



## **Dressed for Death**

*Julianna Deering (Preface) , DeAnna Julie Dodson*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Dressed for Death

*Julianna Deering (Preface) , DeAnna Julie Dodson*

**Dressed for Death** Julianna Deering (Preface) , DeAnna Julie Dodson

**This Traditional British Cozy Mystery**

**Gets a Regency Twist**

Drew and Madeline Farthering celebrate their six-month anniversary by attending a fancy Regency era costume party. Drew is glad to see Talbot Cummins, an Oxford classmate, and his fiancée, Alice Henley, though many present seem worried about the couple. Everyone's concerns are realized when, at the concluding grand ball, Alice dies of an overdose of cocaine. Tal refuses to believe she took the stuff intentionally, and Drew is determined to find out if her death was an accident or murder.

Drew is shocked and disillusioned when the police arrest Tal's father and reveal that the man has been smuggling drugs into the country for the past twenty years. Reeling from the death of his fiancée and the revelation about his father, Tal begs Drew to find out what's going on. Drew, now questioning his own ability to see people as they really are, does so reluctantly, not ready for the secrets he's about to uncover--or the danger he'll bring down on everyone he holds dear.

## Dressed for Death Details

Date : Published March 1st 2016 by Bethany House Publishers (first published February 23rd 2016)

ISBN : 9780764214110

Author : Julianna Deering (Preface) , DeAnna Julie Dodson

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian, Christian Fiction, Historical Mystery, Fiction

 [Download Dressed for Death ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dressed for Death ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Dressed for Death Julianna Deering (Preface) , DeAnna Julie Dodson**

---

## From Reader Review Dressed for Death for online ebook

### Ruth says

Married six blissful -- and mercifully murder-free -- months, Drew and Madeline have the luxury of indulging in a little match-making, hoping Nick and Madeline's long-time friend Carrie will finally realize the potential of their long-simmering attraction. The perfect setting to foster a bit of romance is a week-long Regency house party at Winteroak, the family home of Drew's old school pal Tal Cummins. Though he's loathe to dress as Mr. Darcy for a week, Drew is happy for the chance to please his bride and introduce her to the scene of so many of treasured memories of his youth, having always considered Tal and his parents a second family. Joined by Carrie's younger brother Will as an overly enthusiastic chaperone, a well-intentioned roadblock to their matchmaking efforts for Nick, Drew and Madeline throw themselves into the week-long affair of Regency clothes, food, and -- to the horror of all men attending the party -- dancing lessons.

But in spite of the fanciful trappings of the wholly immersive, historically-themed party, it becomes quickly obvious to Drew that all is not well in his old friend Tal's life. His fiancée, Alice, is wary and fearful, hiding secrets she is loathe to reveal. Alice becomes increasingly erratic, until on the night of the ball her simmering fear erupts, resulting in her collapse and death. To Drew's horror, he recognizes her behavior as symptomatic of cocaine use, an overdose of the lethal drug resulting in her death.

In a shocking twist, Tal's father is arrested as the source of the cocaine that killed Alice, revealed as the subject of a long-term, covert police investigation into drug smuggling, shattering Tal and rocking Drew's once stable belief in everything he thought he knew to be true. For if he could so misjudge the man he viewed as a second father, how can he ever hope to ascertain right from wrong, to discover the truth behind the cases he increasingly cannot seem to avoid?

Drew and company agree to stay at Winteroak to help Tal and his mother through the immediate aftermath of the arrest and investigation, little suspecting that a far deeper danger lurks in their midst. Though Tal's father remains imprisoned -- and maintains his innocence in Alice's death -- he refuses to give up the workings of his smuggling operation. As Drew investigates, other, less-seasoned "detectives" like Will attempt to help -- and when Will is brutally murdered, Drew is faced with a choice -- to continue fighting for truth and risk all whom he holds dear, or give up his investigative calling as a failed endeavor.

With each successive installment of the Drew Farthering mysteries, Julianna Deering gets better, proving over and over her facility for the tropes of golden age mystery-style storytelling in the vein of masters like Christie and Sayers. This is Drew's most engaging, thrilling adventure yet, sure to leave readers eager for the next installment which -- if it follows the pattern of its predecessors -- is sure to provide even more thrills. I absolutely ADORE the Regency house party set up of this installment. It's a unique and colorful premise which allows Deering to blend two of British inspiration's most enduring literary themes -- the murder mystery colored with an Jane Austen-esque sensibility.

I've loved Nick, Drew's best friend and estate agent-in-training since his introduction in *Rules of Murder*, and it is a long-awaited delight to to his own romantic possibilities take center stage here, now that Drew and Madeline are at long-last wed. Not only does Deering begin to develop the promise of the sparks that flew between Nick and Carrie when they first met three books ago, but she uses Nick's budding romance as a springboard for touching on issues of class and social position (similar to how the character of Branson was incorporated into the Crawley family on *Downton Abbey*). Drew has never treated Nick as anything less than

a brother, but given the time period and the social mores associated with Drew's position, its interesting to see Nick grapple with his hopes versus social expectations.

One of the aspects I most appreciate about Deering's period mysteries is her fearless willingness to take on darker subjects like marital affairs and here, drug use and its ramifications, all while blending in a thread of faith that realistically shines a light of hope and redemption in one's darkest hours. Drew is a believer, yes, but faith is never an easy cure-all fix for the problems he encounters in his investigations. In less skilled hands Drew's struggles to reconcile the fallen world he lives in with his faith would result in pat answers -- but here, Deering explores a faith that is big enough to handle the tough questions, to help those grappling with the devastating affects of sin, violence, and addiction in such a way that never denies the often overwhelming sense of hopelessness such events can foster, if left unchecked..

In previous reviews I've mentioned some frustration with Madeline's character, but post-marriage she possesses more of the flavor of a spunky, Myrna Loy-esque sleuth I'd always hoped she'd be. Here, she is far more confident, more of an equal partner in her husband's investigative efforts. And joined by Nick and Carrie, the result is an unstoppable crime-solving quartet. I loved seeing both Madeline and Carrie more involved in the resolution of this mystery, and while they are in peril -- they are never damsels in distress. Deering has a knack for crafting characters that are fully-fleshed, relatable, and best of all, wholly of the time in which they lived, true to the manners and expectations of their social sphere.

*Dressed for Death* is the most ambitious and enjoyable Drew Farthering mystery yet. It possesses all of the trademarks I've come to appreciate in Deering's fiction -- well-crafted characters, in-depth relational arcs, and enough red herrings and plot twists to keep one's head spinning. I absolutely love the fact that the series has followed Drew into marriage -- where most novels (or series) may stop at the wedding, Deering proves that there are plenty of sparks and room for adventure post-wedding. This series continues to shine with each successive release, a continued welcome addition to the cozy period mystery genre. Sparkling with wit, warmth, and style, *Dressed for Death* is an unmissable treat for fans of all things mysterious and British. I can't wait for Drew's next book!

---

## writer... says

A full week long Regency party?!

I am pleased to find the author's considerable awareness of Jane Austen influence being played out in quotes and conversation throughout the opening Regency era house party Drew attends.

Well played Julianna!

Review will soon follow. . .

Delighted there's a fourth upcoming ! Thank you, Julianna and Bethany House!

but, oh, that year of waiting... Now completed and I'm revelling in the enjoyment of a new Drew Farthering read!

---

## **Pamela says**

Fourth in series, and still cream of the wholesome cozy-mystery crop. Not a bad book in the bunch. Julianne Deering, you are one AMAZINGLY gifted writer. Fun, spunky lead characters . . . Charming English countryside settings . . . Upstairs/Downstairs line blurring mashup . . . Interesting crime-solving storylines and era. Really, there's nothing to not love about this series.

This particular installment delves into recreational drug use and abuse among the upper echelon, a relatively new crime of escapism and passion for the era; the costs are deadly and the effects far reaching, snuffing out lives and livelihoods of both the innocent and the damned. Drew and crew must sift through masked lies, half-truths, and blind-eyed silence to bring the perpetrator(s) to justice before more friends and acquaintances fall victim to snow.

A bit of slow start, but the momentum builds to a grand Farthering finish as usual. Highly recommended to fans of wholesome fiction or historical cozies, and for those who enjoy memorable characters, character driven stories, and FABULOUS Art Deco covers.

FOUR \*\*\*\* Fabulously Fresh and Fun Historical Cozy of Wholesome Distinction \*\*\*\* STARS

...

---

## **Staci says**

Another well done historical mystery in the Drew Farthering Mystery Series.

---

## **Joan says**

I absolutely love this series. I grew up on Hercule, Miss Marple, and Lord Peter and reading a Deering mystery is like coming home.

In this installment of the ongoing adventures of Farthering, Drew and Madeline are invited to spend a week at the Cummins' estate. Drew has known the family for years. The son, Tal, is a good friend. The week is one of entertainment, the wearing of regency clothing, and finale of regency dancing. Nick and Carrie join them. At the end of the celebratory week, death visits the mansion. Tal's girlfriend is dead, poisoned by cocaine. It becomes apparent all is not as it seems at the Cummins home.

I really like Drew. He feels called by God to solve mysteries like this death. But he is puzzled and can't seem to figure out what is going on. Then there is another death, and another. He is dismayed that his bumbling ways seemed to have caused more deaths rather than prevented them. He is just like so many of us, wondering if we have really heard God in our calling.

I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery. The characters are well done and the plot is a good one. There are a few twists in the story, one of which I absolutely did not see coming. I highly recommend this book to those who like British historical mysteries. Great characters, great dialog, authentic setting of 1930s England – another wonderful addition to a favorite series.

I received a complimentary galley of this book from the publisher for the purpose of an independent and honest review.

---

### **Tammy G. says**

Yay! Another Drew Fathering Mystery! After reading each of the Drew Fathering mysteries I have found that although each book is a stand alone story it is a wise reader who reads these Drew Farthing mysteries in order.

In this story Drew and Madeline are married and celebrating six months by attending a Regency era costume party. Oh, What a party this turns out to be!

At the party Drew sees an Oxford college classmate, Talbot (Tal) Cummins and his fiancée, Alice Henley. As the party comes to the grand ball Alice keels over, she dies. Evidence points out that Alice took cocaine. This is where the mystery begins for Drew. Tal's dad is arrested for drug trafficking. Tal is in shock about the whole picture...his dead fiancée and a dad who is into drugs. Tal begs Drew to investigate.

As Drew begins to investigate secret up on secret is revealed. Funny how truth brings secrets to light.

All of the Drew Farthing mysteries are wonderful! But this British cozy mystery is one of Juliana Deering's best! What a read!

\*This book was provided for review by Bethany House\*

---

### **Victor Gentile says**

Julianna Deering in her new book, “Dressed For Death” Book Four in the Drew Farthing Mystery series published by Bethany House Publishers gives us another adventure with Drew Farthing.

From the Back Cover: A Regency-Era Costume Party Should Have Been an Amusing Diversion, But it Seems Wherever Drew Farthing Goes, Mystery—and Murder—Are on the Guest List

Drew and Madeline Farthing arrive at a Regency-era house party at Winteroak House, excited to be reunited with old friends, including Drew’s former Oxford classmate Talbot Cummins. Tal is there with his fiancée, Alice Henley, and though many present seem worried about the couple, nobody is prepared when Alice dies from an apparent overdose. Tal refuses to believe she’d taken the drugs intentionally, and a dark question arises of whether the death is an accident or murder.

The police have their own information though, and Drew is shocked when they arrest someone he’s trusted and admired since his childhood—someone who’s been smuggling drugs into the country for years. Stunned by what has happened, Tal begs Drew to get to the bottom of everything, but Drew has never felt more unsettled. Questioning his own ability to see people as they really are, Drew doesn’t know whom to trust, and he’s not ready for the secrets he’s about to uncover—or the danger he’ll bring down on everyone he holds dear.

I regret to admit that I have no clue of what a Regency-era house party is. I really missed the meaning of this against the end of the year 1932. It is during the party that the lady dies. It looks like a regular death until the investigation begins. Then a suspect is arrested, blame is cast and Drew is asked to investigate and find the real murderer. This one has it all and then some. Cocaine, drug dealers, treachery, deceit, betrayal and, of course, murder. "Dressed For Death" progresses at a nice, steady pace as Drew sets off to find out who the murderer really is with the help of his friends before the body count rises. Drew is not at his best in this adventure as he simply cannot figure out just what is going on even though he feels called by God to be an investigator. He needs all the support from Madeline that he can get. "Dressed For Death" is a page-turner, action, suspense thriller. Don't start this book late at night because it will be very difficult to put it down. I recommend this book highly and am greatly looking forward to the next book in this excellent series.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Bethany House Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

---

## **Rissi says**

When Julianna Deering released *Murder at the Mikado*, I was certain we'd see the last of proper English gentleman Drew Farthering. Sad as it was, I was resigned (in a good place) to this because the story ended in a wonderful kind of way. Much happiness was mine (and likely many other readers) when the author announced there'd be not only one additional novel, but two. That was a happy day indeed. The first of those two novels released a couple of months back, and this story is the result of that winning announcement.

Married life is good for Drew Farthering and his American bride, Madeline. For their sixth-month anniversary, Madeline ropes Drew into attending a regency house party hosted by the parents of Drew's school chum. Needless to say, the idea of dressing in frills and 100-year-old costumes doesn't appeal to Drew, but for Madeline he's willing to do anything. With his best friend, Nick at his side, Drew's knack for mystery again flairs up when the fiancée of his friend, Talbot Cummins, dies under mysterious circumstances.

Was it an accident or murder? Further complicating things is the arrest of Tal's father, Mr. Cummins, a man Drew once respected now accused of dabbling in the drug trade, which leads Drew into a mystery that tangles deeper than he'd ever imagined.

As always, revisiting the world of the dashing Drew Farthering is a rare delight. No secret has been made of my crush on Drew, and concealing that now isn't something I'm prepared to begin. (I don't mind saying the #WeHeartDrew hashtag should be a trending thing.) Set in the 1930s England, these novels are about as period authentic as I'd ever be able to imagine this era being. From the crisp, elegant language (including Drew calling Madeline "darling" \*insert all the heart eye emojis\*) to the settings, and afternoon tea, everything is spot-on lovely.

If you enjoy visits to yesteryear, no one does historical escapism quite like Julianna Deering. If you were worried that a fourth book would get caught in a rut (because of the same setting/characters), you've nothing to fear. Everything is shaken up because of the trip into Regency era playacting. Plus, there are lots of Jane Austen references, which is always a bonus, right? In short, this novel is a delight from beginning to end. It does take its time in setting up the mystery (meaning there's a lot of purposeful and conversational sleuthing

for clues rather than "action"), but it's never a boring journey.

If you like *Marple*, *Grantchester* or any cozy British mystery series, this one is dripping with snazzy British charm. From the accents (which you can totally "hear" because this is that well written) to the art deco cover design that is perfection, you're sure to enjoy Drew's latest adventure. It's one not to be missed.

Sincere thanks to the publisher for providing a complimentary copy of this book for reviewing purposes. My apologies to the author, and the publisher (sorry, Amy!) for the delay in publishing this review.

---

### **Holly says**

I want to read more!!!

---

### **Rachel McMillan says**

Deering does it again! I mean, the only thing better than a Drew Farthering book? : A DREW FARTHERING BOOK with a Regency flair!

I love the cozy, throw-back world with large, rambling estates and an Agatha Christie meets Dorothy L Sayers timbre.

I also really appreciate the development between Drew and the other characters populating his life: especially Madeleine.

A smart, classy, high read with the manners of *Downton* with the clever turn of a Conan Doyle yarn.

Long live Drew!

(and these super awesome covers!

---

### **Christian Fiction Addiction says**

"Dressed for Death" is another great mystery from the talented pen of Julianna Deering. This fourth installment in the Drew Farthering Mystery series is filled with great twists and turns, and though I found the story to start a bit slowly, I greatly enjoyed reconnecting with the characters that starred in the first 3 novels of the series. Drew and Madeline are a fun couple to read about, and now that they are married, readers are treated to a fun whole new dimension of their relationship as well. I quite enjoyed the historical setting of this novel, and how the characters dress up for the regency-era costume party, allowing readers to get a taste of that time period as well. Deering cleverly puts a couple of red herrings in this novel that had me considering the wrong character as a suspect, so I quite enjoyed how cleverly crafted this plot is. The pacing is spot-on and the ending is of course oh so satisfying. Now I will say that though you could read this novel as a stand-alone book, you will appreciate this story all the more if you first have read the first three novels in the series, because then you will have been able to really connect with who these characters are, and appreciate the way that they've developed over the course of the series. So, if you haven't yet read any of the



novels in this series, well then what are you waiting for? Go ahead and pick up these books and get sleuthing right now!

Although the murder mystery that is the focus of this story wraps up nicely by the end, there is much left hanging about the future of these characters (especially in terms of what comes next for characters Nick and Carrie in their relationship). So I am definitely hoping that a fifth book is on the way, because I just can't get enough of Drew and the rest of these delightful characters. I award this book a solid rating of 4 out of 5 stars. Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany House, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

---

## **Kris - My Novelesque Life says**

DRESSED FOR DEATH

(Drew Farthering Mysteries: #4)

Written by Julianna Deering

(aka: DeAnna Julie Dodson)

2016, 336 Pages

Genre: mystery, historical, fiction, romance

★★★★

Madeline is finally Drew Farthering's wife and for their first adventure as a married couple they attend a fancy Regency era costume party. Along with them is Nick and Madeline's friend from America, Carrie and her younger brother, Will. Talbot Cummin's parents are hosting the party at their home and will also be attended by his fiancée, Alice. Drew and Tal attended school together and their fathers were also good friends. Just as everyone is getting into the Regency Era, Alice dies of cocaine overdose and Tal's father is arrested for transporting cocaine. Tal begs Drew to look into Alice's death because he does not believe that his father killed her. Drew and his gang look into the murder but when someone close to them is murdered he is not sure if he can solve this one.

Regency era? Jane Austen quotes? Dressing and dancing in the time period? Sign me up! Well, if I was of that class. When the police show up, one copper snickers and notes that it must be nice to not have to work and prance around. I have to applaud Deering in marrying her characters in a reasonable time rather than dragging it out. I like Drew and Madeline as a couple as they are realistic for the time and present day. The mystery had me scratching my head for a bit - which I love! In this book we see more of Nick and Carrie's courtship as well. We meet Carrie's seventeen year old brother, Will who is eager to be a detective and keep his sister in America. Will is another character I liked immediately. I was not a huge fan of the Cummins as they all seem a bit off, as does their cook who cannot have anyone in her kitchen. This novel had a bit more religious overtones in it, but nothing that really bothered me. Deering uses reference to God as a way of coping with what is going on but not in a preachy way. This was a more emotional book for me. I had to stop reading for a bit just to gather myself again. I think this just shows how well Deering writes her characters and story. I hope there is more Drew and his gang!

k (My Novelesque Life)

---

## Hayden says

Having enjoyed the previous Drew Farthering mysteries, I was pleasantly surprised when I saw that a fourth book would be coming in this series.

The classic mystery setting of the 1930s English Countryside is always fun to return to, and the Regency twist, although only prominent in the beginning, was an interesting addition (although I admit some disbelief at the way the men [and even women] were able to quote so much Jane Austen...something tells me that might be a little unrealistic ;)

However, I did feel that this mystery wasn't as strong as the others--I guessed the culprit almost immediately (actually, I had a "hunch" about who the murderer was going to be even before the murder happened...). That being said, there were plenty of times that I felt *doubt* about my choice and thought I might be wrong. I did find this mystery surprisingly disturbing (I say "surprisingly" because I do read a lot of mysteries, so I'm not exactly a stranger to murder in that context.) Perhaps this was because (view spoiler)

Anyway, while it did take me about half the book to really "get into" it, by the last few chapters I was twisted in knots wondering if I had guessed right or not. I do warn the reader that I found *Dressed For Death* more depressing than its preceding books, but for anyone who wants to spend more time with Drew and Madeline Farthering, it's one to add to the to-read list.

I received this book for free from netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

---

## Carissa says

As it happens, readers have been waiting for the 4th Drew Farthering Mystery much, much longer than I first supposed! I was sure the 3rd novel, *Murder at the Mikado*, was published last year, but no, it was 2014. So fans have been looooooong overdue for this latest release and I am pleased to announce that *Dressed for Death* is well worth the wait!

Look at the cover. Is anything different about it? What era is this series set in? If you're guessing the 1930s because you know the series then yes, you are 100% correct and win the gold Cupie doll! But the book cover is most absolutely a Regency cover! You should have seen my double take when I pulled the book from its package from Bethany House. If you're guessing I should have known by the synopsis, realize that I rarely read synopses in full. I like it when a book surprises me. In fact, I wouldn't have it any other way.

So the realization that Drew, Madeline, and Nick are attending a week long Regency themed house party where appropriate Regency garb is required at all times just made my little anglophile heart leap. It made for an absolutely charming change of pacing and setting and I'm so glad Ms. Deering thought up such a clever idea.

If you've read any of this series before then you already know that the novels are high-spirited and comedic in nature. But the series also involves quite a bit of death and the ruination of lives, and so the mystery in the 4th novel is a depressing one. It reveals, quite painfully, how drug dealers operate within a rather limited morality, caring only for their own loved ones and not for anyone else. It's very much like *The Godfather*, and I assume that is because the theme is true. If it weren't, we wouldn't have drug dealers to contend with

because they would care about the people they hurt. I applaud the originality of a theme rarely presented in historic Christian fiction.

The little things I liked are . . . Eddie the cat (so ADORABLE!), the Regency era reenactment (it's now given me quite a few ideas for a potential house party someday), and Drew and Madeline as a married couple (YAY!). I felt the mystery was solid and left only one loose thread in the maid, Jacqueline's, mysterious illness that was never addressed. But seeing as that is a very small, unimportant thread, I'm not one to quibble.

One thing I've noticed about myself is that I rarely finish reading a series. I'll go so far and thank kaput. But with the success of Ms. Deering's last two books, and their ability to hold me spellbound, I will follow Drew Farthering and his darling bride on their adventures until their final publication. I love the growth of the characters from one book to the next and my fondness for Nick continues to expand, which is good since he's Drew's best friend. This particular set of characters is endearing to me and I can't help wishing the series would continue forever.

I also hope \*hint, hint\* that other Christian authors may try their hand at historic mysteries that are high on adventure and less focused on romance. The balance Ms. Deering has found for her Drew Farthering Mysteries is just perfect. And look at those incredible book covers! ♥

\* I received a free copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can find all my reviews and much more at my blog [Bookshelves & Daydreams](#).

---

## **Kimberly says**

Dressed for Death (A Drew Farthering Mystery Book #4) by [Deering, Julianna]Dressed for Death is the fourth book in the Drew Farthering Mystery Books. The Fartherings went to a Regency era costume party to celebrate being married for 6 months. While there they come upon Talbot Cummins and Alice, his fiancée, who seem less than happy. During the ball, Alice dies from overdosing on cocaine. The question is did she take it herself or was it murder.

I found the characters to be fun to read and share the adventure with plus I loved the Christian message behind the entire story. There were sections that were slow but by sticking with it, I found the twists and turns to make this a good mystery.

---