone still have part of the hoard that was discovered in the bog? There were some surprises when the pieces were finally fitting together to resolve it all. It was a very enjoyable read all in all. I am still intrigued with these bogs and their preservation qualities. On to the next book in the series for more.

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### **Janet says**

This book was such a disappointment after 'Haunted Ground' (the first of Hart's books re: Nora Gavin). The first half of the book is quite simply boring, and the second half is only marginally better. None of the characters are fully developed - there is no reason to care about any of them. I felt no sympathy for the murder victims, and so why care who killed them, let alone why they were killed? Had we not met Nora and Cormac in the first book there would be no reason to care about them either. I really didn't care about them even with my knowledge of them from the first book - both are lifeless, boring, and for two, supposedly intelligent people, both are totally clueless in this new story. Hart needed to re-establish Nora's and Cormac's relationship for her readers, she needed to flesh out her characters, she needed to create some relationships between these people - she needed to give them all some history and some reason to care about their lives. This feels like it was an outline for a story that was rushed to be published before it was completed.

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### **LJ says**

LAKE OF SORROWS (Amateur Sleuth/Pathologist-Ireland-Cont) – VG

Erin Hart – 2nd book

Hodder & Stoughton, 2004 – U.K. Hardcover

Forensic pathologist, Nora Gavin, goes to an archeological site to investigate the finding in a peat bog of an Iron Age Body who seems to have been a human sacrifice having been slain three ways. Then a second, recent body is uncovered having been killed the same way. More, similar, deaths occur and Nora is nearly one of them.

\*\*\* I found myself thinking of this as a very "Irish" book, in that pace and mood seemed to reflect the Irish bogs. There are numerous characters lives are as intertwined as a Celtic knot. I found myself a bit annoyed at Nora at times, but not so much that it detracted from the story. While perhaps not as good as her first book, it still a very good read.

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### **Victoria says**

Hart's style and plotting truly improved in this sequel to Haunted Ground. The pacing was much more thrilling and the plot held some surprises. Unfortunately, the relationships between the characters felt even more unconvincing (and in some cases downright silly) here. The wishy-washy romance though was the most annoying aspect of the entire novel. It was so ridiculous and simply agitating (and not in a positive romantic-plot kind of way). And though it wasn't as downright dull as the first book, I don't think that the series has improved enough that I will be continuing on with it.

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### **Bev says**

Lake of Sorrows is the second book in Erin Hart's mystery series featuring American forensic pathologist Nora Gavin and archaeologist Cormac Maguire. This time Nora, who is in Ireland doing research, is called to the scene of an excavation where a very well-preserved body from the Iron Age has been discovered in the peat bog. It appears to have been a human sacrifice--slain three ways: strangled, throat cut, and drowned. The area is close to the site of an extraordinary find of Iron Age artifacts found in the past. Perhaps the sacrifice was connected to the hoard. It isn't often that such a complete body is found and Nora can't afford to pass up the opportunity to examine the remains.

She barely has a chance to look over the Iron Age find when a second body is found. But this one is wearing a wrist watch and seems to have been buried about 25 years ago. However, when the man is removed from the bog, they discover that he bears the mark of the ancient triple death--just like the Iron Age remains. This makes the police wonder if there is a connection between the archaeological finds and the more recent death. But as the investigation continues more deaths occur--bearing the same signature marks. One of the victims is an old flame of Cormac's and suspicion falls on him. So, Nora and Cormac begin an investigation of their own to try and clear Cormac's name and Nora finds herself in danger when her questions bring her too close to the killer.

My take: This installment didn't hold my interest the way Haunted Ground did. The first book started out slow, but once it took off I could not put it down and even went to bed late in order to finish it. This one never did take off. I easily put it down and had to keep urging myself to pick it up again to finish it. Not the same gripping performance at all. The story was okay. The developing relationship between Nora and Cormac was okay. But I didn't feel that same need to know what happens that kept me reading before. This one also felt a bit more scattered--jumping from character to character and following each one's movements for a short while before jumping to someone else. I don't remember the flow being quite so erratic before.

There are some very good moments: between Nora and Cormac and then with Cormac's friend Michael Scully; also between Detective Liam Ward and the pathologist Catherine Friel. So, some of the characterization was very good at times--just not consistent. The mystery itself was decent, maybe not quite as fairly clued as I'd like, but okay. So...for an overall okay experience...three stars.

This review was first posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

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### **Anna says**

What can I say? This book was even better than the first. It's delicious. It makes you want to eat it until the very last bite, and long for more :) I've had a hard week and really needed some sleep yesterday - but couldn't close my eyes until I read the last page.

Ireland. Mystery. A lot of mystery. Mysterious characters. Mysterious details. Bloody murders. Ancient history. Bog bodies. Romance. Suspense. On top of that, beautiful writing. What else can a person want from a good quality entertaining story?

Some books are destined to be made into films. This one is simply perfect to be made into a computer game. I can already see it: Lake Of Sorrows Quest - discover the murderer before it is too late! Beautiful graphics. You play both for Cormac and Nora, collect evidence, do research, interview people. If such game ever appears, count me in, I want to buy it!

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### **Jennifer says**

The beginning was very slow for me. Towards the end the story picked up for me and I couldn't put it down. Another couple of bodies are unearthed from a peat bog, so who better to call than Nora Gavin. One of the bodies is actually wearing a modern watch. This whole bog stuff is very fascinating, but a terrible way to die. I didn't suspect the killer was and the reasons behind it. Didn't hold my interest as much as Haunted Ground. The end leaves you wondering what will happen to Nora and Cormac next.

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### **Fareeha says**

Thought it would be interesting 'cuz of its historical reference but was a bit too detailed which made it disconnect from the plot and characters. Before it was half done, I stopped caring about it and just wanted to finish it.

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### **Susan says**

This was an interesting story, though not as good as the first in the series. We get the discovery of a bog body at the beginning, then the book ends with the archaeologist on her way to find out who it was. In the first book, the bog body had a parallel storyline with the contemporary one. I liked that much better.

Most of the characters bordered on the unpleasant side this time round. Even the protagonist got on my nerves. During one glaring TSTL moment she rushes in to check to see if some clue was legitimate then will report to the police. Seriously?? I hate when an amateur puts themselves into this kind of situation. Makes the story really, really unbelievable.

I sincerely hope the next returns to the spirit and strength of the first book.

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