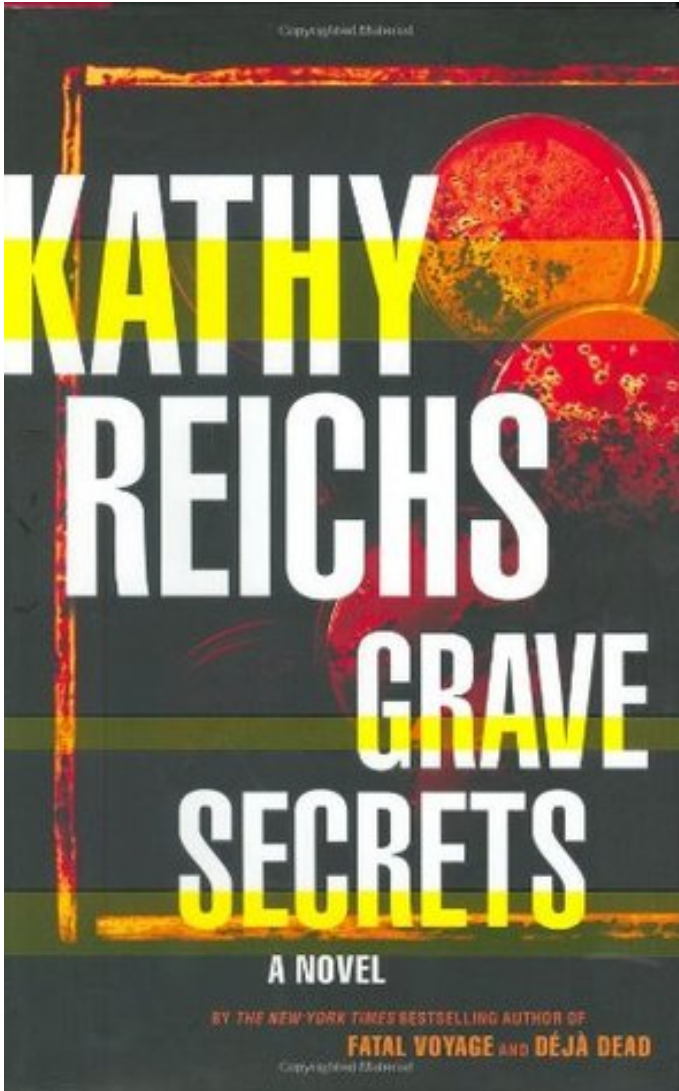

Kathy Reichs

Grave Secrets (Temperance Brennan #5)



Title: Grave Secrets (Temperance Brennan #5)

Author: Kathy Reichs

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Description

It was a summer morning in 1982 when soldiers ravaged the village of Chupan Ya, raping and killing women and children. Twenty-three victims are said to lie in the well where, twenty years later, Dr. Temperance Brennan and a team from the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation now dig. No records were kept. To their families, the dead are "the disappeared." Forensic anthropologist for the medical examiners in North Carolina and Montreal, Tempe is in Guatemala for a month's service to help some families identify and bury their dead. She digs in a cold, damp pit where she finds a hair clip, a fragment of cloth, a tiny sneaker. Her trowel touches something hard: the hip of a child no more than two years old.

It's heartbreaking work. Something savage happened here twenty years ago. The violence continues today. The team is packing up for the day when an urgent satellite call comes in. Two colleagues are under attack. Shots ring out, and Tempe listens in horror to a woman's screams. Then there is silence. Dead silence.

With this new violence, everything changes, both for the team and for Tempe, who's asked by the Guatemalan police for her expertise on another case. Four privileged young women have vanished from Guatemala City in recent months. One is the Canadian ambassador's daughter. Some remains have turned up in a septic tank, and Tempe unfortunately knows septic tanks.

Teaming with Special Crimes Investigator Bartolome Galiano, and with Montreal detective Andrew Ryan, who may have more than just professional reasons to join her on the case, Tempe soon finds herself in a dangerous web that stretches far beyond Guatemala's borders. The stakes are huge. As power, money, greed, and science converge, Tempe must make life-altering choices.

From cutting-edge science in the lab, where Tempe studies fetal bones and cat hair DNA, to a chilling encounter in a lonely morgue, "Grave Secrets" is powerful, page-turning entertainment from a crime fiction superstar who combines riveting authenticity with witty, elegant prose.

Insightful reviews

Ed: #5 in the Tempe Brennan series. Finalist 2003 Arthur Ellis Award for Best Novel.

Tempe Brennan series - Grave Secrets finds Tempe plying her pathology trade in Guatemala, investigating a massacre site as a favor to a Guatemalan anthropology association. However, when her team is ambushed by gunmen, Tempe finds herself ensnared in a mesh of corruption and murder stretching from Guatemala City to Montreal, involving DAs, military thugs and kinky diplomats. Tempe finds herself drawn and trapped between the two cops investigating: her longtime Canadian suitor, Lt. Andrew Ryan, and her would-be Latin lover, agente Bartolome Galiano. That the two men know each other and are friends doesn't help the situation. When a nosy reporter looking into the massacre is gunned down before Tempe's eyes, she realizes she herself is the next likely target.

Book Concierge: Audio book narrated by Katherine Borowitz

Forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan is in Guatemala working to excavate a decades-old mass grave and identify the bodies buried there, when she is asked to help local police with their investigation into the disappearance of four young women. Is there a serial killer on the loose? Why is the DA hampering the investigation? What is the Canadian ambassador's wife hiding? Is the local detective truly interested in her – in a personal way – or is she imagining this because she misses Ryan?

Reichs crafts a fast-moving, intricate plot. The pace is unrelenting, with just enough scientific information to make Tempe an interesting professional, but not so much that the non-scientist reader loses interest. There are enough red herrings here to distract the most dedicated sleuth. I know that I was still thinking, “what about ...?” when the final reveal came, and I like being surprised. But let's talk about our heroine. Tempe is – for the most part – an independent and intelligent woman. She doesn't take s**t from anyone and she's pretty capable when it comes to taking care of herself. So why does she – yet again – go off chasing the bad guy without backup or even her cell phone? ARRGH. I typically give up on a series after about three or four installments; it's not necessarily the fault of the author, but I get bored reading about the same character in similar settings over and over again. **Grave Secrets** is the 5th in this series, and I may have reached my limit.

Borowitz does a great job narrating this thriller. Her pacing is quick, and she does a reasonable job of the various accents required in this story. I'd listen to her again.

Annette: *This review applies to the audible version.*

A harrowing excavation unearths a chilling tragedy never laid to rest.

They are “the disappeared,” twenty-three massacre victims buried in a well in the Guatemalan village of Chupan Ya two decades ago. Leading a team of experts on a meticulous, heartbreaking dig, Tempe Brennan pieces together the violence of the past. But a fresh wave of terror begins when the horrific sounds of a fatal attack on two colleagues come in on a blood-chilling satellite call. Teaming up with Special Crimes Investigator Bartolomé Galiano and Montreal detective Andrew Ryan, Tempe quickly becomes enmeshed in the cases of four privileged young women who have vanished from Guatemala City — and finds herself caught in deadly territory where power, money, greed, and science converge.

This was my first [Kathy Reichs](#)' book after having watched *Bones* for years. The narration often left me sleepy, but I was interested in the stories of the girls and how they all tied together. I would recommend the print version over the audible version in this case.

I am now reading her books from the beginning (mostly for the Andrew Ryan back story) and getting a feel for how Reichs' writing may have improved over the years. I started into the series knowing that the Temperance Brennan in these books is supposed to be an older and wiser version than our beloved Tempe in *Bones*, so I have no gripe about the character discrepancies there. The Tempe in the books is much more human and emotional, less logical and reserved.

In [Grave Secrets](#) we travel from Guatemala to Canada and back. We learn a bit about Ryan's college days, a possible new love interest for Tempe, political intrigue (ok, not so much, but politicians are trying to cover up a myriad of sins). And Tempe is almost murdered at least twice. I don't know if this is normal for the series or not, but I do enjoy a heroine who gets herself into that much trouble.

I may have to re-read the book in print, but overall I enjoyed it.

Nic: This used to be the 1st Temperance Brennan booklet that I read. It was once my creation to the superb writing of Kathy Reichs. I discovered a protagonist who used to be strong, smart and sharp. She was once additionally extra human than the tv version. Weaving jointly likely unrelated occasions - a dig to spot sufferers of a many years outdated massacre, a quartet of lacking girls, a murderous assault on colleagues and the dying of an frustrating reporter - Tempe finds how they're all attached in time to save lots of her personal life. an additional glitch for Tempe is the Guatemalan agent who she reveals herself attracted to has a previous with the opposite guy in her life, Andrew Ryan. Tempe unearths herself torn among the 2 friends. there's lots of description of what bones let us know and the way being put in a septic tank impacts physique decomposition to maintain the armchair forensic anthropologist good and really satisfied. Reichs additionally manages to weave within the information of either Tempe's present lengthy distance commuting way of life and her household lifestyles in order that it's attainable to learn out of order with out feeling thoroughly lost.

Sebrina: I have only in the near past began studying the Tempe Brennan series. I used to be partial to the television exhibit first, and on a whim determined I may still attempt the books. My first piece of recommendation for a person who hasn't learn the books before, and feature simply visible the television series, is to consider them as separate entities. Tempe is a drastically assorted personality among the 2 mediums, and the atmosphere can be thoroughly different. I used to be no longer ready for that at all. That stated one can see the nod to the books within the first actual episode of *Bones* in *Grave Secrets*. The nod, being of course, that Tempe is in Guatemala settling on sufferers of genocide. that is pretty well it. in spite of this though, I will say that this booklet is basically the place Kathy Reichs reveals her voice as a writer. the former 4 books have been good written, and informed attention-grabbing stories, however it is simple to determine why the television sequence gave a nod to ebook 5 within the manner that it did. I don't desire to offer an excessive amount of away, yet I feel what made the e-book excellent was once the quantity of individuals Tempe interacted with. now not them all have been suspects, and it was once great to work out a wrench thrown into the romance plot-

line with Ryan. i'm a major fan of Galiano and that i would really like to determine him in one other book.

Matt Schiariti: i discovered this one to be a bit complicated at times. there is many characters concerned for something and there are numerous plots operating on the related time. Continent skipping relatively did not help. I have spotted that topic in many of the prior Tempe Brennan novels. regardless of the place secret or paintings takes here, someway it usually ties again to Canada. deadly Voyage bucked that trend, yet this one is going correct again to it. it is not that I brain her being established basically in Canada even if she's a Carolina implant. now not within the least. it is simply that typically i locate the unrelated mysteries she encounters every time she is going again to Canada (or away as in a few earlier books) to confuse issues at times. occasionally I additionally imagine it really is simply an excuse to get Ryan into the book. i feel Ryan's a good character, yet i believe the consistent and coincidental ties to Canada as a method of having Ryan into the booklet is slightly a stretch. In fact, one of many significant gamers during this publication who lives and works in Guatemala even went to school with Ryan. I cherished the Galiano character, yet as soon as again..the ties again to Canada are a bit too coincidental to be beleived. What's sturdy approximately this publication is that (even although now and then a bit complicated with all of the minor avid gamers and subplots) is that the most secret is rarely what it sort of feels before everything of the book. by the point you are thirds of ways via a Tempe Brennan novel the better secret finds itself and it's always one you by no means observed coming. Tempe's performing some paintings in Guatemala. attempting to establish sufferers of a mass army bloodbath from the 80s (which really happened) so that they should be placed to rest. it truly is what she does. That by itself is a secret in itself yet it truly is while she's approached by way of the neighborhood professionals to spot our bodies of a possible serial killer that she will get into genuine difficulty and issues begin to get messy and engaging on the related time. If you could stay alongside of the twists and turns and all of the significant and minor players, it truly is nonetheless worthy a learn simply because there is a lovely twisted and chilling secret on the middle of this book.

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