



Eight Rivers of Shadow

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In a high-stakes sequel, reluctant necromancer Luke Manchett must call upon the most wicked and eerie ghosts of his dispelled Host to save two innocent souls.

It's been a few months since Luke Manchett inherited a Host of eight hostile spirits from his dead father and made a deal with the devil to banish them. Luke's doing his best to blend in to the background of high school, to ignore the haunting dreams spawned by his father's Book of Eight, and to enjoy the one good thing to come from the whole mess: his girlfriend, Elza. And then it all begins again. Ash, a strange new girl with stark white hair, requests his help—and his Book of Eight—to save her twin sister, who was attacked by a demon. Ash knows a lot more about necromancy than Luke and seems to know what she's doing, but can she be trusted? As Luke is drawn into a spiral of ever more dangerous favors, he finds himself not only summoning the deadliest members of his father's Host, but returning to Deadside in a terrifying quest to save what he holds dearest—or die trying.

Eight Rivers of Shadow Details

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From Reader Review Eight Rivers of Shadow for online ebook

Bryan D says

Eight Rivers is a strong sequel to 13 Days of Midnight. It has one factor I love in fiction and that's the perils of dealing with magic. This shows the dark side of magic, especially if you've inherited it from your recently deceased father who was a Necromancer.

There's clever recaps to the first book and the threat and suspense is well paced, there's plenty of surprises and a very unlikely conclusion and unlike some books I've read this year there wasn't a time I was bored as the main character Luke Manchett really doesn't have time to fart about.

The best thing about the series is that Leo Hunt decided to make it into a trilogy as some series get tedious as they go on.

Leo Hunt has become one of my favourite young adult writers and I look forward to seeing how the series ends and am very curious as to what he'll come up with next.

Karen Barber says

The first in the series was entertaining enough, but this was a step up.

Luke and Elza find themselves trying to work out how to combat the rather strange developments. They end up drawn into a truly terrifying scenario.

I loved the blend of horror and humour. Some wonderful scenes, and I am starting to feel I'm getting under the skin of Luke.

Mel says

[Luke's dog, Ham, nobly dying at the end left me grumpy. (hide spoiler)]

Weisser says

A thoughtless and unimaginative book about a superficial sociopath who is emotionally unaffected by the death of his dog.

To All The White Neurotypical Male Writers: Please stop writing books where the only female characters are a love interest who needs to be saved and a villain suffering from a mental condition. (Neurodivergent persons are far more likely to be the victims of violence than the perpetrators of it.)

Ok thanks byeeeeeeeeeeee!!!!!!!!!!!

Linda Grant says

What would you do for the one you love?

For Luke the answer is a trip to Deadside, traveling with one of his most feared enemies and losing something equally precious to him.

Luke says

I definitely enjoyed this. It did nothing to the plot of the first one it wasn't necessary but I still enjoyed it.

There was barely any character development but , like the first it was action packed and entertaining. When I wasn't reading it it was all I could think about.

If you enjoyed the first book, then you will love this but it doesn't add vital information you need to know

I will be reading the last one and I am very excited for it

Blake Norby says

A solid sequel. The premise sort of bugged me at first, why Ash stalked out Elza and Luke to try and save her twin sister seemed a bit too much. But then I remembered everything about these books is a bit over the top, which is basically the fun of them. It had enough creep value without gore, which meant more action over horror for me. I'm looking forward to the finale of the trilogy.

Cornmaven says

Loved this sequel. Writing and story just as good. Characters are challenged, things are still weird. Ends with potential for another, but could easily just be done, i.e. no cliffhanger.

Hunt's world building was really good - lots of interesting things without endless pages of description.

Deb Jacobs says

I really like Leo Hunt's writing. The characters are fully rounded, yet he doesn't get bogged down in description. It's an insight into a teenage boy's mind - has to juggle exams, school relationships, girlfriend and the netherworld, while still making sure his mum's ok.

This book follows on from 13 Days of Midnight and you do need to read the books in order, partly for the storyline, but also to see how Luke changes over time. I loved the spirit-walking parts, particularly where he uses his dog's body. Just got to say: the saddest two words in the book towards the end? Am Ham. I was in bits.

Started 7 Trees of Stone, the last in the trilogy, already.

♠? Tabi ♠? says

This series is turning out to be a fun, enjoyable read with some nice twists that keep it interesting enough for me. It's not the *greatest* nor the *best* ghost story I've ever read, but it's still worth a read.

Miriam Joy says

I was very excited to be approved for this book on NetGalley because I bought the first book, 13 Days Of Midnight, a couple of months back and really enjoyed it. It's been compared to Skulduggery Pleasant; personally, I don't think it's as funny, but I can see where the comparisons come from, and it's enjoyable in its own right.

This book has various plot points but is dominated by a journey through the Underworld, a theme easily recognisable from Classical texts. Having studied the Aeneid in school, I was able to identify certain aspects of it from that, which made me feel clever (and I'm always inclined to like books that make me feel clever). But there are other Classically-inspired aspects of the book too -- and I can't believe it took me until halfway through book two to notice that Luke's mum is called Persephone.

In some ways I enjoyed this book more than book one. Now that we've got past the disbelief about magic and Luke's settling into a world where necromancy is a thing, we're able to explore it more deeply, and the potential applications of the magic he's been exposed to. This also meant getting the chance to see some more worldbuilding, and to understand it from the perspective of another character who grew up surrounded by necromancy, rather than completely ignorant of it like Luke.

In some ways, the book feels like it's got higher stakes than book one -- a journey through the Underworld is a pretty major undertaking. But at the same time, it's for a very personal reason (which is a spoiler in and of itself, the nature of which you can probably guess), and everything's wrapped up in this simple, understandable desire. It's not about saving the world or anything huge and noble: it's about one boy and somebody he cares about. I'm a big fan of 'small' stories like this, even when the context is as big as the world of this series.

I'm not sure that was an entirely coherent way of phrasing my thoughts, but I know what I meant. Basically: the stakes were high enough that I felt compelled to continue reading and there was plenty of tension and excitement, but they weren't so high that they became lofty and idealistic instead of personal and relatable. It wasn't about being a hero, it was just about fixing something that had gone wrong. And I think on the whole that's more effective.

Hunt's writing is plenty readable, and Luke feels like a realistic teenage boy without being annoying or patronising. (Okay, so maybe not a real teenage boy after all!) I think there were fewer jokes in this book than in the first one, but there were some moments of levity, and I particularly liked Luke's repeat encounter with the 'young' ghosts who died in a car crash -- it was brief, but a nice reference to the first book, and I enjoyed their scenes.

There are also some emotional moments in this book. I confess I saw the first one coming from a mile away,

but I think as a reader you're supposed to, and Luke in hindsight thinks that he should have done. The second was more unexpected and hit a little harder. And while not all deaths in this book were permanent, they came at enough of a cost that it didn't feel like a cop-out for things to way the end they did.

On the whole, an enjoyable and well-written sequel. It comes out in about three days, so if you haven't read book one yet, it's worth getting your hands on it so that you can give this a go.

I probably won't end up cross-posting this review to my blog, as I don't usually review sequels there unless I reviewed the previous book as well, but hopefully this Goodreads review is detailed enough to make up for that. And who knows, I might change my mind. :)

Thanks for approving me on NetGalley, Hachette!

Meggie says

I've already pre-ordered the next instalment. This series is no joke, peeps. Get on it.

Saleena Davidson says

8 Rivers of Shadow is the sequel to 13 Days of Midnight. Hunt does supply enough background that a reader can jump right in without having read the previous novel. Luke is once again, fighting for his life against demons and shadows connected to his necromancer father. This time, it's a mysterious girl who needs his help; is she trustworthy or trying to kill him? 8 Rivers of Shadow is an interesting novel which is intriguing and appealing to teens who like to read supernatural fiction.

Sophie says

I love Leo's writing. It reminds me of Neil Gaiman, which is definitely a good thing. It's both funny and scary - my favourite combination. Looking forward to the next book!

Yzabel Ginsberg says

[I received a copy of this book through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.]

Alas, I didn't enjoy this second instalment as much as I did the first. It lacked the character dynamics, the spark I had felt at the beginning of this series.

I think the main reason is the way Luke and Elza are rather isolated from the others throughout the novel, even from their parents (who apparently don't even care what their kids do?). Elza's family pops in on one page only, Luke's mother is faring better health-wise but still not very present, Luke's former friends don't talk to him anymore... So mostly it revolved around two, maximum three people at a time, and in turn, it shed light on the fact those characters weren't that much developed. It would have been a great opportunity

to do so, and it wasn't used as such, and I found this too bad.

Another annoying thing was the magic itself: here, too, this book provided huge opportunities of developing it, more specifically of showing Luke growing into it and learning more. However, for the most part, he either didn't want anything to do with it, or bumbled from one mistake to the other (when he was warned about what mistakes not to make!) while more savvy characters saved the day. Not unexpected, sure, but frustrating no matter what. Or perhaps it is my bias towards necromancy speaking?

On the other hand, the novel shows an actual foray into the land of the dead, which is definitely not unexpected where magic of the necromancy type is concerned! This catabasis was very welcome as far as I'm concerned. And ghosts fighting each other. That's cool. (I would really have wanted to know more about the Widow!)

Also present in this second book: themes that make you think and difficult choices to make, especially when it comes to helping your loved ones vs. the sacrifices you may have to make. Again, this is about necromancy, not kittens and giggles, right?

Conclusion: Still interesting, only I didn't feel invested much in the characters, and Luke disappointed me both with his magic and with his borderline stupid decisions.
