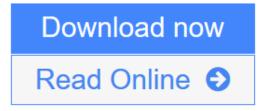


Dead Mann Running

Stefan Petrucha



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Just because a bullet has your name on it doesn't mean you shouldn't duck...

Either I'm stubborn, or it's rigor mortis, but being dead didn't stop me from being a detective or finding my wife's killer. But it's tough out there for a zombie, and lately it's been getting tougher. These days the lifechallenged have to register and take monthly tests to prove our emotional stability. See, if my kind gets too low, we go feral. I've been feeling a little down lately myself...

So when a severed arm—yeah, just the arm—leaves a mysterious briefcase at my office, my assistant, Misty, thinks figuring out where it came from will keep me on track. But this case goes deeper and darker than I imagined, and my imagination gets pretty dark. Turns out the people after it know more about my past life than I can remember, and even more about what I've become.

Dead Mann Running Details

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Author : Stefan Petrucha

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From Reader Review Dead Mann Running for online ebook

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Zombies fiction can be either too grim to stomach or too far from mythology to seem anything like the walking dead. Petrucha's *Hessius Mann* series manages to skirt that middle ground between immutable realism and fascinating possibility to create one of my favorite zombie series of all time.

This series is a departure from what I normally read, with the male protagonist, limited romance, and pretty grim reality of our hero's life. But I love the biological mechanics of the chakz, using bleach, super glue, and thread to hold themselves together, and Mann's dogged detecting never fails to keep the story moving. I love how the chakz have physiological issues long before "going feral" and munching on the living. And I love how Petrucha mixes science, human nature, and social commentary to create a world that is endlessly fascinating. **DEAD MANN RUNNING** changes Mann's world in hopeful increments, without sacrificing the gritty reality that makes Petrucha's world building so impressive.

And it is just that mix of hope and heartbreak that makes **DEAD MANN RUNNING** so powerful. While the mechanics of the plot once again got a little over the top by book's end, the underlying emotion is undeniably powerful. Hessius Mann tugs at my heartstrings even as his world and the issue of quality of life after death fascinates me. I'll definitely be back for more.

Sexual Content: References to sex and pedophilia, kissing.

PWRL says

A

Angela Verdenius says

Not sure if my first review went through, as Evie, one of my cats, was happily lying on my laptop and managed to wipe the page off LOL. Anyway, loved this story, the hero gets into places you think he can't possibly get out of. I hope the author writes another in this series, just wish it was NOW. I love this UF series, the characters are so real, the mysteries so good.

Shannon Wilson says

These books are so diverse and fun. I like this alternate world he has created. It is very unique and everything is tailored around how life would be for a zombie. Highly recommended.

Anna says

Hessius Mann is one cool chak!

I'm not much into zombies or reanimated creatures because I'm a big fat baby and I'll have nightmares for weeks after watching show or reading a book. It's why I had to stop watching Walking Dead. That being said...I love what Stephan Petrucha has done with zombies, or chak, as he calls them. His premise in a nutshell is: this creepy company has discovered the technology so that people can be reanimated having basic functional features with a few cosmetic differences with the only drawback being the risk of going feral. When a chak gets too low they can essentially go bananas and lose what brains they have left, making them extremely dangerous. It's actually much more detailed than that but you get the gist.

Mann was once a cop that was (wrongly) accused of murdering his wife and sentenced to death only to become one of the poor chaps to be experimented on. He is a very high functioning chak, that along with the help of Misty, his secretary and friend, manages to run his own detective business. His memory is faulty at times but he copes by carrying a recorder that Misty gave him. DMR begins when a hand brings a mysterious briefcase to his office, yep, just the hand, and from that point on all hell breaks loose. The bad guys come fast and furious, conspiracy theories flying and new danger around every corner with everyone wanting the blue tubes inside the case.

DMR is packed with fast paced gory action all the way to the last page. The creep factor just goes higher as the story moves on. Its always cool when you read a mystery/thriller that you just can't figure out, making it like a giant surprise at the end, and Petrucha does that for me every time. I never see what's coming! This series is very well written: full of sarcastic humor as Mann mocks himself and his situation, and tons of suspense as the reader tries to uncover who is behind the chak evolution. Mann maintains a humanity and morality that is unusual for a chak, which makes him a target, but it also moves the story past the mindless zombie apocalypse that has gained so much popularity. Ultimately, the chak have turned the zombie mythology on its ear!

Julia says

Zombies can be a subject a little too grim to stomach, but Petrucha's Hessius Mann series manages to skirt that middle ground between immutable realism and fascinating possibility. I love the biological mechanics of the chakz, using bleach, super glue, and thread to hold themselves together, and Mann's dogged detecting never fails to keep the story moving. DEAD MANN RUNNING manages to move Mann's story forward by hopeful increments, without sacrificing the gritty reality that makes Petrucha's world building so impressive.

And it is just that mix of hope and heartbreak that makes DEAD MANN RUNNING so powerful. While the mechanics of the plot once again got a little over the top at the end, the underlying emotion is undeniably powerful.

Full review to follow.

Holly says

Wow. What a wild ride!

Total page turner. I liked the first book in the series and immediately bought the sequel as soon as I learned it had come out.

This was one rollar coaster ride of a book. Things would happened and I would go wow, and then the train would shoot off to the side and I'd gasp. And then it would plunge and I'd gasp again. And then the corkscrew into a whole new place. Roller coaster is the only word I can think of to describe what it felt like to read this book.

Some threads from the first book were taken up, so it would help to read that one first. And there were many threads left in this one to be taken up in any third novel.

If you like Zombies, urban fantasy, mysteries, dystopian works, or any combination of the above, you will love this book.

Highly recommended.

Brian Palmer says

The sequel to _Dead Mann Walking_, this continues the adventures of Hessius Mann, (zombie) private eye. The world continues to be gloomy -- turns out discovering a semi-cure for death isn't actually a panacea, as zombies have few to no civil rights, live in slums, and face an inevitable diminishing. In this, Hessius Mann gets caught up in corporate machinations and learns the backstory of the company that developed the reanimation procedure that's changing society.

This tries to make a more science fictional or at least techno-thriller based approach to the urban fantasy regime, which I give it full credit for ; but unfortunately the storyline in this is messy, and progress on the plot is driven by coincidences and dei ex machina. A lightweight read, but not a good as the first book in the series.

Patrick Hayes says

I am not a fan of genre books being mashed up with other genres: I don't like fantasy/comedies, scifi/comedies or horror/comedies. This is not a comedy: it contains comedic elements, scenes and oneliners, but this is first and foremost a mystery with one of the best written detectives I have encountered in years. Hessius Mann is dead, as are a lot of people these days. Some zombies eat brains, others can function fine, as long as they take the government test every year to make sure they're not going to go feral. Mann comes into the possession of a briefcase that contains two vials of blue liquid. What's it do? He doesn't know. What he does know is that a lot of people want it, and are shooting at him to get it. Author Stefan Petrucha has created a fantastic universe for Mann to run around in; in fact, I did forget about the plot and enjoy the ride through this world. I also was somewhat distracted by a "ninja" running about causing problems for Mann. I didn't care for this character, but Mann is one of the most solid narrators of a novel I've read in a forever. After reading this I want--NEED--to find the first novel (though it's not necessary to understand what's going on in this book--I felt I was taken in very smoothly). There's detecting, action, zombies, and some classic lines. Sit back and enjoy the ride!

Sara says

I won the first book in this series awhile ago and couldn't put it down. I was so excited when the second one came out I bought it right away. I was not disappointed. It was just as good as the first in the series. It's a highly entertaining series with a one of a kind hero. I think I stated in this in my review of the first book but it's worth saying again. With so many books flooding the shelves regurgitating the same story line over and over (vampires for one,) it's refreshing to pick up a novel that stands out from the crowd. I highly recommend it.

Greg Allan Holcomb says

It's not often that a book #2 in a series isn't lesser. This one holds up and the ending was great. If there's more to come great, if not the story has been told. I'm just going to assume that Petrucha's comicbookness has prepared him on how to write a series of stories using the same character.

I rated this higher than the first book in the series. To me "really liked it" means that I'll recommend this book to others, and I know at least one person I'll tell about this.

Eillo says

OH Hess, you're at it again....

The Chak with the unbeating heart of gold is back in another accidental decaying detective adventure. This time Hess has a mysterious briefcase with a fully aware arm attached and a complete cluckerf**k ensues.

Building on the foundation built in Dead Mann Walking, Hess' past crashes all around him while racing against the clock to stop a very worrisome future. I was into this from the word go and the interesting thing is, while I did solve some of the puzzles before Hess did, I still found myself slack jawed while reading and of course couldn't put the book down.

Stefan has the unique ability to make a narrative work even when being told from the perspective of a guy who is fall apart. Like the book Blood Prophecy, he creates a strong likeablely flawed protagonist in Hess that makes for a character you don't mind following into the fray.

I could probably say more but why, the book is solid, you'll like it.

Glen says

Definitely an improving series, with a lot of interesting potential world building going on. I am however getting a bit tired of the trope of completely-off-the-rails-insane villains.

Candace says

This is such a great series! It's not something I would have ever picked up on my own but once I started reading the first book I was completely hooked.

This book is different for many reasons, but number one is that the main character is a zombie. No these aren't of the brain eating variety. In this world they (the government or whoever) can bring people back for various reasons, one is if someone has been proven innocent after they have been given the death penalty. Once they are brought back they have diminished brain activity, rot can set in causing loss of body parts, muscle, skin, etc. They have to work hard to keep their brain working well. Hessius Mann has a better working brain than most, but he still has trouble with his memory. His body is also not in the best shape ever either. Walking or running far just doesn't work so well for him. While he may not be the typical guy for the job, he does a surprisingly good job at it. He has a sense of right and wrong and wants to protect the people, dead and alive.

This book isn't as freaky as the first was and wasn't scary really, but it had plenty of gross bits. There are a lot of nasty zombies (called chakz) with missing parts, but there is a part with some experimentation that would make about anyone cringe.

This had pretty much constant action with very little down time. It was easy to keep reading and hard to put down.

This is what I call a guy UF. Oh plenty of girls will like it, I certainly do, but its light on the romance (pretty nonexistant) and heavy on action and gore. I think there are plenty of UF books that work for men and women, but some men are preferring a more manly book without the romance. I think this would fit that category.

I typed this up on my kindle so please forgive any errors. I will spiff it up and add to it once I get on the computer.

You can find this review and others like it on my blog at http://www.candacesbookblog.com

Robertv says

The theme of this book is Things aren't always as bad as the seem. I really liked this book. It carried the story over really well from the first book in the series, but you have to read the book before it in order for it to make sense. I thought that the story was very well-written and was much better than the book before it in the series. The first half of the book is a little bit confusing, but then it all makes sense in the second half. It is a great book to read, I really enjoyed it, and it was overall just fabulous.