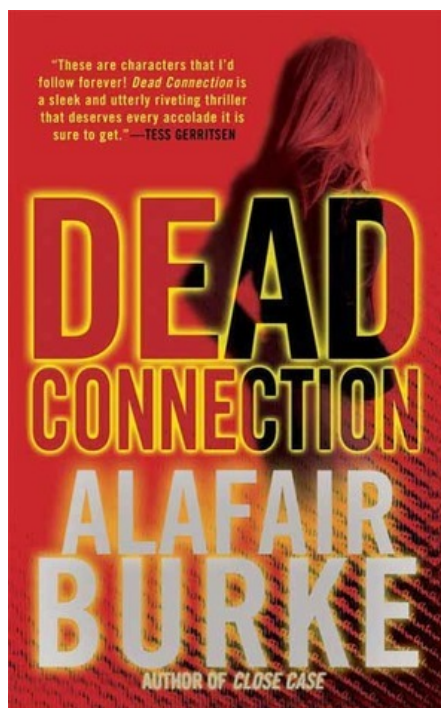




Dead Connection

Alafair Burke

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Dead Connection

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Dead Connection Alafair Burke

In this electrifying thriller, a rookie detective goes undercover on the Internet dating scene to draw out a serial killer targeting single women in Manhattan

When two young women are murdered on the streets of New York, exactly one year apart, Detective Ellie Hatcher is called up for a special assignment on the homicide task force. The killer has left behind a clue connecting the two cases to First Date, a popular online dating service, and Flann McIlroy, an eccentric, publicity-seeking homicide detective, is convinced that only Ellie can help him pursue his terrifying theory: someone is using the lure of the Internet and the promise of love to launch a killing spree against the women of New York City.

To catch the killer, Ellie must enter a high-tech world of stolen identities where no one is who they appear to be. And for her, the investigation quickly becomes personal: she fits the profile of the victims, and she knows firsthand what pursuing a sociopath can do to a cop--back home in Wichita, Kansas, her father lost his life trying to catch a notorious serial murderer.

When the First Date killer begins to mimic the monster who destroyed her father, Ellie knows the game has become personal for him, too. Both hunter and prey, she must find the killer before he claims his next victim--who could very well be her.

Expertly plotted and perfectly paced, *Dead Connection* advances Alafair Burke to the front ranks of American thriller writers.

Dead Connection Details

Date : Published (first published 2007)

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Author : Alafair Burke

Format : Kindle Edition 356 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Crime

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From Reader Review Dead Connection for online ebook

Rachel Brady says

I "read" this one on audiobook. Both the story and the narrator were fantastic! Lots of twists and turns in this one with a variety of unique characters, each with personal demons (I like that). The mystery revolves around murders that are connected to an online dating service, a hook that internet junkies like myself will enjoy. I'll be back for more Alafair Burke.

DH says

I haven't read a good mystery novel in a while and Dead Connection definitely satisfied my hunger for one. It had everything I could ever ask for in a mystery novel. Great characters, check. Suspenseful, check. Fast pace plot, check.

I love the characters in the book and even more than that I love the relationships and interactions they had with one another. The characters were drawn extremely realistically and they were fully fleshed out. Each character carried around their own personal baggage, which made it easy for the readers to relate to. Sure they made some mistakes, but we all do. Despite the serious nature of the book, Burke was able to infuse the book with humor through the witty banter between the characters. I really enjoyed the relationships and chemistry between the characters because it felt so natural and real.

Of course every mystery book needs to be suspenseful and unpredictable and this book fit the bill. Every time I thought I had everything figured out, Ellie and Flann would uncover something else and I would just think "well there goes my theory." The plot was intriguing and it moved at a pretty fast pace so I never felt too bogged down by the details or the investigations.

It's definitely worth the read if you enjoy mystery/thriller books and I'm looking forward to seeing how the characters develop in the next book.

Magpie67 says

[serial killer was just a ruse -- its true greed, rev

Melissa Lenahan says

This book started out slow but I was glad I stuck with it. I look forward to reading the next book in this series.

Jane Stewart says

Not good for me, but mystery fans might like it.

This is a police procedural. We accompany Ellie (a homicide detective) as she investigates murders by a serial killer. Michael Connolly does the same thing with his character Harry Bosch. But with Bosch I am intrigued and fascinated. I did not feel that way with this book. It was dry, almost plodding. Both authors use twists and surprises, but for some reason Connolly does it better. I don't know how to explain why.

If you look at the plot and what happens in outline form, it sounds good.

Toward the end I was disappointed with Ellie's mistakes/stupidity which caused bad things to happen. She is sneaking up on someone but doesn't turn her cell phone off so it rings and gives her away. She knows who the killer is and goes there alone. She enters a dangerous room and doesn't check behind the door.

I was also disappointed with the ending. If two cops and another told the truth about why they did something or their investigation process, the killer might go free. So they agreed to lie to make sure the killer would not get off. I did not understand that. I wish the author spelled that out better. I thought what they did seemed legit. It wasn't like planting evidence.

There are no sex scenes other than briefly mentioning a couple had sex while spending the night together.

THE SERIES:

This is book #1 in the Ellie Hatcher series. So far there are five in the series.

AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR:

Christopher Lane was good. But I was not pleased with his voice for Ellie. It was odd, maybe too rushed.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Unabridged audiobook length: 9 hrs and 21 mins. Swearing language: strong but rarely used. Sexual content: none, other than what is mentioned above. Setting: current day mostly New York City, NY. Book Copyright: 2007. Genre: crime mystery.

Donna says

Detective Ellie Hatcher's cop father shot himself in his car many years ago while investigating a serial killer. At least that's the official story from the police. Ellie never believed this story and she continues to fight for the truth so her still grieving mother can get the pension benefits she deserves. Ellie is requested to partner on a case where women are being killed after going on a date with someone they met on an online dating service called FirstDate. Ellie creates her own profile and sends out flirts to try to attract the killer.

After reading the outstanding novel *The Wife* by this same author, I decided to go back and read this first in a series from 2007 introducing Ellie Hatcher. This one is a police procedural so there's really no comparing the two except to say that Burke's storyline and writing has gotten much better with time. However, I liked the start of this series much more than Burke's legal series with Stephanie Kincaid. Ellie Hatcher has lots to learn but I like her spirit and I'm interested to see what happens with her father's murder investigation.

Lewis Weinstein says

An excellent cop procedural with a worthy female detective. Sharp tension from beginning to end. I was a little surprised at how assertive she was with her far more senior partner, but she carried it off and it didn't

intrude.

Alafair also pays a somewhat hidden tribute to her dad when her character Ellie Hatcher calls a Louisiana cop name Dave, and has problems pronouncing his last name. Could it be Jamie Lee Burke's Dave Robicheaux?

Judie says

Detective Ellie Hatcher, raised in Kansas, became a police officer because her father had been one. He had been working on a case involving multiple murders when he allegedly committed suicide. Her brother, Jess, moved to New York City and she soon followed, planning on helping him.

When two attractive, single women, around thirty years old, were killed exactly a year apart, the New York Police Department called in Hatcher to help solve the crime even though she had been a detective for only four years and did not serve in the Homicide Unit. When a third victim was murdered a week later, they began to wonder if they were dealing with a serial killer. Clues left with the bodies point them toward FirstDate.com, an internet dating site. Eventually a fourth murder, three years previously, became part of the picture as a bullet from her murder matches that of the one the previous year.

As Hatcher and her senior partner, Detective Flann McIlroy began to work the cases, they discovered that the policemen who investigated the first murder were rather sloppy in their work. Along the way, the FBI became involved, also in a manner that was not particularly helpful.

They soon realized that the perpetrator was playing games with them, inventing clues calculated to mislead them.

The book was well-written and moved at a nice pace. The characters were consistent with their personalities and idiosyncracies. There were several twists to the story though they should have been able to figure out murderer earlier than they did, though that would have lessened the plot.

It also provided information explaining how identity theft often works.

Paul says

Dead Connection – A Twist at Every Turn

In her first outing of Ellie Hatcher in *All Day and A Night*, Alafair Burke follows up her introduction to Ellie Thatcher with *Dead Connection*. *Dead Connection* is a sleek first rate thriller, which introduces us to engaging characters that helps to make this thriller so compelling. It is easy to see why *Dead Connection* and Alafair Burke has been lauded and quite rightly so as she delivers a compelling thriller that delivers on the suspense and thriller aspects to deliver an entertaining read.

Detective Ellie Hatcher works out of the NYPD's Midtown North Precinct dealing with all the general crime in her part of the borough. When her lieutenant tells her that she is going on a temporary to homicide to help a star detective Flann McIlroy who has got a couple of dead females on his hands and no seeming connection to each other than they were both killed with the same bullet. One was a Russian junkie prostitute found dead in the parking lot of a strip club the other a young woman found outside her apartment block.

Then another couple of young females are murdered outside their apartments and the women of Manhattan are running scared. Three of the murders seem to be connected through a dating website called FirstDate. Questions keep being thrown up by the investigation which seems to lead them in a different direction and as they get closer to the truth McIlroy is killed in the line of duty.

It is through that death of her partner that Hatcher is able to find the truth even if her own NYPD do not really want to hear it. With the help of an FBI agent she is able to find the who killed the three connected murders and then finally the murder of the Russian junkie prostitute.

The pace of this thriller will leave you breathless turning each page in the hope that Hatcher will be able to get through this case in one piece. Even after the murder of her partner Hatcher is not afraid to keep moving to find the truth. The writing is crisp and clear Hatcher and her brother Jess are engaging characters as well as all other characters that appear in the book. Alafair Burke's style of writing is so engaging and it draws you in and there is an intense pleasure in reading her work.

Annie says

A fun read, heading to the next Ellie Hatcher...:)

Kristen says

If you love a great suspenseful mystery series, you're at the right place. Alafair Burke introduces into the world of Ellie Hatcher, a new NYPD detective who's assigned to a new case. When we meet Ellie, we're welcome into her world as how she's treated as a fellow police officer, and how people look at her. Tough as nails, we see how she cares for her mother and brother, and how devastated she is, with some emotional baggage back in Kansas. She doesn't give up. This mystery series packs a punch of twists and turns, dealing with hard-hitting facts, and tons of surprises. When you meet Ellie, you'll be rooting for her all the way through. She's your kind of heroine who doesn't give up.

Caroline Bennett says

Great reading via Bolindia Audio.

I liked this. Reading anything computer related dates fast and this was no exception but it was enjoyable. Characters very likeable. I guessed the solution but that didn't spoil it for me. I'd definitely read another Ellie Hatcher book.

Gina says

Goodreads Description- When two young women are murdered on the streets of New York, exactly one year apart, Detective Ellie Hatcher is called up for a special assignment on the homicide task force. The killer has left behind a clue connecting the two cases to First Date, a popular online dating service, and Flann McIlroy, an eccentric, publicity-seeking homicide detective, is convinced that only Ellie can help him pursue his terrifying theory: someone is using the lure of the Internet and the promise of love to launch a killing spree against the women of New York City.

To catch the killer, Ellie must enter a high-tech world of stolen identities where no one is who they appear to

be. And for her, the investigation quickly becomes personal: she fits the profile of the victims, and she knows firsthand what pursuing a sociopath can do to a cop--back home in Wichita, Kansas, her father lost his life trying to catch a notorious serial murderer.

When the First Date killer begins to mimic the monster who destroyed her father, Ellie knows the game has become personal for him, too. Both hunter and prey, she must find the killer before he claims his next victim--who could very well be her.

Expertly plotted and perfectly paced, Dead Connection advances Alafair Burke to the front ranks of American thriller writers.

I love mysteries and haven't read a really good one in awhile until I came upon Dead Connection and my needs were satisfied in this new author for me. It had everything I could ever ask for in a mystery novel. Great characters. Suspenseful. And for the most part a fast pace plot.

The best part about this book is the characters and, even more than that, I love the relationships and interactions they had with one another. The characters were written extremely realistically and they were fully fleshed out. Each character carried around their own personal baggage, which made it easy for readers to relate to. They made some mistakes and may have crossed some lines, but we all do and in writing the characters as flawed made the book all the more enjoyable and "real". Despite the serious nature of the book, Burke was able to lace the book with humor through the witty banter between the characters. I really enjoyed the relationships and chemistry between the characters, especially Ellie and Flann, because it felt so natural and real.

Burke filled the novel with twists and turns. Every time I thought I had something figured out, some new piece of evidence or information was revealed that had me rethinking my theories. I say this a great deal in reviews that if an author can keep the ending a surprise and do it in a way that captures the readers' attention, then the author had done his or her job when it comes to mysteries. Burke definitely gets an A for this part of her job!

The only reason that I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 was that the end dragged just a little bit, but maybe I am being a bit picky. I would highly recommend this author and her Ellie Hatcher series. I will definitely be reading the next book in the series to see what Ellie will be doing next! 4 stars!

Delee says

This was a fun read, and a great start to a series! The main character-Ellie Hatcher was a strong independent woman, and I liked her right from the start. I give DEAD CONNECTION 3 and 1/2 stars. I wasn't crazy about the ending, but I look forward to reading more of this series.

Stephanie says

I had no idea this was by James Lee Burke's daughter until there was a reference to his main character, Dave Robichaux, about midway through this book. The nut didn't fall far from the tree in this case! And wasn't Dave's daughter named Alafair, too?

I enjoyed this thriller about Ellie Hatcher, a rookie NYPD detective, who gets her first shot at a murder case. While I did guess who the bad guy was early on, there were enough twists and turns to keep me interested and a few surprises to make me want to pick up the next one in the series. Recommended!
