



Day of the Dead

J.A. Jance

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The Walker family survived the atrocities perpetrated by a serial killer and his crazed acolyte in both *Hour of the Hunter* and *Kiss of the Bees*. But can they escape the vengeance of a new killer or killers whose sights have been set on their precious daughter, Lani? Young girls are being spirited away from an orphanage deep in Colonial Mexico -- told they're traveling to a loving adoptive family in southern Arizona, their hopes are high. But the fate that waits for them is truly horrifying: when death comes, it will be a blessing....Former Sheriff Brandon Walker is living the life of a reluctant retiree. Playing golf while his wife, Diana Ladd, continues to write her bestselling tales of true crime, he desperately misses the action and sense of usefulness from days gone by. When he's invited to join the Last Chance Club to review and attempt to solve long-cold cases, he little imagines the first case to cross his path will be one he may have botched back when he was sheriff. And when the case from all those decades past becomes entangled with a current murder, it seems a serial killer with a very long and shocking track record may be back in business....

Day of the Dead Details

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Author : J.A. Jance

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From Reader Review Day of the Dead for online ebook

Minerva Koenig says

Couldn't get through it due to excessive torture porn. Not only that, but the first quarter of the book seems to be entirely given over to backstory, and not very well-written backstory. Won't be picking up this author again :/

Hannah says

This book was amazing and action packed!! Gayle Striker is the most evil woman you'll ever meet. Brandon Walker is a awesome Detective and proves himself even more in this book. Full of twists, turns, and shocking events. I enjoyed the writing style of J.A. Jance and the way she intertwines her stories of each character together. This was the first book I read by her and hope Queen of the Night and the newest one: Judgement Call (2013) are just as compelling.

Chris says

Many others have already described the plot for this story, I just want to encourage everyone to READ THIS BOOK!!! You will be horrified by the sick crimes committed by a well respected and well to do couple. At the same time you will be thrilled with the "heroes" as well as the nail-biting ending!

J. A. Jance is an awesome author!

Phyllis Clem says

I love J.A. Jance's J.P. Beaumont Series. The Walker series is much darker and disturbing, which made it hard to finish the first two. This one was the best so far. This was was very dark too but the writing was better.

Nancy Ellis says

I enjoyed this much more than the first two books of the series. There are still horrific murders committed by totally evil villains, but it's not quite as graphically gruesome. Several years have passed, though not as many as between the first and second books, and there have been many changes in the Walker family. Brandon Walker is now the former sheriff working for a cold case organization, and his wife Diana is a successful author. Once again, their extended family plays a major part in the story, making for a more intricate plot with many threads which eventually come together. Since so much time is passing between books, obviously

the author doesn't intend to stretch this series out as long as she has done with her other series. That suits me fine, because even though the stories are good, I'm not nearly as enamored of the Walker family as I am of her Beaumont and Brady characters.

Dana says

I am accustomed to JA Jance's writing style and know that she can come up with some incredibly twisted stuff, but this book really pushed the envelope! Never one to shy away from graphic detail, I forged on, but I must admit that I was a bit put off by some of it from time to time.

The plot revolves around a series of murders across several decades. Teenage girls are bound and held as bdsm sex slaves by a well-known "philanthropist" couple. Once the couple tires of them, they are killed and disposed of. A retired sheriff gets involved with a private organization whose goal it is to solve cold cases. He slowly starts to put facts together from the past and begins to link a past murder to a recent one. Soon others that occurred in the interim are found to be connected as well.

I do enjoy a good, exciting mystery and this one was no exception. The graphic descriptions of the girls' torture was a bit much, but the story was still quite good.

Jill.pearsgmail.com says

Hated the topic. Too chopped up...literally and figuratively. Can't stand sadistic sexual plots. Realized I don't like the Walker series, whereas her others I love.

Polly says

The reason for the 2 stars is it had 6 little stories going instead of just the two. Also, the subject matter was sexual abuse & that's not easy for me to read about. I love JA Jance, just not this book.

Terri says

I downloaded this book because I've long been a fan of the Joanna Brady series. My reaction here is quite different. That doesn't mean that I don't like the book, just for different reasons and in a different way.

First of all, this book did not do well as an audiobook for me. There were too many characters with too many unusual names and a pair with the same name. In addition, a book written in third-person- point of view in which the consciousness switches from one character to another, throwing in some time changes and the past thoughts of a "character" now dead is really confusing in an audio.

That said, the book was intriguing. The mix and clash of three cultures added complexity to the plot. There was also a contrast between past and present. The sociology student that still exists inside of me and pops out occasionally really liked this aspect of the book.

The introductory note at the beginning is also not to be missed!

If you read the blurb describing the plot, it sounds like an action-packed novel. It is not. There are some scenes with intense action, but much of the novel takes place in the minds of the characters. Even when something active is going on, one is reminded of the tribal principal of taking events stoically and not making a public display of emotions. In some ways, the book is something like ancient Greek theater--the really intense action takes place off stage.

Will I read other books in this series? Definitely, but I do have a better idea of what to expect the next time.

Michelle (meshe) says

Author: J.A. Jance

Finished: 03/12/09

Synopsis: Young girls are being spirited away from an orphanage deep in Colonial Mexico -- told they're traveling to a loving adoptive family in southern Arizona, their hopes are high. But the fate that waits for them is truly horrifying: when death comes, it will be a blessing....

Former Sheriff Brandon Walker is living the life of a reluctant retiree. Playing golf while his wife, Diana Ladd, continues to write her bestselling tales of true crime, he desperately misses the action and sense of usefulness from days gone by. When he's invited to join the Last Chance Club to review and attempt to solve long-cold cases, he little imagines the first case to cross his path will be one he may have botched back when he was sheriff. And when the case from all those decades past becomes entangled with a current murder, it seems a serial killer with a very long and shocking track record may be back in business....

My thoughts: This was the first book I've read by this author. I'm not sure if it was part of a series, but if it was I don't think it really mattered. I enjoyed the story, the characters and the setting. I think I'll probably read more of this author.

Paul says

The third installment of Jance's Walker series focuses on retired Sheriff Brandon Walker. The regular characters of Diana, Davy and Lani return, but only in very minor roles.

In completing his first case for The Last Chance, an organization that solves cold cases through the talents of ex-law enforcement personal, Brandon must identify the murderer of a small child in a homicide that happened 30 years ago. As the plot develops, it becomes apparent that many unsolved cases are all inter-related. The story enters its climactic finish when Brandon makes all of the connections that lead him to the suspect; someone that's been a friend of the family for years.

Keeping with the rest of this series, Jance has developed some truly evil villains. The level of violence and brutality they employ far exceeds that used in her other series. Fortunately, most is implied and only helps to increase the level of danger placed upon the main characters.

This book continues to intertwine Papago legend and mythology into the writing, but not to the same degree as the first two books. It's also interesting how this story highlighted some inconsistencies within the Tohono O'odham people's beliefs. From older plot lines, we know that killing is abhorred by these people. If they kill another, they must undergo a 15 day purification ritual. However, during the death investigation, a body must be exhumed. You would imagine that there would be a taboos against dealing with a corpse, but an elderly woman delivers the corpse by hand to speed up the investigation.

I'm really enjoying this series. I hope Lani and Davy have more active parts in future releases. Based on the ending of this book, that may be a necessity.

Karen says

From the dust jacket "Young girls are being spirited away from an orphanage deep in Colonial Mexico -- told they're traveling to a loving adoptive family in southern Arizona. But the fate that waits for them is truly horrifying.

Former Sheriff Brandon Walker is living the life of a reluctant retiree. Playing golf while his wife, Diana Ladd, continues to write her bestselling tales of true crime, he desperately misses the action and sense of usefulness from days gone by. When he's invited to join the Last Chance Club to review and attempt to solve long-cold cases, he little imagines the first case to cross his path will be one he may have botched back when he was sheriff. And when the case from all those decades past becomes entangled with a current murder, it seems a serial killer with a very long and shocking track record may be back in business."

One more reason to always mark your read books in Goodreads! This was my second listen to this book and I enjoyed it as much the second time as the first.

Benjamin Thomas says

I finished my latest audio book this morning on the way into work. It was my first book ever by J.A. Jance and is called, Day of the Dead. I didn't know this when I picked it off the library shelves but it is the third book in a mystery series involving an Indian reservation in Arizona. That happens quite a bit for me when I pick up an audio book from the library...I don't have the ability to research to see if it is part of a series. But usually, with mysteries it doesn't matter too much.

JA Jance, on her own website, defines the difference between a "mystery" novel and a "thriller" novel. She says in a mystery, you don't know the identity of the bad guy(s) or whodunnit until the end and the joy is in solving the mystery. In a thriller, however, the reader knows who the bad guy(s) is/are up front, even if the main characters don't. This particular novel is billed as a thriller and, indeed, we readers get to see whodunnit near the beginning so I guess it fulfills her definition. In my mind though, a "thriller" also provides "thrills" and this novel just didn't do it for me.

Apparently I am not alone in that opinion as most reviewers tend to classify this one as one of the lesser liked novels by JA Jance. She seems to have a devoted following of fans who really love her tremendous output but they say everybody has a bad book now and then and this one is one of hers. The story itself is OK and I really like the overall premise of having the TLC (The Last Chance) as a privately funded organization that looks into unsolved crimes...cold cases...that the police force just doesn't have time or resources to look into.

And I liked the protagonist, a retired sheriff named Brandon Walker as he takes on the case for the TLC. But the balance between the mystery solving, the thriller aspects of the bad guys, and the subplots about the various members and relatives of the cold case murder victim was way too heavily weighted towards the subplots. The bad guys, a husband and wife team of sexual predators/perverts, seemed to me to be cardboard cutouts of a 1970s era TV show crime drama...i.e. very one dimensional and not at all the monsters they should have been. There were a couple of scenes that were fairly graphic sexually and that seems to have turned off many of Ms Jance's devoted followers..apparently she doesn't do much of that in most of her books.

I probably owe it myself to try one of her other books, in one of her other series but at this point I am not anxious to do so. So many books out there and I'm not getting any younger...

Joan says

Jance's books are always three or four-star reads for me (Only 10-12 of the 1300 books I have read since I started recording on Goodreads have been 5-stars. The book has to have some intrinsic personal or societal value for me to rate it a 5). Jance's plots are always well-developed and skillfully intertwined. The characters are believable, likeable, and well-rounded. The pace of the action is brisk but not TOO brisk. This author is the most skillful flashback writer I have ever read - most authors manage to temporarily strand the reader when switching back to the present after a flashback, but I am fascinated with the number of ways Jance can devise to make that timeshift smooth and clear. The reason for my lowering of the star rating for this Jance title is the subject matter. It's just a personal-interest thing: I just cannot maintain interest when characters get into supernatural or mystic mumbo-jumbo. The Indian aspect of this series of books holds them, in my estimation, below the constant interest level of the Beaumont Series - or even the Ali Reynolds or Joanna Brady ones.

Terri says

This book started with some promise. Brandon Walker is a former sheriff and he is now bored out of his skull having retired while his wife is still busy and often traveling, so when Brandon receives an invitation to lunch and is invited to join The Last Chance Club; he accepts before lunch even arrives. This is a group whose funding is provided by a woman whose daughter's murder was never solved. These retired police and investigators are being asked to solve long-cold cases. And the premise was promising...

The book derailed with too many weird far-fetched scenarios- Brandon's daughter having been adopted from an Indian tribe is allowed to return to the tribe so she can fast for 16 days and atone for a murder!?! Like a sheriff father would put up with that!?! But "hey, okay," he says. And there's the weird fusion of Christian Science with Indian chants for something or other.

Add to that the graphic and awful detail of the torture of a young Mexican girl sent to live with a sadistic missionary doctor and his accomplice wife who on other weekends live an upscale respected doctor-of-the-town life.

The book just got too weird too fast and too gruesome.

