



Death and Relaxation

Devon Monk

Download now

Read Online ➞

Death and Relaxation

Devon Monk

Death and Relaxation Devon Monk

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 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.

Death and Relaxation Details

Date : Published June 17th 2016

ISBN :

Author : Devon Monk

Format : ebook 326 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic, Mystery, Vampires, Romance

 [Download Death and Relaxation ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Death and Relaxation ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Death and Relaxation Devon Monk

From Reader Review Death and Relaxation for online ebook

Beanbag Love says

This book starts out fine and then it's like being a passenger in a cab in Manhattan: vroom! brake. vroom! brake. vroom! brake. Ugh. Motion sickness. And that's not even the worst of it.

The premise was kind of cool. Reminiscent of Ilona Andrews' "Innkeeper" series (and suffers by the comparison), but the similarity is shallow. Ordinary is a town in Oregon where gods and monsters go to take vacation. The "creatures" (vampires, werewolves and the like) go about their daily lives as they are, but the gods have to give up their power for the time they're on vacation. This makes them mortal and, thus, vulnerable. So, of course one is killed. This is in the blurb so it's not a spoiler.

Delaney Reed has taken over her late father's job as chief of police. She's also the one who oversees all the rigamarole to keep the gods off human radar and behaving themselves. Gods being killed in Ordinary isn't unprecedented, but this is her first time dealing with it.

The biggest problem for Delaney? She's stupid. Just plain dumb as a box of rocks. At one point she says (about something as obvious as the ocean), "why didn't I think of that?" and I said aloud, "because you're one of the dumbest characters in fiction?"

See, Delaney *has* to be a complete dumbass because otherwise there would be no action. She *has* to do stupid things so the plot can move forward. We all know what that is, right? A *contrivance*. Without her utter inability to do her job in any reasonable manner, nothing would happen. So there you have it.

Am I being snarky? Perhaps a bit bitchy? Probably. I'm in a sour mood because I just read a book where the main protagonist was one of the dumbest people on the planet and yet everyone around her thinks she hung the moon. She's "damn good at being chief of police" one tells her. I guess if it's beneficial to have someone with their head filled with cement as chief of police that'd be true.

I'm just really sick of women writing women as morons. Can you tell? Delaney is unreasonable. She's impulsive. She's a danger to herself and others.

Oh yeah, that's why I stopped reading Devon Monk's "Allie Beckstrom" series.

Time for me to call it quits on this author before she gives me an aneurysm.

Veronica says

Interesting idea revolving around gods and their vacation destination of Ordinary, Oregon - a one horse town according to one character. Delaney Reed is the chief of the town's small police department where two of the other three full-time employees are her sisters. She's likable enough except whenever her love interest, Ryder Bailey, comes around and then her brain always turns to mush. I liked the relationship between Delaney and her sisters but pretty much started skimming all the Ryder parts from his first introduction. I don't have time for characters who make such an eyeroll-worthy entrance. There's a murder mystery going on which was rather weak, in my opinion, and the motive for the guilty party was too over-the-top. I guess the guilty party never heard of less drastic measures like slashing tires, keying the car, hiding raw shrimp in hollow curtain rods or air vents, etc. This was an okay story and I liked it, just not enough to read the rest of the series.

Marina says

I liked this well enough and I'm going to read book two, but I really need Delaney to be less stupid and oblivious.

Steph says

"This is Ordinary, nothing about it has ever been normal."

Ordinary Magic introduces us to Delaney Reed and her two younger sisters. All are police officers in Ordinary, Oregon, as well as "peacekeeper, guardian, and law for all the mortals, creatures, and deities who made Ordinary their home." The small town is an official vacation destination for gods, goddesses and deities who must relinquish their powers - albeit temporarily - while on holiday, which makes them human for the duration of their stay. Additionally, it's the home of vampires, weres and other creatures. Let's not forget about the mortals, some of whom are in the know, others who are not.

This. This world building is worth a 5-star rating on its own. It was fresh, unique and such fun to read. The mysteries inside it were more predictable, which lowered my overall rating to 3.5 stars. But, I'm hooked and anxious to move onto book two, *Devils and Details*.

Pre-release comments:

Yay! A new series! (sneak peek at the end of *BACK LASH*) Delaney is Chief of Police in Ordinary, Oregon - "... Peacekeeper, guardian, and law for all the mortals, creatures, and deities who made Ordinary their home."

Katyana says

This was a really hard one for me to rate.

Let's start with the stuff I loved.

1. The Reed sisters

Their family dynamic is amazing. And I hope we get to dig even deeper into Myra and Jean, because I love them as much as I love Delaney. The story of their family - just drawn in broad strokes, for this first book in the series - seems complex and interesting, and I want more. But it was also great to see these three sisters and their very real relationship with each other.

2. The world-building

I love the whole idea of Ordinary. I love that gods and monsters vacation there, that they pretend to be normal. I love imagining this sleepy little coastal paradise being the, like, place where the gods kick off their shoes and pretend to be mortal.

3. The secondary cast

Even beyond the Reed sisters, the secondary cast is really engaging. I would happily read spin off books about most of them, these gods and monsters trying to fit into a human world.

Okay, so what didn't I like...

1. Our main character - a trained and, we're led to believe, very competent police chief - seems pretty slow on the uptake.

This specifically relates to the men in her life. There were obvious signs that something was up, and she just didn't even blink. In general, it's a pet peeve for me when the main character takes ages to see things that are presented obviously to the reader - I just feel like it gives the impression that our lead is a moron. But I think it is particularly undercutting for a character that we're supposed to buy as a skilled police chief.

2. Cooper, the ex-boyfriend

He was foul from the moment we met him (who just strips down and tucks themselves into the ex-girlfriend's bed, as if they own the place?), and it just got worse from there. He had some frankly concerning abusive tendencies - he lashed out at Delaney in a vicious way on multiple occasions, and just generally treated her as a doormat. How did she ever have a relationship with this guy? It is hard to believe. But then (view spoiler)

3. Ryder, the supposed love interest

There's so much wrong with his character to me. Firstly, again, he's so OBVIOUSLY not what he claims to be, and the fact that Delaney can't see it is really stupid. I don't know what is going on with him, but something clearly is. And even worse... I don't know what is going on with him, but *I don't care*. I'm so incredibly tired of books with strong female heroines that are inexplicably attracted to men who treat them like crap. And let's be clear here: Ryder may have done a couple good things in this book, but overall, he didn't treat Delaney any better than Cooper did, and you could make a strong argument that he treated her even worse. What he's doing is a giant mind-fuck, and there is something so incredibly wrong with this as a theme in UF. *It's okay ladies, just stick it out. He's horrible to you, but he loves you. Just keep giving him chances and he'll eventually change! For reals!* What Ryder did was devastating, and I don't care what his reasons are. If he couldn't be with her, then he shouldn't have worked so hard to be with her. But if they end up together - if he's the actual love interest - then we have yet another story that is telling women that we should accept - and even embrace - men who treat us poorly, men who are incapable of viewing us as partners and equals. That this is really just what it is to be a woman in our world, because hey look, it happens even to our strong, ass-kicking heroines. This is normal. This is the best we can expect.

It's just disappointing. And I suppose that reads like a feminist tirade, but ... I guess I just don't get it. What is wrong with us - women in general - that "heroes" appeal to us when they treat us like crap? And the normalization of that kind of relationship is at the root of so many of our problems. And I'm not saying that means people can't fight - come on, conflict is normal. But this isn't fighting, or personalities rubbing each other the wrong way at first, and then resolving into some kind of attraction. This is one person taking all the power in a relationship, by playing with the other emotionally. It is damaging and wrong.

So I like this world. I like the characters (with the exception of the douchebag love interests). And I'm going to press onward, in the hopes that Ryder isn't really the love interest. But I suspect he is ... *sigh*

3.5

Runningrabbit says

Ordinary

If you're a die hard paranormal lover of seriously kick-tail, hard core action female protagonists you're going to be sorely disappointed with this very ordinary cozy mystery. This is essentially a formula driven mystery with an unremarkable protagonist and her equally unremarkable family and friends.

There's no surprises and nothing to keep you awake at night, but an easily readable novel that remains true to its cozy mystery genre.

Olga Godim says

Delaney Reed is the chief of police in Ordinary, Oregon, but her town is anything but ordinary. It is a place where various creatures – vampires, werewolves, etc. – live among humans and where gods of the world come for a vacation. When they do, they have to give up their 'god powers' and live as mortals. They also must have a job for the duration of their stay in Ordinary. So there is a bar in Ordinary owned by Hera. There is a kite rental place owned by Thanatos, the god of death. There is a glass blowing studio owned by the trickster god Raven. They do make smart business owners, those gods.

But not everything is simple in Ordinary, and Delaney has her hands full. Someone blew up a rhubarb patch of a very cranky man. Someone killed a god. And someone shot Delaney herself, almost killing her. Delaney has to solve all those problems on time if she wants the traditional Rhubarb Festival to go as planned.

There is a mix of humor, absurd, and supernatural in this story that tickled my craving for a lighthearted read. The pacing is fast, the writing clean, the story fresh, and the characters unbelievable but fun. I enjoyed reading this story and already bought the second one in the series.

Ami says

3.75 stars

Devon Monk is one of my favorite urban fantasy authors. I don't think I ever find a book from hers that I don't like ever since I discovered her *Allie Beckstrom* series five years ago. ALTHOUGH, I did skip her *Age of Steam* series, mainly because I'm not really a fan of steampunk.

Anyway, this new series of her is another one that I enjoy and definitely will follow. It's a little bit lighter than her usual story. Sure, there's a dead god which fell into Delaney's jurisdiction, but things didn't feel too intense, or too life-threatening, like what I found in her other series.

I wholeheartedly loved the idea of Ordinary -- a town where supernatural beings secretly mingled with mortals: like the two of the best firefighters, Ben and Jame, one a vampire and the other a werewolf, or a Valkyrie, or a gill-man who tends a bar ... and of course, this is also the town where gods (yes, **gods**) take their vacation.

So we have Thor, and Zeus, and Hera, and Raven, and Odin, and Ares (though some of them using different mortal names), and latest addition ... Thanatos. I loved the concept of these gods surrendering the power while on vacation, which makes them mortal (and on that note, can die!)

Of course, an urban fantasy story will be boring without conflict. Which comes in form of a murdered god.

When Heimdall is killed, Delaney is up to the task of both finding his murderer and at the same time, to find a mortal to transfer Heimdall's power to (this mortal will then *become* god, as in another Heimdall).

I liked Delaney -- despite few things where I thought she could be a bit reckless (not locking her doors, not exactly paying serious thoughts to her sister's warning) but I liked her attitude. I thought she was pretty good as chief of police and could be resourceful. I did think she needed to be more level-headed when it comes to the romance, though. It seemed that when Ryder was in the same vicinity, Delaney became a bit useless.

I also really liked her sisters. These Reed girls were awesome.

Oh and Ryder ... at the moment, I reserve my thoughts about him. That thing he did with Delaney was a jerk move. So I would need him to come up with a very good explanation or a very good groveling.

All in all, a good start of a new series. It was quite funny too -- like the Rhubarb Competition, that was HIGHLY entertaining. Luckily the 2nd book will be released next month! SO yay for more gods in Ordinary :)

Dena says

The whole Ryder thing just about ruined this book for me.

Holly says

While the inability of the heroine to see what was so obvious drove me NUTS I admit I still enjoyed this story. Devon Monk did a great job creating wonderful bonds between the people of Ordinary, Oregon. I especially enjoyed the relationship between Delaney and her sisters. The town and its inhabitants were quirky and fun. Looking forward to reading more of this UF series.

Mandapanda says

Story was ok but I didn't enjoy the relationship dynamic at all. Got to the end of book 2 and didn't bother with book 3. I was so put off by the MC's.

Jenni Lea says

Not bad. Kinda boring though. Still, I'll read the next one when it comes out.

Shelley says

Source Booklending

Genre Urban Fantasy*

Rating 3.5

My Thoughts

Death and Relaxation, by author Devon Monk, is the first installment in the Ordinary Magic series. Police Chief Delaney Reed has been in the position of “bridge” since her father passed away a year ago. Luckily for Delaney, she has two wonderful, and supportive sisters in Myra and Jean who are also on the force. Plus, she's never had to use her abilities as the bridge. Until now. Ordinary, Oregon is anything but Ordinary. It is a place that has become the place where Gods and Monsters go when they really need a vacation.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Melissa Bowman says

A true small town story. I would know, I live in one, minus the vacationing gods. You get the setup of how the town works, then a god is murdered. The police chief is not only a chief, her family finds a new mortal the god power has to go in. The chief actually holds that power in her body until then. There are a lot of questions about the chief's childhood crush too, that need answering. It was really a great murder mystery, I always enjoy paranormal crime books. It was interesting enough that I just bought books 2 & 3. There are a lot of questions after book 1, because the goddess Hera jumps in at the end with a cryptic message about war. So, I look forward to see what happens next.

Mara says

This is my third Devon Monk book, and I'm sorry to say this author is never on my autobuy, not even near it. I do like her stories, and this is not an exception, but they never move beyond an ok, this is a nice read. I'm never particularly interested in their sequels.

Death and relaxation suffered from two main ailments: thinness, both in plot and world building, and uncertainty (Am I a uf mystery or a uf romance?).

The plot is really barely there, but I think it's linked to point 2. There's too much page time on the main romantic interest's body, too much hormones blinding the heroine, and not enough story. And I do mean not enough story, even for a first book on a new series, mostly because it doesn't have the excuse of creating a world.

My other pet peeve was the heroine, she was portrayed as way, way too naive for her role. Yes, she has barely a year under her belt in both capacities, still, her other role should be heavy enough.

I even liked less the way she looked stupid, as the author telegraphed every move/character with clarity. So as a reader I felt cheated of an intelligent heroine, I don't feel proud of myself because I understood. There was nothing to understand. Both Cooper and Ray role were immediately evident. (And in a sense so was the mystery, if we can call it such.) It was embarrassing to read: he was playing her, it was evident but to her. As

she was fixated. And why talk of love in this context? But that's me, I don't believe in falling in love at first sight. In theory this might have not been such, as as teenagers they were friends, but honestly I never felt the connection. I was told of a crush. But 8 years later (at least) what was cute as a fifteen girl was embarrassing in an adult.

I also wished she had a tad more pride. Ansgty should be there in this review, but it can't be. It's missing.

I hated the emphasis on his lips. I hated more that it made them look young, and I mean young, teen. They are not. And how many adult men do you know who play with their lips, biting and such?

Both the fixation and the act grated on my nerves.

Still, it's not a bad book. Just not one good enough to be recommended unless you are a fan of hers or need a UF fix strongly. The sequel is out on July, it's near enough I could remember to read it.
