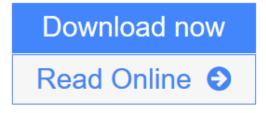


A Last Goodbye

J.A. Jance



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New York Times bestselling author J.A. Jance brings her trademark breakneck pace to this fun and exciting e-novella, where fan favorite Ali Reynolds takes on double responsibilities as both sleuth and bride.

Ali Reynolds is finally getting married to her longtime love B. Simpson. They wanted a simple Christmas Eve wedding, but nothing is ever simple with Ali. Even as a motley crew of her friends—Leland Brooks, Sister Anselm, and others—descend on Vegas, the bride-to-be finds herself juggling last-minute wedding plans and a mystery in the form of a stray miniature dachshund. Ali's grandson rescues the little dog, but Ali's not in the market for a new pet right before her honeymoon, and leaves no stone unturned in hunting for the dog's owner. But what she finds is more than just a shaggy dog story...Bella's elderly owner has vanished, and her son seems to be behind it. So it's Ali and B. to the rescue—and still making it to the church on time!

A Last Goodbye Details

Date: Published November 24th 2014 by Pocket StarISBN:Author: J.A. JanceFormat: Kindle EditionGenre: Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review A Last Goodbye for online ebook

Kathy says

A Last Goodbye is a lovely short Christmas novella featuring J.A. Jance's Ali Reynolds. Ali and her boyfriend B are getting married in Las Vegas over Christmas. If you have been following the Ali Reynolds series then this novella is not to be missed. It accomplished having a wedding without having to deal with it in a full novel. And it is a cute story for dog lovers as well.

Nancy says

I need to get past my dislike for half books and just accept the fact that author's think that they are necessary. Unfortunately, this is still a work in progress for me and when it comes to The Last Goodbye by JA Jance, I am still at a loss and scratching my head. What did this book prove? What did it add to the overall series? Very little as far as I am concerned.

The first 20% rehashes her last book and reintroduces characters, which if the reader has been following the series, already know.

The next 70% briefly touches on flying to Las Vegas, Ali and B's wedding, Christmas and trying to track down the owner of a dog that Ali's grandson has brought up to their hotel suite the day before the wedding is to take place.

I am not sure if others will be as bothered by where the title came from, but that is so not what I was expecting from a series that usually has a twist and a really bad guy.

Oh, and the last 10% are acknowledgements.

Other than knowing that Ali and B are married, there is no reason for this book.

Kirsty says

I obtained a kindle copy of this book via Netgalley in return for an honest review.

I absolutely loved this novella. I have never read anything by J.A. Jance before, and this is something that I definitely need to change. In this story Ali and B. are about to get married when a cute dog called Bella comes into their world. Bella is rescued in the street and they try to find out where her real owner is while still dealing with all the wedding stuff too.

As I said, I have never read a book by this author before, so I'm not familiar with the characters in this book. This didn't matter at all though, this story worked fine as a stand alone novella. Although I must admit I was more interested in Bella's story than the main characters. This was no bad thing as a stand alone, however I'm not sure how interesting fans of the series would find this book, unless they are huge dog lovers of course. Bella is adorable, and I loved reading about her and discovering her past. Bella has an impact on the characters and it is wonderful to read about how a dog can change people through love. I highly recommend this book.

The version I had contained an author note at the end which was wonderful. I loved reading about all the dogs she has had in her life, including the real Bella who inspired her to write about Bella in this book. I can't wait to read more about Bella in the future.

Nancy Silk says

"A Short But Good Story"

This is a short novella which moves right along with the wedding plans of Ali Reynolds and B. Simpson. They are in Las Vegas the day before their planned wedding at the Four Seasons Hotel. It's getting down to the wire, but B. takes Colleen and Colin, Ali's grandchildren, shopping while Ali rests comfortably in the soaking tub in their suite. It's 30 minutes before their dinner reservation when B. races in with the kids and the bellman who is loaded down with shopping bags. Also, wrapped in B.'s arms is a scared miniature longhaired dachshund that had been tossed out of a car onto the street, the car swiftly driven away. The kids are not about to turn the dog over to anyone, especially a dog pound. Arrangements have been made for a dog sitter while everyone attends the planned wedding rehearsal dinner. Ali has never had pets while growing up, and she just can't understand how she's going to cope with it on their honeymoon. She wants to find the owner for the little girl dog, so she and B. go to work gathering information while at the same time meeting all their obligations of the planned wedding for the next day. A short, sweet story which will bring a tear down your cheek. If you love dogs, you'll like this story.

Nancy says

so good. I just wish it was a longer book

Bea Charmed says

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started this story. I enjoy Jance's Joanna Brady books, didn't care for the one J.P. Beaumont book I read, and hadn't read any of the Ali Reynolds books. And could I jump in at book nine? But how could I resist that cover? That adorable face?

As it turns out, you can jump in with this book. For the regulars, it should be a nice gift, to see the wedding of the two main characters and to spend time with the other characters. Weddings are fun, especially for the guests, and this one is held in Vegas at Christmas. There's not a strong Vegas feel to the story but there are some nice details about the hotel they stay at and the amenities available.

For newbies such as myself, it was a good introduction to all of the characters and the story line was self contained. The wedding was sweet and Ali and her groom and business partner B. were interesting people. I loved that they were older, proving that neither romance nor interesting stories are the province of the young.

They had rich back stories, sharp senses of humor, and while Ali was occasionally cranky, both she and B were full of compassion.

In addition to the wedding, we have the minor mystery of an abandoned dog. They take it in and care for it while trying to find its owner. Both Ali's grandkids and her fiance B fall head over heels for the dog while Ali wants no part of it. The last goodbye of the story has to do with the dog's storyline.

"A Last Goodbye" is a quiet story, low on drama and mystery, but a touching one about family, acceptance, and love. I think I'll look for book one in the series.

Stephanie Hughes says

First let me say I love J A Jance! This is a very heart warming story. I love dogs my husband and I have three pit bulls they are wonderful loving breed of dogs. I was thrilled to see Ali and B getting married and can't wait to see what is in store for them n the future.

Debra says

A wedding and a dog - sounds just about perfect to me.

Ms Jance ends with a remembrance of the dogs in her life - and how they ended up as book characters.

victoria walker says

A last goodbyes

Fun read .Moving story for dog lovers.Touching story of how a dog had instincts to those who love or hate them

Carolyn says

As seen on my blog:

Hey, Folks!

Before I begin my critique, I want to express my sorrow at the recent passing of mystery writer P. D. James. The "Queen of Crime" was 94 and leaves us a lasting legacy of excellent prose by which to remember her. My thoughts and prayers go out to her loved ones. On to the business at hand...

Now that Thanksgiving is over, and you're ready to trim the tree, are you looking for a short, lighthearted puzzle to get you in the Christmas spirit? J. A. Jance's latest Ali Reynolds novella "A Last Goodbye" may be just the vehicle to do it! In the interest of full disclosure, however, I must admit that I was given a digital

review copy by Simon and Schuster, in exchange for my honest thoughts. My posts will never be anything but reflections of truthfulness.

When this story begins, Ali is finally ready to wed her long time significant other, B. Simpson. Las Vegas provides the perfect setting for a December 24th ceremony and everyone they hold dear is in attendance. However, it doesn't quite go as planned. The day before the event, Mr. Simpson takes his new grandchildren shopping, where they rescue a charming miniature dachshund. Grandma doesn't want to bring the new edition along on their honeymoon, so they search high and low for the dog's owner. Unfortunately, no one has seen her recently. Can they track her down in time, or will the nuptials be postponed?

I would recommend this volume to anyone who enjoys a good mainstream sleuthing session with famous names such as Mary Higgins Clark and Linda Fairstein. This is Ali Reynolds # 9.5, so if you haven't met these delightful characters, I would suggest starting at the beginning. The order is as follows:

"Edge of Evil" (Ali Reynolds #1)
"Web of Evil" (Ali Reynolds #2)
"Hand of Evil" (Ali Reynolds #3)
"Cruel Intent (Ali Reynolds #4)
"Trial by Fire" (Ali Reynolds #5)
"Fatal Error" (Ali Reynolds #6)
"Left for Dead" (Ali Reynolds #7)
"Deadly Stakes" (Ali Reynolds #8)
"Moving Target" (Ali Reynolds #9)
"A Last Goodbye" (Ali Reynolds #9.5)

It should be noted that the most recent addition to this series is currently ONLY available in electronic format. Those of you who prefer print will be forced to wait until December 30th, when it will be included in the paperback edition of "Moving Target." Sorry! I believe these books are intended for those sixteen years and older, with the usual amount of violence that is expected in a secular mystery. The only other caveat being that there might be a few off color words, but it should not detract from the entertainment provided by the plot, unless you happen to be sensitive to that content. My rating for "A Last Goodbye" is five out of five stars. This one can be loaded on your device instantly, so head to your favorite online retailer soon! Until we meet again...

Happy Reading, Carolyn

Anne - Books of My Heart says

This is a nice novella about the new dog in Ali's life as much as it is about Christmas and her wedding. If you aren't a fan of the series I don't know if you would care.

Skip says

Personally, I am not a big fan of the in-between filler stories, but this was better than most. First, it covered a big event in Ali's life: her marriage to B. Simpson and all of the hullabaloo. Second, there was a cure little mystery involving her grandkids rescuing a miniature dachshund, and locating its owner. Jance's long personal history with dogs is described in the afterword.

Cynthia T Cannon says

Great novella from one of my favorite writers.

I love J A Jances creative way of making her characters come alive and I love Bella. Look forward to meeting her again in Ali Reynolds novels.

TeriC says

Such a sweet dog story. Ali and B's Christmas gift.

Betty says

An excellent novella. Ali and B. Simpson are getting married in Las Vegas on Christmas Day. All of their guests are at the same five-star hotel. B. has taken his grandchildren-to-be shopping for their parent's Christmas gifts, and upon their return to valet parking a jerk throws a miniature dachshund out of his car and speeds off. Ali's young grandson runs into traffic to save the doggy from being killed. The poor little thing looks malnourished and abused, and B. takes the sweetheart back to his and Ali's suite. Ali has too much to do for the ceremony, and she isn't in the market for a dog, but will help B. find the animal's owner.

A very touching tale with the bonus of a wedding, children, and an animal. J. A. Jance can mesmerize the reader in a few pages as well as the longer format. Ms. Jance's characters are humanized, speak intelligent and clever dialogue, and the author's narrative is always spot on.

Betty Cox for ReaderToReader.com