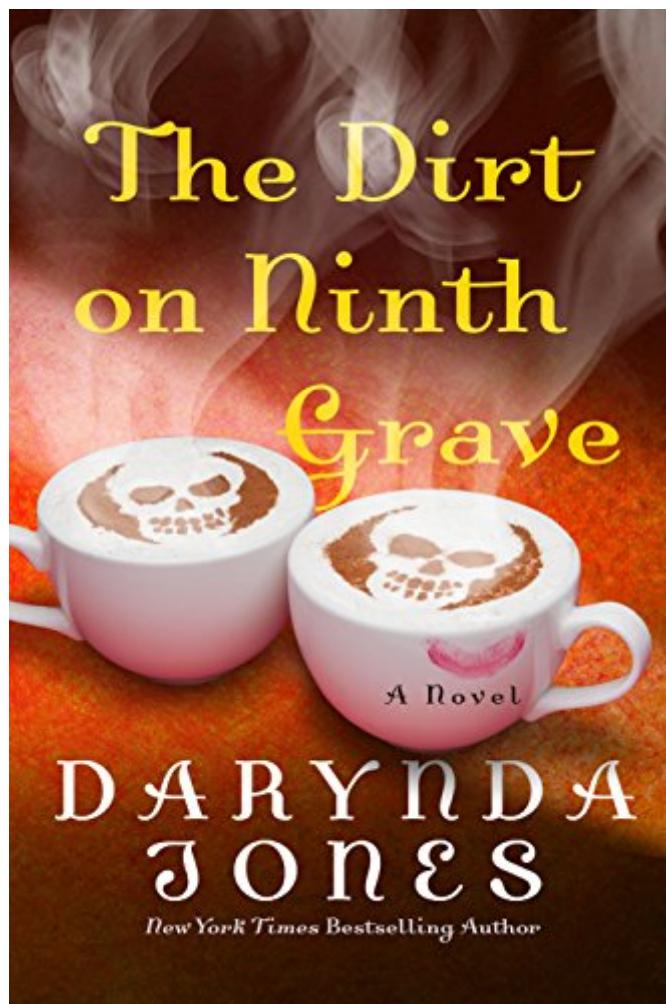


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The Dirt On Ninth Grave: A Novel (Charley Davidson Book 9)



Synopsis

In a small village in New York lives Jane Doe, a girl with no memory of who she is or where she came from. So when she is working at a diner and slowly begins to realize she can see dead people, she's more than a little taken aback. Stranger still are the people entering her life. They seem to know things about her. Things they hide with lies and half-truths. Soon, she senses something far darker. A force that wants to cause her harm, she is sure of it. Her saving grace comes in the form of a new friend she feels she can confide in and the fry cook, a devastatingly handsome man whose smile is breathtaking and touch is scalding. He stays close, and she almost feels safe with him around. But no one can outrun their past, and the more lies that swirl around her—even from her new and trusted friends—the more disoriented she becomes, until she is confronted by a man who claims to have been sent to kill her. Sent by the darkest force in the universe. A force that absolutely will not stop until she is dead. Thankfully, she has a Rottweiler. But that doesn't help in her quest to find her identity and recover what she's lost. That will take all her courage and a touch of the power she feels flowing like electricity through her veins. She almost feels sorry for him. The devil in blue jeans. The disarming fry cook who lies with every breath he takes. She will get to the bottom of what he knows if it kills her. Or him. Either way.

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Customer Reviews

I have very mixed feelings about this book. I love this series. I love the characters. The wit. The charm. The sexy and smoldering Reyes Farrow. And you can find all of those things in this book. So on one hand, I enjoyed it. I laughed. And I quickly warmed to amnesiac Charley, who --despite her memory loss-- is essentially the same loveable person she has been since book 1. The problem is that this book felt like total filler. Other than a couple of revelations at the very end, it's essentially a prop to get us from the explosive ending of Eighth Grave to whatever is coming next. A fact which I found both disappointing and frustrating. The climax of the last book was heartbreakingly tragic. That it caused Charley to check out of her regular life and start over with a blank slate somewhere is kind of understandable. But this entire book is spent without Charley knowing who she is. It's too much. I spent the whole time waiting for her to remember her identity, which kept me from really buying in to the story. It was a distraction and it felt like we were spinning our wheels. Charley's friends and family are all with her in the small town where she landed, keeping up the ruse that they don't know her history. Again, I have mixed feelings. I am glad they were present, because I love the relationships she has with Cookie, Uncle Bob, Swopes, and Osh. (And of course, Reyes goes without saying.) The interactions she has with them as "Janey Doerr" are virtually the same as she has as Charley, which is good in the sense that it's fun and familiar. But it's bad because it messed with my suspension of disbelief. That they all picked up their lives and created fake ones across the country. That their relationships with Charley play out the exactly same way when she doesn't know them.

Charlotte à œCharleyâ • Davidson is far from home in Sleepy Hollow, NY. She has lost her memory and doesn't have a clue about her life before four weeks ago when she woke up in an alley in Sleepy Hollow. Now she is calling herself Janey Doerr (Jane Doe is just too boring) and has developed a few friendships at the diner she is working at. Along with her new friends, she has her regulars (who is that Garret fellow and isn't Reyes really a wonderful chunk of man?) and she has gotten to know her neighboring business owners. The only thing she knows for sure about her life is that she is different because she can see the dead and the world around her seems to be split into two distinct forms. And what is up with being a human lie detector? When she delivers lunch to one of her neighboring business friends, she realizes something is up. He acts nervous and strange people have taken up in this shop. She starts snooping and realizes he is being held hostage. She

will stop at nothing to help him and his family. Sometimes not having a memory can be an asset. But, who will help her when things get too hot to handle? I was really looking forward to this novel and dreading it at the same time. I've never been a really big fan of a main character developing amnesia and not knowing anything. But I should have known that Darynda Jones would pull it off. Charley was her normal self, bright, funny, and engaging. Usually by this time, I'm starting to get a little tired of a series. Not this one. I feel like we've started a new arc in the series, and things still feel fresh. In some ways, I feel that Charley has grown up a bit in this book, too. She was never that immature, but I still see a little growth. I am more than ready for the next book.

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