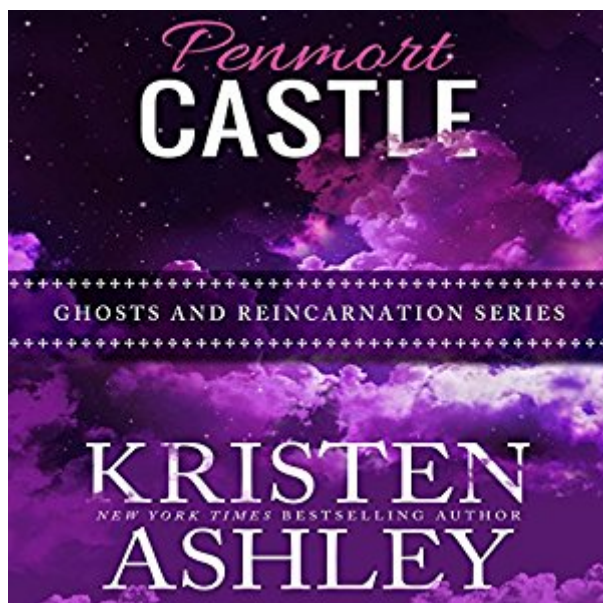


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Penmort Castle



Synopsis

Cash Fraser is planning revenge, and to get it he needs the perfect woman. So he hires her. Abigail Butler has lost nearly everything in her life and she's about to lose the home she loves. Cash meets Abby, who is posing as a paid escort, and the minute he does he knows he's willing to pay for more than Abby being his pretend girlfriend. A lot more. Abby needs the money or the last thing that links her to her dead family and husband will be gone. The deal is struck, but both Cash and Abby get more than they bargained for. Cash realizes very quickly that Abby isn't what she seems, and while he changes strategies, Abby discovers that Cash's legacy, Penmort Castle, is like all the tales say - very, very haunted. Making matters worse, the ghost in residence wants her dead. Abby's found herself in the battle of her life, so she enlists Mrs. Truman, her nosy neighbor; Jenny, her no-nonsense friend; Cassandra McNabb, white witch and clairvoyant with a penchant for wearing scarves (and lots of them); and Angus McPherson, dyed-in-the-wool Scot (which means he hunts ghosts in a kilt) to fight the vicious ghost who has vowed that she will rest at nothing to kill the true, abiding love of the master of Penmort.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first thing you should know is PENMORT CASTLE by Kristen Ashley is PNR-lite. So if you're purely a speculative fiction reader and need creatures on every other page to enjoy a book, you should probably just move along. BUT. If you do occasionally read straight-up contemporary romance or romantic suspense---excellent palate cleansers both, in my humble opinion---you're good to go. Maybe. You see . . . Kristen Ashley (KA) isn't for everyone. Those of us (and we are

LEGION) who love KA, really love her.

Make-our-significant-others-angry-b/c-refuse-to-put-down-the-book love her. But those of you who don't love her want to kill her books with fire. How do you know which one you'll be? Well . . . do you: 1. Like OTT alpha males? I'm talking alpha males who do things that under any other (non-KA) circumstances would be unforgivable, but through some bizarre combination of extenuating circumstances and insight into character behavior (b/c excellently written POVs) is, in fact, forgivable? 2. Like truly unique and adorable heroines who are capable but not militant? Who appreciate rather than resent when a man opens her door? Actually, that's all you need to ask yourself: do you get angry when a man opens a door for you? If yes, run far, far away. If no, and especially if you think it's a lovely gesture, then get to one-clicking (b/c indie author = CHEAP).

Abigail Butler has endured an astounding amount of loss in her adult life. First she lost her mother to cancer, then her father followed a year later. A year after that, her sole remaining grandparent died, and then . . . her husband whom she desperately loved was killed in a car accident. That was four years ago, and for the last year she's been living in the family home she inherited from her grandmother in England. The family home that is a money pit. The family home she refuses to lose like she's lost her family. BUT. Money pits are expensive and Abby is broke. *whispers* This is where the KA-ness starts to shine. Abby's best friend overhears one of her husband's work colleagues lamenting a family situation: his uncle, whom he hates, is in dire straits financially and trying to foist one of his (not blood-related) stepdaughters on him to marry. This work colleague, Cash Fraser, is quite the catch and has women constantly throwing themselves at him, so he can't cool his uncle's heels by bringing 'round a girlfriend, b/c a "girlfriend" would have expectations. "But what if," BFF says to herself, "he paid an escort to pretend to be his girlfriend? Abby could do that! And Cash is LOADED, so he could pay her enough to get her back on solid ground! YES. I must make this happen!" And she does. This is where you say to yourself, "KA-ness sounds an awful lot like convoluted ridiculousness," and ordinarily I'd agree. BUT. KA makes it work. Beyond that, her characters are bloody fantastic. Meet Abby: Abby kept her hair down but blew it sleek to frame her face and she'd done her makeup in what she referred to in her wide array of makeup looks (an array she'd once enumerated to Ben while he nearly choked himself laughing even though she was not being funny) as "Smoky Evening". Jenny: "Have you slept with him?" Abby's mouth dropped open. "Don't give me that look," Jenny warned. "He's hot. I was in your shoes, I'd sleep with him," she announced baldly. "How long did you wait?" "It happened Thursday," Abby answered. "You were always

slow, Jenny remarked. Mrs. Truman: I don't think it's that easy to get rid of a ghost, Abby told the older woman. I didn't say it'd be easy, Mrs. Truman noted, waving the remains of her donut again. I just said we'd sort something out. She leaned forward and took a sip of coffee before sitting back and saying, I know a few people. I'll make some calls. Angus: What's going on? I know what's going on, no one's going on, Angus cut in impatiently, and that's the fact that no ghosty she-bitch is being hurtled over the side of the tower straight to the depths of hell. That's what's going on. And that brings me to the paranormal element. Cash is the rightful heir of Penmort Castle and Penmort Castle is haunted by a malicious ghost who is determined to kill the true love of the rightful heir. And she's done it. Five times, not counting the first when she was still alive. Ghosty she-bitch, indeed. *winks* SO. If you haven't already tried Kristen Ashley and you haven't been scared off by my earlier qualifications, I recommend you do so. Sooner rather than later, baby. Fall is the best time for ghosts. Highly recommended.

3.5 Castle Chic Stars Broken Characters, I totally love them and KA seems to love to write about them. Add in a murderous ghost in a castle, a curse and some funny side characters and you can see why I enjoyed this book so much. The Premise: Cash needs an uncomplicated arrangement with a woman to let his Uncle know he is not going to marry one of his Step-Cousins just to have a familial Castle back in his line. Abby needs some money to restore her Grandmother's dilapidated house and the only thing of her family she feels she has to hold on to. So Abby pretends to be a high priced Escort to help Cash out. What could possibly go wrong??? This isn't by any means a scary book. It has some trippy moments and there is a ghost but on my creep factor it is about a 2. It is a love story with a ghost in it for the most part. A ghost that knows Abby is Cash's true love and wants to kill her. Cash is a typical KA alpha hero. He decided what he wanted from the moment he met Abby and he is going to get it from her no matter what. Abby on the other hand is a bit lonely and widowed and doesn't believe that she can ever find anything close to what she had with her husband. She has a lot of guilt over feeling something for the charismatic, charming and oh-so-bossy Cash. I'll never be another Ben. I'll never have that again. Most women don't get that kind of love even once in their life. I had it and now it's gone and it hurts every day. Even after all this time it hurts every single day. Even though I really like the romance of this book it is also the side

characters that totally make the story. Mrs. Truman was my absolute favorite. She is the cantankerous old lady that lives next door and apparently she has adopted Abigail unbeknownst to her. She is really a force of nature and all her time on page was fantastic. "Tell your man I won't take any last minute excuses. I don't care if he's got fancy schmancy friends. If Marlon Brando himself asks him to dinner, he's going to say no."

Understood? "I think Marlon Brando is dead, Mrs. Truman," Jenny, now standing (or, more accurately, huddling, protection in numbers as it were) beside Abby, informed the old woman. "Not Mrs. Truman shot back. "I think he is," Jenny, unwisely, pressed. "He is not!" Mrs. Truman snapped loudly and Abby could hear Cash chuckling in her ear so she knew he could hear every word. "I would have heard," Mrs. Truman went on. "Maybe I'm wrong," Jenny mumbled toward Abby (and Abby's phone), and Cash's chuckle became laughter. Do not argue with your elders. But the way she looks after Abby and inserts herself into her life is really quite cute and I enjoyed all of it. The only downfall to the story as most KA stories is that she is really huge on details and extras. Extra details about the Castle, the decor of a house, outfits, shoes, throw pillows. She does this in a lot of her books which is how some of them end up so long. Sometimes I get a little bored with some of the detailing but I can totally imagine the entire setting so I think the mission is accomplished. If you have never read a KA book well I think so far her heroes in this series are less Alpha than in some of the others and more tolerable so it might be a good place to start.

Penmort Castle begins when Abby is down on her luck. She's out of money, living in a house that is pretty much the only thing she has left of loved ones who have passed on. And when an opportunity comes available for her to pretend to be famous Cash Fraser's girlfriend she takes the job acting like a "professional." But neither Cash nor Abby were prepared for the feelings they would bring out in each other. And now they are stuck together for a while, and these feelings start to come out more and more each day they spend together. And when ghosts and murderers start coming out of the wood works it won't be so easy to hide their feelings in the face of all the craziness, and danger that lies ahead. Penmort Castle was a unique blend of contemporary meets paranormal ghosts. I really thought it was a good book, and great way to make this story stand out and be very interesting. I also loved both of the main characters, and once I got into the book I just could not put it down! Now that doesn't mean that at times I didn't want to smack Cash for being an arrogant jerk, and shake Abby for being so utterly clueless and kind of cowardly at times, but I

understood both of them as the story went on and I get why they acted like that at times!The ending was also very good! I loved how everything turned out, and it had a great happily ever after! Now I look forward to reading more in this series.

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