



The Haunted

Jessica Verday

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An impossible truth. An impossible love.

After a summer spent reclaiming her sanity and trying to forget the boy she fell in love with--the boy who must not exist, cannot exist, because she knows that he is dead--Abbey returns to Sleepy Hollow, ready to leave the ghosts of her past behind. She throws herself into her schoolwork, her perfume-making, and her friendship with Ben, her cute and funny lab partner, who just might be her ticket to getting over Caspian once and for all.

But Abbey can never get over Caspian, and Caspian has no choice but to return to her side, for Caspian is a Shade, and Abbey is his destiny. They are tied not only to each other, but also to the town of Sleepy Hollow, and to the famous legend that binds their fates--a legend whose dark truths they are only beginning to guess....

“Spectacular! *The Hollow* keeps you reading from beginning to end without coming up for air.” --**L.J. Smith**, bestselling author of *The Vampire Diaries* and *Night World*

The Haunted Details

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From Reader Review The Haunted for online ebook

Donna says

Ghost stories really are not my thing. I happen to be participating in a challenge this month that requires reading ghost stories since it is October. TBH, I truly felt dread about starting any of them. But I have to say, this was a good one to choose for the challenge. It is YA paranormal.

This was probably 3 stars for me, but I upped it to 4 stars for a few reasons. The characters were well defined. Since they are teens, there was the whole teen drama thing, but the author kept that tightly reigned in and focused more on the ghost story. The romance was a little too sweet at the end, but thankfully, that wasn't the tone for the whole book.

The story line was also a reason to up this to 4 stars. It was new to me and even though I didn't love this, it was still interesting. There were also some weird twists in the plot, by that I mean they were unexpected but in a decent way.

The last reason is that I was just relieved that it wasn't eerie and hokey. So 4 stars.

Joy says

The Haunted is the second book in the Hollow Trilogy, following on from where we left off in The Hollow. Abbey is still at her Aunt's farm trying to get better after she believes she had a mental break down because she was seeing a dead boy.

Abbey is happy staying at the farm but is drawn back to Sleepy Hollow to give a speech at the opening of the new bridge that is being dedicated to her deceased best friend, Kristen.

To stay out of summer school and not have to repeat a year of chemistry, Abbey agrees to tutoring with Ben to pass a make up exam at the end of the holidays. Abbey also helps out her Uncle at his icecream shop since he lost 2 of his casuals.

After a chance encounter with Caspian outside her house, Abbey knows that Caspian is real, though still a ghost! Abbey visits Caspian at the mosuleum often during the holidays and they become very close again and Abbey forces Caspian to accept that she wants to be with him, she chose him before she knew he was a ghost and she chose him again after she know...awww <3.

One day at her house, two strangers come to Abbey's house and seem like they know her asking her all types of weird questions, she gets a strange feeling about them and a weird taste of ash in her mouth and quickly gets them out of her house. The rest of the holidays are spent with Ben tutoring for chemistry, working at her Uncles store and hanging out with Caspian, who she gives the adorable nickname of Casper since he gave her a nickname, Astrid. Things start to get heated, as much as they can between a girl and a ghost, and there is alot of angst. Caspian can only touch on one day, his death day, which they have high hopes for.

One day at the ice cream shop, another girl from Abbey's school is working there and her boyfriend, Vincent

who is a total d*ck, attacks Abbey outside of the shop while she is waiting for her lift home. At home her mother is having Kristens parent's over for tea and there are two strangers also who introduce themselves as knew real estate agents in the area. Abbey has a weird feeling about them and gets the same taste of ash in her mouth.

During the night, waking from bad dreams, Abbey goes to find Caspian at the Cemetery but is attacked by Vincent, he can also see Caspian and tells her he is a Revenant. They get away from him and head straight to see Nickolas and Katy (the cemetery groundman and his wife). From them they find out that a revenant is meant to help the other person cross over, the other person being Abbey. They explain that Caspian was a shade and he and Abbey are sole mates which is why Caspian is still here because Abbey is the living other part of him. Revenants are meant to help the otherperson cross over, and that Abbey will die soon.

Abbey decides that she wants to see Caspians grave, which he informs her is in West Virginia, to go there she convinces her parents that she wants to check out a college there and gets to road trip with Ben. Caspian comes along with them on the road trip, which is hilarious because he makes alot of amusing comments that only Abbey can hear. Things get steamy in the room with Abbey and Caspian, verbally only though.

Once Abbey and Caspian go to his grave, Abbey feels complete and realises that Caspian is her missing piece for the emptiness she has felt since Kristen passed away. She declares to Caspian that she will do anything she can for them to be together and she takes their relationship the way it is :)

Back from their trip to West Virginia, Abbey comes home to find her house empty, all accept for Vincent waiting up in her room. He attacks her, and tells her that he thought that Kristen was Caspian's other half and he had actually been trying to find her. She questioned that she thought Revenants were meant to help her cross over but Vincent said he wants to keep her alive. Caspian comes in to help her and the mysterious strangers, Uri, Casey, Shophie and Cane, she met earlier in the book come in the rescue her too, then Vincent escapes. And that is where we are left! Cliffhanger much!!!!

This ending set up perfectly for the next and final book - why would Vincent want to keep Abbey from dying and becoming complete as one with Caspian? What will happen to Abbey? Will they get to be together, and most importantly what will they get up on Caspian's next death day!!

Favourite Quote Caspian looked at me in disbelief. "That nerd boy who tried to put the moves on you?"

The Characters in these books are really great, they are very real and they are extremely lovable. We get to learn alot more about Caspian in this book. He is so sweet, kind and loving and very artistic! I enjoy the love story between Abbey and Caspian, I think its well developed and they go well together, besides the ghost part.

Suzanne says

Once again.. amazing!! This story just gets better & better.

The Haunted continues where The Hollow ended and Abby thinks she's gone crazy. For the first part of the book, it follows Abby trying to become 'normal' again but when she meets Caspian again the story starts to take off!

We finally find out who 'D' is (Kristin's secret boyfriend) and we discover some answers to the mystery of Abby and Caspian's relationship like how they can't touch. I must say some of the scenes between Abby and Caspian start to heat up even though they can't touch each other and it reminded me very much of the intensity in *Hush, Hush*. I loved these parts of the book but then you had the third wheel (Ben) who always got in the way lol!

We also see a new character, Vincent Drake. He is the type of guy who gets what he wants, when he wants it and he wants Abby! There's also some new characters who seem to be trying to help Abby and Caspian as well as Nikolas and Katy. Once again the story really starts to develop towards the end of the book and now I'm desperate for more!

Plus, more wonderful writing from the author. Some of her quotes are so good. Anyway, I loved this book :)

Lucy says

The Haunted actually surprised me. I was expecting to give up halfway through. I'm not a fan of the series and I only had two reasons for reading it: (a) Because I had a long flight with little else to read; and (b) Because I wanted to know if Verday would acknowledge all the plot-holes I fell through at the end of *The Hollow*. Surprisingly, she did. A few of them, anyway.

This is by no means a positive review. I still have *a lot* of complaints about the series and I definitely wouldn't recommend it. But while I don't like the way Verday chose to reveal the mythology behind her story (ignore it completely for a book and a half and then rush through it all in one short scene) at least now I have some answers to the questions that made me want to tear my hair out while writing my review of book one. Granted, the answers still annoy me slightly. And there's still plenty of plot-holes the readers should watch out for. (view spoiler)

Again, one of the main problems I had with this one was the pacing. The first hundred or so pages seemed to drag. When a plot finally started to emerge, it was written so poorly that anyone could have seen the direction the story was heading in. And then we get another few hundred pages of nothing until the last ten or so pages... where once again the story ends on a cliffhanger anyone could have seen coming. Still, I've given this one an extra star because the story does, at the very least, seem to have a plot now. And despite my extreme dislike of the main characters, I found myself sympathising with them at points. I doubt I'll be reading the last book of this trilogy though.

Mable says

Honestly, this book deserves more than 5 stars. IT SHOULD BE 10 STARS!!! I can't believe I read this book all in less than 8 hours. I wanted to savor each page as much as I could but then books have to come to some end. Ugh! That was such a cliffhanger at the end. I guess I was expecting one but not like this. This cliffhanger was much more suspenseful. The story was just starting to get to the interesting parts. There's no way I can wait another whole year for the very last book in this series after the torture I had to go through for this book. But, seeing how fantastic and awesome this book was, I wait longer cuz I'm gonna reread it! :)

Katy says

[Abby visited Caspian's grave, and she finds out what revenants are - although she doesn't know what they're after. (hide spoiler)]

Amy Jacobs says

After the disappointment that *The Hollow* left me with, I was anxious to read the next in the series to see if it would be better. I am so glad I gave this author another chance!

Abbey returns to Sleepy Hollow after a breakdown caused by the death of her best friend Kristen and falling in love with a dead boy. She has been living with her Aunt and finally comes home after the completion of the Sleepy Hollow bridge to dedicate it in the memory of her friend. She is scared to return to the town that caused her such pain, but she puts a brave face on and decides it is time. Just when things start taking off with Ben and getting back into the perfume creations, Caspian returns to Abbey. She feels conflicted at first trying to figure out if she is going crazy again, or if Caspian truly is real in her world. Along the way, we get to see the love between Caspian and Abbey grow, old favorites return in Abbey's life and new discoveries about *The Shade*.

I am amazed at how much the author's writing has progressed from *The Hollow*. I admit, the beginning of this book moves slow like the first one, but as you get going in the story it really takes off. That is about the only negative thing about the book in my opinion. There is more suspense with a lot of the answers you were wanting from the previous book being answered. The author still left a great climax at the end of the story though that will leave you frustrated because you have to wait for the final book. Some things become clear in the plot, but other things are going to be left for the final book I assume. Personally, I can't wait for the final book now. I have crossed the Sleepy Hollow bridge and I don't want to turn back!

Gladys Gonzales Atwell says

Original Review Date (posted on www.paperbackswap.com): 9/3/2010

This book fascinated me as much as the first installment, *The Hollow*. The love story between Abby and Caspian is utterly wrong but so beautiful! In the first book Abby believed she was crazy! Crazy to believe she was in love with someone or something that was suppose to be dead! Her discoveries at the end of *The Hollow* lead to a long stay with her Aunt who helped her find her way. Only to return home in the second installment, *The Haunted*, to be right back to square one. CRAZY... Crazy in love with her dead boyfriend...

New colors (tales) weave in and out of the beautiful fabric of the story! When this saga finishes it will be a beautiful beautiful (did I say beautiful) tapestry of lyrical delight. Does that make sense? I must not make any sense because I am so captivated by the book. I should have waited a day to write this review because my mind is reeling...

I read this book in two days. Purchased it the day it came out, read a chapter, resolved to finish the book I was already reading, then immediately opened the *Haunted* again once I finished my other book. I couldn't put it down. It captivated me as much as the first book. Jessica Verday captured the innocence of true and

timeless love. Every exhausted flick of my eye was focused on finishing another page of the story.

My only disappointment in this book...

Is the wait for the next installment. Please Jessica write fast!!!

Giselle says

Ughhh so there was a semblance of a plot but it was at the end! The entire book is basically Abbey doing normal things like putting her clothes on and eating food or talking to Ben and her parents. I just need to know what this Shade business is all about.. I wished The Sleepy Hollow legend was more in tune with the plot.

Mary says

I'm sure it will be just as amazing as the first one!!!!

Angela~supermom~ says

"Popping the bag open, he held it out to me, 'Want one? Come on, try 'em.'
'Funyuns make you fart,' Caspian said, and I exploded in laughter."

Caspian is the most amazing, romantic, heartbreaking, handsome, hot, and funny fictional character I know. I love him!

I loved this book! I fell in love with Caspian in this one. Like I said in my review for The Hollow, Caspian didn't steal my heart like fictional hotties tend to. He swooned me you guys, absolutely "twisted" my arm into falling for him.

Well, my affection for fictional beings is besides the point for this review, so I am just going to move on...

The Haunted starts where The Hollow left off, Abbey living with her aunt for a few months. After living with her aunt, and after many sessions with her therapist, Abbey comes back to Sleepy Hollow sooner than when she hoped to have returned. Upon returning, Abbey runs into Caspian, but of course. After wanting, and trying desperately to forget him, she can't help but fall for him. Yes, their in love and it is so cute. Mind you, cute things never last long. Caspian and Abbey learn how difficult and life-threatening their relationship can be. Well, we learn of some secretes, we're introduced to new characters, we learn of a specific type of people, we learn more about Caspian and his relationship with Abbey, and we learn that upon completing this one, you need to desperately continue on. Unfortunately I cannot hit the book store right now (curse you homework), but I am gladly picking up the next and final instalment while picking up Clockwork Prince. Tuesday, hurry up and be here will you!

The first book was slow with a fast paced and thrilling ending. This book is no exception. To be vaguely honest, this book is exactly like the first. Slow throughout the book, and than the last hundred pages were

exhilarating. I felt like I was on a roller coaster. My questions were being answered, there were new discoveries, and Caspian and Abbey got pretty steamy. Gah, I never knew 100 pages could fly by so fast. Though, just because it was slow does not mean it wasn't enjoyable. A slow ride is fun. It's fun being inside of Abbey's head, almost following her around. It's nice when you want to just relax and enjoy the book. A book with so much going on can be breath taking. That's good sometimes, but other times you want to actual be able to breath!

Some people say the plot wasn't well developed. I don't agree with you people. I feel like the author leaves some gaps in her plot so she can tie in everything for her last book. A little mystery never killed anyone... And no, the cat died from curiosity, not mystery :)

Wow, I just realized how unprofessional this review sounds. That's okay, cause my reviews aren't meant to be professional. Gotta have a little corky reviews sometimes, right? I do hope you still enjoy this review, despite my corkyness.

My rating: 5 funyuns!

Funyuns, farts, corkyness,

-Angela

Kiki says

One word sums up this book in my mind, and I hope it does in others too: *beautiful*.

I loved this book. It was an astronomical improvement on *The Hollow*, and although I did enjoy the first book as a nice bit of fluff, this one blew it right out of the water. I love it when, in a series, you can see the author's writing gradually growing and improving - another thing I loved about this book. Verday has proved her worth in the YA machine; her characters are deep, captivating, and real enough to bleed.

Abbey. My GOD, how Abbey has improved. I'm so pleased that I'm actually able to say *I liked this book's heroine*. I cannot stand hating the protagonist of YA novels, so it was really refreshing to find a girl who was relatable and likable. Alright, so she's no superwoman, and she doesn't always make the best choices, but she's human. I can find parts of her personality (she has one!) that I like and that's big in a genre so hell-bent on churning out wet rags disguised as protagonists.

And Caspian...oh, Caspian. Caspian. Caspian, Caspian. You have my heart. He was just *wonderful*. Flamboyant, deep, charming and thoughtful, he had me from the start. I liked Ben, but loved Caspian, which made for an engaging tangle of feelings that roped me in from the beginning. Caspian was kind, loving and respectful toward Abbey, but still boyish enough to be fun. I loved the scenes in the hotel room, in the mausoleum, in Abbey's bedroom with the glow-in-the-dark stars, at Caspian's graveside (which was beautifully touching). All the time the connection between Abbey and Caspian was so palpable, so beautiful and rich. I really, really wanted them to be together, no matter what. Their love was entirely believable.

The supporting characters were equally strong. Abbey's parents felt like plausible parents, the Revenants were neat and intriguing in their design, and Vincent was just as much of a slimy creep as Verday intended. It was as brilliant, engaging and colourful as a pantomime; I almost felt like booing when Vincent came on

the scene!

The setting, ambience and general feel of the book was rich, earthy, dark and gothic, without the author trying too hard. I loved the sticky, summer-fall feeling of the town, the quaint to-be perfume shop, the run-down birthplace of Caspian. His sad past was so touching, so enveloping and deep, emphasised perfectly by the dreary tone of his home town and the simple description of him once being 'the weird, quiet kid who drew pictures all the time'. I could see Caspian as a little child, pale and alone, an outcast on the railway tracks. It drew me in, and held me there, so much so that it took a lot of force and willpower to set the book down and return to school after my lunchbreak.

The one and only piece of beef I have with this book, and the sole reason that I gave it four stars and not five, is the ending. It really, really saddened me. Not that it was poorly written - not one part of this book is - but that it all happened so fast and felt like it was rushed. It didn't really seem like a proper cliffhanger; more like the ink on the printer had run out or the text had been cut off in the middle of the author typing. The climax was explosive, and the emotion radiated off the page (a sign of a truly talented author) but it was kind of spoiled by a tiny misjudgement, and could have been concluded better.

Not to worry, though. If Verday can keep up this fabulous quality of writing, stay strong with the engaging story and beautiful, vibrant characters, and make up for that tiny blip in the ending, then I'm sure the next book and the last in the series (gasp!), *The Hidden*, will make it on to my five-star list.

My rating for this book: 4.5/5. Excellent.

BONUS TIME!

This blog post solidified my absolute love and faith in Jessica Verday. It moved and touched me. Her integrity, moral strength and sheer bravery left me speechless.

She is, without a doubt, *amazing*.

Brigid ☆ Cool Ninja Sharpshooter ☆ says

Actual rating: 2.5

UGH UGH UGH I'M SO BEHIND ON REVIEWS IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.

I know all my reviews have started this way lately, but ... it's true. And it may affect the quality of my reviews, because I'm kind of rushing through them. And a lot of these books I'm reviewing now are books I read like 3-4 months ago, so I'm forgetting a lot of details and it's just sad. I need to actually get to the point where I'm writing reviews right after I read the books because ... this is getting super aggravating.

Okay, so ... I found this book to be just "meh." It wasn't too bad, but it wasn't great either. I felt pretty much the same way about the first book (*The Hollow*), but I decided to pick up the second one because several of

my reviewer friends had said that the series gets way better. Well ... unfortunately, I didn't really feel that way. I would say I liked this one about as equally as I liked the first one—which was only a little bit to begin with so ... Oh well.

In case you don't know, this book is about a girl named Abbey who lives in Sleepy Hollow (as in "The Legend of ..."). In the previous book, her best friend died a mysterious death, which she is still trying to piece together in the second book. She also started getting stalked by a creepy-but-sexy type of boy who ended up being a ghost. Ooooh. And then they had a kind of romantic thing, and yeah. Well ... in this one, she starts kinda dating this guy who used to be in love with her best friend. Awkward. His name is Ben. He's pretty cool. But of course, ghost-guy shows up again and is a jealous baby about the whole thing and Abbey is like, "Oh me oh my, how do I choose between the normal nice guy and the supernatural creepy sexy guy?"

At least I found Ben (the nice normal guy) to be pretty cool. But Caspian (the ghost guy) continued to just ... annoy me. Is he as horrible as the love interests in some YA paranormal books? No, but he's just ... meh. He's not all that interesting, in my humble opinion. Plus, I find it a big turn-off that he calls Abbey "Astrid" instead of her real name ... Like, there's a difference between giving someone a cute nickname and refusing to call her by her real name, which just seems condescending. Is it just me?

But yeah, of course Abbey likes Caspian because he's a sexy ghost so duh.

Aaand then there were some like evil ghosts who seemed suspicious.

And there was some ridiculous plot twist about how it turned out Abbey's friend Kristen kind of inadvertently caused the death of her own brother. Because like, one day he was supposed to be watching her when she was a baby, and then she fell off a table or something and he caught her. And then he set her down somewhere, but he tripped on a chair and fell out the window. And because of his injuries he became addicted to painkillers and eventually overdosed on them which is how he died.

... I just don't understand how you can trip on a chair and fall out the window. I don't think it's possible. But, you know, don't try it at home kids. Just in case.

I apologize. This review is on drugs. I don't even know what I'm writing right now. I just want to get this done.

So basically, I had higher expectations for this, but to me it's just another so-so paranormal romance series. I might read the third one, but ... probably not. Especially because by now, I've pretty much forgotten everything about this one. So, oh well.

Christine says

This was my favorite book of 2010. While I liked *The Hollow*, I LOVED *The Haunted*. I couldn't put this book down without becoming cranky. This book really made me come to love Abbey and Caspian. I can't wait to read the next book to find out what happens in November, and what Abbey's fate is.

Evelyn Swift (Featherbrained Books) says

Again, this novel was okay...I said in my last review for *The Hollow* that I probably wasn't going to read the rest of this series but I forgot that I already put the next book on hold so when it came in I thought I should give it another chance. Again it just felt kind of 'blah' to me, just like the first one. I did a lot of skim-reading because the main character isn't interesting enough to me for me to read the 200+ pages about her day to day life. (Her perfume making wasn't really as important or written about in this story, weirdly enough given the cover art.)

I also didn't really get Caspian in this book. He changes his clothes? So because his clothes are physical things that Abbey and everyone can see, do his clothes just float in the air? They must, because when Caspian goes to grab Abbey a snack when they are at the hotel together, she says it might look suspicious if 'food is floating in the air.' So when he walks around with her do people see floating clothes? Also Caspian can pick up objects but he can't touch Abbey? That seems kind of stupid...the author just did that so there would be sexual tension between them, they both can't have what they want which normally would be sexy but all evidence points to the fact that he can pick up objects and change his clothes and draw and stuff so why wouldn't he be able to touch her? I think the author should have stuck with him either being able to do it all, touch everything/everyone or be unable to do anything.

And Abbey completely threw me off. At one point, Caspian did something 'totally swoon-worthy' and Abbey said to herself 'that was totally romantic...and kind of creepy.' Well, which one is it? Is he lovely and romantic or is he a creepy ghost? Either she loves him with all her heart like she claims at some points or she doesn't. She also said at one point that she was falling in love with him, and this was sometime in the middle of the novel and I was like...uh what? Doesn't she already love him by this point? I don't get it.

Also a minor thing but Ben and Abbey said they saw a Japanese restaurant/bait shop but then later it was a Chinese/bait shop. Those are pretty fundamentally different...so was it won-tons or sushi? Maybe Jessica should get a new editor or stop boasting about how she hand writes these books and gets spell-check and so on. (Uh sorry if that sounded mean! Just not a fan of these books :(
