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Death And Relaxation (Ordinary Magic Book 1)



Synopsis

Exciting new urban fantasy series by national bestselling author, Devon Monk. Monsters, gods, and mayhem... Police Chief Delaney Reed can handle the Valkyries, werewolves, gill-men and other paranormal creatures who call the small beach town of Ordinary, Oregon their home. It's the vacationing gods who keep her up at night. With the famous rhubarb festival right around the corner, small-town tensions, tempers, and godly tantrums are at an all-time high. The last thing Delaney needs is her ex-boyfriend reappearing just when she's finally caught the attention of Ryder Bailey, the one man she should never love. No, scratch that. The actual last thing she needs is a dead body washing ashore, especially since the dead body is a god. Catching a murderer, wrestling a god for power, and re-scheduling the apocalypse? Just another day on the job in Ordinary. Falling in love with her childhood friend while trying to keep the secrets of her town secret? That's gonna take some work.

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Customer Reviews

Devon Monk has a new series! Small town politics, family legacies, lost loves, vacationing gods, mysterious deaths, and lots and lots of rhubarb. Be sure to check out this fun new series. What drew me to this book: I'm a big fan of Devon Monk; I love her Allie Beckstrom and House Immortal series. So when I saw she had a new series coming out, I was pretty excited. Plus, the cover, designed by Lou Harper, is lovely. Why I kept reading: Death and Relaxation is a lighter series than I used to from Monk, but I really liked it. It's a murder mystery, a light urban fantasy, and a bit of paranormal romance all in one book. The small town of Ordinary is home to many things—the Reed family, the Rhubarb festival, and every type of supernatural creature and divine immortal imaginable. The Police Chief, Delaney Reed, gets to deal with it all, including vacationing gods, old boyfriends, the death of a god, and the rehousing of the god's power. Oh, and judging the Rhubarb festival—and she doesn't even like rhubarb. At one point, I thought I had the romance part of this book figured out; but I was totally wrong. At least, so far. I never did have the murder figured out. I like that! The end of the book hints that there are much bigger things in store for Ordinary. With so much going on in this small town, I have no doubt there will be more good things to come. Why I recommend it: Monk's new book is great entertainment. It gives you a little taste of several genres and the mystery is unpredictable. The town and characters are interesting and quirky, as you might expect from a small town. The ending is satisfying and yet hints that things are about to get serious. I'm really looking forward to the next book.

This is a readable novel. I was interested in the conclusion so I struggled through it. The characters and the mystery don't have much depth. The heroine spends much of her time mooning over a teenage crush. So much time that I eventually started skipping pages to find the plot. I won't continue the series. In my opinion, other authors (Tanya Huff, Ilona Andrews) do a better job of balancing the fantastic elements with the romance.

This is the first book I have read by Devon Monk. It was mentioned by Ilona Andrews so I downloaded a sample, read it, and enjoyed it enough to purchase the book. I liked it enough I will probably purchase the next one released too. The library has some of her other releases so I will check them out now. I liked the original plot of three sisters working the same law enforcement office in Ordinary, Oregon where gods and goddesses come to vacation. On arrival they have to surrender their powers and pick a name and profession to support themselves. I liked that there isn't any ugly violence or out of my comfort level nastiness going on and it actually read more like a cozy romantic mystery to me.

I am a big fan of Devon Monk's, so I may have approached this with my expectations a little higher than normal. Having said that, I was a little disappointed. First and foremost, the replacement search for someone to take the god power was ham handed. It was the only time sensitive matter on hand, the lack of a power exchange would apparently kill the whole town after a week, and yet it is the last priority on Delaney's list. The murder and its mystery being solved worked out pretty well, I thought, although they weren't exactly ground breaking. Delaney's romance with Ryder was... eh. Very much overblown teenage romance writing, although they did have some good moments. But I'm sorry, no grown man goes around seductively biting his lips like that. Overall I did like the story, which is why I gave it four stars. Original premise with the vacationing gods, etc, and Delaney was a decent main character. It could have used an editor who knew what they were doing, though. As it was it made for VERY light, fun reading.

Well I thought the book moved along at a nice steady pace and that the characters were developed, but also complex in that the next book should provide answers. Also thought there were some surprises. I noticed that there are two more books in this series but none are listed anywhere. It would be great if we knew when the next was actually coming out because I am looking forward to what is next and some questions need answering. Usually there is a "pre-order" for the next book and if I love the book then I will pre-order the next. So, when is it due out?

I love everything written by Devon Monk and this book is another great story. Devon takes a story idea and twists it like no other has done. While many authors have written about God's living among us, this book changes it completely with the Gods being on vacation. As with all of her books, there is a very strong lead woman, a great story, and a romance that never quite goes as expected. In a few hundred words, Devon has hooked me and I can't wait to get the next book in the series. I have enjoyed every book written by this author and will continue to buy as she has become an all time favorite with the unique nature of her storytelling.

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