



Dead Even

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 third is free.

FBI Special Agent Miranda Cahill has always played by the rules: always maintain a respectful professionalism, and never mix business with pleasure. Except when it comes to fellow agent Will Fletcher. Their on-again, off-again relationship has left painful scars even he has never seen.

Now, a series of murders has the two agents racing to outwit a killer before he can strike again. Miranda and Will know that lives depend on identifying intended victims and tracking them down before the killer does. But as they begin to unravel this homicidal agenda, it becomes clear that Miranda may be the last and final target in a twisted game. With the clock ticking, time is running out on a killer who is determined to cross Miranda's name off his hit list . . . permanently.

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

Dead Even Details

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Author : Mariah Stewart

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From Reader Review Dead Even for online ebook

Jay Jessmer says

If you've read my reviews of the first 2 books in this series, there's no sense in repeating myself. all of the things I've said previously hold true in this installment.

GREAT story, excellent continuation from one book to the next, strong characters and enough suspense to keep you turning the pages. Mariah Stewart got this one right. I highly recommend this series to just about anyone. It has suspense, romance, mystery and even a touch of humor at times.

The only thing that I wish had been different would have been for Amanda(from "Dead Certain") to have been involved in the story. she was mentioned briefly, but had no appearance. LOVED her character in the previous book.

Shireen Hakani says

4.5 Stars

Colleen says

Once again, I would not call this a romantic suspense novel - just suspense. Very well written and enjoyable, just no romance. In fact, I think this one had less romance than the first two books in this series. So reader beware, if you are looking for a book with romance, this is not for you. If you want to enjoy a well written, myster/suspense novel - enjoy!

Jim says

This is the third in the series of four. She has several trilogies and tetralogies (maybe a few singles also). This is the second of her series I've read. I've enjoyed all of them so far and expect to continue through each of them.

In a previous review, I scoffed at finding these books about serial killers and murderers in the romance section of one of the libraries I use (they're in fiction, as they should be, in the other two libraries). As the symmetry of the universe would have it, this book had a solid "romance" line in it. It did not get in the way of the story, but it got a lot of attention. This is romance in the "we have feelings" category and not pages of sex. (BTW, she is a romance author, so I understand the library's confusion. But she has at least three series and three stand-alones that are "FBI" and not romance--this is one of them.)

Since the first book of this series implied a trilogy (evident from the prologue, reinforced by the ending), I wasn't sure how it became a tetralogy. Having read this third one, I'm still not sure how the fourth will play out, as the "obvious" story lines have already completed.

As with her others, the book moves quickly and I don't like breaking away to do things, oh, like live life. I thought the "general" ending was good, the way it came together. I thought the "very" ending was clever. Even with the obvious clue of what comes next, book four could go in several directions. We'll see.

Lori Schiele says

The third 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 third one follows the release of the third, and last, prisoner--and the last 3 victims on the list.

It is much different from the first two and had a very different feel from the others--almost more romance than psychological thriller (like the first one, "Dead Wrong") or murder mystery (like the second, "Dead Certain) was. By now, the FBI and police from the first two books have figured out the "Strangers on a Train" scenario and from the moment the third prisoner is released, two FBI agents are sent to visit him. And these two agents happen to be on-again, off-again lovers. And one of them--they are, at first, unaware--is also on the killer's list.

This book, unfortunately, was written a bit sloppier than the first two in the beginning and would have been more difficult to follow had I not read the first two right before it. The author did not develop the characters as well, as if running on the presumption that the reader had already read the other books. In addition, there is a secondary plot line that involves characters that appeared only in the first book, "Dead Wrong". Still worth reading, but not as well written, or easy to follow, if you haven't read the others. But if you have read the others, it is a nice wrap-up to the trilogy.

Darcy Berard says

Good. Books

These books have so many twists and turns just as you think one thing another come along to stymie you. Loved the ones Ive read so far. Buckle up for a bumpy ride and turbulence!

Jessica says

Dead Even was a confusing ring. It's supposed to follow Will and Miranda, two agents from the FBI, as they try to track down Archer Lowell. They've figured out that he, along with two other prisoners, made a Strangers On A Train kind of deal where they'd each kill 3 people for another. The problem in this situation is, they have no idea who the intended victims are. And an interesting twist: they can't keep Lowell in custody for it, because he hasn't committed the crimes yet. This should have been really interesting to read about. I would've found it so intriguing if that had been the angle this went in.

Instead, a second completely unrelated crime was added to this book. Genna Snow and John Mancini (from Voices Carry) are also FBI agents, working on a kidnapping and child prostitution ring case. This also would have been interesting. Unfortunately, it wasn't well executed.

Completely different crimes, completely different people involved on all levels (criminals, victims, FBI agents and local police). Too many names to figure out who's who all the time. And made worse by not even

separating the two by changing chapters. The only differentiation we were given between stories was the change of a paragraph. A PARAGRAPH. It left me confused more than once.

All in all, this could have been a good book but it just fell short. Too bad.

Robin says

An easy, quick read with likable characters. Two different stories in one novel that intermingle together at the end. It would have been much better if the author had concentrated on just one story. I've read some of the novels that came before and after this one. They are all about the same as far as the ranking.

However, just too many coincidences or rather unlikely scenarios. First we have Mara Douglas, who just happened to be one of the people that Vinnie Giordano wanted killed for taking his children away. Her sister just happens to be an FBI agent. And on top of that, her husband kidnapped her daughter and ran away to join a cult that the FBI is investigating. Then there was Amanda, whom Archer Lowell wanted killed. Her brother, Evan, just happens to be a detective. So why do all of the intended murder victims have a connection to FBI or law enforcement? I guess to set the stage for all of the FBI and their mates to interact with each other.

It also does not make sense that Vinnie would pay Burt to make sure that Channing's intended victims were murdered. Why would he care? Channing was dead and his own choices were already taken care of by Channing, or at least some of them.

Randy says

Thoroughly enjoyed this book in the series. Similiar to its predecessors, while it's helpful to read them in order, it's not required to enjoy the book. Good thriller novel. Stewart's characters are relatable and engaging.

Dotti Elrick says

Dead Even finishes up the stories of the "game". When three prisoners are unexpectedly put in a room together, Archer Lowell, at 19, is the youngest and most inexperienced of the three. To make himself look tougher, he starts talking tough with the other two men. The first man, Vince, is well known for having killed his wife and children. The second man, Curtis has the look of a killer. Both men scare the hell out of Archer. He asks the two men, if they could have a free pass to take out anyone, who would they eliminate. Making sure everyone is aware it's just talk, just a game to pass the time, the three each give up three names. Curtis, being the first of them released, decides to play for real. He takes Vince's list. When Vince's conviction is overturned and he is released, he takes on Archers list, continuing the game. Now that Archer has served his time and is free once again, its his duty to see that Curtis' list is completed. But with no one to check up on him, he decides to settle in and just live his life as clean as he can. Forget all about the game. Until Vince sends a man to insure Archer does what he is obligated to do. Eliminate Curtis' three people. FBI agents Miranda Cahill and Will Fletcher have a professional and a personnel history together. A love, hate, on again, off again relationship. The last thing Miranda wants is to be partnered up with Will again. But she will sucked it up and be a professional. After all they have a killer to catch. One Archer Lowell. The FBI

knows Archer is the third man in the game. They just need to watch him, and wait for him to make his move. They have a pretty good idea who his first victim should be, and he gives them a clue who victim number two most likely is. But the profilers all agree, Archer Lowell is too scared to actually kill anyone. Until the first man is found dead, and Archer is missing.

During the investigation, an idea surfaces on who the third intended victim is. It's Miranda. She had interviewed Curtis several years earlier in connection with a string of murders. Apparently, she made an impression on him.

When Will learns this, his mind is made up. To get to Miranda, they'll have to go through him.

In a side story, we get a peek at a couple from an earlier book, who finally find what they've been looking for. For better or worse.

I have fallen in love with the way this author develops her characters. These stories are more romancy than thriller. But there is still plenty of tension involved in the story. Each book can be read as a stand alone novel. You are given plenty of information about the back stories, you won't feel lost. I would, however, recommend reading the others in the series for the complete story. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Betty says

made an "okay" car book!

Carissa says

this book was disappointing, it was recommended to me by a shop keeper at my local used book store when I asked for any good romantic suspense. she claimed it was very good. I am hoping she just pointed to the wrong one...

absolutely no romance and even less suspense. there was three different plots throughout the book and yes they ended up interweaving but it still was bland and in my opinion boring.

too much information on minute details and not enough during the action scenes, example of when there is a shooting it skips from the guy being shot to "Cahil walked over to the body" she is the heroine FBI agent and it doesn't even describe her hearing the shot or any such detail! she just magically appeared outside by the body...

it took me over a week to finish, which is a long time for me, I can usually finish in about 2-3 days of evening reading.

I can't say that I enjoyed it or would recommend it but I also bought another book in the series at the same time so I hope that one is better.

Cindy says

Third in this series and for me it was my least favorite. I did not like the jumping back and forth between the rescue of Julianne and the Archer Lowell storylines - although the ending did bring them together. To me it seemed to detract from the overall action. I will be finishing up this series since I'm already 3 into it. The set-up, a homage to the movie *Strangers on a Train*, was clever but it was a little cumbersome by this 3rd part. The author had to do some plot jumps to keep this up and it was evident that the story suffered a little. For the most part it was good if predictable.

Louise says

This is the last book in the "trilogy". The first two were "Dead Wrong" & "Dead Certain". EXCELLENT!!

"FBI Special Agent Miranda Cahill has always played by the rules: Always maintain a respectful professionalism, and never mix business with pleasure. Except when it comes to fellow agent Will Fletcher. Their on-again, off-again relationship has left painful scars even he has never seen.

Now a series of murders has the two agents racing to outwit a killer before he can strike again. Miranda and Will know that lives depend on identifying intended victims and tracking them down before the killer does. But as they begin to unravel his homicidal agenda, it becomes clear that Miranda may be the last and final target in a twisted game. With the clock ticking, time is running out on a killer who is determined to cross Miranda's name off his hit list....permanently."

♥ Nell ♥ says

A great continuation... Still loving the characters and want to see more...
