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The Caged Graves by Dianne K. Saalerni

Rachelle Yousuf
rachelleyousuf@gmail.com

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After spending most of her life living with relatives in the city, Verity Boone goes back home to Catawissa to meet the man she has agreed to marry. In the midst of trying to adjust to city living, dealing with her distant father, and getting to know her future husband, Verity discovers that the graves of her mother and aunt are covered with iron cages. To uncover the truth behind their mysterious burial, Verity must decide whom to trust and figure out how to disprove the strange rumors about witchcraft and the supernatural that continue to surround her aunt and mother’s legacy.

In this solid historical novel, Salerni provides her own engaging solution to the mystery of the two real cages that inspired her novel. She weaves together a story filled with intrigue, romance, and suspense that leaves the reader guessing until the last pages. The combination of mystery, romance, and history prevents the novel from alienating readers who favor only one type of story. Her heroine, Verity, is a strong female lead who is not afraid to speak her mind and assert her independence, despite the restrictions placed on her gender in the late 1800s. Overall, the strong characters and plot elements form a dependable novel sure to interest readers across genres.

Reviewer: Rachelle Yousuf