



Left For Dead

J.A. Jance

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Ali Reynolds investigates two shocking cases of victims brutally left for dead in *New York Times* bestselling J.A. Jance's latest mystery-thriller. When Santa Cruz County deputy sheriff Jose Reyes, Ali's classmate from the Arizona Police Academy, is gunned down and left to die, he is at first assumed to be an innocent victim of the drug wars escalating across the border. But the crime scene investigation shows there's much more to it than that, and soon he and his pregnant wife, Teresa, both fall under suspicion of wrongdoing. Ali owes Reyes a debt of gratitude for the help he gave her years earlier when she was dealing with a troubled friend. When she's summoned to his bedside at Physicians Medical Center in Tucson, it's impossible for her to turn away. And knowing Reyes as well as she does, Ali finds it hard to believe that he's become mixed up in the drug trade, despite evidence to the contrary. Upon arriving at the hospital, Ali finds that her good friend, Sister Anselm, is there, too—working as a patient advocate on behalf of another seriously injured victim, an unidentified young woman presumed to be an illegal border crosser, who was raped and savagely beaten. Ali becomes determined to seek justice in both cases and secure safety for both victims. Together with Sister Anselm and a conscientious officer who won't let the case drop despite pressure from above, Ali digs for clues to find the true culprits. Fast-paced, tension-filled, and intriguingly complex, *Left for Dead* is J.A. Jance at her riveting best.

Left For Dead Details

Date : Published February 7th 2012 by Touchstone (first published February 1st 2012)

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Author : J.A. Jance

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From Reader Review Left For Dead for online ebook

Laura Wasden says

Disappointed with this one. Totally obvious "who dunit" right from the beginning.

Joel Anderson says

A little harder for me to get into than other J. A. Jance books I have read though perhaps that is due to it being the first Ali Reynolds book I have read.

Two seemingly unconnected people are discovered near death, one a beaten and burned young woman in an area of the desert known to be a route taken by illegal immigrants, the other a law enforcement officer. What is the connection...or is there one? As the story goes on, several twists will cause the reader to wonder just who the bad guys are as some upstanding citizens seem to have a secret life on the dark side. Eventually, the mystery becomes clear and, of course, the protagonist, Ali Reynolds, finds herself in the middle of solving both cases. No need to spoil the ending...but the book is certainly worth the read. I am sure I will try some of the other Ali Reynolds novel to see if I can get to know and appreciate this character as I have Joanna Brady. By the way, I did love the touch of a little internal advertising by the author...if you read it, you will know.

Jeffrey Hart says

This is another book in the Ali Reynolds series. Several murders and several near misses, and Ali of course in the middle of all of them. Her mother and father have sold the cafe and her mother is running for mayor of Sedona. The scholarship program continues. I think I will take a break from further J.A. Jance novels for awhile.

Tina says

Jance novels leave me wanting more, more Jance novels. The audiobook version is narrated well, in a believable voice.

Ali Reynolds' nemesis-turned-friend Jose Reyes, from her Arizona Police Academy days, is gunned-down and nearly killed as a sheriff. Rose Ventana, a 14-year old runaway turns call girl, Breeze. As a 17-year old, Rose\Breeze very nearly turns homicide victim when she is raped, beaten, then left for dead in the desert. Reynolds earns her chops, helping to crack these cases and more.

Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

I enjoy reading J.A. Jance, especially her Ali Reynolds Series. But Left For Dead is not among my favorite novels in the series. Ali, girl, you really need to brush up on your skills you learned in the Academy if you're going to do some sleuthing. And the cops were a bit tunneled visioned in their investigations, I concede. But

Ali, some of the things you and Sister Anselm were unnecessarily dangerous and a bit idiotic.

Ms. Jance, why did you go into such detail about Ali and Sister Anselm's back stories? I ask the same about Jose and Donnetella. Don't you want readers for your previous novels? But you did create a few great villains.

Deputy Jose Reyes is performing a routine traffic stop when he is shot, and left for dead. His dash cam has been ripped out. There is Coke in the trunk of his Squad car. Is Ali's friend a dirty cop, or has the scene been staged to look as if he is? Ali Reynolds will find out the truth.

On the same evening, a young women is dumped in the Arizona desert also left to die. She has been tortured and beaten. The Supervisor of the Border Patrol Officer assumes the teen is an illegal and since she was breathing when she was Airlifted to Phoenix, Al Guterrez should forget about the incident. He can't.

Both victims are in the same hospital. Ali with one, Sister Anselm with the other. These seemingly different cases, as well as another crime eventually link together in a very surprising way. That's what I love about Jance, she always surprises you

Skip says

Pretty good thriller, although initially I was annoyed at having to turn back because there were too many names, subplots. Ali Reynolds and Sistem Anselm have their dinner reunion precluded by the near death of a call girl, who is abandoned in the borderlands. Jose Reyes, a policy academy buddy of Ali's (not the ex-Mets shortstop) is almost killed in the line of duty and framed as a drug dealer. Then a popular postman is killed, and also framed as a drug dealer. There seem to be no ties between the two, except that the postman delivers the cop's mail; however, leveraging her technology boyfriend's company, Ali finds the link and has to rescue some innocents caught up in the revenge plot while the other crime is solved via the persistence of the Border Patrolmen who decided to ignore his boss's admonitions to leave it alone.

Joy says

Ali Reynolds investigates two shocking cases of victims brutally left for dead in New York Times bestselling J.A. Jance's latest mystery-thriller. When Santa Cruz County deputy sheriff Jose Reyes, Ali's classmate from the Arizona Police Academy, is gunned down and left to die, he is at first assumed to be an innocent victim of the drug wars escalating across the border. But the crime scene investigation shows there's much more to it than that, and soon he and his pregnant wife, Teresa, both fall under suspicion of wrongdoing. Ali owes Reyes a debt of gratitude for the help he gave her years earlier when she was dealing with a troubled friend. When she's summoned to his bedside at Physicians Medical Center in Tucson, it's impossible for her to turn away. And knowing Reyes as well as she does, Ali finds it hard to believe that he's become mixed up in the drug trade, despite evidence to the contrary. Upon arriving at the hospital, Ali finds that her good friend, Sister Anselm, is there, too—working as a patient advocate on behalf of another seriously injured victim, an unidentified young woman presumed to be an illegal border crosser, who was raped and savagely beaten. Ali becomes determined to seek justice in both cases and secure safety for both victims. Together with Sister Anselm and a conscientious officer who won't let the case drop despite pressure from above, Ali digs for clues to find the true culprits.

JoAnn says

Left for Dead was a very interesting story for me to read, and it kept me flipping the pages because something new was happening all the time. It was basically about a lady named Ali Reynolds who is a former news reporter person. She then goes onto police academy and such, so she meets a lot of the cops that work in the state of Arizona, and knows a lot of people. When a young girl was found on the side of the road by a friend of Ali's, she gets involved to try to find the killer. While that was happening her former police academy classmate was on duty when he was shot at, and nearly killed. Ali knew that she needed to find these two suspects. While it turned out that in the end all these people become connected, the man who got shot at was almost killed by his mother in law because she was jealous of him, and how good off he was. The young girl was almost killed by a hitman. These two stories were solved by the help of Ali Reynolds and her team. I enjoyed this book, but it was way to long for this predictable ending. The author included way to many characters and the different chapters varied so much that it was slightly hard to follow along. In the end it was a happy ending, and makes you feel good about the outcome. Everyone survived. The hitman and the mother in law, Olga died. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes digging deeper into each chapter, and really likes crime thrillers. I feel like they mentioned the same things one to many times, but it was fun, and interesting to read!

Gail says

I think I've read every one of J.A. Jance's books, but Left for Dead is not among my favorites. There were too many characters and subplots, and they just didn't seem to gel. Ali Reynolds has yet to solidify as a character and some of the scenes just seem quite implausible. I find it hard to believe in this day and age, with all the privacy laws, that a stranger off the street, with just a card saying "Consultant" could weasel their way into a locked psych ward, or that they would have the gall to attempt it. And how likely is it that a wounded deputy, even one suspected of being dirty, wouldn't have a guard outside his room? I'd like to see another Joanna Brady book, but I have the feeling that that character is somewhat played out.

Ann says

Seriously ridiculous nonsense. I can't fathom anyone reading this story and finding it even remotely believable. Narrow minded police, in a Podunk town, find it hard to believe one of their own was set up. Let's see...if you were making a drug deal, why would you call it in as a routine traffic stop? Why would supposed drug associates shoot you, steal a dash-cam, leave drugs in the trunk and let \$100's fly all over the deserted road? Could this possibly be a set up? No way! The only explanation is a dirty cop! Come on, make it at least a little bit plausible.

Ellen says

Jance's Ali Reynolds series has improved, but there are still some pretty unbelievable things going on. Ali Reynolds is a former newscaster whose station turned her in for a newer model. Her husband did the same thing. In the first few books, she wrote a ridiculous blog for women who were treated badly. Don't ask me why I've continued reading this series! Eventually, she went to the police academy and worked as the media rep for the local sheriff's department, but she was laid off. Now her crime-busting is done solely on her own.

Ali and her pal, an elderly nun named Sister Anselm, are at it again in this installment. The police are pretty dumb and it's up to Ali and the good sister/hospital patient advocate to solve the crimes and protect the victims and witnesses. As usual, they both have Tasers and Ali has her trusty Glock. I laughed out loud when, after Ali had done some of the dumbest things possible, Jance reports that suddenly Ali's police academy training kicked in. Better late than never, I guess, but if Ali wants to save people and solve crimes, it would be a lot better if her police academy training would kick in a LOT sooner!

I vote for a return to her J.P. Beaumont (Seattle homicide cop) series as it was in the first several entries. I'd even welcome Sheriff Joanna Brady and her friends. J.A., you can do better.

Ed says

#7 in the Ali Reynolds series. Recurring character Sister Anselm begs off a dinner appointment with Ali. Coincidentally, when Ali shows up at a Tucson hospital to help the family of a wounded police officer who is in ICU, she finds that Sister Anselm is the patient advocate for the wounded young woman in the next room.

Ali (Alison) Reynolds series - When 17-year-old Rose Ventana is found dead near the Mexican border, savagely beaten and tortured, the police assume she's just another casualty of the drug wars. But Ali's dear friend, Sister Anselm, thinks otherwise, and the two vigorous and persistent women discover links to other cases that suggest a serial killer at work. Meanwhile, the pair involve themselves in caring for the extended family of a local deputy, mysteriously wounded and suspected of dealing in drugs. Their own off-the-grid network of lawyers and security experts comes in handy for ferreting out leads. As usual, Ali charms the locals into giving valuable if inadvertent clues.

Andy Plonka says

While the plot is adequate, the author spends a great deal of time with the back story of most of the major characters doing a disservice to both fans of this series (Ali Reynolds) who are already familiar with them and new readers who now have little reason to read the previous entries in the series. That being said, it is interesting to see how good strong families bear little relationship to income. Families with little income show strong moral values while those with more money are not so virtuous.

Donna says

This book was a tedious read with less than stellar writing. I thought it was going to focus on Ali Reynolds, but the book spent more time detailing the life stories of nearly every single character besides her, minor or otherwise. The book started out promising, but soon degenerated into something ridiculous. The investigators were just plain stupid. If Ali's friend Jose had truly been shot during a drug deal gone bad, why the heck would the money and drugs still be left at the scene, which was in a secluded area where it is unlikely someone happened upon the crime to interrupt it? The shooter had time to smash the camera and steal its pieces, but not enough time to pick up the cash and drugs? Gosh! Even criminals have their priorities, I guess. But truly, it was obvious that he was set up. And later on in the story, when Rose aka Breeze was found alive and was ready to testify against the man who raped and tortured her, the police never thought to place a guard on her hospital room. Interesting. But then, if they had, the nun would not have been

able to save the day, same as Ali did at the end instead of calling in the police. Another thing I disliked about this book was the lack of dialogue to move the story along. Whenever Ali talked to B on the phone or other people wanted to know what was happening, the author rehashed all the events in fine detail, repeating what the reader already knew. Boring! And much of the remainder of the dialogue was painfully stilted or childish at times. As an example, Ali is trying to get some help from one of B's employees in locating the woman who kidnapped two girls:

"She took the kids without permission?"

"Yes."

"So this is urgent?" (Ya think?)

"Very." (Uh huh)

"Let me get back to you." (Sure thing)

Hmmmm....

Anyway, I have read nearly all of this author's books from all the different series because I like most of the characters. I just wish she could write better in order to do them justice.

Ben Krombholz says

I picked up this book with no idea of the plot or pre-exposure to this author. My first impression: "Why am I getting a full-fledged back story for every person in this story -- minor character or otherwise?" It took me until the second half of the book to really appreciate these details (though most were ultimately superfluous), about the same time I realized this book is a "whodunit?" rather than a thriller. The ending was a tad melodramatic and a bit of a let-down -- all those richly-detailed back stories coming together to support a too-tidy conclusion and an obvious villain.
