



Dead Certain

Mariah Stewart

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Mariah Stewart comes a novel of sexy romantic suspense for fans of Nora Roberts, Catherine Coulter, and Karen Robards.

Three devious prisoners vow murderous revenge. Now the second is free.

With her stalker captured, antiques dealer Amanda Crosby can finally sleep at night. Having worked hard to put the nightmare behind her, Amanda has vowed to never be a victim again. But when her business partner, Derek England, is found with a bullet through the back of his head just hours after she left an incriminating message on his voice mail, Amanda finds herself in danger of becoming a victim of another sort.

All the evidence points to Amanda as Derek's killer, and Chief of Police Sean Mercer is building the case against her. But when another of her colleagues is found brutally murdered, it's obvious that someone other than Amanda is behind the killings. Suddenly Amanda is a target once again, as a diabolical killer circles ever closer—and the only thing that stands between her and becoming the third and final victim is the man who had tried to put her behind bars. . . .

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Mariah Stewart's *Dead Even*.

Dead Certain Details

Date : Published (first published June 29th 2004)

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Author : Mariah Stewart

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Mystery

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From Reader Review Dead Certain for online ebook

Nell says

A good continuation. Not much on the suspense as you know in the beginning who the killer is, but still good.

Elina says

To δι?βασα σε ελληνικ? μετ?φραση με τ?τλο "Λ?θος κ?νηση" απ? τις εκδ?σεις plaza. Pageturner!!!

Lori Schiele says

The second in a trilogy (based around the concept of the movie "Strangers on a Train") where three inmates--each in for a different reason--who meet in a holding room at the courthouse one morning develop a plan where they will each kill three people for one of the other inmates.

This second one follows the release of the second prisoner--and the next 3 victims on the list. It is not as much "serial killer" as the first one, but almost more of a murder mystery, and again, you will find a return of familiar names in both the inmates and the "good guys" in this second book.

It was my second favorite of the three (the first--Dead Wrong) being my favorite. A great and fast-paced story and falls perfectly in line with the first. Again, it was great to read all three of the books in a row to keep the flow going.

Louise says

This is the "second" Mariah Stewart novel I've registered today! I finished one early in the morning, began this one and read it in a few hours. Riveting, to say the least.

"Three devious prisoners vow murderous revenge. Now the second is free.

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All the evidence points to Amanda as Derek's killer, and Chief of Police Sean Mercer is building the case against her. But when another of her colleagues is found brutally murdered, it's obvious that someone other

than Amanda is behind the killings. Suddenly Amanda is a target once again, as a diabolical killer circles ever closer - and the only thing that stands between her and becoming the third and final victim is the man who had tried to put her behind bars.."

Jim says

A little too much inside the killer's mind. A little too descriptive foreplay. Otherwise, Stewart just keeps this story going.

As with the first in the series, it sets up for the next book in the series, so doesn't end here.

A sides story: Usually I request a book on-line and pick it up from the hold area of my branch. This one I actually looked for it in the library. Much to my surprise, it was in the Romance section. First I asked the librarian to keep lookout for me, as I did not want to be seen in that section. Then I asked, "there are a lot of murders and dead bodies in this, how can it be classified as Romance?" The librarian shrugged and asked if the boy gets the girl. And the answer is yes, in all of her books.

Despite its classification, I'll continue to read the series.

Jane says

Great read!

As usual, this was a real edge of your seat read. Plan on staying up all night as you begin #2 of a four part series. And then, be ready to jump into the next book and hold on for your life!

Randy says

A quick and easy mystery novel. While this is book 2, the author does a good job giving you an understanding of book one. You don't need to read book one to read this one. Some characters cross over.

Jay Jessmer says

I am soooo enjoying this series!! I have just read the first 2 in 3 days time, so obviously, if you like a quick addicting read in the suspense/thriller genre, this series is a must for you.

I don't know if all of Stewart's work is this entertaining, as this is my first go round with her, but I will be reading more after this series. She seems to have an innate ability to write characters who the reader can identify with--and get attached to.

To often in thriller type novels the characters are either blown up so ridiculously perfect/arrogant/intelligent that they are almost inhuman, or they are so flawed that they border on stupidity and give the reader a feeling

that the story is implausible. Stewart has created characters who are very real and believable. They are flawed in normal human ways while still having a common sense feel to them.

I absolutely loved the character of Amanda. She is a woman who after being previously stalked and brutalized realized her own weaknesses and dedicated her life to eliminating those weaknesses and helping others in need. Her being quite the little bad-ass was a great character development. She is strong enough to stand on her own, yet realizes that she wants someone to be in her life to stand beside her and be there when she needs someone.

There is just enough mingling of characters from the previous book to keep it fresh in your mind, and the interaction between all of these various plotlines keeps the story rolling along nicely. Throughout both of the first 2 books, I have found myself truly rooting for the good guys and wanting to see our trio of convicts get one-upped. Without giving too much away, I also have to say that I really liked the direction Stewart took with Dolores. To have her go from what felt like a hick ditzy bimbo to such a strong character, who actually used her head (instead of being that idiot in horror films who has to go make sure that Jason/Freddy/Michael Myers is actually dead!!), was a welcome surprise and made her possibly the most realistic person in the book.

And now.....on to Dead Even.....

Dotti Elrick says

This is the second book in the "Dead" series. It picks up where the first one left off. While being part of a series, the books can be read as stand alone novels, the author gives you enough backstory for the story to make sense.

Three convicts have a chance meeting and come up with a "game" to each take care of three people one of the others wants dead. This is the story of the second criminal, Vince Giordano. A convicted murderer whose sentence has been over turned because of a lying witness. Now Vince sets out to take care of his three game victims.

Amanda Crosby is an antiques dealer. Her business partner and best friend has been found murdered, and the one person all the evidence seems to point to is her. When a second victim with ties to her is also found dead, the chief of Police Sean Mercer, starts to look deeper into Amandas past. And soon realizes that she is not only not the one killing her friends, but more than likely the next one on the hit mans list. Sean makes it his personal mission to keep Amanda safe.

In a side story, we learn about Sean's past. His newly discovered sister, Greer, (who is a riot) is determined to find other missing family members. Sean and his siblings were given up for adoption when they were very young. Sean really wants nothing to do with his past, he just wants to live in the moment. That is until Amanda comes along. And he starts looking toward a future, maybe one with her. Together they help each other heal.

I liked the story. The author does a great job of character development. I would like to know a bit more about what happens after the crime is solved. Just a bit more about what happens to the main characters. I did enjoy the small glimpses of characters from the first book, and look forward to reading the the next in the series.

Anita says

Being that I was reeled into this series due to the premise and the summary blurbs, I decided to give Mariah Stewart's *Dead* series a second chance to appeal to me. The first book didn't do well. Knowing what to expect, I adjusted my mindset a little bit and went into *Dead Certain* with other expectations (which, I admit,

may not be very fair to *Dead Wrong*, but that's how I roll).

I'm not certain that the read was a much better experience than I had had with the first book, but it was definitely a bit more tolerable. Knowing that this book is not anymore a romantic suspense than it is a crime thriller or murder mystery helps me tamp down my expectations. It's more of a "The Day in the Life of a Non-Paid Hitman and a Glimpse of his Victims' Lives" type of thing. When you know who the killer is, who his targets are, and why he's killing in the first place, it really DOES take the excitement out of a crime thriller.

But I made my attempt not to pre-judge based on the impression I got from the first book.

Unfortunately, it doesn't banish the fact that the writing does not flow well and the narrative and dialogue still feels unnatural. And there is still too much going on. The writing is still decent and could be solid -- some scenes and some of the monologues feel realistic enough... and has its own charm.

But there is still entirely too much information being offered in random scenes about the killer, the victims, even side characters, and none of it helps to strengthen the main story. A lot of scenes that seem to demand an emotional impact of some kind just feels awkwardly force; like we're trying to inject more side tangents to give our characters more depth. Instead, it all felt like filler material you'd expect to find when watching a television series and the producers couldn't think of what to air for that night's episode. Sometimes those side tangents are fun. But in this case, they were fairly boring; almost out of place. I admit, I felt the need to fast-forward a few times during the book (though I did not do so, for whatever reason I can't understand).

The only thing still keeping me from dropping the series completely is due to the fact that the third book will tie into the conclusion of the series: the third prisoner keeping his end of the bargain to kill his hit list of people, as promised. A slight twist is thrown into the end of *Dead Certain* that makes you wonder how the rest of the story will play out.

Will Archer Lowell hold up his end of the game and kill for his fellow prison-mate? I'm going to admit, as reluctant as I am to open up that last book, I'm also kind of curious to see how things will end. I might be having one of those, "Why do I hate myself?" moments.

One thing I do appreciate is that the characters are a little better developed than the characters in *Dead Wrong* had been. Greer Kennedy, the big sister, was quite the character, even if she was just a supporting one.

L.J. Sentivanac says

Disappointingly un-thrilling

This second in a series serial killer novel was a letdown. The main characters were simple, one-dimensional and predictable. The killer's motive was known all along, so there was no drama. Additionally, the killer was inept. The final capture scene was a non-event. The set-up for book 3 doesn't promise much better, but I already downloaded it to my Kindle, so I'll give it a go.

Katy says

Amanda's stalker is in prison, so she is safe. Yet when the murders of two very close friends, her business partner and another shopkeeper, only have a connection to her, she is under suspicion by the police. And then, she begins getting the calls with no one speaking and the single rose, elements her stalker had used previously. Amanda decides, with the help of her policeman brother and the local chief of police, to fight back.

Colleen says

Enjoyed the 2nd book in the "Dead" series as much as the first. My only complaint (once again) is that I wished it had a tad more romance in it. It has just enough that you can pick up the attraction between the two main characters, but it doesn't go much further than a few kisses. Also, both books have left me wondering what happens to the main characters in each story. Like another reviewer stated, one or two love scenes could have gone a long way in either of these books.

Regardless of the lack of romance, it is still a very good suspense filled book and I highly recommend the series. Maybe the last book of the series (Dead Even) ties everything up - I guess I'll see next!

Anna Mcfadden says

on one faithful day 3 devious prisoners vow murderous revenge. Now the second is free.

Amanda Crosby thought it was safe to get on with her life when her stalker was sent in prison. When her business partner is found dead by a shot through the back of his head just hours after she left an incriminating message on his voice mail, Amanda finds herself in danger of being accused of the murder when all the evidence points to Amanda as Derek's killer,

Chief of Police Sean Mercer is building the case against her when another of her colleagues and friend is found brutally murdered, it's obvious that Amanda is not behind the killings. Amanda realizes she is once again a target, as a diabolical killer circles ever closer -- and the only thing that stands between her and becoming the third and final victim is the man who had tried to put her behind bars..

Γι?τα says

Ανευρο και σαχλο. Ελαφρ? σαν Αρλεκιν.
