



## Lay Me to Rest

*E.A. Clark*

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Some secrets never stay buried for long...

Devastated by the death of her husband, Annie Philips is shocked to discover she is pregnant with his unborn child. Hoping for a fresh start, she travels to a remote stone cottage in Anglesey, amidst the white-capped mountains of North Wales.

She settles in quickly, helped by her mysterious new neighbour, Peter. But everything changes when Annie discovers a small wooden box, inlaid with brass and mother-of-pearl. A box she was never supposed to find...

Annie soon realises that she isn't alone in the cottage. And now she's trapped. Can she escape the nightmare that she has awoken, or will the dark forces surrounding the house claim her life – and that of her baby?

A gripping thriller from E. A. Clark, perfect for fans of Kerri Wilkinson, Sarah Wray and Stella Duffy. You won't be able to put it down!

## Lay Me to Rest Details

Date : Published September 29th 2017 by HQ Digital

ISBN :

Author : E.A. Clark

Format : Kindle Edition 358 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fantasy, Paranormal

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## From Reader Review Lay Me to Rest for online ebook

### Donna Maguire says

<https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...>

This book ticks all the boxes for me and I couldn't wait to read it!! I loved the setting for the book and its an area I have visited on holiday several times and it's very atmospheric.

The book intrigued me right from the outset, I love a good paranormal thriller and was really pleased with how the book was written. There is plenty of suspense and I was left guessing more than once. The characters are great and help to give the book a really creepy edge.

I really enjoyed it and hope to see more from this author in the future, 4 stars from me, it's a very enjoyable book and one I'd definitely recommend for those seeking out new authors in this genre - I have a feeling she will be one to watch!

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### Eva says

Annie is a young widow who discovered she was pregnant after her husband died in an accident. Overcome by guilt for various reasons, her sister convinces Annie to go away for a break to a lovely cottage in Anglesey. Unfortunately, Annie's arrival stirs up all sorts of things and there's no chance of getting some peace and quiet. But even when she finally leaves the cottage, the worst isn't over yet.

I didn't particularly get the feeling from the book description that this story would involve paranormal / supernatural events, which aren't usually my thing. Unless it involves the Winchester brothers. If I had known, I may not have picked it up and that would have been a bit of a shame. At its base, this is really an intriguing mystery and I do so enjoy trying to solve a mystery. The opening chapter really sets the tone. It made me sink just that little bit deeper into my warm, comfortable blanket and wish I hadn't started reading this at night. Even though at that point, I was thinking we were dealing with an unreliable narrator who was seeing things due to the overwhelming grief over her husband's death, it nevertheless made me turn up the lights just that little bit more.

I don't want to reveal too much about the plot but don't let the paranormal vibe put you off or you'd miss out on quite an entertaining read. It's all rather deliciously creepy! While I enjoyed the way it was written, it did somehow feel out of place with the time period, maybe a tad stilted for the year 2009, but I really enjoyed how the author managed to combine the paranormal with crime fiction. I also loved the setting and the various characters we were introduced to and of course, the investigation they find themselves in.

Overall, this is a quick read, perfect for the cold, winter nights! The ending seems to suggest there may be a follow-up at some point too so if you're into your paranormal suspense stories, you may want to give this a go.

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### Irene says

Annie is struggling to come to grips with her status as newly widowed. She is about to become a single mom

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and grieving not only the loss of her husband but the fact that he will never know the child he so desperately wanted.

Her sister suggests a change of scenery may help lift her from her depression. So off she goes for a stay in what is meant to be a peaceful little cottage in the country. That peace and quiet is short lived when it becomes apparent that more than one ghost inhabits this property and is seeking the closure and justice they never got in life.

This was not really a story I would have expected to find in the horror section, but it was a fairish paranormal mystery.

I received an advance copy for review.

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### **Carrie says**

Annie Philips is still trying to come to terms with the sudden death of her husband, being in her thirties she certainly never expected to become a widow. On top of her husband's sudden death Annie had also found out that she was finally pregnant with the child that her husband had so desperately wanted so now she is facing raising that baby alone. On the recommendation of her sister Annie has decided to go away on a bit of vacation to try to reset and relax before the birth of her baby.

Traveling to North Wales Annie finds herself nestled in a remote stone cottage in Anglesey. Annie believes that the peace and quiet is exactly what she needed and is quite happy to have come until she she finds a strange box and everything changes for her in the cottage. Annie is quite sure that she is not alone and whatever presence she can feel is not happy with her.

Lay Me to Rest by E.A. Clark is a mix of a horror story dealing with a supernatural presence along with a bit of a mystery to solve as the main character tries to figure out just what is occupying the cottage along with her. The book is one that moved along at a decent pace and was engaging enough although I myself found the overall story to mimic a lot of other horror of that type.

What really brought this one down a bit more other than the lack of a bit of something to make it completely stand out in this genre though was the writing seemed at times a bit over the top. The author does seem to have a background in poetry though with this being her first full length novel so that is probably what seemed a bit off to me. Otherwise the story was a solid first book with hints at the end that Annie's story may continue in the future.

I received a copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress...>

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### **Anniek says**

Annie and her husband didn't part on good terms the night he lost his life in a tragic accident. She's having a hard time to accept what happened. Annie finds out she's pregnant and this makes her even more emotional. Her husband wanted nothing more than to start a family and he would have been an exceptional father.

Annie's sister thinks it would be good for Annie to stay in Wales for a while. Peter, who's a co-worker of Annie's sister, knows a secluded country cottage where Annie can get some much needed rest and relaxation. The place is being owned by a sweet old couple and they are planning to take good care of her. Will Annie find the peace and quiet she's looking for?

As soon as Annie enters the cottage she feels that she isn't alone. In the beginning she tries to brush it off by convincing herself she's got a vivid imagination, but when a ghost is materializing before her eyes she has no other choice but to believe. The ghost is angry and for some reason it's attacking Annie. Annie needs to protect herself and her unborn child. Will she be able to keep herself safe?

Lay Me to Rest is a gripping story. Annie finds herself in a troublesome situation and seeks help to discover why the ghost at the cottage is so mad and restless. Annie is so much stronger than she gives herself credit for and I loved the fact that she doesn't shy away from difficult situations. I was very anxious to find out the reason why the ghost seemed so attached to Annie and this kept me on the edge of my seat.

Lay Me to Rest is a creepy ghost story that chilled me to the bone. I actually had to stop reading for a few days because my husband wasn't home. This story scared me so much that I didn't dare go to my bedroom alone. I must have been a detective in a former life, because I always love a good mystery. Sometimes I succeed in cracking the 'case' before I get to the end, but E.A. Clark has included plenty of unexpected twists and turns that kept me guessing all the way to the finale. The eerie circumstances were described vividly, which made it even easier to lose myself into the story. I hope that Lay Me to Rest is the beginning of a brilliant new series, because I can't wait to read more about Annie.

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### **Laurie Beemer says**

Let me start by saying this, if I ever find a mysterious box I would think before I opened it. This is an excellent addition to the paranormal and mystery suspense genre. I was glad when I started reading it that it wasn't very late and it was still light outside; definitely gave me some chills. I love to be surprised when I am reading so E.A. Clark did an amazing job keeping me guessing from one page to the next. Annie is an amazingly strong female lead that I can't wait to find out more about. Thank you NetGalley and E.A. Clark for allowing me read and give an honest review of this book.

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### **Suze Lavender says**

Annie has been through a lot. She lost her husband and finds herself unexpectedly pregnant. Because she needs a break she decides to go to Wales for a while. She hopes that staying at a remote cottage in Anglesey will have a healing effect on her. However, fresh air and healthy meals aren't the only thing she finds. Annie isn't alone, someone is at the cottage and Annie isn't safe there. There's something sinister going on and Annie's suddenly in the middle of it. She isn't a spiritual believer, but when ghosts keep appearing she has to admit something is seriously amiss, will she be able to remain unharmed and protect her unborn child?

Lay Me to Rest is a creepy story about grief, ghosts and terrible secrets. Annie travels to the countryside for some much needed rest, but instead her time in Wales is far from stress free. She's being dragged into something she doesn't understand and while she's trying to make sense of it she also has to come to terms with the death of her husband and the fact that she's going to be a single mother. Fortunately she doesn't want to do everything alone and she asks for help. Together with people who know what they're doing she's able

to make some progress, but that doesn't make her problem go away. There are plenty of secrets to be uncovered and she needs to get to the bottom of them. I couldn't wait to find out what would happen with the ghosts and read Lay Me to Rest in one sitting.

E.A. Clark's writing is fast-paced and a little choppy, which suits the eeriness of the story very well. I loved that she gave me the creeps from beginning to end. I enjoy reading ghost stories that actually spook me and liked that there are quite a few chilling scenes. I was hooked from the beginning. The setting is well chosen and E.A. Clark manages to make it come to life in a great vivid way. There are plenty of gripping twists and turns and the ending of Lay Me to Rest raised plenty of questions and managed to make me frightened all over again.

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### **Andrew says**

I liked the concept of this novel, I also liked the way the central character, Annie, was crafted.

I also liked the setting in Rural Wales. The pace of the story was fairly swift, which helped to keep me engaged.

This type of ghostly, paranormal novel is not a genre which really appeals to me. However, the way E.A. Clark links a historical death and a more recent missing person to the location of a farm on Anglesey is achieved with some style.

It soon becomes apparent that not everybody Annie meets along the way can be trusted. I won't say any more for fear of spoiling the story. Are the spirits laid to rest?

I felt the ending was a little rushed, hence the 3 star rating. However I would read future books by this author based on this.

My thanks go to Netgalley and HQ Digital for a copy in exchange for this review.

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### **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

Ghost stories are something that I truly enjoy reading. The description of Lay Me to Rest instantly appealed to me. The book did turn out to be a bit different than I expected, less sinister and more tragic. I think I just imagined more evil things when I read about Annie finding a small wooden box that isn't supposed to be found. I guess my mind went directly to more sinister things when I read the blurb. However, there are still ghosts in the book. Plenty of them and Annie seems to be a catalyst that will not only bring them forth, but also be the one that could put them to rest.

Lay Me to Rest is the first book in the series about Annie Philips (at least I hope is a series since the book ended with a cliffhanger). She's recently widowed and has found herself not only bereft of her husband, but pregnant with his child. Through the book will we learn more about what happened to him and that their marriage was not at the strongest point when he died. Personally, do I think that this is one of the strongest points of the book, showing how Annie was before her husband died. She's not only grieving for her husband, she is also feeling guilty. And, now she has gone away for a while to find herself, but instead, she finds herself in a haunted house.

The story is interesting, although I did find it a bit predictable now and then. However, I was a bit surprised over some of the things that happened. But, it just shows that you don't really know what's hiding behind a person's facade. What thrilled me was the ending that it was not over for Annie, that this seeing ghost thing seems to be the start. It's why I hope there will be more books.

*I want to thank the publisher for providing me with a free copy through NetGalley for an honest review!*

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### **Blagica says**

I was given a copy of Lay Me to Rest by E.A. Clark through NetGalley for an honest review. I am a woman who loves to read, I have taken to anything that has an interesting concept and eat it up. I enjoyed this story but I can't say I loved it. Creepy concept and an awesome character in Annie but it didn't catch my attention like I wish it did. Annie is taking a break from life because her husband has died. But a peaceful vacation turns into a creepy few days and a murder mystery that must be solved for Annie to get peace. The pace of the story starts off slow for me once it gets going though it does keep you connected. Personally, it reminded me of an episode of Ghost Whisperer and I couldn't fall in love with it, but I did like it.

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### **Sharon says**

On February 25th, 2009, Annie Phillips became a widow. At the age of thirty-six, this wasn't in the plan - nor was finding out she was expecting her late husband's child. After months of heartbreak and trying to come to terms with her horrific loss, Annie's sister Sarah arranges a break in Wales via a colleague, Peter.

When Annie gets to Wales, however, she is not as welcome as she would have hoped. There appears to be a malevolent presence in the cottage where she's staying, one that really does not want Annie there. She learns more about local legend and lore, and realises that she will have to see it through and find out what's going on in order for the haunting to stop.

This was okay - the language put me off slightly at first, sometimes less is more and I felt it was unnecessarily flowery in parts ("*I might have had some premonitory sense of what was in store for me and how I ought to flee before becoming irrevocably changed forever by the terror and intensity of my experience*").

The pacing was good, the story didn't drag (I read it in one sitting). As a standalone, it was okay. But towards the end and with the change in setting, I became increasingly invested in Annie as a character, and really liked the idea of a series. I do hope this writer brings her back for another book, I would absolutely read a series about a Ghosthunting widow.

Thanks to the publisher for providing me with a digital ARC via Netgalley.

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## **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

EXCERPT: 'After pulling the door to, we walked down the slope and across to the farm, the sun a huge blood orange sphere at our backs, sinking behind the distant mountains.

If I had turned then I might have seen. Might have seen that the shadow that I had mistaken for mere imagination was standing, looking down at us, from my bedroom window. And that the glowing dark eyes that bore into the back of our unwitting heads exuded what could only be described as resentment and malevolence. I might have had some premonitory sense of what was in store for me and how I ought to flee before becoming irrevocably changed forever by the terror and intensity of my experience.

But for the time being I would remain in ignorance of the depth of hostility cast in our direction. And that was how it would all begin.'

THE BLURB: Some secrets never stay buried for long...

Devastated by the death of her husband, Annie Philips is shocked to discover she is pregnant with his unborn child. Hoping for a fresh start, she travels to a remote stone cottage in Anglesey, amidst the white-capped mountains of North Wales.

She settles in quickly, helped by her mysterious new neighbour, Peter. But everything changes when Annie discovers a small wooden box, inlaid with brass and mother-of-pearl. A box she was never supposed to find...

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A gripping thriller from E. A. Clark, perfect for fans of Kerri Wilkinson, Sarah Wray and Stella Duffy. You won't be able to put it down!

MY THOUGHTS: Lay Me To Rest is E. A. Clark's first adult novel after having written short stories and poetry for many years. Although her prose is a little overblown in places, this is a credible effort. It is an easy and quick read, ideal for reading in front of the fire on a cold and stormy night, as I did.

I have to admit to not having picked up on the paranormal reference in the blurb. Had I done, I probably wouldn't have requested it, and I would have missed out on a read that became more interesting the further I read on. It was a little predictable in places, and it seems obvious from the way the ending was crafted that there is going to be at least one more book featuring Annie Philips and her newly discovered psychic ability to come. But if you are a fan of paranormal romantic suspense, Lay Me To Rest is a book that you will, in all probability, enjoy, and E.A. Clark is an author you will need to watch.

Thank you to HQ Digital via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of Lay Me To Rest by E.A. Clark for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own. Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or my 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com

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## **Sharon says**

Thank you to Netgalley, the author and the Publishers for this review copy, given in exchange for an honest review. Also thank you to Rachel for organising the blog tour and finding me a space on it!

Annie is recently widowed. Just after her husband died she also found out that she was 5 weeks pregnant

with his child. Needless to say the last few months for Annie have not been good ones. Her sister suggests a break and she has a friend, Peter who uses a holiday cottage on a farm in Wales. Annie agrees to go, with Peter giving her a lift there and her sister following in a few days. It's a quaint little cottage situated on the farm of old Mr and Mrs Parry, but after a couple of nights there Annie soon begins to realise that she's not the only one in the cottage.

What can I say about this book! From reading the blurb, I certainly didn't expect it to be a paranormal book! I expected it to be a thriller and a bit creepy, but certainly not ghostly! I think if I had known it was going to be a ghost story, I may have not chosen it. I don't mind a spooky tale, but some of them are a bit 'far-fetched'! I'm glad to say I didn't find this one like that at all. I loved this one, and to be honest, reading it on the weekend before Halloween just couldn't have been more appropriate! I started this book this morning and have literally tore through it for the rest of the day (needless to say, not much else has been done!).

It's not just a ghost story, it's also a story of love and loss, and not just for Annie. A lot of the characters have their fair share of grief in some way throughout the group, and I have to admit I was reaching for the tissues in parts, particularly towards the end. With regards to the ghost part, it was a thoroughly creepy and spooky read, very much setting my nerves on edge throughout the whole book – if I could have read from behind a cushion I would have done! Perhaps Annie's recent loss and her pregnancy has made her more susceptible to the spirits left behind, but she certainly uncovers a whole load of secrets that have been hidden for many years. There were lots of twists throughout the story which kept me gripped and the ending was particularly chilling! I'm hoping there will be a sequel to carry on the story of Annie's new found psychic abilities.

A very much enjoyed read that was not only perfect for this time of year, but for all year round. I shall be sleeping with one eye open tonight!

Five Creepy Stars!

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### **Kirsty &#x1f4da;&#x1f4d6;♥? says**

This is a quick and easy to read ghost story. I enjoyed the first 2 thirds as Annie uncovers not one but two ghosts in the holiday home she is staying in after the death of her husband and sets about uncovering the mysterious circumstances of both disappearances.

I liked Annie and the secondary characters for the most part are well defined. There were one or two bits around the accomplices to events that I can;t say without spoiling the story that left me a bit unsatisfied. I'd have liked more detail and maybe a bit of comeuppance for it all.

It's not a deep ghost story but that's ok as not every story needs a thousand layers to it. This has a simple premise - ghost follows Annie around until she solves the crime, occasionally coming to her in dreams and telling her what happens when she's not quick enough to get the answers.

The final chunk of the book feels like an add on to boost the word count and would have worked better for me as a short story or the introduction of a second book as it looks like Annie is about to embark on a career as a medium. It just didn't work for me as it had no real links to any of the rest of the book. It wasn't horrible I just think it wasn't necessary.

Overall not a bad book and I did like the general story.

Free arc from netgalley

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## **Rachel says**

It's a big five stars from me - I know I have been handing these out a fair bit lately, but I really have had some cracking reads recently. This book centres on tragic figure Annie Phillips, widowed and newly pregnant. There is a book enough just in that, but when her sister tries to give her a change of scene, that's when all hell breaks loose!

This book is deliciously creepy, with more than a few hairs standing on end moments, and the writing is beautiful too. Clark has a wonderful writing voice that enchanted me from the off. This is a cracking book, and the ending did make me wonder...what comes next? The cover is gorgeous too, isn't it? It's only 99p at the moment too!

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