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The Raven Boys (The Raven Cycle, Book 1)



Synopsis

FORMAT: UNABRIDGED 10 CDS Legend holds that Glendower, a vanished Welsh king, sleeps beneath the hills until he's needed. The first person to find him will be granted a wish - either by seeing him open his eyes, or by cutting out his heart. Gansey has it all - family money, a car, time for extracurriculars and friends - but he's always loved the tales of sleeping kings. He thinks he's found one too, or at least the area where one might be: in the town of Henrietta, VA. And the best way to be there is to attend prestigious Aglionby Academy for Boys. Blue is the daughter of the town psychic in Henrietta, Virginia, but is too practical to believe in things like spirits or true love. Her policy is to stay away from Aglionby boys...but it may be that one in particular can change her mind about magic, and maybe even love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the dramatic introductory music to the complexity of plot and characterizations, Stiefvater's story of Blue, Gansey, and the Aglionby boys is masterfully performed by Patton. Listeners will be drawn into the world of Blue, her psychic family, and the mysterious group of boys who search for the ley line, a link to the long-dead Welsh king, Glendower. Even in this fantasy world, the bonds between Blue's family, the strong friendships between "the boys," and the depth of Blue's relationship with Gansey mirror familiar emotions and connections in today's world. This is the first book in "The Raven Cycle" (The Dream Thieves is due in Sept. 2013). Listeners will be entranced by the fully voiced narration. Even the minor characters demonstrate

vocal excellence and make listeners admire the talent that drives a story to surpass the print version. ã Æ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Praise for The Raven Boys "Stiefvater is a master storyteller." *USA Today* "It's a tour de force of characterization, and while there is no lack of event or mystery, it is the way Stiefvater's people live in the reader's imagination that makes this such a memorable read."

Publishers Weekly, starred review "[A] story very few writers could dream up and only Stiefvater could make so palpably real. Simultaneously complex and simple, compulsively readable, marvelously wrought...The magic is entirely pragmatic; the impossible, extraordinarily true."

Àçâ –â çKirkus, starred review "[T]he book is marvelous, for not only is it filled with marvels, it is also a marvel of imagination and, more prosaically, structure. Rich, too, in characterization, this fantasy/mystery rises to the level of serious literature, leaving readers hungering for more."

Åçâ –â çBooklist, starred review "In a young-adult market crowded with copycats, it's refreshing to find a book that blazes a path as unique as Maggie Stiefvater's *The Raven Boys*. The first title in the "Raven Cycle" quartet is a dizzying paranormal romance tinged with murder and Welsh mythology."

"This first in a planned four-novel series draws readers into a world where time enfolds hauntingly, and magic informs reality."

"Equal parts thriller and mystery, with a measured dash of romance sprinkled on top, *The Raven Boys* is an intricately layered read that will probably leave you with more questions than answers. In fact, Maggie has woven such a unique, intriguing narrative that I struggled for comparisons."

“My love for Maggie Stiefvater’s The Raven Boys is so great that I can’t even write a review of it. And when I begin to think of fantasy casting options, my mind goes absolutely blank, because no actors can possibly live up to the characters I’ve made in my mind... Everything in this book feels so grounded and real, by the time actual magic comes into the story, it is absolutely believable. Everything.”

review may contain mild spoilers

The Raven Boys made me feel exactly what I want to feel when I start a new book. That magic of not being able to put it down. The ignored glances at my alarm clock when I notice it's past three AM. The heart wrenching pain when I become so obsessed I forget that these are just fictional characters. The Raven Boys is the best book I've read since The Name of the Wind. This completely unique story is about a girl, Blue, that lives in a house full of psychics. She is the only one in her family that does not have psychic powers, but instead

possesses something much different. Blue amplifies the spirit's voices. This not only helps her family, but also helps the spirits in other ways. Blue is a little bitter that she cannot actually see the spirits, until one night she is able to see one. Then, of course, we have our raven boys who are in hunt of something that is much bigger than they are aware of: Gansey is the ringleader. Adam is from a broken home. Ronan has a lot of anger trapped inside him. Noah is carrying the biggest secret of them all. Basically, most all the raven boys are very privileged young men that go to an even more privileged college preparatory school. Blue tries to stay far away from them, or any boy because of a prophecy her mother has told her since birth, but their paths inevitable cross. I think that is the theme of this whole book: inevitability. How we all have choices, and how much that one small forgettable choice can change not only your future, but so many people's future. How that choice can make different paths cross, which in turn develops even more inevitable events. This is such a whimsical story, written so beautifully, filled with magic. The foreshadowing, the metaphors, the prose. Maggie Stiefvater is a God amongst men. I have nothing to compare it to, because it's incomparable. This book has everything I'd ever want in a story. This is the type of book that makes me feel guilty giving other books five star ratings, because this is deserving of something more, something that surpasses all the others.

“She recognized the strange happiness that came from loving something without knowing why you did, that strange happiness that was sometimes so big that it felt like sadness.”

“The Raven Boys” by Maggie Stiefvater was nothing like I was expecting. So many people told me I should read this series and I kept being iffy about it. So finally “The Raven King” is coming out so I decided to break down and buy the series. I may only have read the first book so far, but I am glad that I did. Blue Sargent is the daughter of a seer and she lives in a house full of seers but Blue is not one herself. Somehow she is able to amplify the other seers powers and help them out with their readings. On the eve of St. Mark's Day Blue, her mother, and the other seers sit and watch the ghosts that show up. These ghosts are the spirits of people who will pass away over the coming year. Blue accompanies the seers because of the fact that she makes their powers more powerful because Blue can't see any of the ghosts. This year there is an exception, Blue is able to see one spirit. This Spirit is named Gansey and he is a Raven boy. He goes to the Aglionby Academy down the road. This moment changes everything for Blue. Now she wants to know more about Gansey and why she was able to see him when she can't see anything else. Then Blue is told: “There are only two reasons a non-seer would see a spirit on St.

Mark or Eve, Blue. Either you're his true love or you killed him. Gansey has become obsessed over the years with trying to locate an ancient mythical sleeping king. This mythical king is supposed to be able to grant Gansey one wish. The Gansey gets his friends and Blue involved in his quest and then weird things start to happen. It becomes a very odd adventure for the lot. So much happened in "The Raven Boys." My head is still trying to process everything. I am now looking forward to starting the next book. Stiefvater has definitely created a very interesting story that has pulled the reader in right away. I want so many answers that I am guessing I will have to wait for. Stiefvater's writing is quite good. She writes very beautifully. I loved the characters. I am really looking forward to seeing what happens. Stiefvater has created this intriguing story that I can't get enough of. Now I understand why her books are so popular. I will definitely have to go read her other series too.

The Raven Boys is unlike anything I've read before. It's very unique, from Maggie Stiefvater's writing, to the storyline, even the characters. Reading this book was a completely different experience than any I've had before. I was absolutely captivated by this story. Blue Sargent has grown up in a family of psychics. For as long as she can remember she has been told that if she kisses her true love, he will die. Not too long into the novel she meets the Raven Boys, a group of teenage boys who attend Aglionby Academy, the boarding school in Henrietta. Their only problem is one of these boys is fated to be her true love and die by her kiss. Blue soon joins the boys on their quest to find an ancient king, a quest that will change all of their lives forever. I have never seen characters as deep and complex as Stiefvater's are. She is able to create and develop all of her characters throughout the novel in unforgettable ways. Each character is unique and brings something to the novel that makes readers unable to put it down. It's easy for readers to feel like they have a personal connection with them by how much detail Stiefvater gives throughout the story. She sets aside moments for each of them that allow the readers into their lives and get to learn each of their stories, while at the same time developing her novel without taking away from it. The Raven Boys has been an amazing read and I look forward to the continuation of the series with The Dream Thieves.

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