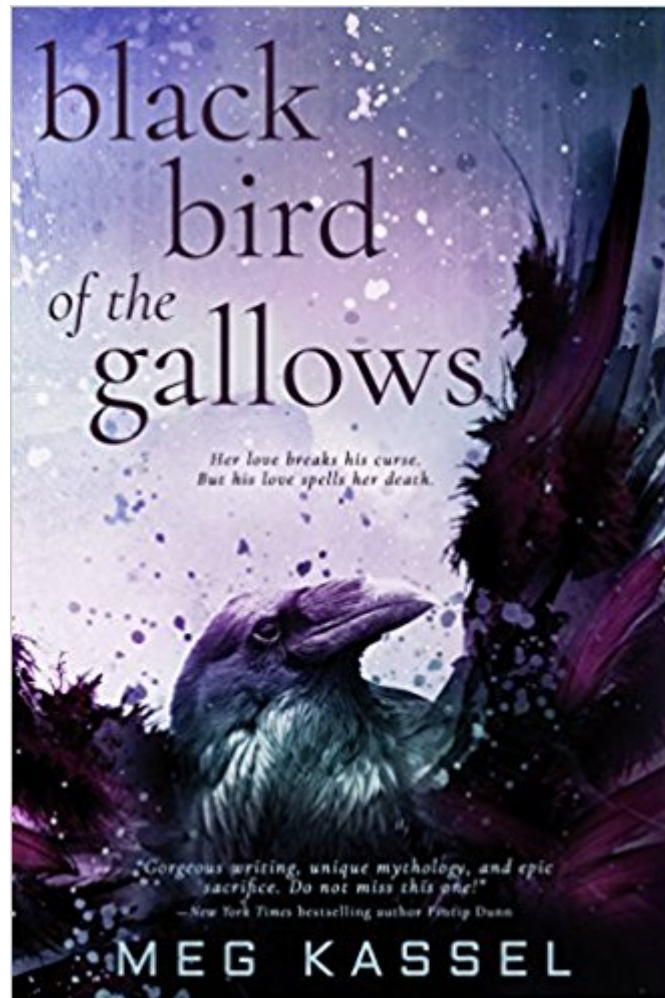




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Black Bird Of The Gallows



Synopsis

A simple but forgotten truth: Where harbingers of death appear, the morgues will soon be full. Angie Dove can tell there's more to Reece Fernandez than just the tall, brooding athlete who has her classmates swooning, but she can't imagine his presence signals a tragedy that will devastate her small town. When something supernatural tries to attack her, Angie is thrown into a battle between good and evil she never saw coming. Right in the center of it is Reece and he's not human. What's more, she knows something most don't. That the secrets her town holds could kill them all. But that's only half as dangerous as falling in love with a harbinger of death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

5 stars: "Meg Kassel's debut novel was packed with thrill, romance and a chase unlike any other." -Natasha, Dreamland Teenage Fantasy

5 stars: "Where can I find more paranormal YA like this? Seriously, this was so good! I'm going to be honest and say that I don't care much for reading about the paranormal. [...] But this book has changed my mind. By instilling a little bit of Supernatural-esque lore like harbingers of death and the Beekeepers, this kept my attention from start to finish." -Lacy, A Ravenclaw Library

5 stars: "The pacing of this book was great. I sat down to read for thirty minutes tonight and ended up reading for an hour and a half to finish. I just couldn't put it down." -Kristi, Confessions of a YA Reader

5 stars: "Holy hell! I couldn't get enough of this book. This takes the human/monster romance to a whole new level." -Danielle Duncan, Chapters Through Life

5 stars: "Wow, what a fabulous, fast paced, fun, and

interesting read! This story has a unique perspective on an old tale of star crossed lovers." -JJ, Goodreads Reviewer

5 stars: "If this book isn't on your radar it needs to be." -Ainslee Nolan, JestAndHearts

5 stars: "Overall, I would highly recommend this to anyone who is a fan of paranormal romances! I, for sure, will be getting my hands on a finished copy and most likely will be reading this book again!" -Destinee, Hidden Behind Hardbacks

5 stars: "When I find characters I like and a story I enjoy I often reread the book and feel like I am having coffee with friends. This is one of those books." -Cheri Sarton, Goodreads Reviewer

"A teenage girl discovers what happens when the new boy next door is literally a harbinger of doom in this supernatural YA novel. Angie Dovage, 17, has a secret identity that only her two closest friends know about—but she's not a superhero: she DJs at a local club as "Sparo," disguised in a bright purple wig and big, green sunglasses. She also has other things that she'd prefer to keep hidden; for instance, she doesn't like talking about her childhood with an addict mother living in a Volkswagen van and how she was finally returned to her father's custody. But her new next-door neighbor and classmate, Reece Fernandez, may have even bigger secrets. Angie saw him with a strange man whose face impossibly transformed, right before her eyes. Reece also appears to have a private, haunting sorrow of some kind, and he's oddly alarmed by bees. As Angie has more encounters with him, it's eventually revealed that the face-changing man is a cursed creature called a Beekeeper whose bees' stings turn people into paranoid killers. As for Reece, he and his fellow crow people are also cursed and attracted to sites of tragic destruction. Despite this, Angie finds herself deeply drawn to him. She can't stop the cataclysm that will hit her town, but can she save herself, her friends, and Reece? One of the most successful elements of Kassel's debut novel is its mythmaking. Rather than drawing on tired tropes such as vampire, werewolf, or fairy lore, she creates an original set of cursed beings with hints of a still-wider mythology, including a mysterious figure called the Strawman. The face-changing man with bees crawling out of his mouth is the genuine stuff of nightmares. Reece's crow people are mysterious, but their actions are also based on real-life crows' natural behavior. Kassel's characterization is also strong; for example, Angie's music and DJ persona give her a way to work through her issues and show her strengths. Some of the emotions on display can be rather melodramatic, but they're appropriate enough for teenagers, especially considering the novel's big events. A pleasingly original contribution to the paranormal-romance genre." - Kirkus Reviews

Meg Kassel is an author of paranormal and speculative books for young adults. A New Jersey

native, Meg graduated from Parson's School of Design and worked as a graphic designer before becoming a writer. She now lives in Maine with her husband and daughter and is busy at work on her next novel. She is the 2016 RWA Golden Heart® winner in YA. Her debut novel, *Black Bird of the Gallows*, releases fall of 2017.

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