



Monday Mourning

Kathy Reichs

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The secrets of the dead are in her hands.

The bones of three young women are unearthed in the basement of a Montreal pizza parlor, and forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan has unsolved murder on her mind as she examines the shallowly buried remains. Coming up against a homicide cop who is convinced the dead have been entombed on the site for centuries, Tempe perseveres, even with her own relationship with Detective Andrew Ryan at a delicate turning point. In the lab, the clean, well-preserved bones offer few clues. But when Carbon 14 confirms her hunch that these were recent deaths despite the antique buttons found near the bodies, Tempe's probing must produce answers quickly to stop a killer whose grisly handiwork has seen the light of day.

Monday Mourning Details

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Author : Kathy Reichs

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Mary says

Tempe has just suffered her seventh traumatic brain injury to date and i know the story will devolve into the usual formulaic ending so I don't really have to keep reading from here (do I?)I am surprised she is not a shambling, drooling amnesiac, she's been hit in the head so much. As always, I found the first 85% or so of this novel to be pretty interesting but I am getting annoyed at the tediously repetitious denouement. Can't Ms. Reichs come up with some other way to draw her novels to a close?

Heather says

Reichs continues to improve. There are still some repetitive themes that I could do without; but for the most part, I can look past those to the plot, which has been developed much better than in previous books. The story had me intrigued from the beginning, and I think I liked this ending better than any of the other books. Overall, a good crime/mystery and a good read.

Sita says

Well, the science was good. As usual it was thoroughly researched and I learned something new, about Carbon dating. But, I can't help feeling the storyline just gets formulaic. Got news about boyfriend seeing other woman, instead of asking she just keep quiet. Then towards the end, of course she had to go to the house without telling anyone. I mean, come on, this works on book 1 or 2 but by book 7 you think she'd know better than plunge headfirst into potentially dangerous sitch don't you?

Oh well. I probably keep reading the series anyhoo.

Jeffrey says

In a horrendous regression from her recent work in the series, Kathy Reichs reverts back to her procedural roots in a story that is obvious, unsurprising, and, frankly, just unentertaining.

Three sets of bones are found in the basement of a pizza parlour (it's Quebecois, with a u!) and they turn out to belong to missing girls. What these girls have fallen into isn't terribly surprising, nor is there really an opportunity to develop mystery, because it becomes pretty clear who the killer is as soon as the limited necessary information is introduced.

That's the real problem with this volume. It takes up 300 pages because Reichs denies Brennan reasonably determinable information or reasonable conclusions based upon already presented evidence solely to keep the book from ending too soon. Instead we get delayed by the stop-start relationship of Ryan, the addition of a friend in distress, and just "things take time" None of it is particularly entertaining and I thought we had overcome the hitches with Ryan in the previous volume. I suppose I should be thankful that at least our add-

on friend/family member was not actually caught up in the plot like so many previous ones.

If you are a completist, go ahead and read this. Otherwise, I think it's time to drop-out.

Jerry B says

Maybe best yet in unusual "skeleton doc" series!

This is the seventh novel in the successful and best-selling Tempe Brennan, board-certified forensic pathologist, series. Tempe is an exact replica of author Dr. Reichs in real life: same job, same education and background, and same dividing her time between two job settings - one in Montreal (she speaks fluent French) and one in North Carolina. Early in the book, Tempe testifies as an expert witness, but this was really just a ploy to describe the glowing credentials of our two heroines (Tempe and the real life one) and establish just what it is that they do (sophisticated bone analysis) to assist traditional medical examiners and coroners. The plot per se gets cooking when three skeletons of undetermined age are discovered in the earthen cellar of a small pizza parlour. While the technical details get a bit much from time to time, Tempe eventually uses carbon dating techniques to determine the likely ages of the bones and to start developing realistic leads re the identities of the victims, seemingly all teenaged young women. A variety of somewhat undesirable people and businesses have passed through the pizza joint building, adding to the suspense. As usual, the Canadian cops hold Tempe at arms length as they have trouble getting excited about the case until it seems likely more current victims are at risk. The intriguing plot concludes with some first class detecting and a little bit of an implausible fire rescue scene with of course Tempe at the heart of the heroics.

We've read this entire set and like the fresh territory it generally covers. While Tempe herself is not exactly that charming a persona, she has a great intellect coupled with a great caring about her work. Those factors combine to make her relentless in stalking the details and, when possible, the perpetrators of the crimes with which she's engaged. A love affair with cop Andrew Ryan is tending to get a little tiresome, and they are at odds throughout most of this story when Ryan appears to be "cheating". A best girlfriend of Tempe's (Anne) comes to visit and gets a lot of print, though we never were really quite sure how that fit into the scheme of things. Nevertheless, we found "Mourning" to be a superb addition to the set to date, featuring Tempe's detective work at her best, with a tremendously clever and satisfying conclusion. If one has not tried Reich's work yet, this one would make a great start.

Erin says

Perhaps one of the very few mystery series that I don't necessarily read in chronological order.

The seventh installment takes place in Montreal, Quebec in early December as Temperance Brennan works alongside detectives Claudel and Charbonneau to solve a mystery as to why the basement of a pizza parlour has skeletal remains. There's plenty of the usual angst in Tempe's personal life too, but the mystery is always the primary goal.

I've stated before that I prefer the books to the show and I absolutely love when the storyline is in Montreal. The latter is probably swayed by the fact that I recognize all the Montreal streets and landmarks mentioned

in the story. I also prefer the character of Andrew Ryan to Tempe's ex, but I might be in the minority there.

This Is Not The Michael You're Looking For says

A great portion of this book was a step-backwards to the same old formula as the previous books, carefully dodging almost any character growth. Mystery bones are found. No one but Tempe cares. She investigates on her own. An out of town female friend/relative shows up unexpectedly to add distraction. She and Ryan are in some nether-relationship that they can't be bothered to talk about for five minutes. *yawn* With maybe 20% of the book remaining, suddenly it all takes off, except that this more "exciting" section required a number of characters (foremost amongst them the main character) to become so mind-boggling stupid that one has to wonder that they were capable of caring for themselves. At no point are any of the really blatantly obvious questions (with really obvious answers) asked until it's "too late" and the tension has been superficially ratcheted up for the sake of the story. A bitter disappointment in a series which already treads the line of quality and mediocrity.

Miriam Smith says

I struggle a little with the forensic terminology in these books but the story is I always good and I like the characters.

Jennifer says

I always enjoy the Temperance Brennan novels, but I tend to favor the ones set outside of Canada. Monday Mourning ended up being the exception. I loved the mystery and the back and forth during the investigation between Tempe and Claudel. Kathy Reichs has a way of "dumbing down" the science so readers can firmly grasp the concepts presented and that was highly effective in this novel. The only thing I didn't enjoy was Tempe's reactions to her issues with Ryan. She's strong and straight-forward in all aspects of her life, including romantic relationships, but when she suspects something is wrong with her situation with Ryan she actively avoids confrontation and deals completely immaturely. She seems to be reacting against character emotionally and I found that both distracting and annoying. A killer Temperance Brennan novel as long as you just ignore the romance.

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Steph says

This was an interesting mystery and that took a bit to discover who was the real killer quite interesting and amazing based in Canada which I always like to read.

Amanda Patterson says

I have read all of Kathy Reichs's offerings since her first book, *Deja Dead* was published in 1997. I have to ask myself why.

I don't particularly like Temperance Brennan, Kathy Reichs' forensic heroine. I don't like the settings of her novels, and even though I speak French, I don't like it when her characters do.

Kathy Reichs has excellent story ideas and her plots are gripping. However, her characterization is weak. She seems to have decided that Tempe needs problems, and throws in a drinking problem and a wandering daughter. There's nothing wrong with this, but the two never impact on the storylines.

In Monday Mourning, Tempe is called in to investigate the discovery of 3 skeletons in the basement of a Montreal pizza parlour. Everyone with an acronym, and believe me, Reichs can come up with plenty, believes that the remains are historical. However Tempe carbon dates the bones and finds out that they are the remains of 3 teenage women from the 1980s.

Tempe's love life is not going well and to be honest, I forgave the yummy sounding Detective Andrew Ryan. Tempe is annoying. A subplot about Tempe's friend, Anne, who comes to stay when her marriage is in trouble, does not help. Neither does the formula for an ending.

What sets Reichs apart from Cornwell & Co is her tremendous attention to detail. She is one of the world's foremost experts in forensic anthropology. If you like this, you'll love her novels. However, if like me, you've been hooked by another writer in this genre called Karin Slaughter, you'll realize how much Reichs misses as an author.

I've discovered why I have this on/off relationship with Reichs's books. I don't care enough for Tempe. And I don't like Reichs's writing style. She tells us too much. This is probably the correct thing to do in a medical report or a court, but it's not right for a novel.

Sarah ~ says

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Bibimus says

I just find the main character very annoying. She gives the man she so-called loves the run around, she won't talk to him, she won't tell him what she's thinking, leaving him utterly confused. Just talk to the man! She works out who the victim is, that is her job. THEN she takes over the policeman's job and tries to figure out who did the murder. She keeps going off by herself and needs to be rescued by someone and it drives me nuts! This Tempe really annoys me because she is always talking about how sexy she is, everyone falls in love with her, she talks about her wonderful wardrobe and sexy clothes...do I care? No! I feel like I'd like to throw the book at the wall, but it's a hardcover and it's not my book.

Roxanne Godin says

Kathy Reich fait partie de ceux qui maîtrisent admirablement l'écriture. Avec une histoire réelle, l'auteure a su imaginer un tout autre scénario, largement plus intéressant que la réalité. Son expertise et son indéniable connaissance de l'anthropologie judiciaire et du corps policier enrichissent de manière considérable la lecture. Ce que je trouve le plus intéressant, c'est de pouvoir lire tout en apprenant (parfois sans totalement comprendre les termes abscons, mais quand même). Ainsi, je me suis amusée à suivre son personnage dans ses péripéties, parfois même en perdant la notion du temps!

Mahmoud Shami says

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Jyotsna says

Actual rating: 4 stars

When I started this book, I wasn't expecting much anyway; just the usual forensic/anthropology stuff. Till the mid of the book I was hung up on 3.5 stars. But the moment the climax set in, it shot upto 4 stars because the climax was least expected.

Monday Morning is a very good page turner and one thing I love about this book is the narration and research.

The narration is plain, simple (better than most thrillers) and the research is amazing.

If you are looking for some forensic-based thrillers this is one of the books to read.

Kayla says

I had a slow start with this one, but like usual as soon as I got into it I couldn't put it down!

Jennifer says

As the first Temperance Brennan book I've read (and most likely the last), I'd say this is better than okay, except for the see-it-coming-from-a-mile-away ending and several bouts of especially bad writing. I don't mean grammatical errors, but the kind of poor diction you can't describe or predict, only recognize. A couple of my favorite examples:

page 3: "I watched Claudel's perfectly fitted buttocks disappear through the small rectangular opening. Though tempted, I pegged not a single rock."

page 290: "When I got into his Jeep, Ryan handed me coffee. Caffeine was not what I needed. I was wired enough to recaulk the Pentagon."

I wish I had kept track of all of the samples that caught my eye, but you get the idea.

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