



## Reaper

*L.S. Murphy*

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## **Reaper** L.S. Murphy

There's no way sixteen year old Quincy Amarante will become the fifth grim reaper. None. Not over her shiny blue Mustang. Her Jimmy Choos. Or her dead body.

She's supposed to enjoy her sophomore year, not learn about some freaky future Destiny says she has no choice but to fulfill.

It doesn't take long for Quincy to realize the only way out of the game is to play along especially since Death can find her anyway, anywhere, anytime. And does.

Like when she's reassuring her friends she wants nothing to do with former best friend Ben Moorland, who's returned from god-knows-where, and fails. Miserably.

Instead of maintaining her coveted popularity status, Quincy's goes down like the Titanic.

Maybe ... just maybe ... that's okay.

It seems, perhaps, becoming a grim reaper isn't just about the dead but more about a much needed shift in Quincy's priorities—from who she thinks she wants to be to who she really is.

## **Reaper Details**

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Author : L.S. Murphy

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## From Reader Review Reaper for online ebook

### Alana ~ The Book Pimp says

The ending hit me like a tons of bricks.

I got misty, and my chest was tight, eyes even brimming with tears...  
More to come...

*I receive a free eBook from J. Taylor Publishing via the Making Connections Blog Tours in exchange for an unbiased review.*

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### Julie Reece says

I really loved the premise of this story. Sixteen year old Quincy Amarante is in her sophomore year when she learns she's to become the next Reaper—Reaper as in sickle and hooded cloak. Yes. That doesn't sit too well with her self-absorbed, spoiled agenda to rein queen bee (along with her other shallow friends) over her high school body. (No, you won't like her at first, but you're not supposed too.)

L. S. Murphy uses the idea of death and responsibility to force her heroine to think about life a little differently, and over time, to make some changes. Like how she relates to her former best friend Ben Moorland. In my opinion, by far the most intriguing part of the entire book and worth the read just to experience him! My biggest issue was being defensive for Ben because he's so hot and wonderful and sexy, I couldn't understand what he saw in Quincy. But they were friends a long time ago, before she turned into a snob, and his actions proved he was looking for the girl he once knew, the one buried beneath her designer clothes and make up. He thought she was worth fighting for, worth waiting for, so I gave her another chance. I do whatever Ben tells me to do. He's that great.

The end of the story is the best part, and the most frustrating. Murphy doesn't take the easy way out, and I give her big kudos on that score. I loved and hated and moaned and swooned over the way the story winds up. Clear it up any for you? Awesome.

My nitpicks are that I wanted a bit more from the world building. I wanted Quincy's redemption to come sooner, and I wanted the secondary characters fleshed out a bit more. None of that would keep me from reading this book again. I recommend Reaper to any urban fantasy lover. It's different, well written, fun, sad, surprising, and despite those few lesser developed points, I really enjoyed it.

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### Dvora says

I loved this book!! It was different than anything I have ever read. It was such an amazing concept. I felt so connected to all the characters and the stories she speaks of when the girl goes out with the reaper really makes you think, a lot. Loved the ending!!!!!! :)

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## Josheka says

*Death calls at the most inconvenient times.*

Hahahaha I like the tagline :D

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Excerpt of Reaper and interview with L.S. Murphy now posted on my blog! Here are the direct links-

Excerpt of Reaper

Interview with L.S. Murphy!

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## Emi Gayle says

Fun. Powerful. Timely. Relevant. Admirable.

Full Review to come!

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## Lola says

I got a copy for review in exchange for an honest review.

This will be a difficult review to write. I actually almost didn't finish this book, because I just didn't like the book. I did convince myself to continue reading and I ended up liking the end, the last 20-10% of the book. I do believe that a book has to capture my attention earlier than that and that's why I still went for the 2 stars. Don't get me wrong it wasn't a bad book, it just wasn't what I expected and it was not the book for me.

The story is about a girl who learns she will become a reaper, sounds interesting right? The story actually immediately starts with this aspect and I liked the fact that we not get a long introduction before learning where the story is about. Sadly after this good begin that boring introduction still was there. Quincy is a popular girl and we basically get to see much of her normal life and sometimes the supernatural story line kicks in. The story is predictable and it didn't capture my attention.

So I actually think that this book is part chick-lit and only small part supernatural storyline. If you like chick-lits, pick this up. If you prefer more supernatural in your books, than maybe this isn't for you. I like both, but I prefer if the author makes it clear what kind of book it is. I suspected a supernatural story and mostly got chick-lit. So basically I was a bit disappointed by the lack of supernatural storyline. I also didn't like the writing style, the book read like a summarization of everything what is happening and it didn't pull me in.

The characters are another thing I didn't like about this book. Quincy is the type of person I never could or want to be, nor do I like reading about her. She is popular, cares about her reputation and does everything to make sure she stays popular. I didn't like her, I couldn't stand her and I just wanted to smack her on the head and tell her to stop caring about her reputation and start living her life. Well I do have to say that as the story progresses I did like her more and she actually shows some strength. But this change was very suddenly and not really believable. The side characters also weren't really likeable, we didn't get to know them and I just

couldn't seem to care about them. All they cared about was their gossip and their reputation and beyond that I don't even know who they are. Again the characters became more likeable as the story progresses, but still I didn't really connect with them.

Another thing that really annoyed me was that for the most part of the book I had no idea what Quincy is feeling, she is doing certain things and I didn't even know if she did it because she enjoyed it or because it was suspected. We get no idea what she feels until much later in the book. Also there was quite some information about the characters pasts that we only learned quite late in this book and I would've preferred to get it earlier.

I love world building and world building is sadly another thing this book lacks. We do get some basics, but mostly we get the answer that either they can't explain it or won't. So only at the end we get a sense of the world. The world building could've been done much more elaborate and I would've preferred if the explanation came earlier.

So what did I like about this book? Well the ending, the last 20-10% of the book is the kind of story I expected. It is also full of emotion and gives us some of the answers we want. I really was disappointed that the ending wasn't longer, because there was so much potential here. I enjoyed the ending and actually considered giving this book 3 stars because of it. The ending really is the good part of this book and I actually am happy that I finished this book and know how it ends. Because that ending was great, I would've preferred it more elaborate, but it certainly was good and enjoyable.

To conclude: this wasn't a book for me. I was disappointed by the lack of the supernatural storyline. I didn't like the characters and couldn't connect with them. The world building was lacking. The only part I really enjoyed was the ending, the last 20-10% of this book was good.

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### **Lauren (Sugar & Snark) says**

**Blah! I'm not rating it. OK *fine* I rated it but I don't like it and I just give up! \*sulks\* What a disappointment! :(**

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### **J.A. Belfield says**

I haven't read many reaper-type stories, involving death and 'passing on', but I thought Reaper was pretty fresh. Possibly because it had a mixture of genres and has the potential to please more than one type of reader preference. I have a feeling this may be marked as urban fantasy. Personally, I believe that's pushing the boundaries a little, as the fantasy side of it seems to add an extra kick to an otherwise contemporary tale rather than hold the most dominance. I also think the ending is what stalled it from being labelled PNR.

However, I think contemporary YA slash pnr is a much closer description.

Because we have a quirky voice to tug us along on the tale. We have all the dramas of high school. We have the high school romance and what some might (loosely) peg as a love triangle. And then we have all the 'supernatural' bits and bobs that Quincy—who I shall rename QQ for Quirky Quincy—keeps getting dragged into at The. Most. Inopportune. Moments.

So did I enjoy it?

For sure.

I'll admit it took me a little while to connect with the MC. HOWEVER, once I reached the end, I understood fully that it was mostly because I didn't like her very much at the beginning of the story. BUT, only if you read the book in its entirety will you fully appreciate the character development—though you have to be looking out for it because it's so subtle and understated (in a good way) that you barely even notice its happening as you read along.

To begin, we get all the bratty teenagery. Yeah, in all honesty, this doesn't fully go away, and some could argue that QQ isn't fully converted into a 100% likeable character by the end, but listen, she's a teenager in the opening and she's still one when certain things happen and she's a little different to what she used to be (obscure, much?)—and no matter how decent a person, EVERY teenager has attitude and the potential to be selfish because to be otherwise comes with life experience.

Despite this, everything I said about her shift as a 'person' stands, because I KNOW I'd connected to the MC by the end. I know, because, DUDE!, I blarted like a baby through those final couple of chapters. I mean, BLARTED! Luckily, nobody saw me or my rep would have been ruined. ;)

So yeah, I enjoyed it once it all got rolling and I got comfortable in the driving seat. Though I'll admit I enjoyed it a whole lot more once Ben played a bigger physical role and we got to see more of him. Because that guy is adorable, believable, hot, a DRUMMER (what? This is SEXY!), adorable, hot ....

What can I say?

Win me over with your males, and chances are, you'll win me over with your tales.

That is all. :)

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### **Sarah (Head Stuck In A Book) says**

This book has been on my wishlist for quite a while now, so when I was asked to take part in this blog tour I jumped at the chance, and I'm so glad that I did, the book was fantastic and definitely deserving of the five stars that I gave it.

This was such a fresh and original storyline, the fact that the heroine of the book Quincy is to become a Reaper and no matter how much she fights it, it's her destiny whether she likes it or not, I liked her journey into finally accepting the fact that this was something she had to do, and the end, OMG! did I cry it was such an emotional ending, and while I sort of knew it was coming, it didn't change the fact that I wish it didn't end the way it did although it was the perfect ending to finish off the book.

The changes that Quincy went through from being one of the most popular girls in school to finally allowing people to see who she really is beyond her popularity and to finally being able to reconnect with the person she used to be helped guide her into finally accepting her fate.

There were quite a few people in this book that I really didn't like: Jordan (her supposed best-friend), who was completely undeserving of what Quincy did for her, and it should have stayed the way it was meant, but as I said I can understand why it was written the way it was, she was such a selfish and unlikable character, throw in Logan and Robert and I think that they all deserve each other, now I don't know whether the characters were purposely written the way they were to be disliked but I found I just couldn't stand them. Now Ben, I loved him and I wish that he'd had more page time, and the ending killed me but I really liked the way that Ben and Quincy's final part of the story was written for them, it was perfect for how the story arc turned out.

A great book I'll be sure to read again.

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### **Terri Rochenski says**

What a unique (to me anyway) morbid premise. I've read of MCs whose touch kills, but an MC who is an

actual reaper??? Great idea, but you just know this story can't end well.

Quincy is your typical high-schooler, but something happens during her sophomore year that changes her life. Majorly. She's to become the 5th grim reaper. It causes just a smidge of trouble for this girl to say the least.

I'll preface this review by stating that most of my yuckies aren't against the star rating. They're things I personally found yucky, but were doubtless intentional by the author because of it being a YA.

Yummies: The first I'll address is the character of Quincy. She's spot on. So much so that I didn't care for her one bit. It really stinks when an author gets their characters so right that you don't dare deduct stars just because you don't like their ... well, character! WELL done.

The ending. While you know nothing good can come from what Quincy is faced with, Ms. Murphy wraps this puppy up nicely. I was pleased, so that's a huge plus as far as I'm concerned.

Her writing style is easy. Enjoyable. I had no troubles envisioning everything that transpired.

Yuckies: I have to mention the MC here. Couldn't stand the chic. She's your typical 'I want to be popular & I'll do anything to keep my status' bitch that roamed the halls in my own high school. The popular snob and all her crappy attitudes toward friends, boys, and life in general drove me batty. I wanted to slap her. Seriously.

And speaking of HS, this story really had that setting / feel to it. It was so well done that I was back in school myself, wanting to (but never infiltrating) that popular crowd who loved to snub their noses any chance they got.

This started a bit slow for me because of these two yuckies. I wasn't drawn in. Didn't empathize whatsoever. Whenever this happens, it's a star deduction right off the bat. Regardless of the slew of yummys.

Recommend: If you're a YA fan & love to be transported back to those hypocritical high school days have at it. You'll love it.

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### **Kristin says**

I don't know why I'm having such trouble writing this review. I loved this book and by the end I was crying my eyes out, only trying to muffle the sobs because it was 3am and my boyfriend was sleeping! I loved and hated Quincy. She made no sense at times and really got me angry with how she treated Ben. She did have good character development though. Her evolution from popular bitch to caring girl was interesting and slightly convoluted but it was good nonetheless. On to Ben, oh Ben He was the redeeming character in this book. I loved him so much!!! He was remarkable and I LOVED how strong and amazing he was. I can't really formulate the words to finish this review. Just know that this book starts off slow to say the least but it REALLY picks up in the end! Give it a chance and I think you will love it!

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### **Margot says**

**This review also appears on my blog, [The Bookworm Experiment](#).**

Actual rating: 1.5 star

**If you thought there couldn't possibly be a main character more annoying than the one from the House of Night series, you're in for a surprise.**

**Quincy Amarante gives Zoey Redbird a run for her money.**

This book is short but boy, does it feel like it never ends. Mostly because I wanted to strangle the MC, but also, for the most part, there was not much going on about the premise, just the freaking usual school drama.

Throughout the story, except for the last 3 chapters (which the other half star is for), Quincy is judgemental, self-absorbed, shallow and has a holier-than-thou attitude.

Here's the main reasons why I wanted to throw this book out the window:

**1.** She comments on other people's looks and social status like it's the most important thing in the world (even if it's not all in the dialogue, it's in the narrative)

*[...] and last year for prom when I was the only freshman who was asked. Jordan's never been.*

*I toss a smug smile over my shoulder at her. She's not much to worry about, anyway. Her thick thighs would turn any guy off, and I seriously doubt she's got a man.*

*I hurry to the closet to plan my outfit and grab a new off-white sweater DeeDee will turn green over. She can never pull the color off. I add my favorite tight jeans to prove I'm in shape for the stupid basketball game. My body is so much better than DeeDee's, and it's time she remembers that.*

*"Only nerds are manager, Jor. I won't be a manager, and I won't be on the team as some backup. I earned my spot."*

*[...]*

*I've offended her beyond what a bestie is allowed. Especially since she serves as both the backup and the manager, but I don't care at the moment.*

**2.** She can draw some really idiotic conclusions

If you stuff your face in alcohol after your grandpa's funeral, in front of your boyfriend, and want to have sex with him in the attic, your conclusion after he pushes you away is "he doesn't want me" and then get furious and go all like "OMG I can't believe you don't know why I'm mad at you"?!?

God, WTF is your problem, Quincy? O\_O

**3.** Eating disorder

Can you stop commenting on your eating salads and low-fat yogurt, and being afraid of eating an omelette, burger, fries, or whatever? I seriously doubt what you ate on your birthday day will make you be "on the verge of bursting out of your clothes", and therefore needing to rattle on about all the exercising you did to

compensate the "food binge".

4. The becoming a reaper part (which should be, I don't know, the backbone of the story) barely takes some pages of the book, when it's Quincy freaking out about it and being in denial, and Destiny and Forsyth freezing time and taking her to death scenes, which doesn't really do much to teach her, IMO, save when it's her own Grandpa (yet, it's only on the last four chapters that she shows a tiny bit of character growth).

5. Oh yeah, and the inane sentences throw around every now and then...

...which I didn't bother to write all down, but there are more, and here's the one that made me sputter:

*I'm a hollow shell -- empty inside.*

Hmmm really? That needed an explanation? \*eyeroll\*

6. Ben was the only likeable character, and still he was a little bit of over-glorified by Quincy.

There, I know that's not much of a review, but I actually just wanted to vent. Anyway, I don't recommend this book at all, it was not cute, not funny and not intriguing; it was just about a selfish teenager destined-to-become-a-reaper bitching about how unfair her easy life is.

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## **Jocelyn Adams says**

I finished this book in one sitting yesterday, and it's taken me this long to figure out how to express my feelings about it.

The first sign telling me this is a five star book -- it haunted my mind all day long.

Reaper is not predictable. Far from it. I started out not liking Quin very much, but I'm not sure I was supposed to. Her growth through this novel as she discovers her destiny as a reaper is cleverly subtle around the middle, and by the end it's profound. I not only liked her, I was rooting for her from the edge of my seat.

The hero is introduced as a peripheral character in my mind, and he just sort of drifted into the meat of the story, taking me completely by surprise, a welcome one. It's a rare book when I haven't figured out where it's going and how it's going to get there by the end of chapter 1. This one shocked the living hell out of me by the time I turned the last page.

I wanted to be mad at it, how it ended. Now, don't get me wrong, it ended well, just not how I expected. I won't give anything more away than that, so you'll have to read it to figure out what I'm talking about.

Now that I've let the dust settle in my mind, I'm thoroughly impressed. I'd like to say bravo to L.S. Murphy for not taking the easy road to the end, for not penning the obvious ending I find in so many YA books. It totally worked to raise Reaper a notch or two above the ordinary. This is a witty, thought-provoking and at

some times heart-wrenching story that will captivate YA fans across the world.

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## Jennifer says

I didn't expect to like *Reaper* after I began reading it. What I thought would be cute and fluffy, despite some of the deeper connotations in the synopsis I clearly missed, turned out to be profound and soul-searching...something not as often found in young adult novels of the paranormal variety.

Quincy is your (less-than) average American teen: popular, blonde, on the dance squad and school and all the boys want her. She gets good grades, she and her friends play games and do a bit of backstabbing, and all in all, it's basically farcical high school life. I say "farcical" because some readers might take issue with details of Quincy's life, like getting a brand new sports car for her birthday, or being able to throw down \$100 of her dad's money when she goes shopping because she feels like it.

And at first, I was like, What?! This isn't how real people live (okay maybe some of them). But then I realized (way late in the book) these basic details illustrate how far Quincy will have to go before becoming a *Reaper*, which is the main plot driver in this story. And that's what I enjoyed the most about it.

It took me about 50% of the book before I decided I liked it. I was very ho-hum in the beginning, thinking that this was reading like young adult chick-lit, which I'm not opposed to, but just wasn't expecting or wanting to read at the time. There were occasional appearances of a paranormal entity in the beginning and at the time, I felt like it was just a convenient way to call this a paranormal young adult story and cash in on that cow. But as the story progressed, the timing of his appearances became relevant and it all tied together nicely for me.

There was a larger message to be had and when it struck me, I finally just got it. Quincy struggles with who she thinks she needs to be and who she really is, and I think this is a very relevant struggle for anyone...not just the demographic L.S. Murphy is writing for. She has to struggle with this to make it to her destiny, the path that was laid out for her the day she was born.

I loved and loathed all the characters at one point or another, except for Ben Moorland. Ben's my dreamboat, I never loathed him. Each character had something very important to give to the story, a specific driver to push Quincy closer to her destiny. I really can't say more than that, because I might give too much away, and that's something I don't want to do.

There was one major plot point in the story that I wasn't too fond of, and that's Jordan's relationship with Robert. Jordan is Quincy's best friend and Robert is just a dickhead. You like my description? It's pretty apt. He felt abusive and arrogant, and it didn't make sense to me why Jordan, someone who seemed very strong and independent (to her detriment at times) would give in to a boy like that and let him strong arm her.

There is a love triangle in this, but I wasn't completely enamored with it. Logan felt largely inconsequential to me, and put there to be a plot device. I don't know...I just wasn't feeling it. I didn't hate him though, and I liked how it all wrapped up...

Normally, in stories like this, parents are conveniently left out of the plot for a large portion (like the pesky human beings they are!), but in *Reaper*, Murphy explains away absences with job conflicts, school, and family duties, not leaving it to the reader to take their absence for granted. And it's not like they weren't there...they had facetime in the story, more than other YA books, for sure. Kudos for that, it's actually nice to see for a change.

*Reaper* also broke my heart. I very nearly cried at the ending, and then again in the very last chapter (stupid feelings!). It stuck with me through the following days as the author's messages rang clear and true: Patience is a virtue, and the strong forgive. At least, that's what I took away from it.

Stick with *Reaper* through the uncertain beginning, because Quincy is redeemable, and she's worth getting to know.

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## Rebecca McNutt says

*Reaper's* main character reminded me of someone akin to the top girl in the film *Clueless* if she and Death from *Supernatural* were crossed over somehow... the Grim Reaper as a prissy spoiled teenager. Creative, that can't be denied. This book is more comedic than dark and presents a much more lighthearted side to death than would be expected, giving it a lot of originality. I liked it a lot, although Quincy could sometimes be a bit annoying. The novel follows her as she comes to terms with the possibility of having to take on the role of a reaper in high school, all while trying to spare her friends from her newfound family duty. It was nice to see that Quincy changes a lot throughout the story from a shallow queen bee to a selfless and resourceful person.

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