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Joyce Lavene , Jim Lavene

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Dead Girl Blues Details

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From Reader Review Dead Girl Blues for online ebook

Rosemary K says

Skye and Debbie have accepted their job as a Taxi for the Dead. It's always a challenge picking up Life Extended People. Many don't want to honor their contract and try to run. Suddenly their work gets stranger when Harold the Great is murdered and Abe's people start turning into ghosts. Can Skye find out what's happening before Abe ceases to exist? I enjoyed her continuing adventures. She is one feisty lady. She won't stop until she finds who or what killed her husband. I was with her every step of the way. I wanted answers. This book is filled with danger and surprising twists. The excitement is non-stop. The characters are nicely written. I like Lucas, a charming sorcerer who loves Skye and her daughter. This touch of romance is perfect. I am rooting for him, but I worry about his memory loss. Joyce and Jim Lavene have written an entertaining and solid story. It has a cliff hanger ending that left me shocked. I can't wait to find out what happens next. No one writes a paranormal mystery like these two.

I received a copy of Dead Girl Blues in exchange for an honest and unscripted review.

Joanne says

Written by Joyce and Jim Lavene, Dead Girl Blues is the second book in their Taxi for the Dead series. This is the first Cozy Mystery (Paranormal) book that I've read. I didn't know what to expect but the zombies in the book are not the traditional zombies, the zombies in this are pretty normal other than they don't need to sleep, don't get cold, they eat but don't really have to, and they have a 20 year limit on their time on earth. I'm not a fan of all the blood and gore that goes along with every Zombie novel my daughters have read and discussed with me. If your Zombie preference is similar to mine then you will really enjoy this book. Fortunately, the Zombies in this story are nothing like those from The Walking Dead, in fact, you'd never know they were living corpses because they are almost as normal as it they were truly still alive. If your take on Zombies is like mine, strongly consider reading this book, you will enjoy it and not be disappointed. The Zombies are referred to as Life Extended People (LEPs).

This book has a unique story line and keeps you on the edge of your seat right thru to the last page. The characters are "very human" and likeable. It has been three years since Skye, a former Nashville police officer, died and came back as a zombie. Skye is a driver for Abe's taxi for the dead; she has to pick up the zombies when their twenty years are up. Her partner, Debbie, is working off her zombie husband's service to Abe. Everything has been going fine for Skye until someone, or something begins killing off Abe's zombies before their time is up. Additionally, Abe asks her to investigate the murder of his sorcerer, Harold the Great, a man who was a victim of too many snakes and the Life Extended People (LEPs – a nice term for zombies) who work for Abe that have begun turning into ghosts and disappearing. Only Lucas an amnesiac sorcerer who lives with Skye and her family (her daughter Kate and the ghostly meddling mother-in-law), can save her from being the next victim of the deadly curse. In the process, Skye has found a lead in solving the riddle of her husband's death. She has never believed Jacob died as a result of the crash, but hasn't been able to prove it. Many other people have lost their lives in the same lonely stretch of highway where he did three years before. Skye goes against Abe's express wishes to discover the truth along with a crazy man bent on vengeance. Skye is determined to solve the question as to who is killing off the zombies and who or what killed her husband, Jacob. The plot is tight, well written and captures the reader's attention. The characters are interesting and their relationships well developed. A great read which will appeal to a wide audience including individuals who enjoy cozy mysteries and paranormal mysteries. Overall, a unique, superbly written cozy paranormal mystery.

Disclosure: With a grateful heart, I'm thankful to the authors, Joyce and Jim Lavene, for providing a complimentary advanced review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed in this review are my own.

Rhonda says

4 stars

Dead Girl Blues is a different cozy mystery. It has ghosts, zombies, sorcerer and other creatures. It has lots of drama, humor, wit, car chases, romance and surprises. It is a clean read.

Skye Mertz used to be a policewoman until she became a zombie. After a car crash that killed her husband and her. She agreed to serve Abraham Lincoln Jones for twenty extra years of life. So she could be there for her 5 year old daughter. She now drives a taxi for the dead. Skye goes and bring other zombies whose 20 years are up. Some run.

I read Dead girls Blues first by mistake and it does a good job of standing alone but I would rather of read them in the right order. It kept my attention as I was reading it while I was in the hospital last night for tests.

Abraham Lincoln Jones has a whole network of zombies who owe him the twenty extra years of service. He runs out of a mortuary and tattoo parlor. There is a lot of mystery about him and his power.

Skye lives on the outskirts of New Orleans. She still loves her husband Jacob. She lives with her daughter, her mother-in-law who is a ghost and her lover who has magic and mystery about him and his past.

I want to read the next book in the series. Has lot of characters that I want to find out what happens next.

I was given this book by the authors and in return I agreed to give a honest review and part of Dead Girls Blues.

Shelley Giusti says

Jim and Joyce Lavene's newest paranormal Dead Girl Blues will have you reading through the night. Magic, Zombies and a Story line so well written this whodunit will leave you wanting more. Skye Mertz is hunting down Zombies as part of a deal she made to have lives added to her life or in this case her life after death. Skye and her husband are dead after an accident and she is now a zombie too. She made a deal with Abe who is also dead, that she would help him with what he needed and right now he needs her to find out who killed his sorcerer. This book will keep you reading through the night, you won't want to put it down. The characters are fun and witty and well written that you feel like you are there with them. The story line will peek your interest from the start. I am eagerly waiting to see what Skye will get into next.

Tess says

They've done it again! I am just assuming that everyone knows who I refer to. If not, I'm referring to the wonderful writing team of Joyce and Jim Lavene. Although there are only 2 books in this series, the 1st book was great, this one is better than the one before. It amazes me that they can keep all of their series straight, and as they write under 3 names I am more impressed.

This is the 2nd book in their Taxi For The Dead series. I always feel as if I know the people in their books. As always it was great to catch up with Skye and Addie. I would fail miserably to explain the 1st in the series to you. Trust me when I ask you to read Broken Hearted Ghoul, before you read Dead Girl Blues. I believe you will enjoy the series, you might want to check out their other series. I think I have read every cozy that they have written, and several more than once. It would be impossible for me to pick a favorite book of their's, that would be like picking a favorite child.

FTC Full Disclosure - A copy of this book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

this was a very different type of mystery but not sure if I would classify it as a cozy, but very close. A majority of the main characters are zombies - but not the "want to eat your brain" types. They act and look like normal humans other than they don't need sleep or have to eat food. There are also ghosts, sorcerers, werewolves and even a few "normal" humans. Skye became a zombie 3 years ago so that her daughter wouldn't have to be raised as an orphan when Skye and her husband Jacob were in an accident and killed. Her MIL, Addie, is a ghost and lives with Skye and Karen. There is also Lucas, Skye's love interest even if she doesn't realize it despite them living together. he is a sorcerer that can't remember his past but knows that he loves Skye.

There is a good balance of characters and several "mysteries" to figure out. The ending is a good cliffhanger setting it up for another book.

very enjoyable!

Andrea Guy says

Another great series by my favorite cozy author duo. I don't know how they do it. I really don't. This is book two in the "Taxi For The Dead" series.

This book is more a paranormal mystery. I like to dip my toes in something different every now and then and I don't read much in the paranormal genre anymore, so I thought I'd give this series a go, because I love the authors so much.

I'm glad I did. They prove again that they can write anything. They do a little bit of paranormal in their Ren Faire Mysteries, but nothing like this.

Skye and Lucas are a great couple and I love Abbie as the ghostly mother in law. Skye is one of Abe's LEPs given 20 years of extra life to raise her daughter and she helps bring in the LEPs when their time is up. (Not all of them come willingly.) She's a zombie Stephanie Plum!

There's a sort of double mystery going on here, maybe even triple. The first one involves Skye finding out who killed Abe's sorcerer. (Abe is the man who turned Skye into the sort of zombie that she is, or rather LEP -life extended people) Then there's the LEPs that are turning to ghosts and draining Abe's powers. Lastly, she's still trying to figure out what killed her husband Jacob after their car crash.

This is really a different take on a cozy mystery and even Zombies with a few werewolves tossed in. If you haven't read a book by this husband and wife team, you should start with this series, it is one of their best.

Katreader says

Dead Girl Blues by Joyce and Jim Lavene
The Second Taxi for the Dead Mystery

Three years in to her contract with Abe, the Zombie Master, things aren't going well for Skye Mertz in this second Taxi for the Dead Mystery. Abe's sorcerer has been killed and someone is somehow turning zombies into ghosts and making them disappear. In addition, Debbie's husband's "condition" is getting worse and Skye discovers other "accidents" are occurring just as the one that killed her husband and almost killed her. Lucas has been helping her, but could he really be an evil sorcerer instead of a helpful housemate? Remaining alive for her daughter's sake is much more difficult that she thought!

Dead Girl Blues is a book of discoveries. When the body of Harold the Great, Abe's sorcerer, is discovered Skye is called in to investigate his murder. That task leads Skye to Harold's replacement, Artemis. What she discovers then is death changing. The discovery of not only what Artemis is doing, but who he really is, leads to a revelation about who she really is. Skye also discovers more about the death of her husband and the truth of her feelings towards Lucas.

While the Taxi for the Dead series fits the definition of a cozy mystery (amateur sleuth, no graphic sex or violence) I don't consider it a true cozy. I called the first in the series a "not so cozy cozy" and that remains true in Dead Girl Blues. A cozy mystery has a cozy vibe; its location and atmosphere make it a comforting place where you want to spend time, despite the abundance of murders. While I'd like to visit this part of Tennessee via the books, it certainly isn't warm and inviting. That's not to say Dead Girl Blues and the Taxi for the Dead series is all dark, dangerous, and gritty. There's plenty of humour too. I still giggle as I picture Lucas running from the hedge clippers!

While I don't consider Dead Girl Blues a cozy, I believe that cozy readers will appreciate its family values and the universal truths found within. It's a unique series with unconventional characters that tells a great story. I read and enjoy all types of books and I certainly enjoyed this one. I look forward to discovering more about the characters along with what happens next.

Mary says

Another great story in this series. I will be honest never in my life did I think I would be reading about zombies and loving it. The first stories I read on kindle unlimited and I will admit I am now hooked. I have read other series by these authors and have enjoyed them but had stayed away from this one as at first I did not think I "could get into" the whole zombie thing. The story just pulls you in and you will be hooked. These are fast reads which are important to me.. Others have told you about the story line but you will be pulling for Skye and Lucas as well as Addie (Ghost Mother in Law -- that is a good twist) and sweet Kate. Joyce and Jim Lavene have weaved a great story with paranormal twists and turns without losing the humanity and family of these characters. I also knew there was something magical about Skye (Ghoul let that slip in the last one). I cannot wait for the next installment.

Linda says

This is the third story in the paranormal Taxi for the Dead series, which for me is a cross between the TV series "Dead Like Me" with a healthy sprinkling of "Supernatural." Skye Mertz and her husband were both involved in a fatal car accident three years ago and because her mother-in-law was terminally ill, she chose to sign a contract with Abraham Lincoln to bring her back to life for twenty years and join his crew of LEP workers (Life Extended People since Abe does not like the term zombies). This would be long enough for her infant daughter, Kate, to reach adulthood. Part of the contract also involved her giving up her police officer job and helping with retrieving his contracts at the end of their twenty year term. Of course, not everyone is willing to come back with Skye during the retrieval process. In this story, the current retrieval goes awry and their van ends up crashing and being towed to the shop. While she and her partner, Debbie (she is working off her husband's contract) expect to be yelled at by Abe for the foul-up, Skye is asked to investigate the murder of his wizard, Harold the Great. Then another of their retrievals takes a very odd turn, when the individual begins to turn transparent and weightless and floats to the ceiling of his apartment. Is someone trying to move in on Abe's territory and take over his LEPs? With each lost contract, Abe begins to weaken as he loses energy from the separation. Skye has a lot on her hands, not the least of which is the animalistic transformation of her partner's husband, Terry. This doesn't appear normal for Abe's contracts but Debbie isn't ready to go to Abe about it yet. The story is full of ghosts - did I mention that her mother-in-law died and came back as a ghost to help take care of Kate - zombies (not the Walking Dead type), wizards (oh yeah, she is dating a wizard, with amnesia, that other wizards seem to fear), and now maybe even a touch of werewolves. I love the concept of this story. The characters are interesting and there is ample action throughout the story to keep the reader interested. Each story further develops the character of Skye and her relationships with Addie, Kate, Lucas and Debbie and I am really looking forward to the next story in this series. Disclosure: I was given an advance reading copy in exchange for an honest review.

Amy says

I really love this book. Zombies, Ghosts, Werewolves.

Finding out more about Skye's past as her life keeps going on. Does Skye really have magic like she has been told?

All this time Skye thought she was an orphan, only to find out her dad is not your normal everyday kind of guy.

Can not wait for the next book to see where her relationship goes with Lucas and to learn more about her mother.

This book kept me turning the pages to find out what was going to happen next.

I received an advance copy of the book for an honest review.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

DEAD GIRL BLUES hit the ground running with Skye Mertz and her partner Debbie Hernandez on the job to bring in another LEP. . . Life Extended People. They're boss, Abe, doesn't like it when you call them zombies.

This second installment in this series was even better than the first book, BROKEN HEARTED GHOUL, which now includes the introductory novella UNDEAD BY MORNING. So many new elements have been added to this story. The Lavenes are taking this series beyond the zombie realm of things and creating whole new levels that will carry on through future books.

With action and surprises never in short supply, even the last sentence of this story will have you saying, I can't wait to see what happens in the next book!

Laura Thomas says

I'm addicted to cozy mysteries and how could I resist one with a supernatural theme. There's magic, mayhem, and mystery with many mystical beings.

As I read the first couple of sentences from this second book in the Taxi For The Dead Series I was grinning. I'd wondered if this installment would be as fun as the first and I needn't have worried.

Skye and Debbie start us off with a bet on whether their next LEP (Life Extended People) would submit meekly or be a runner. Skye bet the woman would submit and she one. Or so she thought until the husband started blasting away at them with a shotgun while the LEP took off across the rough terrain on a four-wheeler. In pursuit, Skye's poor bedraggled van met it's end with tires flying off and tail pipe flying through the air. Looks like they'll be shopping for a new taxi for the dead.

Dead Girl Blues captured me right then and there and I couldn't wait to read more.

For those who haven't read the first book I'll give you a brief recap. Skye and her husband were in a fatal car crash. Approached by Abraham Lincoln Jones, Skye pledged servitude to him for twenty mores years walking the eart. She's a zombie but looks normal. She doesn't shuffle or eat brains. She did this to have more time to raise her daughter. Her service to Abe is bringing in other LEPs when their time is up.

In her job, she must not show sympathy and let one slip away. After their twenty years, if now rounded up

and brought to the mortuary, they change and become a ghoul. A loved one no longer recognizable.

Three years into the job and one year of working with Debbie as a partner, things are going okay. So, of course, something has to happen to stir the pot.

Abe's sorcerer is murdered and the zombies that work for him are disappearing after turning into ghosts. If she doesn't want the same to happen to her, she'll need the help of Lucas, the amnesiac sorcerer, a guest in her home.

Like the first book, there is more than one mystery going on. Skye is still seeking the truth about the accident that killed her and her husband. Going against Abe's wishes, Skye pursues the lead, risking his wrath and perhaps being promoted to full dead.

I love it when the second book in a series gives me what I want. This is every bit as good as the first book and I couldn't be happier.

New mysteries. More mayhem. And lots of ghoulish fun.

I received this book for my honest review.

Daniele says

Skye makes a deal on her deathbed with Abraham Lincoln Jones to work for him in exchange for twenty more years of "life" so that she may raise her daughter Kate. She and her partner Debbie collect LEPs (that's Life Extended People – the term zombies sounds so gauche) when their twenty years are up and deliver them to the mortuary so that Abraham may sever his magical bond with them and they move on to next existence. On occasion, an LEP will run, making Skye's job more like that of a bounty hunter than a mere "taxi" driver. Skye is called on to use her experience as a police officer when Harold the Great, Abraham's necromancer is found murdered in an alley. Something strange is happening to the LEPs, they are fading like ghosts, and Abraham is losing power and strength. He enlists sorcerer Artemis to help, but Artemis has his own agenda and claims to be more than he appears.

Also, Skye is still haunted by the accident that killed her and her husband, and when she learns that there have been many accidents in the same location with similar outcomes, she feels compelled to finally unearth the truth about that fateful night.

Dead Girl Blues is definitely not your typical zombie story, which was good since I am not a zombie lover. It is a wildly imaginative take on the paranormal cozy mystery, and the characters are fun and entertaining. It includes an amnesiac sorcerer boyfriend, a mother-in-law who happens to be a ghost, shape shifters, werewolves, and, of course, the undead LEPs. I love that this unusual collection of the paranormal comes together to provide the young and precocious Kate a normal family and home. I found the concept interesting and look forward to reading Skye's further adventures.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. The opinions are my own.

Kathy says

Dead Girl Blues by authors Joyce and Jim Lavene is the second book in the Taxi for the Dead series. It is a paranormal mystery. Paranormal mysteries are not my usual read, but I find that Jim and Joyce Lavene are a great writing team who are able to give credibility to whatever subject they take on in a mystery series. They also are great writers which allows the reader to get right into the story.

The main character in Dead Girl Blues is Skye. Skye is actually dead. She was a Nashville police officer who was killed in a car accident along with her husband. She was offered a twenty year extension on her life to raise her daughter. She is considered an LEP - Life Extended Person. When a LEP's 20 years is up they need to move on...but many don't want to. That is where Skye comes in. She picks them up, and many are unwilling, and takes them on to their final destination. Skye works for Abe, who has some issues to work through in Dead Girl Blues that provide problems for the LEP program. Skye also is trying to solve the mystery of what happened when she and her husband were killed.

Ghosts, zombies, werewolves, sorcerers....there is a lot of paranormal going on here in this cozy mystery. But it all works and makes for an enjoyable read. The characters are all believable and interesting. If you are looking for a new cozy mystery series then give Dead Girl Blues a go.
