



## **Sudden Death**

*Allison Brennan*

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Heroic Justice

When a homeless veteran is found dead in a squalid Sacramento alley, FBI special agent Megan Elliott vows to find the murdered hero's killer. Her investigation gets complicated fast, for the victim, a former Delta Force soldier, is just one link in a nationwide spree of torture and murder.

Straight off a job rescuing medical missionaries, soldier-for-hire Jack Kincaid returns to his home base in the Texas border town of Hidalgo only to receive the news that one of his closest colleagues—also ex-military—has been brutally murdered. Faced with an inept local police force, Jack takes matters into his own hands.

Now, as part of a national task force to stop the sadistic killings, by-the-book Megan and burn-the-book Jack form a tense alliance, sparked with conflict and temptation. But they struggle against more than passion, for a vicious pair of killers has only just begun a rampage of evil . . . and the primary target is much closer than Megan suspects.

*From the Paperback edition.*

## Sudden Death Details

Date : Published (first published March 24th 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Allison Brennan

Format : Kindle Edition 450 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Mystery, Fiction, Thriller

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## **From Reader Review Sudden Death for online ebook**

### **Kristina says**

This was one of those romantic crime mystery suspense books. I've never read this author before but the synopsis sounded interesting and the reviews by readers were decent so I bought it for my Nook. My verdict: Eh. I have to say the book is weighed down by so much uninteresting crime detail in the first ten pages or so that I was tempted to skim (but I didn't). I found the characters (all of them) not interesting at all. I can't even remember the main characters' names and I just finished the book a few days ago so it left no impression in my mind except a general sense of dislike. The writing was okay, but I found the characters so unappealing and the plot generally boring that I had a hard time with it. If you're gonna write a book that's supposed to have a strong romance overtone (as this book was supposed to), then your romantic counterparts should meet sooner rather than later. I had to wade thru many, many pages before those two people met, and then it was anti-climatic and really rather amusing, sort of typical (bad) romance fare: Her thoughts: "Oh, my, look at this big strong man. He's so big and strong!" Him: "She's hot. Look at her tits." I mean, really? And of course the story ends with the required marriage. It's the 21st century. Can't we just have a heroine who likes to sleep with hot guys but is married to her job? Blech. The crime story was borderline okay but the love story was seriously lacking in heat and excitement. I may give the Lucy Kincaid series a shot and see if it's any better, but I may also not.

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### **Andrea Corley says**

This was a first time read for this author and sub-genre for me and I can honestly say that I really enjoyed it. I won't hesitate to pick up another book from Allison Brennan nor will I hesitate to read another cozy romantic mystery!

I listened to the audio version and at first thought that it was a little awkward listening to the narrator, Ann Marie Lee, for the character that she was playing. However, once I got into listening to the story, it didn't seem to bother me, it just struck me as odd at first. I think the narrator did the story great justice.

As for the characters, I felt like they were in depth and to the core. I was interested in reading about them and learning more about them as the story progressed. I felt like all the characters blended together nicely to create a great story.

I thought that the storyline ran smoothly without any delay. I really enjoyed the romance with a serious mystery. The romance part was not overdone, but a perfect fit with the story just to give it that extra spice. I do think that it would have been nice to have received a little more background on the characters, but for the most part, the story was easy to follow.

Overall, I enjoyed listening to this story, and will certainly continue reading with Allison Brennan in mind.

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### **Jane Stewart says**

This was labeled romance but there was less romance than I expected. It was ok as mystery suspense

(warning: a lot of torture).

#### REVIEWER'S OPINION:

This was labeled as romantic suspense, and the mislabeling is what bothers me the most. In my opinion, it does not have enough romance or development of a relationship to qualify for that genre. This is mostly mystery suspense with a lot of uncomfortable torture scenes. 95% of the story is about the authorities finding clues and slowly unraveling the mystery about serial killings. The small amount of romance consists of a couple meeting, working together on the case, and getting together at the end. I didn't get the feelings of anticipation or enjoyment that I normally expect from "romance" novels. Once in a while I will enjoy a straight mystery because the characters pull me in, or the dialogue is interesting, or I feel good while reading it. But this book didn't have those effects on me. I think mystery lovers will like this more than I did.

I had a minor problem with the smart good guys doing a couple of stupid or illogical things. Megan was stupid and careless toward the end which caused a major problem. Hans was angry at Megan for reasons I felt did not make sense or fit with his character.

#### STORY BRIEF:

Megan is a by-the-book FBI agent investigating veterans who had been tortured and killed. Jack is a former veteran and now a soldier-for-hire. He joins with Megan to find the killers after his best friend is killed (one of the victims). We learn early in the story who the killers are (Ethan and Karin) so I'm not giving anything away. Ethan was with a group of soldiers in Afghanistan. He was captured and tortured for three months by the Taliban before being rescued. He is suicidal and loaded with mental problems. Karin wants to learn torture techniques, but Ethan won't teach her. Therefore she convinces Ethan that he needs to capture and torture the veterans who were with him at the time, saying they abandoned him. She plans and helps him capture the vets, and then learns by watching Ethan stick needles into them. The main mystery is finding the killers, but a second mystery is why Karin wants to learn to torture.

#### DATA:

Story length: 424 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: 2. Total number of sex scene pages: 12. Setting: California, Texas, Colorado and Arizona. Copyright: 2009. Genre: mystery suspense.

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### **Amelia says**

Allison Brennan ties this up with a huge, gorgeous bow! Sudden Death takes you on a roller coaster ride, filled with suspense, drama and loads of action. Protagonists Megan and Jack are well rounded characters who come out strong and victorious over situations that have weighed them down for years. The supporting cast is well etched and you long to know them better.

As for the villains, they have a back story too. That just makes the entire read simply un-putdown-able!

The book comes together in the last couple of chapters and considering the length of the book, it's amazing how Brennan has put in so much info in that many pages.

This is definitely not a romantic read; it's more down the crime/action/suspense genre. Those who love the latter kind simply must read it for its compelling characters, intriguing plot and a Eureka moment when you realize how the story connects!

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### **Diane says**

At first I thought there was way too many characters being introduced to follow, but that thought was quickly dispelled. A good read - lots of action, twists and turns, and a red herring thrown in to boot. A surprise towards the end - one of those I didn't see that coming.

All in all, I enjoyed this book - Allison Brennan is a terrific writer - one of those authors who just has what it takes to keep the audience wanting more.

Oh and Kjen - you would really like this book ;)

So 2 thumbs up and a solid 4 stars for this first book in her FBI Trilogy series.

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### **Betsy says**

Sudden Death introduced me to Allison Brennan. Although the book was not bad, it did not pull me into the story as I expected or wanted. I was annoyed to find out that some of the characters were already in other series. I really like to read a series from the beginning and get to know the characters as the series goes. This format did not allow me to do that. I will read other books by this author since other members have mentioned this is not her best work. I will not continue on with this series though. 3 stars

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### **Sheila says**

I just finished Sudden Death. I "discovered" Allison Brennan last year and she has quickly become one of my favorite authors. I have read several of her books but this is the first in this series that I have read. FBI Agent Megan Elliott is on the case of veterans that have been murdered and tortured. It becomes quite involved. Along the way she meets Jack (which ties it into the other books/series). Good story, disturbing torture techniques. Why oh why do I like this stuff? Surprise ending. ★★★★★'s.

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### **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

An ok book. Storyline dragged in some parts and was a pageturner in others. I will give this author another try though.

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### **Janis says**

An excellent read - murder, mystery, action and romance! This is about Lucy Kincaid's oldest brother Jack and how he meets his wife Meagan. It seems to be part of the Kincaid family DNA to rescue people in trouble and for serial killers to intrude into their lives. Can't wait to read the next book in the series.

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## **Victoria says**

This is the second book I read by Brennan and I just love her complex plots. I love how you think its about one thing and then something that relates comes up. Her characters are also amazing. After this second book I just know I'm going to have to read all of Brennan's books.

But I do have a complaint. I don't like that this is suppose to be a first in the series and yet she's using some of the same characters from other series. I strongly feel that if its a new series have new characters.

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## **Vic says**

Listened to the audiobook read by Ann Marie Lee.

I managed to make it all the way through this book but it was a struggle. This is the only book by Allison Brennan I've read and since this was book one of the FBI Trilogy I thought it was a safe book to start with. The story has us following Meg, the FBI agent, and her team trying to track down killers of ex-Army men. Then, it jumps to Jack Kincaid, ex-military (spec. forces) and his mercenary team and delves into Jack's issues with his family. Then we get a glimpse at the killers. The story continues this way until the principals meet and their stories merge. I never felt I really got to know the hero/heroine in this story.

The dialog and prose felt clunky and awkward to me. I never really cared much about any of the characters and was only mildly interested in finding out the why of the killings. There's a little romance in the book that isn't very romantic and felt very rushed to me. I didn't buy into the HEA for them at the end.

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## **Sherry says**

A tantalizing story to start off Allison Brennan's FBI trilogy. The suspense begins almost immediately and the reader is caught up in the hunt for a couple of sadistic killers. As the plot moves, the reader is left with a knowing sense of "why" the killings are occurring and that is where the unknown factor comes in and turns the motive completely around. That factor is what made the story in my eyes. Characterization is complete, story lines all balance out; the overall effect is an adventure that has a mystery hidden inside.

The only drawback in this book was that their was quite a number of supporting characters and sometimes it was difficult to keep them straight; but the curiosity of Megan Elliott; her job, her personality and of course, the search for justice makes this quite a good read.

Anyone who has a penchant for FBI and police force books should enjoy this

story and although Allison Brennan has a style all her own, if you enjoy authors like Catherine Coulter or Linda Fairstein to name a few, you will enjoy Allison Brennan.

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### **Sara says**

It really shocks me sometimes that I can enjoy books with such twisted plots and characters. But even more than that, I worry about the authors that come up with these characters. Hopefully they won't turn into pathological liars and cold-blooded killers like their characters.

Brennan should just stick to writing these suspense novels and remove the whole romantic aspect out of it. Those areas, while they do provide some relief from all the killing and plotting, are just not in keeping with the mood of the book.

And while the relief is nice, it is not needed.

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### **Melanie Chabrol- says**

For Megan Elliott her Sacramento investigation gets complicated when 3 deaths from different cities gets killed, are they related? Why send her a souvenir? She did nothing wrong, after all the FBI and police have one thing in common justice for the bad guys,

Then when they hit Texas Jack Kincaid returns from a job rescuing medical missionaries, how does he fit in the problem solving will he ever make peace with his parents. Find out in Allison Brennan's Sudden Death

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### **Duchess Nicole says**

This was a lot less romantic and a lot less suspense than I was wanting. Honestly, I'd say around ninety percent of this book was a crime thriller. The romantic leads don't even meet until about forty five percent into the book, which in turn leads to a very quick courtship and a fairly unbelievable Happy Ever After. I would have been good with a "Happy For Now" type of ending, but for some reason the author chose to go all the way with these two, and it really didn't work for me.

The psycho crazies that are the perpetrators of some really brutal torture for a group of ex soldiers take up a lot of face time. If you're okay with some medium descriptions of torture, I think you should at least be prepared. Nothing over the top, but it's hard to feel bad for a man who loses his mind after being tortured endlessly for months. Now, the chick who does the killing with him, she is really crazy! A certifiable sociopath who deserves a worse fate than what she got, in my opinion.

Megan, the heroine, and Jack, our hero, are really great together once they finally do meet up. Megan is a touch as nails FBI agent, but she's not an uber bitch feminist either. She's very intuitive and smart. Her biggest holdup is her unfailing sense of right and wrong, no shades of gray. Jack is an ex Special Ops soldier, now a soldier for hire, so his duties lie nearly opposite of Megan's. Yet somehow, these two come together and click in all the right places, both romantically and professionally.

If you can make it through the first half full of plot setup and killer head games, the rest was really enjoyable.

Just don't be prepared for a mystery...the whodunnit is a given. And the romance is very much in the background. I also have a feeling that even though this is the first in this series, quite a few of the secondary characters have been in previous series. This is my first by this author, so I can't say that with any authority, but I got the feeling that some of these boys had been around for a bit.

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