



## Dead in the Desert

*Lou Harper*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Dead in the Desert

*Lou Harper*

## Dead in the Desert Lou Harper

Jon Cooper used to think he wanted a life free of complications, but that was before he got involved with his roommate, Leander. Jon knows that the only thing he can't lose is what he doesn't have, but where does that leave him?

Leander Thorne, on the other hand, is an easygoing bookworm, with an addiction to books and cooking shows, and a soft spot for Jon, despite Jon's grumpiness. He also happens to be a psychic specializing in finding lost pets and—more recently—lost people. He's good at it. Too good if you ask Jon,

Unsolved crimes, missing people and bodies buried in the Mojave Desert make Jon's and Leander's lives anything but uncomplicated. Jon is forced to dig into his soul and find a way to let go of his past if he wants to keep Leander.

## Dead in the Desert Details

Date : Published September 13th 2013 by Harper Books (first published September 12th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Lou Harper

Format : ebook 111 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Romance, M M Romance, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Fantasy, Paranormal, M M Paranormal

 [Download Dead in the Desert ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dead in the Desert ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Dead in the Desert Lou Harper**

---

# From Reader Review Dead in the Desert for online ebook

Laura says

## 4.5 Stars

Why did I wait so long to read this book?

Every so often I come across a book on my kindle mountain that I meant to read ages ago. This must-read book got lost under an avalanche of clicking and buying book after book after book. \*whispers book addiction\* :D I won't let it happen to a Lou Harper book again though.

Lou Harper creates such a warm, easy flow of emotions and energy on the page. Pages that I love visiting. Men I love to root for and smile with.

Dead in the Desert picks up a few months after Dead in L.A. with roommates Leander and Jon. We jump right back in with Leander's psychic jobs and Jon's grumpiness, and their friends with sweet, sexy benefits relationship. Can Jon and Leander (Andy to Jon) push past their fears and pasts to build a future together?

These guys fit so well together. I love spending time with them. The way their different moods spark and feed off each other creates such a fun, flirty feel to the action. Jon's grumbling comes out in fierce protectiveness and stabs of jealousy here & there that pushes him to take care of Andy in such adorable ways—cooking for him, urging him to wear sunscreen, or take a nap. The big Grumpy Bear reveals his big thumping heart over and over again. I could feel Jon's love in all his worry and care. But he's still hesitating. He's just so scared of falling in love and losing it all over again.

**“I'd learned the hard way that the only thing you couldn't lose was what you didn't have. A fear of Andy flickering out of my life as abruptly as he'd entered it had burrowed into the corner of my heart.”**

Paired right along with Jon's surliness is Leander's smile and patience. Leander is a ray of light! His sunshine and joyful, sweet moods are contagious—his smile jumps right off the page into my day. The cutie makes me happy! I want a Leander in my life. Plus the man's book addiction could (maybe) put mine to shame! The way he tucks himself into a book, curled up next to Jon on the couch never fails to kick up my need to get home and read, read, read!

And then there are the words! Lou Harper has a wonderful way with words. Some of my favorites—bamboozled and shyster--make an appearance. But also spiel, zingers, cockles and more. So much magic in her word choices alone never mind the emotion and fun behind them all. Jon's love and Leander's patience can be felt in every line, page and place. Oh, does Ms. Harper capture the heat of the desert and the mood of L.A. I felt this city! The LA County Morgue shop was my favorite touch. The morgue really does have a gift shop! I bought ~~one or two~~ hell...a few things there myself once upon a time.

Now for the dreaded epilogue word. I really considered not reading it. I've had some bad experiences recently—BURNED by a few actually. But I jumped in with one eye squeezed shut with a “please, please don't disappoint me” plea in my heart. I'm so glad I did. It definitely piqued my interest and left me wanting for more. Can't wait to see where Harper brings us next!

My favorite Jon moment: (The big grouch is one of the sweetest guys in fiction!)

**“As Andy laughed the freckles seemed to dance over the bridge of his nose. I liked to watch him laugh.”**

---

### **Emma Sea says**

I don't know what to say about this book because it's so understated in tone. I guess the words are a bit like the desert. It's not a lush story: it's open, sparse, with its own quiet structure. The complexities of Leander and Jon are rarely seen on the surface: they're in burrows underneath the words.

3.5 stars, rounded up.

---

### **?? Michaelle ♡?? says**

4.2 Stars

I'm not sure why I keep finding myself surprised by how much I like these books!

---

### **Kaje Harper says**

This is another good installment in the L.A. Paranormal series, and hopefully not the last. This story lets us see Jon and Leander more than half a year into their relationship, which is now one of friends with plenty of sexy benefits (although the actual sex scenes are rather briefly presented - nice but not detailed.) It's pretty clear that they actually care more about each other than mere friendship, but Andy isn't pushing, and Jon is still holding back to protect his heart from future loss. A couple of new cases of missing people bring them in contact with dead bodies and the police, in a story that is interesting and melodramatic in content while being matter-of-fact in tone. We get a few moments between the guys that have a sweet resonance, as they begin to talk more about their feelings for each other. This was a very fast read - a bit more solid and satisfying than the two previous novellas, but still a brief taste that left me eager to spend more in-depth time with these two guys.

---

### **Sherry says**

**4.25 stars**

I adore these two guys and was so excited to read that I withdrew my name for a possible free version

because I couldn't wait.

If you've enjoyed the series so far, this will not disappoint. It's nice, it's quiet, and their relationship is maturing. Jon is a nurturer where Andy is concerned, although he wouldn't necessarily describe himself as such. Andy is a caring, impulsive man who gently chides Jon into acknowledging his emotions.

---

## Monique says

**What makes this series so AMAZING is Lou Harpers effortless style of writing, captivating yet understated with no clutter and she has a way of endearing us to even the grumpiest of characters... her ever present humour with an element of mystery is just perfect... THIS IS JUST A BLOODY GOOD STORY!!!**

*Dead in the Desert* is the second book in the L.A. Paranormal series, and it is one complete story and not a collection of novellas, which I loved! In all honesty it can be read as a standalone, which was exactly how I intended to read it... however a few pages in and I had fallen in love with the characters and I had to go back and start from the beginning... I wanted more, so I stopped mid flow, downloaded *Dead in L.A.* and started from the beginning and didn't stop till I had finished both books... YES! They are *that* good... I couldn't put them down!

So we first meet the boys *In Dead in L.A* where Andy is a ray of sunshine to Jon's life filled with storm clouds and rain. Andy is a psychic who finds things, cats, dogs, missing jewellery, he is adorable and such an unassuming character, where as Jon on the other hand is grumpy to say the least, racked by guilt over the death of his wife, trying to put his life back together, attending college but unable to drag himself out of the darkness that consumes him, preferring solitude and self imposed isolation. As a pessimist he doesn't allow himself to feel for fear of the unknown, of what might happen if he lets down his guard and allows someone into his heart again... I got the impression he was subconsciously punishing himself, but Andy's easy manner and self confidence wormed his way into his life and Jon was no longer able to distance himself from the vibrant sparkle that was Andy and it had all happened without him having realised it

*Dead in the Desert* takes place ten months after they had become room mates and seven months into their friends with benefits relationship.

Detective Lipkin makes another appearance to call on Andy's psychic services to locate a dead body, but the main story line is locating a missing person. Andy is hired by a lawyer to find Ethan Novak, the son of the serial killer Clive Riddel. Clive's Uncle has left a vast fortune in his will to Ethan, a boy he didn't know, for no other reason than to piss off his family, only Ethan has been missing for seven years and needs to be located before the family have him declared dead.

This is not a detective thriller and neither Jon or Andy are investigators per se, they actually sit on the periphery of the actual investigations...with all the pieces falling into place in the background and the boys just contributing a small part, well actually it is Andy and his psychic abilities that are in demand, but over protective Jon is non too happy about him being involved without being there himself... just in case! I would say this is more of a mystery and Lou Harper keeps us engaged throughout... seeing the boys dipping in and

out and the threads all coming together, I was hanging on every little piece of information!

Andy can't resist helping, it's who he is... he is just a kind and generous soul, who also happens to be hilarious, his banter with Jon, addiction to food porn and obsession with books had me laughing out loud, he is just a fun and zany character, modest with a casual approach to his gift, learning as he goes along, to him it's a living and definitely not something to be abused, and Jon is on hand to make sure no harm comes to his man! Jon is possessive and protective of Andy, but not in a suffocating way, he cares about Andy but finds it hard to express his feelings and emotions and his mother hen ways are just his subconscious affections coming to the fore.

"I'd learned the hard way that the only thing you couldn't lose was what you didn't have. A fear of Andy flickering out of my life as abruptly as he's entered it had burrowed into a corner of my heart"

We also see Jon battling with his emotions, coming to terms with the fact that Andy has indeed broken down the barriers that have for so long guarded his heart, looking at Andy as part of his future, but insecure... unsure of what *he* means to Andy, he wants more than friends with benefits which was Andy's idea in the first place, and although we don't get a glimpse as to what is going on in Andy's head, only having Jon's POV I got the impression he was holding back not wanting to push Jon or force the issue of a relationship, knowing how emotionally damaged Jon is.

The romance develops at a sedate pace all enhanced by the investigations, it is a subtle blend of romance and mystery and the whole package is combined perfectly... it's just an excellent read with engaging characters and fascinating plot lines that will have you chuckling all the way through!

There is an epilogue to this... and so very clever, I loved it! I am also wondering if it might be another direction the lovely Ms Harper may be taking us in?!?

**This is and EXCELLENT book and I defy you not to love it!**

---

## Ami says

After helping Detective Lipkin with finding a body in the desert, Leander (or "Andy" to Jon) accepts a case from a lawyer, who wants Andy to find a young man who has disappeared for several years, in order to give him money and property from his dead uncle. The young man is the son of a convicted killer. Jon, Andy's roommate and friends with benefit, goes along to help because he feels protective and caring and all those other "feels" that he has come to associate when it comes to Andy.

-----

Unlike the previous book, *Dead in L.A.*, *Dead in the Desert* doesn't have episodic mystery. Instead, all chapters are a continuous story, combining romance and a dash of mystery. If I can categorize this book for my own purpose, I will call it a comfort mystery romance. Both Jon and Andy are not part of the police force nor they are professional private detectives. There isn't any heavy legwork of investigation, interviewing

suspects, and such. But Andy would get dreams and new clues about where to find Ethan and then he and Jon would follow it through.

The romance part is more quiet. I love the difference of the two men. Jon is the grumpy bear and Andy is the ray of sunshine, but they match so well. Since this is written from Jon's point-of-view, we don't get much inner thoughts of Andy, but it is perfectly fine. Andy is more open and it is easy to see how Jon drawn to him. Instead we will get Jon's inner perspective about this new-found relationship.

I love it when Jon feels protective or slightly jealous or exasperated when Andy doesn't eat well or being cranky if he must gets up early in the morning. I might wonder what Andy sees in Jon -- but I also know how opposites attract. Andy might see Jon as someone dependable, someone to lean on, who will always be there when he feels exhausted or disturbed by his dreams.

It might feel restrained but I always love that kind of story better than overdone drama. There is a beautiful gesture when Jon finally takes off his wedding ring, realizing that it is time to let go of his past and grabs this new chance of happiness with Andy. I feel that they will always be the type of couple who would be comfortable with each other without having to talk about everything under the sun.

And the epilogue is a nice touch...

---

### **Tami says**

It was a nice sequel with the unusual pair of ex-construction worker now artist and the psychic. I liked those two, their dynamic and the mystery was good enough.

A very enjoyable read.

BTW: I am now on booklikes too (as Tami - <http://tami.booklikes.com/>), due to the policy changes and my growing paranoia that those were not the last changes to the worse.

---

### **Lena Polskaia says**

J'ai découvert avec délice la plume de cet auteur que je ne connaissais pas, élégante, fine, délicate et pleine d'humour, au travers de ce livre qui nous parle de mystères à résoudre, mais surtout d'amour. Jon est veuf, bougon et solitaire, il joue volontiers les ours grincheux pour décourager les contacts. Sexy sans le savoir, protecteur sans le vouloir, il se sent à 28 ans vieux et usé. Brisé comme son épaule, qui l'a obligé à abandonner un métier dans le bâtiment pour se recycler en étudiant en art graphique, un milieu où il se sent étranger, refusant d'admettre son propre talent artistique. Brisé comme son âme, suite à l'accident de voiture qui a coûté la vie à son épouse. Elle était sa meilleure amie depuis l'enfance, il était son chevalier blanc, tenant éloignés d'elle les dragons, et il ne se pardonne pas d'avoir failli à la protégée.

Puis arrive Léandre, dit « Lea comme lit », son colocataire. Un jeune homme de 22 ans, fin, lumineux, délicat, charmeur quand il veut, entêté comme pas deux. Un vrai cocktail de bonne humeur et de sensualité

auquel même un ours bougon ne peut résister. Leandre est un voyant, il retrouve objets et animaux familiers, et au hasard d'une visite, il retrouve aussi un mort. Puis un autre... c'est parfois difficile pour lui, mais exaltant d'améliorer son don, et de venir en aide à la police. C'est surtout difficile pour Jon, qui se sent investi de la mission non seulement de nourrir son colocataire, mais encore de le maintenir en sécurité. Et celui-ci ne lui facilite pas la tâche.

C'est un plaisir que de suivre que les trois enquêtes auxquelles vont se livrer nos deux compères, pour résoudre des affaires anciennes mystérieuses à souhait. C'est surtout un vrai bonheur que de suivre la romance qui se noue entre Jon et Léandre, si dissemblables et si complémentaires, qui glissent de la cohabitation à « l'amitié avec avantages » à bien plus que cela. Jon, le narrateur, est craquant en protecteur bougon, somnambule, désabusé, ironique. Il nous fait rire avec son art de massacrer les dictons les plus courant, nous touche avec ses blessures, nous émeut par son infinie tendresse envers « son Andy », pour qui il est prêt à tout et n'importe quoi. Quand à Léandre, fragile et fort à la fois, tendre et têtu, sexy et paumé, et exécration cuisinier, il est tout simplement adorable. Ce jeune homme exceptionnel a un don pour retrouver ce qui a été perdu... y compris le cœur de Jon et sa faculté à aimer.

Vous l'aurez compris, ce roman est un petit bijou mêlant harmonieusement le mystère et le quotidien, les enquête policières et une douce romance et sensuelle. C'est magnifiquement écrit, plein de tendresse, d'humour, de délicatesse. Et l'on passe du rire à l'émotion en un clin d'œil, au détour d'une petite phrase anodine. J'aime bien celle là: «son visage heureux m'atteignit en plein cœur. J'aurais voulu empaqueter Andy et le garder à tout jamais ». Un coup de cœur.

---

### **Lilia Ford says**

I liked this even better than the first, which I liked plenty. A genre story that is written with such skill and understatement that you forget all about the genre--another way of saying it's low-key but always a little unexpected. And Leander is without competition my favorite fictional psychic.

---

### **Finnegan says**

Another great book in the series. Leander (I love his name!) is a very gifted psychic, but he is very matter-of-fact about it, so the book reads more like a mystery and less like a fantasy. Jon and Leander's relationship developed a bit more in this book, and I am happy there is a fourth book in the series, because I am not yet ready to say goodbye.

---

### **ttg says**

A very enjoyable sequel to the paranormal mystery *Dead in L.A.*. This time, psychic Leander and his cranky "roommate"/lover Jon are on the case of a missing person, and as they search, they unearth more mysteries (and a few bodies.)

Grouchy Jon is the narrator, and I love him. His narrative voice is solid, a little stark, and straightforward. As the reader, you get to enjoy all the hints about how much Jon cares about Leander, even though he's not



willing to admit it to himself. I find his voice and also his and Andy's dialogue a real treat, and I love watching him come undone, even when it's in that tightly controlled Jon way.

It's a pretty laid-back mystery, even more so than the first one. In one way, it's a very relaxing, enjoyable read, but I wouldn't have minded a little more tension near the end.

Overall, I enjoyed it very much, and if you dug Dead in L.A. you probably will dig this as well. It can probably stand alone, but I don't know why you'd wanna skip book 1. It's a great read too.

Recommended, especially if you like mysteries. It's low on sexy times, but that's okay--I didn't miss it, and Jon and Andy still had lots of cute moments.

I'm definitely hopeful for a book 3. I could read these guys all day.

---

### **Bitchie says**

I read this immediately after Dead in LA. I literally closed one book and opened the other, because I didn't want to lose the momentum, as I often do when waiting between books. I enjoyed this one just as much, maybe more, than the first book, simply because there were more feelings involved. While the first book had more of a "fuck buddies with hidden, pushed down feelings" vibe, this story finally pushed those feelings to the front. I found the mystery in this story engaging, and I loved the little, microscopic, connection to the Sanguine world at the end in the epilogue.

This story felt like a conclusion somehow, but I really hope there are more stories to come in this series, or at least, that Jon and Andy pop up somehow someplace else. Maybe with Harvey and Gabe, since that tenuous link was formed between the series.

---

### **Ije the Devourer of Books says**

I only really discovered Lou Harper this year and I am gradually making my way through all her books.

I love this series about Jon and Leander. I like the way there is no sudden head long dash into love in this story. Instead Jon is very cautious recognising his growing feelings for Leander but also having to come to terms with the loss of his wife years before. So this is a nice slow burn romance at the centre of an interesting story about a psychic.

Leander has a gift and is able to find things that are lost and sometimes dead people. In a way he also finds Jon and finds love but also has quite a few adventures with his gift.

The characters in this story are unique and don't really follow the general mm patterns which is refreshing. No insta love, no big misunderstanding and no copious pages of unrelenting sex scenes. Instead here is a story which has romance and love, a frisson of spookiness, lots of quirkyness and some off beat humour.

Best of all both books 1 and 2 include mysteries that Leander is able to solve with Jon's help. And there is the interesting side character, the dour cop.

So I really enjoyed this and I hope there will be many more in this series. Until then I shall continue to explore the other books written by Lou Harper and I hope her other characters in those books are as refreshing and unique as the characters in this book.

---

## **Christy says**

I could not wait to get back in Lou Harper's world! I missed the writing, the humor, the story line, and, in this case, I really missed Jon and Andy. I fell so hard for them, particularly Andy, in 'Dead in L.A.' that I was just squirming to get to this next installment. Lucky for me, all the great things I adored about the first book were also present in this latest novella. Ah, the mystery, the sex, the laughter, the sweetness. I felt as if I came home.

Jon and Andy are still living together and keeping to the friends with benefits situation they sort of fell into, pun intended. It's rather funny watching them because it is painfully obvious that they both care far more than just a FWB situation, but neither wants to say anything. Men. Sheesh. \*grins\* What is even better, at least for me, is watching Jon mother Andy. Making sure he eats a good breakfast, stays hydrated, and has sunscreen. Frankly, it's adorable and just made me love Jon, the grump, even more. Meanwhile, Andy brings the laughter and lighthearted goodness into Jon's life that is so desperately needed. These two men are one hundred percent perfect for each other.

When Detective Lipkin asks Andy to help him locate a body, Jon isn't thrilled to end up out in the desert between Las Vegas and L.A., in scorching hot temperatures, looking for a dead gangster. What Andy finds is not just one body, but two, and one of them is a child. Leaving the coppers to their work, Andy is then contacted by a lawyer to locate a missing person who disappeared seven years ago. It appears the young man is to inherit quite a lot of money and if he can't be found, his relatives will have him declared dead. It also turns out he's the natural son of a convicted serial killer who was put to death in Louisiana. And, his birth mother may or may not have helped with the killings. Hmm.

'Dead in the Desert' was just as fantastic as the first installment. I loved it. I loved getting back to the guys and watching Andy work his mojo and solve old mysteries. I loved watching Jon and Andy fumble around their feelings. And, I really hope Lou Harper doesn't make me wait too long before the next installment.

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

---