



Death Notice

Alicia Dean

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A killer is using The Northland Chronicle to announce his victims. When Monroe Donovan, former crime reporter busted down to the obit desk by her boss and ex-lover, receives another obituary with a "wrong" future date, she sees a story.

Detective Lane Brody sees a suspect in Monroe, accusing her of hiding her connection between her ex-lover and the latest victim, while Monroe can't deny the attraction between herself and the unhappily married Detective. The same kind of attraction that landed her in obits.

Then Monroe walks in on her former lover and his girlfriend, half-naked and being held at knifepoint by the killer.

Now Monroe can only hope Detective Brody stops suspecting her and starts looking for her—before her name appears in the obits.

Death Notice Details

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From Reader Review Death Notice for online ebook

Soxmom9 says

This book was great, very well written! A friend gave it to me when I was down with a shoulder injury.....once I started I could not put it down!!!!!! The story flows and the twists and turns will keep you on edge! I am looking forward to reading more from this author, I often find that I get hung up on a writer's word choice or phrases that do not make sense, this book was gripping and I love her style.....not only was the plot just unreal-the writing was wonderful.....thank you my friend for an amazing gift :)

Silver James says

Death Notice Alicia Dean offers tight thrills, intriguing characters, and a serial killer with a wicked sense of timing.

Monroe, the heroine, is having a bad day. Instead of a promotion, she's reprimanded by her boss (and former boyfriend) for getting the date wrong on an obit. Cue the spooky music! There's a serial killer, a police detective with secrets of his own, and thrills and chills galore.

This book was made to read curled up under a blanket on a cold night! Get a cup of tea, a hot toddy, or cup of cocoa, grab this book and settle in for some leave-the-lights-on reading!

Pamela says

What a pleasant surprise this novel was for me. For one thing I can't remember how I came across it; and second, it's an intriguing read that held my interest from beginning to end. "*Death Notice*" is a well-written story that's full of mystery, drama, and a bit of romance. But what really made this novel special and more enjoyable were the characters, in particular the two protagonists at the heart of the story, Lane and Monroe, both of whom were very likeable. Unlike so many other heroes and heroines, these two come across as just normal, average people, especially Monroe. She's not tall and waif-like thin, not absolutely stunning with a perfect face or a drop-dead gorgeous body, not someone every other woman is jealous of, or knows how good looking she is. She's a beautiful woman inside and out with a heart of gold. Lane is a detective who's good-looking, a decent guy, a detective who's smart and full of useless trivia facts. The fact that he's not a millionaire or billionaire is such a refreshing change. They're both in-depth and well-written characters that come across as quite genuine. They're also both flawed and have serious issues going on in their lives that keep them from moving on in their lives. I also have to mention that I really liked the supporting characters, in particular Monroe's best friend, Asia, and her brother, Gable; and Lane's partner and friend, Tony. I do have to mention that Monroe's mother drove me nuts. I really wish Monroe would stand up for herself, or at least shut her up for once. As for the mystery, while suspenseful it wasn't the kind that kept you on the edge of your seat. I did appreciate how the romance between Monroe and Lane develops slowly. There was none of the "I love you" or "will you marry me" crap after knowing each other only for a couple of days. It's written with care and intelligence making it a romantic ending that's different and most refreshing to read.

One issue I have with the novel pertains to the character POVs. Whether it be a new chapter, or a new paragraph, it took reading two or three paragraphs to figure out exactly who's POV I was reading, be it Lane, Monroe, or the killer. So frustrating at times.

In the end, "*Death Notice*" is definitely worth the time to read. Now onto book 2, "*Death Offerings*."

Debra Martin says

"Death Notice" was referred to me by a friend and I'm so glad she did. The author has done a superb job in creating suspense and mystery in this story. Monroe Donovan is an obit writer - pretty boring most of the time, but she plods along longing to get back to the crime desk. She's been patiently waiting for the crime writer job for 2 years and her promotion is complicated by the fact that her ex-boyfriend is also her boss, Adam. Anyone who has been in this position knows how these things go - not only does Monroe not get the promotion, but Adam reprimands her for letting an obit go to print with the date of death 2 days in the future.

Monroe is clearly upset about Adam's betrayal, that is, until Detective Lane Brody comes to the paper to interview Monroe about the obit. Seems the obit wasn't wrong after all--the victim was found murdered on the date listed. Sparks are clearly flying between Monroe and Lane, but there's another problem. Lane is married, but it's complicated. When a second obit shows up with the wrong date, Detective Lane realizes that he has a serial killer case on his hands.

Ms. Dean does a great job of letting the reader inside both Monroe's and Lane's head and what they're feeling for each other. Their scenes together sizzle. I could feel their forbidden passion for one another--the writing is that good. The mystery of who the serial killer will definitely surprise you. The clues are there, but Ms. Dean is very clever with them. Fans of mystery and suspense will thoroughly enjoy this book. Highly Recommended.

Diane Burton says

What a page turner!

Someone is sending journalist Monroe Donovan obits for her newspaper column. Not unusual except the date of the first death is two days hence. Must be a mistake. Another notice arrives, again with the wrong date. Then, Monroe discovers both people died on the date in the notices. In the course of investigating the murders, Detective Lane Brody meets Monroe. While the attraction is mutual, neither can act on it. Separately, they discover clues but only when they work together can they hope to find the killer.

I read this book in one sitting. I couldn't put it down. Alicia Dean weaves a suspenseful story of betrayal and murder with enough humor to make *Death Notice* an entertaining edge-of-the-seat thriller. The main characters are flawed people with complicated lives, which makes them all the more appealing. Monroe's match-making colleague and her slightly wacky family provide comic relief while her protection of her fragile childhood friend evokes sympathy. Great read. Can't wait to start the next book in the Northland Crime Chronicles.

Brenda Wallace says

As soon as I saw that Alicia Dean had a new book out, I grabbed it, which was a wise move on my part! This

is a well-crafted fast paced thriller with memorable characters. I immediately liked Monroe and enjoyed living her story to the point that I felt like I met her. Several times during the story, I thought I'd figured out who the killer was. I hate to admit that I was wrong, even though the clues were all in there. But, unpredictability is one of the things I love most in a novel. A complicated romance always piques my interest, and there's a great one in here with plenty of sizzle. The concept and plot were also intriguing with the killer turning in obituaries for the victims before they die. I'm a picky reader and Alicia Dean always amazes me. I'm on the lookout for her next book!

Leah St.James says

Beautiful phrasing and a good, tight story that keeps me turning the pages. That's what I look for in a book! (Okay, okay, I wouldn't have minded a bit more romance, but I'm going to recommend to all my friends who don't share my perverted tastes!)

Sheryl says

I'm glad I stumbled upon this book as it was quite enjoyable. I really liked Monroe and Lane. The narrative style was interesting, switching between first person narrative from Monroe's POV and third person for everyone else. The mystery was interesting though I was surprised that the whole connection to the obituaries didn't come until so late in the book. I expected it to be more upfront given the book synopsis. More than one other mystery was started which I hope are addressed in future books. I look forward to reading more in the series.

Calisa says

I was lucky to be one of the first to read this book and I am glad I did! I loved this story! It was tightly written, suspenseful and romantic without the gush, just the way I would expect a hard core detective to be. The heroine was a strong woman who knew what she wanted and, with a little goading from her bff, seemed to find a way to get it. Including the man. Great job Alicia! More!

Marsha says

I really enjoy a good murder mystery and "Death Notice" provide that in spades. The story is steeped in suspense, twists and turns, forbidden love, murder, mayhem and betrayal. The story captured my attention from and start and the ending left me surprised (which says a lot for me).

Monroe Donovan writes the obituaries for a small paper. She is under the impression that today will be the day she will be promoted to the crime writing desk by her ex-boyfriend, Adam. Unfortunately, the cheating dog that he is refuses to promote her and announces that he will be marrying the girl he has been cheating with. Monroe does what any self respecting woman would do and quits. Can you believe it, Adam is shocked?

Meanwhile Detective Lane Brody has problems of his own. His wife is lying in a mental institution too ill to stand trial for the murder of her lover and former friend of Lane's. Additionally, he has been called to investigate the murder of a man who was kidnapped and shot. Little does he know but his path is about to collide with Monroe Donovan in more ways than one.

Monroe has received an obituary for a man where the date of death is in the future. She does not catch it and it goes to print. Of course, Adam has to point this mistake out to her in his attempt to feel better about himself. Monroe doesn't have time to worry about this because Detective Brody has come to the paper to ask about one of her close friends, Josie. He wants to talk to her about her criminal boyfriend, Matt. Unfortunately, Josie is a druggie and comes and goes in Monroe's life.

Then bodies begin showing up and Lane and Monroe seem to find themselves continually crossing paths. They are definitely feeling the connection vibe but both are hesitant to cross that imaginary line or propriety. Lane is still married and Monroe is not about to break up what she thinks is a happy home.

In this story we get to see glimpses of both the characters professional and personal problems. I can't decide which I enjoyed more: reading about Monroe's family issues, Lane's wife's story or the ever evolving direction of the murders. Although the POV's were unique they all seem to blend seamlessly in the end. The only thing that left me wanting was that I wanted Monroe to confront her brother Coburn about his infidelity and I wanted to know what ever happened to Josie's boyfriend, Matt. I do not know if these issues will be revealed in future installments or if this was just a one shot story. However, I do believe that it has true potential to become a series. Ms. Dean, any comments on a series?

Mickey says

Monroe Donovan, the obit reporter and amateur crime solver in this first book in what looks to be a great series, is my kind of protagonist. Sassy, spunky, brave and big-hearted, Roe deals with her bad hand like a world-class poker champ. So her mother downgrades her and her boyfriend cheated on her, so what? She has a job, she has friends, she has goals. She wants to be a crime reporter, and she's working the odds to get there,

Along the way, Roe finds the time to rescue her drug-addicted BFF, donate to homeless guys, and solve a serial killer mystery, all while controlling the overwhelming desire to jump the bones of the sexy cop on the case. He wants her too but, unfortunately, Detective Lane Brody happens to be married.

Death Notice has a clever plot, a great pace, and some terrific lines. I especially liked the protagonist's nickname for the hot cop: "Mr. Dark and Off-limits." She calls strippers "clothing challenged." And says things like, "That will really chap her ass." Funny!

After the satisfying ending to this great read, I still wanted more. Lucky for me, book #2 is available.

Erin says

I loved this book! Good story, good whodunnit. Good suspense. Even a little bit of romance. I'm going to check out more by Alicia Dean has written.

Oh, I would have given it five stars, but I wanted a sex scene (or two, or three!), and there wasn't one. So, if you prefer books without, then this is definitely the book for you!

Cheryl says

This was a surprisingly great read given that it was offered as a freebie from the author via Instafreebie. A totally new author for me, this murder mystery centres around Monroe, an investigative reporter stuck doing the obituaries in one of the city's major newspapers. Cue a rapidly escalating killer announcing his kills prior to the deed by placing false obituary notices. Add in a cheating ex who happens to be your boss, a drug addict best friend, a murder cold case involving your childhood friend and a gaaawjus police detective with an ethical dilemma and you have a drama filled, perplexing murder case that has you glued to the pages, first sentence till last!

The sexual tension between Monroe and Lane literally thumps off the pages but there's a big problem, Lane is currently married. There is definitely a theme that runs throughout the novel, but I won't reveal that here, and interestingly a look at a couple of the social problems of our times.

Highly recommended reading.

P.S. I think the novel could do with an update of the cover. The one that is used now is quite professional but it threw me a bit using a female holding a gun. Until I started reading I had thought it was about a female detective???

Callie Hutton says

Today's the big day. Monroe is getting the promotion at The Northland Chronicle she was promised, and worked her butt off for. Excitement fills her when Adam, her former lover and boss, requests her presence in his office. This is it!

Not so. Actually he reprimands her for placing an obituary with the wrong date, and to inform her that his new girlfriend doesn't want him to give Monroe the promised promotion because she feels insecure. What the hell?

From there, life continues downhill when it becomes apparent someone is sending death notices to Monroe before the death actually occurs. Enter alpha male, Detective Lane Brody, with his own personal heartache. The chemistry between Lane and Monroe is palatable, but can this go anywhere with his issues? And will they catch the author of the obituaries before he strikes again?

Death Notice is a fun, tense story with a touch of romance woven so well by Alicia Dean. With great characters and a fast moving story, it makes for a great beach (or pool) day book.

Callie Hutton
www.calliehutton.com
A Run For Love
Annie's Attic

Chryse Wymer says

I've previously read Alicia Dean's Heart of the Witch and really enjoyed it, so I was stoked to hear she was going to start writing thrillers. Well, she didn't disappoint.

The main character writes obituaries in a smallish newspaper, and the story begins with the incorrect date on an obit being sent to the newspaper for publication. Not exactly shocking, considering how absentminded some folks are. That is, not shocking until murder begins. Mysterious words are painted near the walls of these murders, and none of it really adds up until the end. A romance potentially blooms between the main character and another man, and I found it easy to fall in love with them both. Alicia Dean writes in a casual style wherein her characters come through very naturally, and I found it easy to sympathize with them and like them. Dean also has a flair for the subtle art of anticipation. I was always wanting just a little more when it came to the couple. And it seemed to be the right amount of fingernail biting tension in most places.

There were a couple issues in this book that kept it from being just shy of perfect. The first is the point of view. It's hard to tell, in some scenes, who the point of view character is. Sometimes I wouldn't know for several lines, or even most of the scene/chapter, and would be thinking it was an entirely different narrative perspective than what it was and had to backtrack my brain to understand what was going on. So that took me out of the story a bit. The ending felt rushed to me, and could have offered a bit more suspense. It wasn't all that difficult to figure out whodunnit.

There are a few small typos, but nothing more than what occurs in a mass market paperback. This seems to

be the start of a series, and I'm looking forward to reading what she comes up with next. Overall, it was well worth the read.
