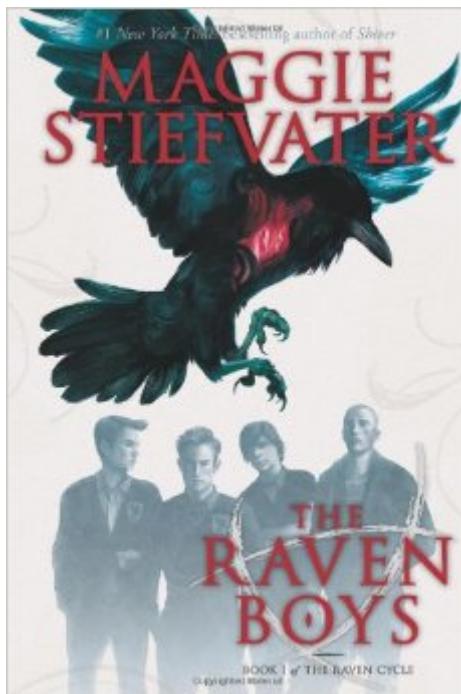


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The Raven Boys



Synopsis

Every year, Blue Sargent stands next to her clairvoyant mother as the soon-to-be dead walk past. Blue never sees them--until this year, when a boy emerges from the dark and speaks to her. His name is Gansey, a rich student at Aglionby, the local private school. Blue has a policy of staying away from Aglionby boys. Known as Raven Boys, they can only mean trouble. But Blue is drawn to Gansey, in a way she can't entirely explain. He is on a quest that has encompassed three other Raven Boys: Adam, the scholarship student who resents the privilege around him; Ronan, the fierce soul whose emotions range from anger to despair; and Noah, the taciturn watcher who notices many things but says very little. For as long as she can remember, Blue has been warned that she will cause her true love to die. She doesn't believe in true love, and never thought this would be a problem. But as her life becomes caught up in the strange and sinister world of the Raven Boys, she's not so sure anymore.

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. © Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Stiefvater's novel, inspired by Manx, Irish, and Scottish legends of beautiful but deadly fairy horses that emerge from the sea each autumn, begins rivetingly and gets better and better . . . all the way, in fact, to best. "Horn Book Review, Starred Review" © "Masterful...like nothing else out there now." "Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review" © "A study of courage and loyalty tested" | utterly compelling. "Publishers Weekly, Starred Review" © "A book with cross-appeal to lovers of fantasy, horse stories, romance, and action-adventure, this seems to have a shot at being a YA blockbuster." "Booklist, Starred Review" © Up "On the sea-battered and wind-swept isle of Thisby, fall brings the famed and feared capaill uisce, or water horses, and with them, death . . . The author takes great liberties with the Celtic myth, but the result is marvelous." "School Library Journal, Starred Review" © Stiefvater not only steps out of the young adult fantasy box with "The Scorpio Races" • but crushes it with pounding hooves |. If "The Scorpio Races" • sounds like nothing you've ever read, that's because it is. "The New York Times Book Review" © Tactile world-building, an island full of compelling characters, and the budding romance between Sean and Puck all make for an unforgettable book that's quite unlike anything else out there. "NPR Books" © With this beautifully executed drama, Stiefvater has established herself as one of the finest YA novelists writing today. "Entertainment Weekly" © Tense, atmospheric, and utterly original. "People Magazine"

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's 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. The 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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