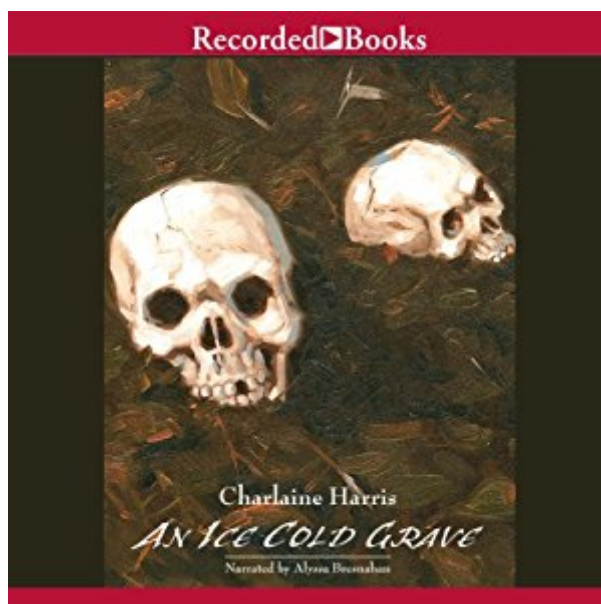


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# An Ice Cold Grave: Harper Connelly Mysteries, Book 3



## Synopsis

Harper Connelly was struck by lightning as a teenager, and now she can find the dead. In her third case, Harper and Tolliver, her stepbrother, are hired to find a missing grandson. But the truth is far worse than a single dead child, for numerous teenage boys, all unlikely runaways, have disappeared from Doraville, North Carolina. Harper soon finds the eight bodies, buried in the half-frozen ground, but then, still reeling from coming into contact with her first serial killer, she is attacked and injured. Now she and Tolliver have no choice but to stay in Doraville while she recovers, and as she reluctantly becomes part of the investigation, she learns more than she cares to about the dark mysteries and long-hidden secrets of the town: knowledge that makes her the most likely person to be next to end up in an ice-cold grave. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the third book in the Harper Connelly Mystery series. For the past several years six boys of a similar age have gone missing in the town of Doraville, North Carolina. The previous Sheriff refused to find anything sinister in or even investigate their disappearances, claiming they were probably runaways or suicides. The new sheriff, who was deputy under the old sheriff, has always thought something was wrong. But she has run out of leads and ideas on how to locate the boys. Word of Harper Connelly's gift of finding the dead has reached the town and Harper and her stepbrother Tolliver arrive in the hopes of helping. Twyla is the grandmother of one of the missing boys and is

willing to try anything at this point. She convinces the sheriff and the other townspeople to hire and give Harper a chance. It isn't long before Harpers gifts are proven and she and Tolliver are at the sight of horrific crimes. This book is by far the best in the bunch. While I thoroughly enjoyed the first two books, this one blew me away. The mystery is troubling and the set up is tight; I was on the edge of my seat (couch) waiting for the murderer to be caught. There are more than a few frightening and terrifyingly disturbing moments in this book and I found myself more than once holding my breath or gasping in shock. This is definitely a darker book than I am used to reading from Ms. Harris, but the journey was just as enjoyable. Harper and Tolliver give it just enough lightness and energy to keep it from being too dark. They have some serious issues that come to head in this book, making me all the more eager to get onto the next. *An Ice Cold Grave* gave me chills and warmed my heart; an exciting combination!

I've been a fan of Harper Connelly and Tolliver Lang since "Grave Secret." To date, Charlaine Harris has not disappointed me. "*An Ice Cold Grave*" is, in my opinion, the best book of the series. For those of you new to the series, Harper Connelly was struck by lightning at 15. That incident left her with a set of strange illnesses and the ability to find dead bodies and discover their cause of death from reading them. She travels around the country with Tolliver, who was raised as a brother, but is not related by blood working to help find lost people or determine the cause of death. Doraville, NC--winter's coming. With six missing persons, all of them male and under 20, the grieving townsfolk have nothing to lose when they take up a collection to bring Harper Connelly in to find the young boys. She finds all six of them pretty quickly at an abandoned property near where one of the boys was lost. All six of the boys from the town are there--as well as two boys missing from other nearby communities. Details Harper gets from reading the remains make her sicker and sadder than any other case she's ever worked--in no small part probably due to her losing her own older sister to an abductor during high school. Harper and Tolliver want nothing more than to leave town just as soon as the check for their services is cut. Unfortunately, the Sheriff and the State Bureau of Investigation aren't going to allow that--and an attack on Harper ties them further to the town. An ice storm is closing in Knott County, NC and a serial killer is on the loose. He's got a particular interest in Harper since she was the one who found his cache of bodies. "*An Ice Cold Grave*" is the strongest of Harper Connelly books so far.

*An Ice Cold Grave* (2007) is the third fantasy novel in the Harper Connelly series, following *Grave Surprise*. In the previous volume, Harper interrupts the killer in the midst of another murder and is

almost shot. Tolliver overwhelms the murderer. Harper and Tolliver have learned and deduced most to the story and pass it on to the police. Harper has never encountered a true ghost prior to Josiah Poundstone. She arranges with Xylda Bernardo to lay his spirit. Josiah seems amazed at the thought of seeking peace, but gradually fades away. In this novel, Harper and Tolliver travel to Doraville, South Carolina, during the ice and snow of January. They have been called in to search for six youths who have become missing during the past five years. The sheriff -- Sandra Rockwell -- had been a deputy who ran against the former sheriff over his mismanagement of this issue. Yet she has not been able to discover any additional leads. The grandmother of the last missing boy suggested that Harper be used to find the bodies. After checking the police grapevine and getting a positive recommendation from a participant in a former case, Sheriff Rockwell asked for Harper to perform a search. After discussing the case with the sheriff, Harper meets with Twyla Cotton, the woman who is responsible for her involvement in the case. The sheriff provides a list of the most suspicious locales. Twyla drives Harper and Tolliver around to each site. Harper finds the bodies of eight boys -- including Twyla's grandson -- on the grounds of an abandoned house with a two-car garage off to one side.

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