



Ghost Roll: A Bell Elkins Story

Julia Keller

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Bell Elkins, prosecuting attorney and small-town heroine of Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Keller's *A Killing in the Hills*, *Bitter River* and *Summer of the Dead*, faces one of her most challenging days in this exclusive digital short story. Featuring an exclusive extract from her new full-length novel *Last Ragged Breath*.

For Bell Elkins no day is ever the same.

But on this day, for the third day running, Bell has woken up from the same dream. A dream about a boy needing her help, reaching out to her. Bell, always unable to help.

Already unsettled, she becomes embroiled, in her role as prosecuting attorney for Raythune County, in an investigation into a couple running a local day-care centre, and Bell suspects that her day is only going to get worse. A suspicion that is compounded when she's forced to confront a friend's treachery and a ghost from her past.

No day is ever the same, but will Bell be forever changed by this one?

Ghost Roll: A Bell Elkins Story Details

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Author : Julia Keller

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From Reader Review Ghost Roll: A Bell Elkins Story for online ebook

Richard says

This is a wonderfully crafted short story. It is beautifully evocative of both a small town community and the natural beauty that surrounds it. The trouble is that real poverty exists and people seemingly will do anything to earn a buck.

Real life flows from the pages of Julia Keller and in Bell Elkins the author has a conduit to refresh the community she serves when she could earn far more in a legal practice in a major city.

Her upbringing was complicated and through her own salvation she seems dedicated to repay back similar people through her service and duty as the prosecuting attorney for Raythune County, West Virginia.

This ebook will draw the reader into Bell's world and previews the latest book due out in the UK in August - Last Ragged Breath.

This story works on several levels but at its heart is the life of a child. All are not born equal and some fail to thrive but with everyone the onus lies with the response of adults to care, nurture and ensure that each child realises their potential. It is worthy of reading as it appears to be key in driving Bell forward and perhaps should also act as a mirror to the reader regarding their own commitment to young people and the rights of children.

Daphne Lewis says

A shorter read filling in some of the spaces between the books in the Bell Elkins series.

Kathy says

I love the Bell Elkins series by Julia Keller. Julia is one of my go-to authors. I know whatever she writes is going to be good. Ghost Roll will have to hold me over until the release of Last Ragged Breath in August.

The earlier Bell Elkins short stories had explored Bell's past. This one is set in the present. Bell is having dreams featuring a small boy at a window. Who is this boy? What are the dreams trying to tell her. We quickly learn that the small boy is son of the owners of a daycare center that is actually just a front, a money laundering enterprise, for selling prescription drugs illegally. The sign-in list of children is actually a Ghost Roll. Prescription drugs are ravaging the Appalachians.

And an old friend's father comes to town. The old friend who was the secret service friend in Bitter River. There are ghosts everywhere in Ghost Roll.

I was pulled into reality by an important statement in Ghost Roll...that outsiders look at a small town in those hills and think that it is quaint and filled with good people. It's not anymore. Things have changed. The economy has ground to a halt and the only people making money are bad people. Despair rules the day. That is the new reality.

Great read. Last Ragged Breath...August is not coming fast enough!

Lynn Kearney says

Enjoyable series

Pat says

A Bell Elkins short. Bell is having a recurring dream about a lost child looking for help.

Anne-Marie says

Novella

Janie says

Julia Keller is great. She writes the stories that make you feel you are right there.

Christine says

Ghost Roll is a short story, that takes place in between Summer of the Dead and Last Ragged Breath. It features Bell Elkin, prosecuting attorney in Raythurne County.

Bell has been having a weird dream, for three nights in a row. She has been dreaming about a young boy in distress. Bell has a grown up daughter, who is at university. She does not crave motherhood. She tries to work out what her subconscious is telling her. Bell is alerted to a case of possible money laundering at a local daycare centre. She heads off there to investigate. Bell also gets an unexpected visit from the father of a former boyfriend.

What I love about this series is that it is all about small town America. We get the dark side of the American dream. We have a small town, where life can be be very tough. There is poverty. There is a massive drugs problem, in the region. We have an attorney, who chooses to be there. Bell is dedicated to her work. In some ways, it is understandable that people turn to breaking the law. There are not many options for some members of this community. There is not much hope.

Fantastic. Bleak. We get a profound reflection of what it means to be a child. Bell Elkins returns in Last Ragged Breath. At last!

Tkash says

Chose to read because was written by a WV author. It addressed a current social issue. After finishing the book, I was left feeling unsatisfied. You know the feeling. - "that's it, all there is?"

Heidi says

The ending was not what I expected. I wish she could have helped the individuals, but I still love the Bell Elkins series, and I know that this was just a novella to tide the fans over until the next full length book that comes out in August. I know that I will be one of the first in line to read it.
