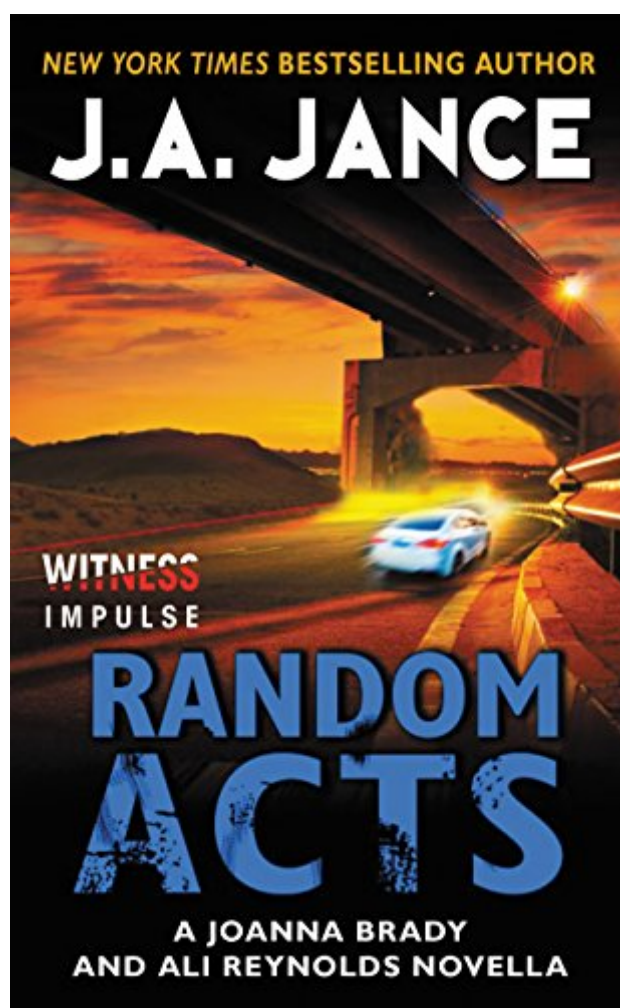


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Random Acts: A Joanna Brady And Ali Reynolds Novella (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

From New York Times bestselling author J. A. JANCE comes an all-new novella, in which Sheriff Joanna Brady and investigator Ali Reynolds join forces to solve a crime that has hit dangerously close to home. Sheriff Joanna Brady has a lot on her plate—she is up for re-election as sheriff, pregnant with her third child, and her eldest is packing up to leave for college. Then Joanna is woken in the middle of the night by a call reporting a motor vehicle accident. Her mother and stepfather's RV ran off the road at high speed and hit the pillar of an overpass. Something about the accident seems suspicious, though, and when Joanna gets a call from Ali Reynolds, a journalist turned investigator, she accepts her offer to help. They come up with a plan to find out who was responsible—even if that person is not the villain they'd expected. Published by William Morrow

Book Information

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Mystery > Women Sleuths

Customer Reviews

I actually thought this was the new book being dropped like a surprise present into my Kindle. I had forgotten I'd preordered it. Excellent bridge novella. Reads very quick, but don't start it if you're going to bed. You won't until you're done.

I love J.A. Jance. Her writing here is top notch. However, I am giving this a low review because, once again, there is major story line stuff happening in a "novella" that not everyone has access to - only e-readers. Why? Why not make this the first chapter in the next book. Or interspersed with the plot of the next book. This is like when main characters in another series of hers got married in the novella when it was a long standing relationship AND the wedding plans had been woven into the previous book. It feels like cheating. Just a way to get more money from us in the end. I'm sure this wasn't her idea, it was probably her publisher's idea. Thankfully, they changed the blurb for the next book so that what happens in this novella isn't given away. I already knew what this was about because I saw the first write up of the next book (Downfall).

Guess I'm in the minority here, but I was quite disappointed with this effort. I usually don't read short stories, which, at only 71 pages, I think it is rather than a 'novella'. It was listed as being 112 pages on the page, but that includes a preview of her newest book "Downfall". I personally don't like reading previews when I know I'll be reading the book. Kind of wish I had taken a pass on the whole thing. I know it was just a short story, but it all seemed so rushed and unsatisfying to me. At the end it was like, okay, so that's it. Just a little throw-away she probably dashed off in a day. I am actually looking forward to her novel which I believe comes out in about a month. I'll stay away from short stories/'novellas' in the future. (Spoiler below)SPOILER BELOW!!!! Do not read if you intend to read this short story. I really didn't like the fact that she killed off two interesting characters in this short story throw-away. She sure disappointed me on this effort. I think I'm generous in giving it 3 stars.

Too rushed, too much happened in this little novella.SPOILER ALERTI cannot believe Joanna's mother Eleanor and beloved step father George were murdered in this little novella. Why was it necessary to kill off 2 regulars? There was no mystery - as soon as I heard red spot I knew exactly what it meant. This felt like it was a story to let Joanna and Ali work together. But more so, I would not be in the least bit surprised if the upcoming book isn't the last of Joanna Brady. I think this novella paved the way1. Joanna's parents were killed off.2. Joanna is pregnant and has a 5 year old.3. Joanna's daughter went away to college.4. Joanna is running for elected office odds sheriff.5. Discussion about what she would do if she lost election? Stay home and raise her family.

I think J A Jance is an amazing writer and having read all of her books I can't wait for the next one! Random Acts filled a small gap and presented readers an issue/event that will unwind in the next

Brady book, I am certain. As an inveterate mystery reader and perhaps a 'wish-I-were' writer of mysteries I read Jance's books with an eye to style and writing ability. Her skill is great as she can flip between third person and omniscient narration. Her ability to weave plots and story lines is remarkable. And, I appreciate in both Brady and Ali Reynolds the strong and smart female characters. I know her books are best-sellers, but I think she does not get the accolades she deserves for her skill as a writer. I am a huge fan.

Don't usually read novellas, ie short stories, but this was intriguing since it involves Joanna Brady's mother and step father. The story was well done as expected with J A Jance, tight, good writing and editing. That said it was still a disappointment and reinforced my avoidance of the novella size book. The story went along quickly, almost to the point of feeling rushed. It only covered about a day and a half, but still could have benefited from more depth. I don't regret reading it, but be advised it is quite short.

This is a wonderful, yet sad, novella that I hope everyone who loves books by J.A. Jance will pick up and read. The author caught my interest from the very beginning and held it until the end. I just wish this had been a full-size book to kind of fill out the storyline more. It left a few parts that I would have liked to see, but others may it. I hope this story has these wholes filled in in the next book. However, if not, this is still a fantastic novella!

RANDOM ACTS by J.A. Jance is a fantastic 71-page novella starring Ms. Jance's favorite characters from Bisbee, the Brady Bunch, and Ali Reynolds from Sedona. Having read some 60 Jance novels, I wish like others, that Random Acts was a full-length production. However, the story is very well crafted with an intriguing plot that kept me glued to each page until the end. I recommend Random Acts as a lunchtime read. I give it a strong 5-star rating.

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