



Dead on the Delta

Stacey Jay

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Once upon a time, fairies were the stuff of bedtime stories and sweet dreams. Then came the mutations, and the dreams became nightmares. Mosquito-size fairies now indulge their taste for human blood—and for most humans, a fairy bite means insanity or death. Luckily, Annabelle Lee isn't most humans. The hard-drinking, smart-mouthed, bicycle-riding redhead is immune to fairy venom, and able to do the dirty work most humans can't. Including helping law enforcement—and Cane Cooper, the bayou's sexiest detective—collect evidence when a body is discovered outside the fairy-proof barricades of her Louisiana town.

But Annabelle isn't equipped to deal with the murder of a six-year-old girl or a former lover-turned-FBI snob taking an interest in the case. Suddenly her already bumpy relationship with Cane turns even rockier, and even the most trust-worthy friends become suspects. Annabelle's life is imploding: between relationship drama, a heartbreakng murder investigation, Breeze-crazed drug runners, and a few too many rum and Cokes, Annabelle is a woman on the run—from her past, toward her future, and into the arms of a darkness waiting just for her. . . .

Dead on the Delta Details

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From Reader Review Dead on the Delta for online ebook

Emmy says

So wow. I started this at about 3 yesterday and finished about 11 last night. Then, try as I might, I couldn't fall asleep for an hour just thinking about this book. Stacey has done a tremendous job with sucking me into this world and making me care deeply for Annabelle. At times my heart was breaking for her and I thought I should just put the book down 'cause it was too much. Just to take a little break. But no, I had to keep going to see how she would deal with all the new developments being thrown at her.

DotD starts with Annabelle trying to gather evidence on a dead little girl. She is one of the very few immune to fairy bites and, because of that, has to work with the police department if they need evidence gathered beyond the safe zone. See, fairies are nasty little creatures that when they bite you, can either kill you immediately or causes madness.

Annabelle is dating Cane who is the detective and enlists her help often. He's a really sweet guy and sounds sexy but doesn't make my breath catch like the thought of Hitch.

Enter Hitch who works for the FBI and is brought in with his partner Stephanie to investigate the murder and the selling of Breeze, aka fairy poop. Yes, poop. It gets you high. Hitch and Annabelle were lovers over 6 years ago who shared a sizzling chemistry until something happens and forces Annabelle to make the decision to drop out of med school and start fresh in another city without giving Hitch any explanation.

So now they have to work together. Hitch is a doctor working for the FBI and Annabelle is still in the same entry level position she started at 5 or 6 years ago.

Reasons why I love Annabelle in quote form:

(view spoiler)

Reasons my heart aches for Annabelle in quote form:

(view spoiler)

This whole book was such a roller coaster of emotions for me. Cane pissed me off. Hitch pissed me off. Hitch said some really harsh things, but I think he's more trying to convince himself more than anything.

So after all that. I want more. I have high hopes for this series and can't wait for Blood on the Bayou.

Angie says

I'm a bit torn over Dead on the Delta. In some ways, I really enjoyed it, but in others, I really didn't. It certainly did have a unique set up. Fairies have made themselves known after some mutation made them larger and highly aggressive. They're like mosquitoes in many ways and prefer hanging out in the Louisiana bayou. Our narrator, Annabelle, is one of very few people who are immune to their venom, so she's the one who gets called out when a body of a young girl is found in the swamp.

What I did really like about Dead on the Delta was the way fairies were portrayed. They're not just magical humans who like to get up to no good. They're these little buzzing pests whose bites will kill you or make you lose your mind. It was also interesting how humans have a new drug known as Breeze; it's fairy poop (sometimes mixed with bleach, because why not?!). This was great! I also loved that ending! The plot is mainly a murder mystery and Annabelle is working on solving it, and once she finds the killer, holy crap! I love that kind of sick, twisted twist! It was awesome! If only the rest of the book had been that engaging!

Dead on the Delta is very diverse, except that it's not really. In the first chapter we learn that the town is 98% Black and Hispanic, and Annabelle is the pastiest redhead around. I know Urban Fantasy is all about the most special person, but why make virtually every character except for the main character a person of color? Sure, she stands out in her town, but she certainly doesn't stand out in the genre. It's obvious that the author isn't afraid of diversity, because most of the characters introduced are Black, Hispanic, or Korean. There's even a gay Latino! So why point out that there's only 2% white people and then make the main character white? Statistically speaking, she should be Black or Hispanic, just like it's statistics that she's dating a black man, but good fortune that he's gorgeous (page 6). Apparently good looking Black men are rare, even in a town that is mostly Black? Yeah, okay.

Some other things that bothered me about Dead on the Delta--although certainly not as much as the race issue--were that Annabelle is "only" 5 foot 8. That is tall for a woman! There is no "only" about it! And yet, she had to stand on her tiptoes to look into a window that was four feet off the ground. Really? Annabelle is also a "skinny fat person" which roughly translates into her loving beer and unhealthy food, but not gaining any weight. Because obviously eating greasy food and regular beer is solely the territory of fat people. I don't

think so. There are other ways to get the point across that she doesn't gain weight but has a penchant for high calorie foods and drinks.

Dead on the Delta had the potential to be really great for me, but obviously there were several things that bothered me about it. I also just never warmed up to Annabelle. She's drunk all the time, or in need of a drink. She's super irresponsible and I'm surprised she hasn't been fired or arrested before. But I guess being super rare in her immunity to fairy venom gives her some immunity from the law, too. The ending was also super rushed, and I felt like I missed some things, especially with that three week time jump.

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

Cathy says

I've read some terrific reviews of this book, so I'm not going to try to recreate them or give you a recap of the story since that has already been very well done. I'm just going to tell you what I thought was different and fun about it, which is mostly Annabelle.

What I liked best was that Annabelle isn't a hero. She's a regular, screwed up woman. More screwed up than some, sure, but really, despite a lot of the criticism, not so terrible a person at all, just different than the lead characters in most of the adventure books we read. She's been fighting a major anxiety disorder her entire life, exacerbated by living in a situation where everyone is afraid and anxious all of the time because of the fairy threat. Her sister died under circumstances that aren't entirely clear, but she blames herself and her family fell apart because of it. She pulled her life back together only to have it fall apart again under more foggy circumstances as an adult. Her response was to drop out, drop out of med school, of the fast track, of city life, of responsibilities, just drop out. She still fights the crippling anxiety every day, using alcohol and sleeping pills, not much different from the frightened people around her except in the degree that she does it. And yet when something happened and it was important, when a kid died and she wanted to help find the killer, or when her friend was wrongly accused of murder, she did what she had to do to help despite how bad she felt. I think that a lot of people are going to judge her as weak, as though if she were just strong enough she could stop drinking and be more responsible. But it seemed clear to me that there's a lot more going in that a whiny girl who can't figure out if she wants to commit to her boyfriend or is nervous about her boss yelling at her. She has a serious anxiety disorder and she can't just overcome that with a little bit of willpower. Her condition influences everything she does in the book, and it makes her a really interesting character to follow.

So yes, she's grouchy, sarcastic, but not mean, she claims not to care but goes out of her way to help people, she is very generous with her money but anonymously, she's fallen for her man but afraid to admit it, and she'll risk her life over and over for both friends and strangers because in an emergency that's just what you do. She also makes terrible decisions, says stupid things at the wrong time, is stubborn beyond what's wise, and did I mention the grouch? And she adopted an ugly cat because he adopted her, so what can you do really? Gotta give in or shoot him. Just saying, she's a smart, educated, somewhat broken woman, who chooses to live a small town life with people she likes. Maybe it's not so bad after all, if she can just realize that for herself. I'm very curious how the changes that happened at the end might influence all of this. If anxiety has been the center influence of her life for so long and she can learn to control it, how would that change everything for her?

So that's all about her, not much about the story. Well, I did have to read the whole story to get all of that.

What else? The mystery was good, I was curious, it was creepy and held my attention. It feels like there were a few more elements in play then necessary but real life isn't always neat and clean either. I'm not too sure how the Tucker stuff will work out, it's a small element in this book that's left to play out more in the next, but I'll let myself be intrigued for now. The guys were fine, but the romance wasn't the center of the story, which was a nice change.

I enjoyed that the book was full of people of color. The premise included the idea that the environmental disaster of the fairies made most people with money flee north, leaving the area's population strongly skewed toward people with African American or Latino backgrounds. And unlike one of the reviews I read, I didn't think that the author was preachy or pushy with a social action or class equality agenda. Yes, Annabelle was outspoken about her opinions, but it rang true to the character, she didn't lecture outside of what made sense for the situation or her background, and I thought it all was tight and felt legitimate for who this woman and this town was described to be. And the person who had a problem with things only read the first few pages. When you read the whole book you see that there are as many people of color in positions of power as positions of trouble, just as there are a horrible skanky white woman and a classy (troublesome?) white FBI agent. People are people in this world. As for fairies, they're all bad.

But as you can see, to me, Annabelle was the story. Going through the journey, figuring out what she wants and doesn't want, learning what she can do now and what secrets are being revealed, all while trying to reestablish her relationship with Cane while still dreaming of the Hitch that got away, solving the mystery, getting beat up a few times and then almost dying in that basement, it all pulls together a complete and exciting story but it was Annabelle's story that was central, for me at least.

Stacia Kane blubbed this book and was one of the author's critique partners. And I'm not surprised that they're friends because I thought often of Stacia's character Chess from her Downside series as I read this story; Chess is also troubled, complex, depressed/anxious, determined to do the right thing for her friends even when it's dangerous, and fascinating. If you liked this book, check out *Unholy Ghosts*.

One last note on a very long review - great cover! Thanks, Pocket Books, I love seeing a cover that actually reflects the story. A disheveled red-head next to a swamp with her bike and a big basket for her things is just a perfect cover. It looks spooky and mysterious and intriguing and lovely and it's always really nice to see publishers supporting their authors with covers that will make readers want to pick up the book and read!

Penny says

This is the third book by Stacey Jay that I've read. The first one--YA Fiction--*You Are So Undead to Me*, was a fun and entertaining read. It was so enjoyable I was glad that I took a chance on an author I'd never heard of before. The second--also YA Fiction--*Juliet Immortal*, was decidedly not so entertaining. Or fun. Or imaginative. Or worthwhile. Heck, I'm almost done reading it but I just can't muster the strength to finish--I just don't care what happens anymore.

So why did I buy this book which, by the way, was purchased while I was in the middle of forcing myself to slog through the pages of *Juliet Immortal*? Because it was marked 60% off at Borders, that's why. Also, like I said Stacey Jay's first offering was quite good, so I was willing to give her another chance. I'm so glad I did.

Dead on the Delta is a new UF series--not YA--that isn't horribly original. Meaning there is a Kick-A Protagonist who has some sort of special ability or power. This Kick-A Protagonist? Has--you guessed it--a

troubled past, intimacy issues and a drinking problem that goes hand in hand with her tendency to pop pills. Did I mention this story is set in Louisiana? Because it is. Also? This book has killer fairies.

That's right. Killer. Fairies.

So why did I like *Dead on the Delta* despite the fact that it doesn't seem to have anything new to bring to the table, you ask? The protagonist, a 20-something FCC employee/former debutante/med school dropout by the name of Annabelle Lee, is a loveable, albeit prickly, character that I couldn't help but root for. Also her "special power"--immunity to poisonous fairy saliva--is actually not all that special, though only about 5% of the population is immune. So it's not like she's an all-powerful (read: unbearable) Mary Sue.

Honesty Time! Look, I could give you a pretty good rundown of what this book is all about, but it's going to be a unoriginal variation of what's posted in the book description box, though my description wouldn't include the word 'sexy' (because, for whatever reason, every time the word 'sexy' is used in a book description it makes me cringe; makes the book sound trashy--which, by the way, this book isn't trashy). And anyway, I'm tired--it's been a long day. Maybe I'll take the time to type something up later, but until then just read the description provided by the publisher.

Anyway, if you're looking for a new UF series to pick up I suggest you give Stacey Jay's *Dead on the Delta* (book #1 in the Annabelle Lee series) a try.

(4 stars because I was genuinely entertained by this book despite the fact that there were a few things that didn't quite work for me. I will be reading the next book in this series).

Kathryn says

4 1/2 stars, probably deserving of 4 but I ended up enjoying this book and the main character more than anticipated. Annabelle is pathetic, a comfortable drunk, content with her place, disillusioned and lacking any type of drive. She's majorly depressed, finds it acceptable to drink in public, stash empty beer cans in her purse (because littering would be wrong), and is very defensive of her town. Even without the wonderful setting, this would have been enough to get my attention.

Once microscopic fairies have mutated into mosquito size poisonous bugs. Lucky for Annabelle, she's immune, which means she spends her time collecting fairy poop and helping out the local police by entering fairy territory to collect evidence.

Most first books in urban fantasy series require a certain amount of patience from the reader, due to world building and what I think of as the author hitting their stride. Jay seems to have magically evaded the tediousness of world and character introductions. More than anything though, I am very excited to see where the story goes from here, as I think there is great potential. I also want to see what happens to Annabelle next, as she can really only move up. I love characters who begin at rock bottom. There is only room for growth.

MISS VAIN says

"I can't believe you're dating the hottest piece of ass in town. You must be as filthy in bed as you are out of it."

What a fantastic and refreshing start to a new series and world created around *killer* Fairies! **Dead On The Delta** is a story set in present day Donaldsonville, Louisiana after the fairies have mutated and become beautiful killers. To those that have the misfortune of receiving a fairy bite, if they don't die instantly are sent to iron camps to live among the infected for the safety of the uninfected, and wait for their slow death or gradual insanity. To those five percent lucky enough to be immune to fairy bites are graciously given employment with the FCC a government ran agency in favor of the containment of fairies.

Annabelle Lee is one of those fortunate immune workers, though an underachiever and plagued with monsters of her own. I was drawn to unstable Annabelle and her gritty fairy world from page one. Not sure what it says about me, but I'm always in favor of a protagonist with low self worth, immoral habits and socially unacceptable behavior. Which is why I feel Annabelle Lee is awesome!! Best of all Annabelle Lee is a survivor.

Alcohol is a standing tool that leaves me agonies, glossier, better than I was before. At least I feel better. After a couple Restalin and a few beers, nothing seems quite as scary.

Hell, I could probably do motherhood as long as I stay buzzed for the first few years, until the kids Learn not to eat electrical cords or toddle out into traffic. Too bad intoxication is frowned upon during pregnancy and the raising of small children.

Her gorgeous devoted police detective boyfriend **Cane Cooper** is a hot commodity in town sought after by others including her gay best friend Fernando, but he only has eyes for self loathing and distant Annabelle. Though he desires a future with her, she turned her back on "love" six years ago, in favor of a life of casual relationships to avoid pain. After being involved with Cane she's now discovering she has failed to keep it casual, and fears failure.

"I'll take care of you when you're sick, I'll take out your trash, I'll cook your meals, and I'll tell my mama to leave you be so you can eat your dinner in peace when we go over to her place. But I won't let you lie to me or treat me like a fool. I'm a simple man in a lot of ways, but I've got too much pride for that."

When Annabelle's best friend **Fernando** is arrested for a murder he didn't commit, she embraces the journey of investigating the crime on her own to prove her friends innocence. I enjoyed the untrained investigation Annabelle conducts in the name of friendship. I was on my toes the entire time guessing, just who could the murderer be? **Stacey Jay** did an unbelievably outstanding job at pointing the finger in all directions to throw me off, essentially confounding me just to who the guilty party is. I found all of her research to be laughable because all her clues were so juvenile and relatable such as if the dead child was referred to as "that little girl" instead of something more endearing they obviously were guilty. Lol

When her former lover turned FBI arrogant but deliciously good looking **Hitch** arrives in town turning his nose up at Annabelle, her world turns upside down casting judgement in her habitual daily routine of drinking, drugs and lazy self deprecative lifestyle. Their emotionally charged break-up six years ago has left her a shattered and unstable shadow of her former responsible self. Its clear to Annabelle and us readers that the break-up was clearly a misjudgment of honesty and they have plenty of issues that are begging to be repaired. The sexual tension and anger and resentment between these two are shouting to be resolved immediately!

He doesn't remember that he loved me. That he should *still* love me. Because he *should*. It should hurt him the way it hurts me.

I recommend this book to anyone with an open mind about a witty troubled protagonist that loves a dark and gritty Urban Fantasy with mystery that tests the boundaries of love, lust, loyalty, friendship, survival and goodness.

"Thanks for..."

Thanks for what? For coming back? For smiling at me? For asking me to risk my life for something important? For trusting me? For maybe, just maybe considering me a friend?

"Thanks for.....thinking of me."

"I think of you all the time."

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Rhianna says

Everything I'm Looking For in Urban Fantasy(5 stars)

When terrorists hit a chemical plant the last thing they're expecting is to cause a massive mutation of the Louisiana delta's fairy population. Lesson learned a little too late for the people who call the delta home. Now the fairies have a taste for human blood and if their venom doesn't cause a massive, deadly allergic reaction it'll drive you mad. The tiny percentage of the population who are immune get stuck slogging through fairy infested swamps to deal with things the rest of folks can't. from researching the little monsters to investigating Breeze houses. Oh yeah, fairy poo and a little bleach make Breeze, a drug that rivals ecstasy for popularity.

Enter Annabelle Lee, a little lazy, at risk for a DUI most of the time and one of Donaldsonville, Louisiana's immune. When a local child is found murdered outside the iron fence that separates D'ville from the fairy infested bayou she gets sucked into the investigation quicker than she can drain a rum and coke. As if that wasn't complicated enough her current beau, Cane Cooper, is one of the DPD cops on the case and the FBI sends in a team to aid him... a team that consists of a hard-assed female agent and her partner Hitch, Annabelle's ex.

Trying to be professional with her ex and sort out her feelings for her current boyfriend is complicated but the investigation gets even more crazy when Annabelle discovers a Breeze house out in the bayou and an arrest is made for the little girl's murder. Strange stuff keeps happening to Annabelle and if she's going to get to the bottom of this murder mystery to save the day she just might have to lay off the hooch and avoid getting dead herself.

As the great debate of paranormal romance versus urban fantasy races on it's easy to start drawing lines in the sand. I feel safe saying that *Dead on the Delta* is exactly what the readers on the Urban Fantasy side are looking for. It might not sound like it based on the blurb but there's no romance here. No HEA ending. No steamy smutty goodness. I love a good romance for certain but when I'm in the mood for a good mystery peppered with paranormal elements and plenty of rich world building *DEAD ON THE DELTA* is exactly the kind of book I am looking for.

DEAD ON THE DELTA is not about the fae, these are killer mutant fairies, think Tinkerbell with a retractable jaw and a taste for human blood. Throw in venom that is a death sentence for 19 out of 20 people and temper it with the fact that fairies can't live in colder climates and this is scarily real. The deep South cut off from the rest of the world by iron fences and still recovering from Hurricane Katrina? Yup, quite easy to buy into. Add in a murder mystery centered around the adopted daughter of a local family of wealth and status, drug dealing and a small town where folks know far to much of one another's business and this plot packs a punch.

As a reader a great, fast-paced plot is a plus but without a great protagonist backed up by a cast of memorable secondary characters I don't get pulled in. Annabelle wormed her way into my top three heroines of the genre with an ease that shocked me. She's richly flawed and annoyingly charming for it. I love her because aside from her immunity to fairy bites she's utterly human. Her relationships with Cane and Hitch are complicated by realistic issues people face. Annabelle's drinking has roots that somehow make it seem okay even as I—the child of an alcoholic—wanted to smack some sense into her. In contrast Cane and Hitch are interesting characters that we barely get to scratch the surface on. Fans of Devon Monk's Allie Beckstrom series will recognize a similar quality in the Annabelle/Cane relationship that we love in Allie/Zayvion. Meanwhile, as we are introduced to Hitch he's a character to love and maybe dislike a lot.

D'ville is peppered with other characters of note. In a way the town as a whole is essential to this story, taking on a personality based on the mix of people within it. From the clannish Beauchamp family and Cane's troublemaking sister to Annabelle's nosy neighbor and her gossip-mongering friend Fernando it's easy to feel right at home dropped into the iron-protected community.

What really makes this book unique among its peers is not only its strength as an Urban Fantasy gem but its freshness. Candid and unafraid Jay writes her dialog the way people really hold conversations, peppering Annabelle's storytelling with humor that may not work for everyone but gives it a flavor I personally found addicting. Between tiny stabs of side-busting hilarity and jolting action, *DEAD ON THE DELTA* offers something for both fans of horror—one nail-knawingly spooky scene had me hunting for a nightlight—and readers who gravitate toward the lighter side of the paranormal. Quite honestly the only real complaint I had is pretty passable... the story resolution was just a little vaguer than I would have liked but ties everything up. A little more detail on some spoilerific things I won't share wouldn't have felt out of place.

If you are a fan of Stacey Jay's young adult novels and can tolerate some potty-mouthed narration/dialog you will love *DEAD ON THE DELTA*. If you're new to Jay's work imagine a blend of Charlaine Harris' Sookie Stackhouse series and Devon Monk's Allie Beckstrom series with a dash of Sophie Littlefield's crime novels. Overall I think this book will appeal to both male and female readers who enjoy Urban Fantasy with little to

no romantic elements and readers who enjoy non-vampire/shapeshifter paranormal themes. Definitely one of my top reads for the year.

Shelley says

Rating 3 1/2 stars

Genre Urban Fantasy

Review

Dead on the Delta, by Stacey Jay, is the first book in the Annabelle Lee series. The premise behind this story is that 12-years ago there was an attack on a chemical manufacturing plant that led to what the author is calling the Mutations and the realization that Fairies have been living with us all along. These killer fairies now feast on the blood of human beings causing insanity and death.

You could put this book into the post-apocalyptic category since parts of the country like Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi are a haven for mosquito sized killer fairies. There's even a camp where the infected are put so that they don't spread the infection while they are slowly dying, much like zombie novels in their intent and purpose. Communities such as Donaldsonville, Louisiana, where the story takes place, have even erected iron fences to protect its citizens from the fairies.

Five percent of the population is considered to be immune from the effects of being bitten by the killer fairies--- one of those is 28-year old Annabelle Lee. Lee is also an alcoholic, and sleeping pill popper who is running away from her past and things she would love to forget about, including the loss of her sister, her parents tossing her away, and naturally a relationship gone bad.

Lee works for the Fairy Containment and Control and been for the past 3 years. To be fair, she is a glorified sample collector who is called in to areas that are considered to be hostile to normal humans. Because of this, she ends up involved in a murder investigation of a little girl who is found in an effected area.

Dead on the Delta really does cross the genres with this story. You have a murder investigation, which leads to the mystery and suspense into who could have done something so awful to this little girl.

Normally, I have a problem with characters who abuse narcotics and other substances, but in this case, it's part of who Lee is and why she does the job she is capable of doing. And, No, she is far from the perfect character but then that's become the norm these days. I almost expect to read about a new heroine who has been devastated in the past, or gone through a life changing moment. That is Annabelle Lee in this book.

Lee starts off in a relationship with Cane Cooper, a Detective for the town's police force who believe that he is too good for the redhead white girl. Naturally this is a small town where everyone knows everyone else's business and who you date says a lot about your character.

Cane is one of the most interesting male characters I've read in a while (supporting role). He actually tells Lee that he would paint her toenails, and do whatever she asks of him if she gets her head straight on whether or not they should remain in a relationship and get married. This, of course, comes after Lee is found kissing her ex-boyfriend Hitch on camera after she saves his life.

Naturally, the fact that the ex-boyfriend is now working for the FBI's Fairy Investigation Division and is in town on an investigation doesn't help much. And, the fact that he is also in a relationship with his current partner who is miss perfect in every way Annabelle isn't.

There are a few things still gnawing at me after just finishing this book:

(view spoiler)

This story had most of the key ingredients that I love in a story; mystery, suspense and an unknown faction of fairies that you haven't seen in awhile. It also has the beginnings of the one thing I dislike the most; 3-way relationships with no clear winner or loser.

Stacey Jay
Annabelle Lee Series
1. Dead on the Delta (05/31/2011)
2. Blood on the Bayou (April 2012)

Shera (Book Whispers) says

By the time I finally picked up this book I didn't know what to think! Is it YA, does it have vampires and werewolves, is it a romance. Sure I should have just looked it up on Goodreads, but that wouldn't be as fun. After randomly buying it and jumping in before I lost my courage I was pleasantly surprised. Fairies. Not just any kind of fairies blood sucking ones!

When hurricane Katrina happened something else occurred right along with it. The fairies that no one believed in suddenly mutated. (Annoyingly, what mutated them is really never explained.) Not only had they always been real, but now they were bigger and ready to suck on some human blood. With one bite the victim can go insane or die instantly. About 5 percent of humans are immune to the fairy bite and can actually kill the fairy that bites them.

Annabelle Lee is one of the lucky humans immune to the fairy bite. However, she might not be as lucky as people think. Her special gifts have made her see things that have driven her to drink and develop an addiction to her sleeping pills. Again and again, I found myself jumping from loving to hating the main character. Usually characters with addictions like that put me off and I can't stand the weakness. Annabelle hasn't had it easy and the more of her past that is revealed it's harder to hate her. By the end I was left with hope that Annabelle could get over her addictions.

The main bit of story focuses on the murder of a little girl who is the daughter of one of the richest families in town. This little mystery turns out into a full blown holy-cow moment that Jay deserves a standing ovation for. Taking a simple mystery of "who done it" into a drug deal and invisible people plot line is just amazing!

The murder brings to town Annabelle's ex-boyfriend, Hitch, and even though things ended terribly they still have a spark. The two are just too stubborn at times to deal with—and Hitch was just unlikeable all around. Annabelle is still obsessing about the sod in a manner that really made me hate her. She has a wonderful new man—Cane—that she's trying to convince herself she doesn't love. Even though he understands her and wants her to be herself—plus, is man enough to say what he wants from her—she can't get over her old flame. All in all, this is a pretty awesome love triangle. You love, hate, and feel everything right up there with Annabelle.

Dead in the Delta delivers something fresh in the world building, heroine, and love story that drives readers' into throws of happiness. The genre is over populated and it's truly a pleasure to read something that goes out there and makes the genre instead of just borrowing bits and pieces. Some readers may not like Annabelle for her drug and alcohol addictions, but sometimes loving to hate your main character is part of the fun. This debut is only the beginning into something that is sure to be amazing.

Sexual Content: Our southern bell Annabelle is quite the dirty little bird. While there's never a sex scene happening there's dirty thoughts and fond memories of past sexual exploits. A bit of incest to through on top.

4/5- Great! Really enjoyed it.

Originally reviewed at Book Whispers.

Cat Russell (Addicted2Heroines) says

Exceptionally good!! Even better than it's this outstanding *and* the first in a series.

Annabelle Lee is far from your ideal protagonist. You won't find a hundred different variations of her character in every heroine you read about in the urban fantasy world.

She is fascinating.... in a morbid way. She has questionable morals and is unapologetic. She has people she cares about, but could care less what people think of her. She is severely lacking in ambition and is addicted to alcohol and sleeping pills.

"I like toxins. I figure they're human preservatives. I'll probably live to see Cane and the other organic-eating, healthy-living people dead and buried. I'll be like a cockroach, obnoxious and toxic and indestructible."

But no matter how broken down and pitiful she may seem, you never doubt that she is one of the "good guys". She values the few relationships that she has and would willingly place herself in harm's way to protect others.

With her extremely rare immunity against the venomous bite of the Fey, she is able to venture into places that normal people would not be able to go.

The story follows Annabelle as she works with (and often against) her detective boyfriend and FBI former lover as they attempt to bring down a drug ring and apprehend little Grace's killer.

If you enjoy disturbed characters, dark humor, evil blood-sucking fairies, and don't mind reading a variety of alternatives to the word "shit", then go on and try it out.

If you don't enjoy these things.... then stay far away from this book..... because I don't want you bringing down the average rating with your sucky 2 and 3 star reviews.

"Making love to Hitch is a soul-deep experience, like stepping through a secret door into a world of pleasure, where powerful forces are at work healing the universe one orgasm at a time."

Kelly says

(4.5 stars) Stacey Jay's fairies are tiny, beautiful... and bloodthirsty. Chemical disasters caused them to mutate, and now they swarm the bayous of the Delta region in search of human blood. Most humans die from the bite. Some expire immediately in intense agony, while others go insane first and live a few more years in containment facilities before dying.

A few humans, though, are immune. Annabelle Lee is one of them. Being immune qualifies Annabelle for all sorts of unpleasant jobs, like collecting fairy poop samples for Fairy Containment and Control. And, as *Dead on the Delta* begins, helping the cops ID the body of a child on fairy-infested land. Then she learns the child's death may be related to the activities of a drug ring in the swamps. And then things get even stranger...

Annabelle's life is a mess. She has a drinking problem and major relationship issues. In the hands of the wrong author, the drinking problem could make her unsympathetic and the presence of a love triangle could seem clichéd. We urban fantasy readers can be hard on our heroines. We don't like it when they're too perfect; we don't like it when they're too messed up; we get annoyed when they never make a mistake; we get annoyed when they make too many mistakes; and so on. *Dead on the Delta* confirmed my theory that the important thing is good writing. Almost anything can work if written well, and Jay writes Annabelle very well indeed. The pain that leads to Annabelle's bad choices is made raw and real to us, and when she makes mistakes, she picks herself back up and tries again to do the right thing.

The secondary characters are interesting, too, with plenty of layers to explore here and in future installments. I have a feeling this will be one of those series where the characters are like old friends after a few books.

The plot is relentlessly tense. As Annabelle's official work and unofficial snooping lead her closer to the heart of the mystery, Jay never misses an opportunity to throw another obstacle or twist into Annabelle's path. It's dangerous to read this book just before bed. Not because you'll have nightmares — though that's possible too — but because you'll find yourself saying "just one more chapter" over and over until you suddenly realize it's some ludicrous hour of the morning.

Also remarkable is the real-life grit Jay adds to *Dead on the Delta* by making Donaldsonville's problems so frighteningly plausible, except for the fairy aspect. The fairies became dangerous because of pollution and terrorist attacks on chemical plants; Hurricane Katrina has its role to play in the novel's tweaked history; and the rise of the drug Breeze, made from fairy dung, is analogous to the meth epidemic.

Stacey Jay has the start of something really special here, between the creative take on fairies, the flawed but sympathetic heroine, and the gritty sense of a disaster-ravaged Louisiana. *Dead on the Delta* is a hard-to-put-down “rural fantasy” that I can wholeheartedly recommend.

Dija says

Dead on the Delta features a different take on fairies than the one most children grow up believing. In Annabelle Lee's world, fairies are mosquito-sized, murdering little monsters, out for the blood of any human they can sink their teeth into, and for most, their bite results in death. Annabelle is one of the Immunes, however, and her job is to help the higher-ups out by doing all the dangerous work that involves contact with fairies.

I had a number of issues with this book, mostly pertaining to Annabelle, but no matter how repulsive I found some actions of hers, *Dead on the Delta* is one of the most gripping stories I've read in ages. This is one book that doesn't waste any pages getting into the action or building up the suspense, but dives into the plot and mystery from the very first sentence.

Jay has outstanding talent in bringing her characters and their stories to life. I'm positive I wouldn't have liked this complicated book nearly as much if Jay hadn't written it so well, with the romance and humor placed exceptionally well amidst all the action and suspense.

Annabelle is selfish, snappy, weak, and plain mean at times. And she *knows* that. She knows exactly how she is (even though she's in pretty strong denial about her "habits") and I think that's why it's impossible to pity or even hate her. She is a fascinating and complex character who you can't help but wish with all your heart gets her happy ending, because no one deserves it more. Her character development, narration, witty comebacks, genuine concern over the fate of innocents, all hint at a strong woman with a heart of gold hidden beneath the drunkard she has become due to all the trauma and grief in her past and present, and I'm sure it'll come out gradually, as long as there's someone around who believes in her.

Now, who that "someone" might be, I have no idea. I love Tucker, mostly because he seems like the one love interest with the least baggage, but there's not enough about him in *Dead on the Delta* to say anything for sure. Between Cane and Hitch, Hitch clearly loves Annabelle more (view spoiler) but Cane could give her everything she wanted, if only she'd come to truly love him. Basically, I'm rooting for whichever man gives Annabelle the most happiness and the least pain, even though I'm not sure who that is just yet.

The ending left me utterly speechless, more than a little disgusted (not with Annabelle though), and completely in awe of Jay's amazing story-telling prowess. I can't believe I put off reading *Dead on the Delta* for so long, but I'm also immensely relieved that there's just one more week to go before *Blood on the Bayou* comes out. What started off as something I was very, very reluctant about reading quickly turned into an unputdownable, so-absorbing-you-read-it-in-one-sitting read, and I can't wait to find out what happens next in Annabelle's messed-up life.

For more reviews, visit my blog.

Jennifer Estep says

Dead on the Delta by Stacey Jay is an urban fantasy book and the first in a series.

Things were normal in the bayou -- until fairies mutated and developed a taste for human flesh. Now, these mosquito-size creatures plague the South, and their bite usually brings on instant death or insanity. But there are a few folks like Annabelle Lee who are immune to fairy bites and the venom and madness that they bring on. Annabelle works for Fairy Containment and Control and other law enforcement agencies by going into the swamps where other folks can't to collect evidence, monitor fairy activity, and generally do other nasty jobs that few people can. When a little girl's body is found, Annabelle gets involved in the case. Soon, the FBI has come to town and one of the agents is Hitch, Annabelle's old lover, who happens to be involved with someone else now. Further complicating matters is Annabelle's current lover, sexy detective Cane Cooper. But when Annabelle starts digging into who murdered the girl and why, she uncovers a lot of secrets -- ones that just might make her the killer's next target ...

Annabelle is definitely a complicated character. She drinks too much and pops sleeping pills like they're candy, but she has good reason. She's estranged from her family, her relationship with Hitch ended badly, and she doesn't feel like she deserves to be happy with Cane now. Annabelle is haunted by a lot of things, but she's trying to deal with them in her own way. One of the things that I enjoyed most about her was that she kept plugging along, no matter how bad things got (and they get plenty bad at the end).

I also liked Cane and some of the other secondary characters. You really get a feel for the residents of Donaldsonville, Louisiana where the book is set. Plus, the mystery surrounding the murdered girl is nicely done and has its own creepiness/ickiness factor (which I won't spoil here).

But the thing I liked most about this book is the world building. Fairies are a pretty popular creature in fantasy books these days, but I thought the fairies in this book were especially creepy. Ever since I read the book, I've been calling them killer mutant fairies, and it's not too hard to imagine that they could be out there, lurking deep in the swamps. I think good fantasy books have a touch of realism in them and make you think that certain things are possible if only our world was just a little bit different. This book definitely does that.

However, I have to say that I did not like Hitch at all. I thought he was smug, arrogant, and superior, especially since he blames Annabelle for something that is not her fault. I really wanted Annabelle to punch him in the face -- many times. I don't think that's a bad thing, though. Sometimes, it can be just as much fun to root against characters as it is to root for them. And I really hope that Hitch gets what's coming to him.

I also would have liked just a smidge more information on a couple of mysterious characters, what their motives are, and what they want with Annabelle, but I imagine that will happen in the next book in the series.

Overall, this is a solid urban fantasy, especially if you're looking for some different world building or enjoy books set in the South (like I do). Check it out.

Note/disclaimer: I was asked to give a cover blurb for this book, which I did. My blurb is actually used on the front cover of the book (which I think is super cool and was really honored by) and reads: "A sultry start to a promising new series. Dead on the Delta sizzles with action, danger, and romance."

Mara says

This book is a nightmare. Not as in "bad" or "horror movie kind". More as you enter someone's nightmare and can't do anything about it. Which is a problem when the only POV you are reading is that of a drunkard, a whiny, pill-popping, reality-running-from woman.

(Think of a roller coaster and a drunkard. And you are watching from her eyes....)

The book comes highly recommended and I'm sure it's as great as other reviewers say. Simply is not for me. I could not appreciate the confusion of the "heroine"'s thoughts, the total dive in her broken mind. You get to the end of the book and still you can't understand what is going on. Clearly, you get the culprit of the murder, but apart from that (and is confused anyway) the rest of the story hangs in a sort of a cliffhanger.

What is she? What are the others and why did they help? Above all, why the hell is she punishing herself after six years???

I skipped phrase after phrase. No, not my cup of tea. Just let me know what happens in the future :D

Rane says

The mere premise of this book drew me in, I mean cute little fairies that drink the blood and kill humans by their bites and a few people immune to this? Whoa!

The story holds up in some places, excels in others and kinda loses the reader along the way, but the story, as a whole is a good start to this series.

Annabelle Lee is on her way to hitting rock bottom, through meds that help her sleep to that one more drink to help her going through the day, the life as an one immune to fairy bites has placed her at crime scenes and areas that would slowly break anyone. Her life becomes more stressed when she finds the body of a young six year old, and in a small town with a few deep and dark secrets, Annabelle is stuck between a rock and a hard place and someone waiting in the deep dark fairy filled forest ...

Authors take a chance when they write characters from one someone who pops pills to an alcoholic, Annabelle is made a sympathetic character but comes off strong enough to get the job done while sort of fumbling along the way with very human mistakes. Your given glimpses in Annabelle's past as she started to spiral out of control, the people she's lost or hurt along the way like her ex-lover Hitch whom enters her life again as an FBI agent whose looking into the new case of the killing of the young girl and fairy drugs. And the people who try to anchor her from hitting rock bottom like her now detective boyfriend Cane Cooper. I never found myself not liking the character Annabelle but rooting for her to finally find the healing she needed. In a small town where everyone knows everyone and prejudices still there even with the threat of fairies, Annabelle is still holding on by a mere thread- added to what she's discovered from a house full of Breeze (a fairy drug that causes the user to go crazy) everything is going down quicker than Annabelle can grasp at. She's is able to somehow hold it together and pulled it off with a few surprises along the way that threw me for a loop.

The world of Annabelle Lee is set in a small town but the bigger effects are felt through the world when the

mutation stuck and fairies came into their own blood thirsty selves by story telling of Annabelle from the immure whom makes millions in cotton as many of the fairies have taken over that part of the US to the drugs harvested by-products of fairies called Breeze. I enjoyed the world center in the small town with the feeling your given of darker secrets that may be lurking just around the corner and not knowing thy neighbor as well as you thought.

The book was far from perfect though, the book while rated a 4 star, it's a weak 4 stars for two reasons. One was the romance part. I enjoy a dash of romance by only if it flows the story along, the author I felt had a hard time balancing between the main story and Annabelle's romances, the stories felt very separate and wobbly. Next were the main story and the breadcrumb clues. There were way to many red herrings and not enough clues, and when everything finally reveled it lacks that punch or that AHHA moment. Everything is placed quickly on the plate by the villains and some of it felt a tad overdone.

For a first in the series is has it's weakness by it's strong points, Looking forward from more of this author and this world.
