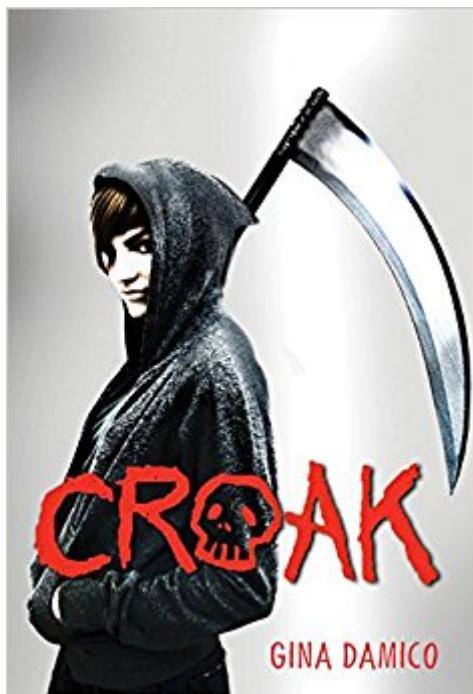


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# Croak



## Synopsis

Fed up with her wild behavior, sixteen-year-old Lexâ's parents ship her off to upstate New York to live with her Uncle Mort for the summer, hoping that a few months of dirty farm work will whip her back into shape. But Uncle Mortâ's true occupation is much dirtier than shoveling manure. Heâ's a Grim Reaper. And heâ's going to teach Lex the family business. She quickly assimilates into the peculiar world of Croak, a town populated by reapers who deliver souls from this life to the next. But Lex canâ't stop her desire for justiceâ• or is it vengeance?â• whenever she encounters a murder victim, craving to stop the attackers before they can strike again. Will she ditch Croak and go rogue with her reaper skills?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Series: Croak

Paperback: 320 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 152 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #183,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Alternative Family #244 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings #277 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Exclusive: So You Want To Reap Some Souls: A Grim's Checklist by Mort Bartleby, Mayor of Croak Think you've got what it takes to be a Grim? Well, you, my friend, are delusional. But for the moment, let's pretend that you're remotely qualified to join the ranks of the Grimsphere. Before you set out on your first shift you must take stock of your supplies, as there are a few things no Killer or

Culler can reap without: Scythe Made out of rock, gem, or mineral, each handheld scythe is tailored specifically to the Grim who wields it. The Swiss Army Knife of the Grimsphere, your scythe will allow you to gain access to the ether, instantly travel across the country, and breach the space-time continuum faster than you can say "space-time continuum." Standard issue black hoodie Lightweight, durable, thermoregulated, and stylish, the black hoodie is the Grim's uniform of choice. Not only is it comfortable, but its pockets can hold dozens of souls. Plus, it makes a statement. (That statement is: I kill people.) Vessels You're going to need something to put all those souls in. (You didn't think you'd just shove them into your hoodie pocket like loose change, did you? What is this, amateur hour?) Vessels are the best tools for the job--small white orbs spun from the fibers of a black widow spider; they're strong enough to protect souls from the harshest conditions. Cuff A metal band worn around the wrist that is used to communicate with other Grims. No touch screen, no ringtones, no apps. Just cold hard iron. Your partner Reaping souls is a two-person job. The Killer releases the soul from the dead body, and the Culler collects that soul and places it into a Vessel. You partner is the person you will be with for ten hours a day, seven days a week. You will get to know them better than anyone you've ever met. You will be able to finish each other's sentences. You will know what the other person is thinking before they think it. But you will not fall in love with them. No matter how dreamy their eyes may be. And above all, a strong stomach I'll not mince words. As a Grim, you will see decapitations. Disembowlings. Amputations. Explosions. Cancer. Drownings. Fires. Car wrecks. Poison. Stabbings. And more blood than you've ever thought possible. So. You in?

Praise for Croak "Go ahead and die laughing, knowing that the safe transport of your mortal soul will be the summer job of a sweetheart teen with godlike power and discipline problems. A lot of books make me wish I could live within their pages, but I wouldn't mind dying in this one." — Adam Rex, author of Fat Vampire "Creepy and hilarious." — VOYA, 4Q, 5P  
Praise for Scorch "An amusing blend of whimsy and humor with serious drama and blood." — Kirkus Reviews "Characters are always as clever as we wish we were. . . . An irresistible blend of impending doom, irreverent humor, hormone-fueled make-out sessions, and creative world-building make this sequel stronger than its predecessor and will leave readers dying for the next book." — School Library Journal  
Praise for Rogue "A gut-wrenching, laugh-out-loud, gritty, honest and brave ending to an appealing trilogy." — Kirkus

5 out of 5 gnomes Croak is one big bursting bundle of awesome. I adored this unique book, even

though it did practically blind me with its reflective silver cover when I was reading it outside. The book has a lot of morbid humor which fits in nicely with my own sense of humor. This is the kind of book that you'll find yourself actually laughing out loud a lot. Lex is one heck of a troublemaker, so much so that her nickname at school is Tyrannosaurus Lex. She has so much anger and no friends, her only friend is her twin sister Cordy. After a biting incident at school she's sent off to her Uncle Mort's for the summer. She's horrified by this but when she gets there she finds that Mort lives a rather interesting life. Weird as it sounds, I think I would like to visit Croak, in description it kind of gave off a kind of Beetlejuice mixed with the town of Mayberry type vibe. One of my favorite parts of the town has to be the afterlife and all the important people in there, especially Edgar. Grims and the role of killer and culler is fascinating, also I kind of want my own scythe. Lex and Driggs are a great partnership and their relationship really had me laughing. They compliment each other perfectly and their levels of snarkiness/sarcasm are top notch. There's some serious mystery when people start dying mysteriously and nobody knows why. As the deaths pile up there are suspicions aplenty and red herrings to who the bad guy is. When the big bad is revealed though and you look back the pieces really do fall into place. The part leading up to the ending was so very intense. I gasped out loud when I figured out who was about to be found dead. The ending, wow what a downer. I so wasn't expecting what happened, I think I figured things out just about at the same time Lex did. I really am looking forward to seeing where Lex goes from here.

The premise of this book is cool. The character designs sound neat (who doesn't love a motorcycle-riding, weird experimental scientist, take-it-in-stride, Actually, I Own This Town uncle named Mort?), but unfortunately, by the middle of the book, every single character was exactly the same. I mean it; they all used the same phrases, seemed to react to everything in the same way, and I had to keep backtracking to the intro scenes to try and remember who was who. Not that they aren't physically diverse, and we're told over and over that they have different personalities. For example, one girl is described as a chatterbox. Whenever she starts talking, people roll their eyes and try to interrupt her and make jokes about how much she talks. But if you actually go through and compare how long her little speeches are compared to when literally anyone else in the book talks...well, she probably soliloquies less - mostly because she gets interrupted constantly. The only people who are in any way distinguishable are the two bullies in Croak, and it's sort of hilarious that a grown man and grown woman seem to live for the moments when they can stalk up to a group of teenagers and call them 'stupid.' that's it. That's all they do. They are ugly and they glare a lot and they are virtually identical in everything but name and gender, and all they do, despite ostensibly

being very important upper management, is show up at odd moments when the teenagers are sitting in a diner or in a park or whatever, and call them all idiots and slackers. And then the heroine says something that isn't really witty but everyone reacts like it's a TOTAL BURN, DUDE, and the bullies stomp off, defeated. The plot about the people dying of unknown causes (which is a problem when you're a reaper and it's your job to know the cause) isn't too boring or predictable, I'll give it that. But by the middle of the book, I just couldn't be bothered to care.

To me, Croak felt like a revised edition of Harry Potter, but instead of wizards, it was the world of grim reapers. Main character is thrust into this mystical world that couldn't possibly exist (yet it does) and has to learn the ropes pretty quickly in this fantastic new home (run by this crazy-yet-wise-old-man), making quirky friends and a couple of unwarranted enemies, turns out to be a real natural in this new environment, and then must defeat an evil genius. Oh, and there's this splendiferous drink that blows everyone's mind, but us muggles will never taste the likes of it. Despite the fact that I was quoting Harry Potter throughout the whole thing, this book was really awesome in its own magnificent way. It was cleverly punny (yes, punny), the story was interesting, and I loved the characters. Sometimes only a book's ending is good enough to make you contemplate continuing onto the sequel, but I was hooked onto the whole trilogy about halfway through. Ready for book two!

I'd never heard of this book before my best friend recommended it to me and I'm so glad that she did! I loved the writing and plot so much! It was really engaging and fun. I thought the characters were really relatable and real. These some really great dark humor from a couple of the characters which I really liked. And Lex was amazing. She's exactly what I look for in a female character. But the best part of this book is how entertaining it is. I really enjoyed reading it and I'd definitely recommend it.

You'll either like Lex or want to slap her upside the head. She's not particularly likable or admirable. Most find her borderline obnoxious, which she is. You might feel this unusual take on the Grim Reaper legend is worth putting up with her. For me, it was enough to slog through to the end to find out who the killer was. I don't have any interest in continuing the series.

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