

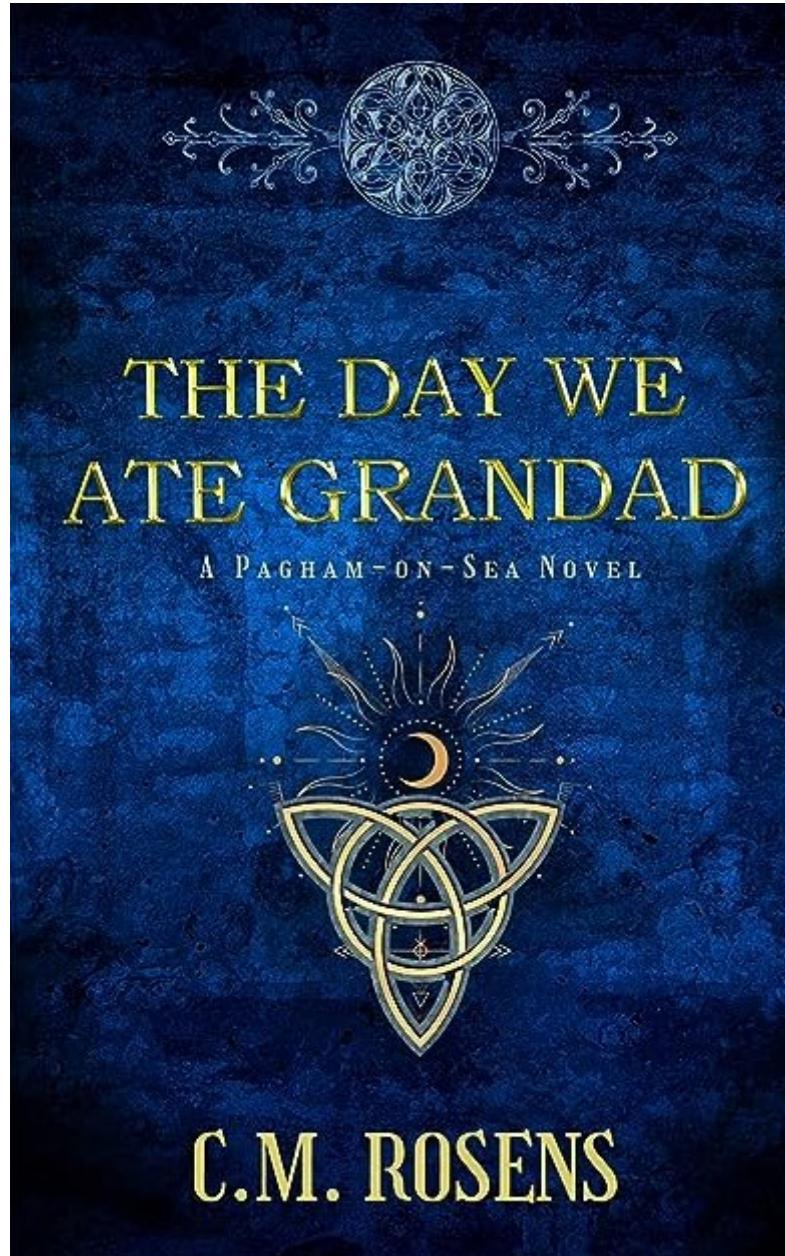
Meredith Debonnaire

book reviews, writing, and observations from fantasyland.

Book Review: The Day We Ate Grandad by C.M. Rosens

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by Meredith in Book Review Tags: Book review, Book review: The Day We Ate Grandad by C.M. Rosens, C.M. Rosens, cosmic horror, gothic horror, horror, meredith debonnaire, Pagham-on-sea, The Day We Ate Grandad



(<https://meredithdebonnaire.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/the-day-we-ate-grandad.jpg>).

*Shards of
his
father's
skull
were still
embedded
between
his
knuckles.*

(Quick note! This is the *third* book in a series! You want to read *The Crows* (<https://meredithdebonnaire.wordpress.com/2020/05/26/book-review-the-crows-by-c-m-rosens/>) and *Thirteenth* (<https://meredithdebonnaire.wordpress.com/2021/10/18/book-review-thirteenth-by-c-m-rosens/>) first!)

So here we are, at the much anticipated (by me!) third Pagham-On-Sea novel. I've been excited about this since C.M. Rosens teased the title back over on twitter (it was still twitter then), and I have not been disappointed.

The terrible eldritch family are continuing to be an extraordinary mess, careening aimlessly and murderously into each other with the loss of all three elder grandmas. It's also becoming clear that their Chosen One, Katy Porter, is *not* controllable. This has put a definite spanner in the works of much of the inter-family politics, but they are clinging onto their version of normal with magical violence.

In the midst of this, Katy, Wes and Ricky try to maintain their decisiveness about *not* summoning Grandad through into this realm and letting him eat it all. This, it turns out, is harder than it first seems. It should be relatively simple, after all, to *not* summon your cosmic grandfather through reality, shouldn't it? Especially as, in the previous book, they met him and had a good yell at him about it (a truly fantastic scene!)

Except Wes is haunted by memories of the future and the occasional worrying voice in his head, Katy is finding that telling the good from the bad in her family is not so easy, Ricky is injured and having his life choices questioned by an ancient Welsh demigod, and Carrie is, of course, still a house. They all try not to fall apart, and fail in a variety of interesting ways.

With her trademark sharp humour and anachronistic worldbuilding, C.M. Rosens takes us on a darkly funny ride through cosmic and gothic horror via family melodrama and the terror of the mundane. My favourite aspec cannibal, Ricky, continues to attempt relationships with people. He has, it must be admitted, limited success. But at least part of that is Wes' fault, who is really really trying but manages to screw people over and accidentally start a cult despite his best efforts. And Katy is carrying the burden of being perhaps the most emotionally able of the lot, which, considering she is a teenage killing beast, does not speak well to the state of anyone else. She is also coming to grips with what being the Beast *and* in control of herself might mean. Carrie/Fairwood House would very much like people to just stop messing with Ricky, please and thank you.

The Day We Ate Grandad is a wicked delight full of compellingly awful characters, tangled family dynamics, grime, gore, tentacles, apples, and the spectre of Merlin disapproving of your life choices. It provides a deeply satisfying wrapping-up of the plots and stories brought up in *The Crows and Thirteenth*, and remains some of the best horror that I've ever read. Highly recommended!

Rating: read this book, do *not* jump down the well



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