



Roadside Crosses

Jeffery Deaver

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The latest Kathryn Dance thriller from the "New York Times" bestselling author of "The Sleeping Doll"! The Monterey Peninsula is rocked when a killer begins to leave roadside crosses beside local highways -- not in memoriam, but as announcements of his intention to kill. And to kill in particularly horrific and efficient ways: using the personal details about the victims that they've carelessly posted in blogs and on social networking websites.

The case lands on the desk of Kathryn Dance, the California Bureau of Investigations foremost body language expert. She and Deputy Michael O'Neil follow the leads to Travis Brigham, a troubled teenager whose role in a fatal car accident has inspired vicious attacks against him on a popular blog, The Chilton Report. As the investigation progresses, Travis vanishes. Using techniques he learned as a brilliant participant in multiplayer online role-playing games, he easily eludes his pursuers and continues to track his victims. Among the obstacles Kathryn must hurdle are politicians from Sacramento, paranoid parents and the blogger himself, James Chilton, whose belief in the importance of blogging and the new media threatens to derail the case and potentially Dance's career. It is this threat that causes Dance to take desperate and risky measures...

In signature Jeffery Deaver style, *Roadside Crosses* is filled with dozens of plot twists, cliff-hangers and heartrending personal subplots. It is also a searing look at the accountability of blogging and life in the online world. "*Roadside Crosses*" is the third in Deaver's bestselling High-Tech Thriller Trilogy, along with "*The Blue Nowhere*" and "*The Broken Window*."

Unabridged Compact Disk Includes a Bonus MP3 Cd of Jeffery Deaver's "*The Blue Nowhere*"!

Roadside Crosses Details

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From Reader Review Roadside Crosses for online ebook

Jerry B says

Disappointing Kathryn Dance sequel -- little mystery, way too much blogging

We thoroughly enjoyed Deaver's new character Kathryn Dance, a specialist in kinesics (body language), who helped solve the mystery in the author's Lincoln Rhyme novel "Cold Moon". She then "starred" in her own first complete story, "Sleeping Doll", which we found highly entertaining. Unfortunately, the author missed the mark completely in "Crosses", her third appearance, and this time again in charge of an investigation as leading lady.

The premise was actually engaging - someone is leaving a series of roadside crosses to predict a death, not commemorate one. However, that thread was virtually abandoned, as was Dance's claim to fame (kinetic analysis) as 90% of the book was Deaver railing about the dominance of blogging in today's internet sphere, and how dangerous and silly that "unregulated" activity can be. The plot was poorly crafted, the bulk of the story was boring, and Dance has no better skills at running a "straight" investigation than the average reader.

We are longtime Deaver fans, even of his early works under his pseudonym William Jeffries. But we conclude from this mediocre outing that Dance as a supporting helper is far more interesting than having her trudge through an entire case only rarely using her unique talents. Moreover, we don't need Deaver to labor over an expose of blogging or anything else on the internet - we see enough of that stuff (willingly or not!) online, we don't need it in our books !!

Brenda says

Well, this is a "chapter" book written by Jeffrey Deaver. He generally writes detective novels, the kind where there are some clues, but never enough information for you to possibly figure out the case before he's ready to tell you.

I generally enjoy reading a series of books with a recurring character, that is, if I like the character. This protagonist is Kathryn Dance, a 40s something FBI agent raising 2 children after the death of her husband.

Kathryn's specialty is kinesic forensics (or something like that). She has a unique ability to determine if someone is lying, blocking, fearful of revealing information, etc. by watching their mannerisms and body language. A human lie detector, if you will.

Deaver keeps her human, though. She makes mistakes, she occasionally second guesses herself, and may initially misread the cues. I like her not being perfect. Makes it easier to believe she could be real.

Without going into the plot (what does it matter, anyway), I will say that this is a good (not great) read. I find Deaver fairly imaginative and, as I said before, his characters are fallible but they always seem to make up for it in the end.

Kate says

Hmmm. Well, Jeffery Deaver must think his audience doesn't know what blogs are, and that teenagers walk around saying "epic" all the time. Other than kids that spend all their time playing WoW (and I doubt it in that case, too), I find that hard to believe based on my interactions with high school students. And the excessive descriptions threads and blogging were insulting to me. I started skipping over them, and I never skip in his books.

So: The rest of the book. I kind of enjoyed the Myers-Briggs stuff, and the types of liars. I suppose I like the Kathryn Dance series. I guess Lincoln and Amelia are getting some time off.

He kept the twists to a minimum this time around, too.

Kathryn says

Wow. Just wow.

Deaver, you have done it again. But this time, it was even better than *The Sleeping Doll*, *Kathryn Dance #1*.

I'm almost at a loss for words to write this review. Deaver can weave a tale so meticulously, when I thought I had it figured out, he completely messed with my mind. He changed gears, made me throw my suspicions out the window, and I had to just hold on for the ride while Deaver steered.

The story, or in this instance the case, which is followed in this second installment of the Kathryn Dance series was so interesting, so real, and poses a lot of questions for the reader. But not only is there the new case involving roadside crosses, there is another case which involves Dance and occupies her time and mind. This case began in the first book, *The Sleeping Doll*, and is carried over into *Roadside Crosses*. I won't spoil the case for a potential reader, but I have to admit, it threw me for a loop as well. So for this novel, there are two story lines to read about, but it is not confusing to the reader. I think writing this novel this way, gave a realism to the story, and ultimately, just gave it something much more.

Deaver does an excellent job at creating the new case, which involves roadside crosses. We are brought into a world where we learn about the blurred lines between reality and the internet. In this instance, Deaver calls it the "synth world", and we learn some people, such as serious gamers, have blurred the lines between reality and the synth world so much, they never even leave this synth world. It is a scary thought the way Deaver writes about this behavior, and it made me question a lot of things about the internet, Facebook, and even Goodreads. I found the way Deaver wrote all of this part very interesting and even a bit engaging.

Deaver also has a gift at creating and writing characters, and not just characters you like, but characters you hate. But, he also takes those characters you love, and makes you hate them. Then, he takes the characters you hate, and makes you love them. Deaver manipulates your thoughts on characters and the story, it makes me give up trying to figure out, "What the heck is going on?!" As I said before, I just give up trying to figure it all out, and just hang on tight.

What I also really, really enjoyed about this next installment of Kathryn Dance's life is, her character is even more developed in this novel. Having read the first book already, it was nice to already be familiar with her, her job, and just her overall situation. Though Deaver does reintroduce you to Kathryn Dance, her specialty, and some of the law enforcement terms in the beginning of *Roadside Crosses*, I felt like he really let Dance's character take off and become more of a real character. I love she isn't perfect, her life isn't perfect, and even at times, she's almost at a loss of what to do next. But then, through her strength, she gains control of the situation or the case, and even when she's steps behind, she catches up, and gets several steps ahead.

I always get very nervous when authors have so much going on in a novel or storyline. I worry they will forget to complete a thought, and I will be wondering, "What happened to?" Or, "What about X?" But when it comes to Deaver, he has impressed me so much in two novels. As I said before, his storytelling is so tight, well-weaved, fluid, and even though he left a bit of a cliffhanger in *The Sleeping Doll*, he carried it over and executed all of this brilliantly. He completes his thoughts, and I'm never left with any questions.

If you have never read a Jeffery Deaver novel, you should do yourself a favor, and pick up this series. It has been the best introduction, for me, into the mystery/suspense/thriller genre.

Jim says

The second book in author Jeffery Deaver's Kathryn Dance series of thrillers, "Roadside Crosses", was a pretty good read. Coming in at over 540 pages this one takes time to get through reading. The plot is slow to unwind at times, and branches off at unexpected turns. Protagonist Kathryn Dance, a widow works for California's Bureau of Investigation. She's an expert in kinesics, the study of body language to determine a person's likelihood of telling the truth. Dance must investigate a series of cases where a roadside cross will pop up before an actual crime in that location occurs. When high school senior Tammy Foster is kidnapped and left in a car trunk to drown, she saved at the last possible minute. However at the hospital Dance knows Tammy isn't giving her full disclosure. Tammy knows more than what she's telling, and knows who kidnapped her. Before long another classmate of Tammy's, Travis Brigham is fingered as a suspect. It seems Travis was at the center of a horrible car accident that all the kids in school blamed on him. The accident killed two classmates and kids from high school think he crashed on purpose. Surprisingly Dance finds all about this online, primarily from one source. Dance and her team need to investigate "The Chilton Report", an online blog that runs all over the place from far right to far left. The blog allows such a wide range of comments/ opinions that do nothing but make things worse with each passing hour. Pounding on Travis for the accident is a popular sport on the blog. Dance luckily convinces college professor Jon Boling to come help her team with the world of on line gaming. Suspect Travis spends more time in cyber than in the real world. Fighting hardened online "Gamers", hard line first amendment rights bloggers, hard line environmental causes bloggers, teenage social media, and of course greed, Dance has her hands full in this yarn. Also to complicate matters Dance's mother gets arrested for murder. As an ICU nurse Edie Dance is accused of putting a patient out of his misery. So, with "Roadside Crosses", there are constantly many parts in motion moving at various speeds. At times the number of elements in this plot were somewhat overwhelming. I liked the story. However there was just so much to process while trying to enjoy the read. As usual Author Jeffery Deaver had an array of very interesting characters. Deaver is a master of creating some very strange characters indeed. Overall I'm giving this one three stars out of a possible five stars. Having now read the first two books in the Kathryn Dance series, I'm not sure whether or not I like this series. (Character). But for an interesting thriller, and fans of author Jeffery Deaver I'd recommend this one without question.

Rob says

Number two in the Kathryn Dance series.
I enjoyed this on two different levels.

Level one. The thriller. As thrillers go this is highly entertaining. It's fast paced with lots of twists and turns. Kathryn is up against it on two fronts. The roadside cross killer needs to be stopped and soon. On top of that, Kathryn's mother has been charged with murder. Kathryn is torn between her professional life and supporting her mother in her time of need.

Whilst the roadside killer takes priority Kathryn tries to give what help she can to her mother. But as hard as Kathryn tries to help, the district prosecutor, who is responsible for bringing the charges against Kathryn's mother, is determined that Kathryn is excluded from the investigation.

Level two. Blogging and social media. The book takes a good look at how public opinion can be manipulated by social media and bloggers. A young man is accused, by faceless cyber bullies, of being the roadside killer. The cyber campaign is so unrelenting it makes the young man run off and hide. As a result he is now a fugitive from the law.

Entertaining and instructive I gave this book a 4 star recommendation

Nette says

I have GOT to stop buying this guy's books. He used to be so good, but, like P. Cornwell, he's marched right down I'm Too Important For An Editor Avenue and crossed over onto My Readers Will Love Me No Matter What I Write Boulevard. (In this book? Entire chapters about these newfangled "internet blogs." Oh, I tell ya, Marge, kids these days with their FaceSpace and Twatters.) If I ever slip and buy another one of his books, I want all my friends here to come over and punch me in the head.

Laura Belgrave says

Plenty of others have already supplied a description of the book, so I won't do that. All I will do is tell you that that *Roadside Crosses*, the second in Deaver's Kathryn Dance series, is almost impossible to put down. But that's probably more true if you have an interest in or follow the minutiae of how the entire blogging community works — and the power that it has, particularly for vulnerable young people. Much of the novel's core storyline hinges on that, but even if all things tech summon little more than a yawn, you might still like this for two reasons:

- (1) Deaver invariably writes compelling characters; this novel is no exception;
- (2) Kathryn Dance's specialty in kinesics, though popularized by now in several TV shows, is intriguing because of its depth.

Deaver is good. He's very, very good, and that's as true in this story as in all the others. I can never wait to

get my hands on the next one, even if his concentration is in part now on Kathryn Dance, not his long-time character Lincoln Rhyme.

Ami says

3.5 stars

Kathryn Dance was first introduced in Lincoln Rhyme's series -- and I liked the first Dance book enough that I bought this one back when it was first released in 2009. However, I wasn't able to really sit down and read until today.

The crime in this book was a bit unsettling for me. Why? Because it was related to cyberbullying -- how the posts and comments in online blogs could take lives of their own, becoming more vicious and more outlandish. How people could come up with over-the-top lies that could destroy innocent lives.

If I read this one back in 2009, I probably wouldn't be too upset about it -- I didn't really notice such thing back then. I was just joining Goodreads for about a year, wasn't too involved with Twitter as well. However, for the past year, I witnessed how it could happen easily -- what with the attacks against reviewers, the horrible comments that happen here in Goodreads from both reviewers and authors and friends of authors. It was troubling -- and reading this book just brought that back. How fragile our lives are online.

So all throughout the book, I got that image in the back of my mind. When Mr. Deaver presented the twist (view spoiler), all I wanted was for the character to survive.

As always, Mr. Deaver's writing could be very technical -- and he was doing it here too, with the talks about computer and MMORPG and synth world. I didn't have any problem with that, though. It wasn't as complicated and technical as his Lincoln Rhyme's series.

Characters wise, I wasn't really warming up to Dance, even after two books. I guess my issue with her was that unlike Rhyme, Dance's strength was more in observation. She was a kinesic expert while Rhyme was a forensic expert. Dance wasn't moving as fast in cases, because she needed to study the people. While Rhyme could analyze crime scene and forensic evidences to track the perp. Also, I wasn't really sure on the way of the two men that seemed to be in Dance's love live in this book: Michael O'Neill and Jonathan Boling.

Having said that, I think I would like to check book #3 in this series -- especially since that one was released this year.

PS: Just a note, again Indonesia (my country) was portrayed as terrorist because we are the biggest Islamic country. I could really do nothing about perceptions from foreign countries about my country, but still, I get annoyed with this portrayal whenever I stumble upon it. I guess I can imagine what the people from Russia/Eastern Europe feels about the portrayal of their countries back during Cold War *sigh*

Jennie says

This book was good for some fluffy beach (ok, rainy day on the couch) reading. Interesting concept, with the killer leaving crosses to announce an attack, interesting main character.

The story falls short of being interesting when Deaver takes time out to explain blogs and online role-playing games as if this were 1997 and no one had heard of them. I am willing to suspend disbelief, but for a 40-something(?) law enforcement agent (with a website of her own) in 2009 to need long, drawn out explanations of this here interweb thingy pushes credibility a little far. Also, we are encouraged to check out any URLs we "happen" to come across in the book (yes, it actually says "happen" to come across even though they're front and center, in italics, and kind of hard to miss). Yay for interactive stuff, but I really don't want to get off my comfy couch and pull out my computer in the middle of a book to go check out a fake blog - or any blog, really. I didn't really get that. After awhile the URL insertions seemed a little desperate.

The "suspense" got old after the first two times Deaver pulled the M Knight Shayamalan so-desperate-for-you-to-believe-*this-but-it's-really-this* act. It started to feel like "Gotcha! Right? Right? RIGHT? RIGHT? Until I just started thinking "the police got there just in time. Oh! Look! They got there just in time! Again! Again! Ag-oh, that one's dead, oh - that one too - Just in time! Again! Again! Yawn.

One last tiny, nitpicky thing: In the "About the Author" section of the book, Deaver's many accolades are listed, as well as his former careers. Nowhere does it say he has spent much time around law enforcement agents (and I didn't care enough to research him further). My point is this: I have police officers in the family. I worked with police officers. I have friends who are police officers. I've been in several roll calls, and on several ride-alongs. I did an unscientific survey of my police officer family and acquaintances, and the results are in: not once have I heard, nor have they ever used, nor have they heard their colleagues use, "*perp*". "Suspect" or "subject", yes. "*Perp*"? TV. 500 pages of "*perp*" starts to sound like nails on a chalkboard, even in my own head. Stop it!

Linda says

Jeffrey Deaver's *ROADSIDE CROSSES* is the first of the Deaver books that has not kept my attention. I found that it wasn't as captivating as I thought it would be. I know the area where the story took place having spent much of my life in the Salinas/Monterey/Carmel area. I enjoyed listening to the descriptions of the region but the characters seemed shallow and did not captivate me. I was particularly bothered by the way that Kathryn Dance's relationship with her mother was treated. That piece seemed way out of context and unreal.

The story started well with the *ROADSIDE CROSSES*, which we have all seen in our travels was a good hook but this time in wasn't up to Deaver's usual level of detail. Bringing in the idea of blogging and it's place in our society is well chose for our times but again left me feeling a bit unreal about the possibility of the adult characters being as involved as they were portrayed to be. For me, it was just an adequate novel of mystery but not high on my reading list and I am a Deaver fan.

Richard says

There is so much going on in this book and it is very satisfying on many levels. Jeffrey Deaver, yet another retired attorney, lays out a very complicated plot and keeps it all finely balanced to the real end. I lost count

of the false trails and conclusions he leads us on.

Mr. Deaver, who has also created over 25 other novels featuring quadriplegic criminalist Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs or California Bureau of Investigation kinesics expert Kathryn Dance and Monterey County Sheriff's office detective Michael O'Neil has another international best sell in this book.

Once again we find teens caught up in the unreal game world, unable finally to tell reality from the on-line game. Can our top police experts stop the continued killings?

Deaver chose one of the most beautiful areas of the California coast as the site of all this terror. There are very insightful descriptions of the locale, including the poverty as well as extremely rich parts. His characters are believable, their dialogue spot on.

Obsidian says

The only reason why I gave this book two stars is honestly because I was kind of fascinated by how Deaver looks at internet blogs, comments on those blogs, and how you can start to see how something that he looked back at when this book was published has morphed into what it is today with a lot of people on the internet claiming to be experts on something or how easy it is to spread a rumor about somebody with no factual basis and how it could be picked up and be counted as real news. Other than that the book lost me on multiple levels.

In book two "Roadside Crosses" we have Kathryn Dance still dealing with the fallout from the events of book number one. It appears that this book takes place a couple weeks after those events. Dance and her colleague and friend, Mike O'Neill or off to give a deposition about what transpired in book number one. He and Dance are determined to make an agent who they believed murdered people pay. They are called back from an oddly arranged romantic interlude and are brought in on an abduction of a young girl who was placed in a trunk of a car. Dance and O'Neil find themselves trying to use a local blogger for clues to what could be behind this abduction and what appears to be planned murders of people.

Dance and her skills definitely take a backseat in this one. I think that there were only two times that she got to use her skills as a body language expert and the rest of the time was just her flailing around and listening to men give her lectures on what the internet is and gaming. I found myself really bored by her character and she doesn't seem like the strong smart woman that she was in "Cold Moon." And I don't know what Deaver's deal is with having every man that comes across Dance be a potential love interest, but I really hope that stops in the next book. I thought it was a little bit weird and odd that she seems to be developing friends feelings for her married colleague but also was attracted to a professor that they just met who was called in to help out on this case. And I maybe I wouldn't say anything except the last guy that she liked turned out to be a murderer so maybe her sense of who's a good person to date is just flawed.

A really big problem with what I think pushed me away from Dance this time though was the fact she's in her late thirties and has two kids, one of who is 12 and she seemed completely baffled by the internet. She did not seem to understand how to use it, what blogs were, etc. I mean I don't work with computers for a living but even I know about all that stuff so I thought that was very far-fetched. Especially since Dance has her own website. We find out in this book and I think that's it in the last one as well that Dance and a friend of hers go about recording what's considered folk music songs and record it and sell it on her website. So if she does that she has to be able to use a computer.

I can't really speak about any other characters. Everyone else was very paper-thin and we didn't really get a chance to get into other characters mindset.

Dance's partner O'Neill was missing in action for half of the book but every time he and Dance are in the same room together it was awkward.

There was also something involving Dance's mother that I had a hard time with and I don't know why it was even introduced in this book. I think Deaver was going for some intrigue but it totally totally lost me. If you read the first book you know that a colleague of Dance's died after being injured on the first case. We find out in this book that somebody did a mercy killing because he would not have lived long. Dance's mother is accused of this. There doesn't seem to be any real evidence why she would have did this and I thought it was a big stretch. But I think that that really got me there was that Dance is completely oblivious to the problems and trouble her mother is in and even has a dinner party to have people come over and insist that her mother and father come over after she's (the mom) been arrested for murder. I kind of scratched my head at that one.

I also rolled my eyes at Dance and her mother questioning O'Neill's wife parenting cause she dared to travel.

Say something nice. It was interesting how Deaver tied the book into the internet with actual links that a reservation could go to and read. I think he wanted to make it as immersive as possible. Unfortunately I don't think he thought about what happened a if you're not reading on an e-reader or computer though. I assume hardback or paperback readers just were out of luck.

I do think that Deaver's description of gamers was off the mark though.

The flow was pretty awful in this one. Every chapter seemed to hang on a mini cliffhanger and we get some twists thrown our way that don't work. Ot of nowhere we have the solution to who is behind these abductions, but wait, here's a twist. And the twist didn't even make any sense. Same goes for Dance's mother's arrest.

The book ends on an odd note with it looking like Dance may be torn between two men.

Christine says

As with most Jeffrey Deaver books that educate readers about a certain topic (i.e. how electricity works, what dirt is composed of), *Roadside Crosses* also attempts to teach, in this case, a myriad of topics about the computer and the internet. Deaver covers blogging, virtual reality gaming, erasing and restoring hard drives, tracking IP addresses and a whole lot of other computer-based subjects, some much better than others. However, where this book FAILED for me was that Katherine Dance, whom I actually like as the main investigator and series central character, did some really stupid things in the book. I find it really really hard to believe that an intelligent, educated female investigator would go off into dark, shady woods at night to investigate something phoned in by an anonymous caller, refusing back-up assistance when it's offered. That whole scene really bothered me as a clear plotwhat?.... distraction and it's the first time I've read a Deaver book and thought, "Hmmm, that was totally unnecessary." And this ongoing implied mad attraction between Dance and her partner, O'Neil, with whom she is contemplating a vroom-vroom, despite the fact that he is married, could be based on something that really does happen in life, but is it something that the series is building up towards? Otherwise why is that necessary to the story? to the character development? The actual mystery, the whodunnit plot, was alright, but it was obvious, way more obvious than in some of Deaver's

books, that so-and-so was not really so-and-so as presented. Anyway, I still intend to read book 4 in the Katherine Dances' series, but I hope it's a better novel than this one.

K.D. Absolutely says

Roadside crosses. Roadside memorials. Those crosses along the highway. Those sad and forlorn images at the side of the road marking the places where sudden and unexpected deaths happened. Places where the person was last seen alive. Places where parents went to in the middle of the night or in the wee hours of the morning after receiving a call from the police. Where they shed tears. Where dreams ended.

Jeffery Deaver (born 1950) is an American mystery/crime writer. He is a journalist, novelist and a practicing lawyer. Many of his books promote “lateral thinking” that is a way to solve problems using an indirect and creative approach using reasoning that is not immediately obvious and involving ideas that may not be obtainable by using only traditional step-by-step logic. Compared with “critical thinking” that is primarily concerned with judging the true value of statements and seeking errors, lateral thinking is more concerned with the movement value of statements and ideas. A person who thinks laterally moves from one unknown idea to create a new idea. The term “lateral thinking” was coined by Edward de Bono (born 1933) in his book *New Think: The Use of Lateral Thinking* published in 1967. Three Deaver's novels have been turned into films: *The Bone Collector* (1999), *A Maiden's Grave* as the TV film *Dead Silence* (1997) and *The Devil's Teardrop* in 2010, another TV film.

Deaver made use of both “roadside crosses” and “lateral thinking” in this book, *Roadside Crosses* (published 2009), the second novel in his **Kathryn Dance** series. Kathryn Dance is an agent with the California Bureau of Investigation, which is similar to that of the FBI. She's a young widow of a former FBI agent and the mother of two children, Wes and Maggie. She is an expert of *Kinesis* or body language and in interrogation and interviewing witnesses and suspects.

In this book, Detective Dance and his deputy **Michael O'Neil** are tasked to solve the killings associated with roadside crosses along the road in Monterey Peninsula. The roadside crosses are clues on the killing as they bear the date after it is installed. In other words, if the duo see the cross today, the killing will happen tomorrow because it has a date on when the killer intend to kill. The killer even has a style: he kills his victim based on the details the victim carelessly posted in blogs and other social networking websites, e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc. For example, if the victim wrote in his blog that he has a phobia on snakes, then the killer will have an anaconda swallow the person until he dies. These are the two unique ingredients of this book's milieu: the crosses and the blogs and Deaver effectively used both to engage his readers. The plot is a typical whodunit but it is hard to second-guess Deaver and it is definitely impossible to be two steps ahead of him in the game. In other words, you may be able to say that *oh, I knew that was coming* if you are just a paragraph ahead of the revelation but it is impossible to predict what will happen at the end if you are just in the middle of the book.

The moral lesson of the book is not the usual *don't drink and drive* which is more often than not the reason why you have those roadside crosses. Rather, it is to be careful in sharing personal things about yourself in the cyberspace. You just don't know how some screwed and loony people could use those against you or your loved ones. Oh well, my reviews tend to be personal and I oftentimes share personal events but I am not using our real and complete names and I am no longer using my real picture. Even my birthday is already hidden. No, Joyzi, I have no criminal record at the NBI or something. I am just being careful and I hope that

everyone will do the same.

Janie Johnson says

I am totally blown away by this man's talent! This could very well be my favorite read for the year, or at least one of the top. I enjoyed this one even more than the first in the Kathryn Dance series, *The Sleeping Doll*, if that is even possible. I have also read *XO*, but I read it out of order and I do plan on revisiting that book soon to complete this series so far.

These books do in fact need to be read in order because certain parts of the story lines do carry over into the next book. So I feel it is important to follow them in the order that they come. I was glad to see that Deaver touched on the Juan Millar case in this installment of the series, because it was left 'unfinished' in the first book. So that was nice to get some closure on that case.

There were quite a few 'WHOA' moments for me in this book. The kind that just kinda makes you stop and think for a moment because you just discovered you have been suckered in believing the obvious, and Deaver just steered you into a whole new direction! And then you say "Wow I did not even see that coming!" I love that aspect of reading a good mystery/suspense! And Deaver is one of the greats!

Deaver's characters are exquisite IMO. They are so well developed, so realistic, and so believable. He makes it easy to love the protagonist and hate the antagonist. And he does not stop there, he gives you so many more than one each! Kathryn Dance is a beautiful character. She is strong willed and confident, yet she is flawed and hard on herself as well. She is one of my favorite detective/FBI/CBI agents now. She is definitely someone I would want on my side if it ever came to that! Jon Boling is another of my favorites and I hope to see him show up in *XO* as well.

Overby, Kathryn's boss was a character I can do without. He is a good/bad guy in affect. He is pretty arrogant and I really don't feel he has much faith in Dance's abilities. He is one of those types who would say "It's my way or the highway." pretty much and those kind of people are annoying to me. He would not hesitate to throw you under the bus if it is good for him. Deaver created him well that is for sure. he sure did rub me the wrong way on more than one occasion!

This is a solid 5 star read for me and I look forward to reading many, many, more Deaver books in the future! I know there are a lot more to read!

Strawberry Fields says

I believe I am liking Kathryn Dance better than Lincoln Rhyme. Is that blasphemy? Well, even Amelia Sachs has here moments of reading people and giving credence to witness accounts.

This book is about the internet and how it affects people's lives. There are bloggers, gamers, social networkers, and many are cyber bullies. So much time can be spent on the internet that people are no longer functioning in the world of reality, but the world they have created for themselves in the online universe. This is true of a few characters in this book. I was amazed to learn certain facts about the effects of this

anonymous, or seemingly anonymous, world has on young people especially. I am very glad the internet did not exist when I was a teenager.

The story begins with a tragic car accident. Four teens in the car, two are killed instantly. The driver and front passenger survive. It was ruled an accident. No toxins in the bloodstream of the driver, Travis. A blogger mentions this accident on his page, wondering about the state's role in this accident. Could it be that the road was indeed hazardous? Maybe the signs along the way weren't visible. The comments to the thread become vicious. Kids who go to school with the boy and know him are saying it was his fault. Saying "I heard" ...just making stuff up and demonizing this poor kid. Then, one by one, the people who attacked Travis online begin being attacked in the real world. The comments only get worse. Is it Travis getting revenge for the things being said about him? It seems so.

I love Deaver in that there are always so many twists and turns; detours in the information. His books are a giant puzzle that the reader must try to piece together before law enforcement does, which is no easy task.

There is also a side plot in this book that deals with the matter of assisted suicide. I found it very interesting to see the debate from both sides of the coin.

This book was very well written. I am a Deaver fan for life!

Peter Clothier says

It felt like time for some light reading, and my favorite light reading is the crime novel. So I picked up a Jeffrey Deaver hardback from a used book stand for a couple of dollars--and was glad I hadn't forked out more. I first encountered Deaver a few years ago through *The Bone Collector*, with its appealing quadriplegic forensic genius Lincoln Rhyme (marvelously played in a film version by Denzel Washington.) I sped through the book, as I have done other books by Deaver since, with considerable enjoyment. I think that *Roadside Crosses* will be my last.

I'm a sucker for stories. I always want to know what happens next, and Deaver is one of those writers who knows how to keep you turning the pages. So I kept reading to the end. But I have begun to find his characters emotionally unconvincing. Their back-stories seem contrived, their emotional responses too convenient to the author's purposes. He plays too much on the jeopardy of vulnerable characters; the gut is always telling us that the jeopardy is fake. And there's a narrative trick he resorts to time and again, to the point of straining both credulity and good will. He arrives at a climactic moment--the death, let's say, of one of the characters--only to revise it a few pages on: the character was not dead, after all, but reduced in the nick of time by the (implausible) ingenuity of the investigator. Ah, so it only seemed as though the character succumbed. More fool us, for having been so duped.

We should not feel duped by a crime story writer. We may be duped by his characters, but not by the writer. We make an implicit contract with him, and feel cheated when he breaks it. I may weaken and pick up another Deaver one day at a garage sale, when I'm looking for light fare. But I hope that I remind myself not to! One star, from me, for the page-turning thing.

Gary says

The 2nd book in the Kathryn Dance series by Jeffery Deaver.

Kathryn Dance, an investigator with the California Bureau of Investigation and this series is a spin off from the Lincoln Rhyme books. A very good move on Jeffery Deavers part keeping his books fresh.

Quillracer says

This book was not as good as the first in the series--too much about MMORPGs and blogging and not enough of Kathryn Dance plying her specialty (kinesics - the reading of body language).

The main plot was also diluted by sub-plots (one about Kathryn's mother and one about a sneaky investigator) that thinned further a plot already thinned by the digressions into MMORPGs and blogging mentioned above. Both were wrapped up a little too quickly and neatly. The one involving Kathryn's mother could have supported a novel on its own if properly developed.

Kathryn's 'on the verge of going beyond platonic' friendship with a Sheriff's Office Detective took a too convenient turn near the end of the novel. I saw it coming the first time the two crossed paths in the book, it was just a matter of waiting until it happened.

All in all, a so-so effort from Mr. Deaver.

I will read the next book in the series, but if it isn't any better than this one, it will be the last Deaver book I read.
