



Death Du Jour

By Kathy Reichs

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Rarely has a first-time novelist made such a spectacular international publishing debut as Kathy Reichs did with her acclaimed forensic thriller *Déjà Dead*. A *New York Times* bestseller, a number one bestseller in both Canada and Britain, and winner of the prestigious Ellis Award for Best First Novel of 1997, it was also a Main Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, with foreign rights sold to nineteen countries.

Now, in *Death du Jour*, the author who lives the life she writes about extends her reach while still building on the rich ensemble cast, page-turning suspense, and cutting-edge forensic detail that made *Déjà Dead* an international sensation.

Assaulted by the bitter cold of a Montreal winter, the American-born Dr. Temperance Brennan, Forensic Anthropologist for the Province of Quebec, digs for a corpse where Sister Élisabeth Nicolet, dead for over a century and now a candidate for sainthood, should be lying in her grave. A strange, small coffin, buried in the recesses of a decaying church, holds the first clue to the cloistered nun's fate.

The puzzle surrounding Sister Élisabeth Nicolet's life and death provides a welcome contrast to discoveries at a burning chalet, where scorched and twisted bodies await Tempe's professional expertise. Who were these people? What brought them to this gruesome fate? And where are the children?

Homicide Detective Andrew Ryan, with whom Tempe has a combustive history, joins her in the arson investigation. From the fire scene they are drawn into the worlds of an enigmatic and controversial sociologist, a mysterious commune, and a primate colony on a Carolina island. Tempe is overwhelmed by the case, confused by her mounting attraction to Ryan, and plagued by worries about her sister Harry's search for spiritual awakening.

Featuring the kind of forensic detail that only Kathy Reichs can provide -- from skeletal reconstruction to insect analysis -- *Death du Jour* takes the reader on a riveting journey from the morgue to the lab to the crime scene, from the warmth of a barrier island to the frigid cold of a deadly ice storm. With this poignant and powerful work, Kathy Reichs confirms her status as a brilliant new crime-writing star.

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Death Du Jour By Kathy Reichs Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #9165785 in Books
- Published on: 1999-05-18
- Format: Large Print
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 9.58" h x 1.22" w x 6.40" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 384 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"In Quebec, winters can be slow for the forensic anthropologist. The temperature rarely rises above freezing. The rivers and lakes ice over, the ground turns rock hard, and snow buries everything. Bugs disappear, and many scavengers go underground. The result: Corpses do not putrefy in the great outdoors. Floaters are not pulled from the St. Lawrence... and some of last season's dead are not found until the spring melt."

Readers of Kathy Reichs's cool and clever first forensic thriller *Déjà Dead* will recognize the ironic voice of Tempe (short for Temperance) Brennan, the North Carolina-born scientist who winds up working at the Laboratoire de Médecine Légale in Montreal. Here she bristles at the conservative attitudes of some of her Canadian colleagues.

Despite the cold weather, Tempe's workload quickly becomes heavy: the bones of a long-dead nun now up for sainthood have been moved and tampered with; a deadly house fire turns out to be arson; and a university teaching assistant disappears after joining a cult. Tempe must figure out where (and why) all the bodies are buried in the hard Canadian ground. Her investigations take her home to North Carolina, and to a strange colony living on an offshore island.

Unlike certain other writers who specialize in forensic pathology, Reichs doesn't revel in the horror of death or rub our noses in gore: she uses the science of death to reveal rather than to shock or startle. It definitely makes for easier reading--especially at mealtimes. --Dick Adler

From Publishers Weekly

Forensic anthropologist Temperance "Tempe" Brennan of the Laboratoire de Médecine Légale in Montreal makes a triumphant second appearance in Reichs's powerful followup to her bestselling debut, *Déjà Dead*. The novel opens atmospherically in a frigid church graveyard as Tempe labors to exhume the century-old remains of a nun so that the Church can posthumously declare her a saint. But the bones aren't where they're supposed to be according to the graveyard map, and there's something suspicious about them when they do turn up. Tempe's caseload multiplies as a house fire proves to be a horrific instance of arson and a university teaching assistant who's recently joined a cult goes missing. The three seemingly individual events begin to braid together, as the doings with the doomsday cult draw Tempe to North Carolina. As in *Déjà Dead*, Reichs herself a forensic anthropologist renders comprehensively and believably the cool, tense intelligence of her heroine. A North Carolina native who consults in Montreal only a few months of the year, Tempe still hasn't acclimated to the bone-chilling Northern cold, and if she's come to expect the misogynist attitudes of some of the Canadian officials, she still bristles at them. Also well presented are Tempe's refreshing compassion in the face of relentless autopsies, her ability to describe a corpse with judiciously graphic detail and her penchant for revealing the art behind the science on such matters as the preservation of a corpse's teeth. Reichs's first novel, which won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel of 1997, was compared justifiably to the Kay Scarpetta novels of Patricia Cornwell. Soon, Cornwell's novels may be compared to Reichs's. Agent, Jennifer Rudolph Walsh. Major ad/promo; author tour.

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From Library Journal

When her first forensic thriller, *Déjà Dead* (LJ 8/97) hit the best sellers list, Reichs was hailed by critics as the next Patricia Cornwell. Her heroine, forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan, was considered a worthy rival to Cornwell's medical examiner, Kay Scarpetta. Her new work proves that Reichs does not yet suffer

the fatigue that has plagued Cornwell's later books. The novel opens with Tempe digging up the body of a nun buried more than a century ago in a convent graveyard in Quebec. While her job is to identify the corpse as a possible saint, Tempe's attention is drawn to the grisly killings of four-month-old twin boys and their parents. At the same time, Tempe's troubled sister Harry comes to Montreal to take a self-help workshop. Investigating these deaths leads Tempe back to the Carolinas, where more bodies are discovered on an island monkey preserve, and clues point to a mysterious cult. Fearing that her sister might be involved with this group, Tempe heads back to Montreal for a climatic showdown during the Great Quebec Ice Storm of 1998. Although the plot is somewhat contrived, this still offers an enjoyable read for Cornwell fans who want something new.

-*Wilda Williams, "Library Journal"*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Nix:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one having theme for entertaining like comic or novel. Often the Death Du Jour is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Marcus Laws:

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