



Death in High Places

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Two friends embark on a climb of treacherous Anarchy Ridge but only one will make it down alive. Unjustly blamed for his friend's haunting death, the other must run for his life as a mourning father seeks revenge, in Jo Bannister's thrilling mystery novel Death in High Places

Two friends stand at the foot of the glacier, looking up to Anarchy Ridge. They can't see the summit of the mountain, only its heaving shoulders. But they can see the thin blade of the ridge, and the snow whipping off it by the rising wind making arabesques against the impossibly blue sky. They stand still for a long time, their kit at their feet, just looking, but the mountain awaits. They begin their climb up the ridge, but only one of the friends will make it down alive. Afraid for his own life when his friend's vengeful father blames him for the deadly climbing accident, and with the horrific memory of that moment of peril playing in his mind, the other must make a run for his life.

Death in High Places Details

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Author : Jo Bannister

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From Reader Review Death in High Places for online ebook

Susan says

Interesting premise (2 friends go climbing, and only one returns, and the book explores the effects on the survivor). But the plot is both homophobic and ludicrous, with badly written dialogue and undeveloped characters. A major disappointment.

Janet Robel says

I was looking forward to reading this, but sadly, it didn't live up to my expectations. The characters weren't any that I could care about.

Ellen says

Two 20-something British men go for a dangerous climb on a remote Alaskan mountain. One dies and the other says that he had to cut the rope to save himself, but that the other was already dead. The dead man's father is an Irish mobster and he hires a hit man to kill the survivor. A man who has a reason to keep the survivor alive steps in and saves him from the hit man. The action then follows the two men to the rescuer's home in the countryside. Lots of twists and turns. I liked the writing, although some of the action was a bit unbelievable. I agree with other reviewers that the ending is somewhat weak and I'd add (without spoilers) that the purported reason for one character's actions is highly unlikely from a medical perspective. I'm not even sure it's possible. A psychiatric diagnosis would have been more believable. However, that didn't spoil the story for me because I think other reasons could have been in play. This was my first book by Jo Bannister, who lives in Northern Ireland. I'll definitely give her another chance.

Dale says

This book was recommended, and I'm glad it was. I like other Jo Bannister titles, but this novel grabbed me right at the prologue, and never let go. It has more twists than a bag of snakes, but it's all great to read and try to keep up. Crackling dialogue, and the pace here is meteoric, like a climb on an icy mountain. It's not deep, or realistic, but it is great fun, a real roller-coaster ride. Nice change of pace.

Errol Hess says

This is a gem of a book. Nothing extraneous. Meticulously crafted. Almost small and fast-paced enough to read in one sitting. (I did take a break for dinner, started after lunch, and finished by bedtime.) Unity of time and place. Characters do develop and are changed by the action. Add Bannister to your list of watch out for writers.

Monica says

Uneven. Interesting premise - the aftermath of a climbing accident, two young friends go up a wild Alaskan peak, one falls to his death. The other, Nicky Horn, says he was forced to cut the rope or they both would have died. The wealthy criminal father of the dead youth hires a hit man to kill the survivor. One night Horn is attacked by the hit man and he is saved by the intervention of a stranger who takes him home with him. If this seems too good to be true, it is.

The stranger is a wealthy businessman with his own agenda, and a daughter who was in love with the dead climber. And the hit man hasn't given up.

Some interesting bits, but it didn't quite hold together.

C.J. says

Apparently all (or most) of the drama in this book is in the trailer. After 2 action-packed opening chapters, abruptly I found myself yawning through pages of repetitive dialog--vamping on the author's part, as if she weren't sure where to take the plot.

I've heard good reports of her later books & will try one of those.

Leslie says

Bannister has an intriguing premise, but sadly, neither her plot nor her cardboard characters live up to it.

Arthur says

Nick Horn and the McKendrick's characterizes dialogue, thrilling actions & jeopardy. Together they are trying to stay alive in this interesting novel. It's short and fast paced for the most of it which is mostly dialogue lines and some description. Most of the description was almost unnecessary as it was more like a play without many setting changes or location really. It goes back and forth between spoke dialogue that it was a wonder who was speaking sometimes. I found the repetitive ideas the characters said while sharing fears and concept ideas dull over and over, more like an obvious filler than suspense. But I think for a fun fast read it may be worth a look at. Set in a castle sized home, somewhere in the country of England after a tragedy that happens in Alaska the story shifts from tragedy to action and suspense long enough to keep the reader guessing what is going to happen next.

Mary says

This was disappointing. Most of it was not very well done dialogue in a smallish castle in the English midlands. I didn't even have a very clear picture of what the castle looked like inside.

Pauline Barlow says

Life is a bit like the ascent of a treacherous mountain and what one mistake might do.

This is the story of two friends, Nick and Patrick, who went mountain climbing in Alaska in blizzard conditions. Suddenly Nick feels a tug on the rope and a dead weight. After three hours he felt like giving up and could he cut the rope to save himself. That's what he told people. Patrick's gangster father hired a hit man to find and kill Nick. He was four years on the run. Wealthy Robert McHendrick takes him to his remote strongly fortified castle. Robert's daughter, Beth, had loved Patrick and she hated Nick. Were the stories true about what happened?

It is a good read.

Gkl says

The characters were all unreasonably flawed. Their responses to the primary event were not believable given their depth of knowledge of the circumstances. While the setting and secondary adventure was interesting, the rantings and posturing of the characters had me rooting for the hitman to win...

Old Worm says

Starts off well building up to what appeared to be an engaging read. However pages after pages are delving into the same conflict which soon loses interest. I really wanted to get on with the story and see the mystery unfold. After a few chapters of laboring through it, with a very average set of characters, one realizes with horror that the dull conflict between the characters IS the main theme! Disappointing.

MaryAnn says

This book was not at all what I thought it would be--a story of a mountain-climbing adventure gone awry. Instead, it's more about how humans might react in life-threatening situations. There are really only 4 characters who play important roles, but the conversations they hold while other events unfold around them are key--and the book is full of surprises, although the ending might have been a little weak.

Stephanie Tanton says

Interesting plot but dragged in the telling.
