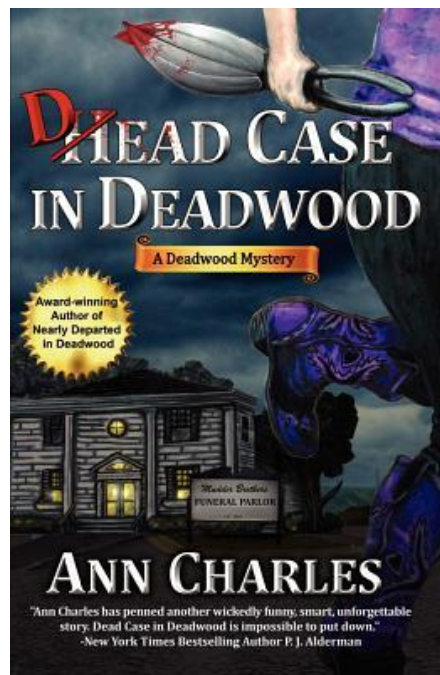




Dead Case in Deadwood

Ann Charles

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"Nothing good ever happens at the butt-crack of dawn. No doubt, the headless corpse on the autopsy table in front of me would agree." -Violet Parker Real estate agent.

Violet "Spooky" Parker stumbles upon a body-part theft ring at the local funeral parlor and suspects her caustic coworker has a hand in it or maybe a foot.

Can Violet discover what's in the crates the crooks are sneaking out of the mortuary in the dark of night? Or will she end up in one of them herself ... in pieces?

Dead Case in Deadwood Details

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Notice the cover..C.S. Kunkle illustrated. Again, for those who have been living under a rock, the cover is everything. I actually bought Ann's first book in the series because of the fantastic cover. I loved it! I can't begin to tell you how many books I have turned down due to the hideous covers..spend the money if ,unlike Ann, you don't have a professional artist in your family. Who probably charged her- but let's hope she got a great deal..brothers, you never know.

This is #3 in the series. The same characters are back..vile Ray, and I mean VILE. Her best friend Natalie (ohhhh....I can't say anything...aaaak), the family and of course Doc...

This book was just as great as the last two. It doesn't feel like three separate stories, but a continuing story. I can't decide which of the three is my favorite. I'll just say, questions are answered.

Violet is involved in a whole new mess. I don't think the woman will ever attract a normal client; this one makes the last two from previous books look tame. Money is money, and it is hysterical to see how far she is willing to go in order to earn a commission. She and Doc are doing well, though she continues to drive everyone insane by keeping the relationship a secret from Natalie. Natalie is still on the hunt for Doc and is clueless about what is really going on. Maddening! I can say no more, except do begin with,' Nearly Departed in Deadwood', the first in the series; otherwise you'll be lost.

Now, hurry up and write #4, Ann!

Natasha says

Wow. Deadwood fans, you're going to be amazed!

The Deadwood Mystery series is one of my favorite series. When it comes to mysteries, it is my favorite. Every time I pick up an instalment in this series, I know I'm in for a treat. You get pulled in pretty quickly and Ann takes you for a ride where you'll be guessing the outcome until the very end. I love it.

The characters are some of my favorite cast of characters. Old man Harvey is completely original. He may be sour and a womaniser, but he's got Violet's back when she needs it most and if not, betsy will be happy to help out. *winks*

Violet is a cool chick. Trouble seems to follow her no matter where she goes. Everyone knows if Violet's around, something's gonna go down. *laughs* As a heroine, she's fun, witty, tough and a great mom. What more can you ask for?

I've loved Doc since the start. He's a mysterious hunk and with each instalment we find out more about him. Maybe one day we'll figure out what his past is hiding and what he really is... :)

My new favorite character is Cooper. He's tough and rough on the outside and most likely in as well, but I know there's something we're not seeing with him. Although I love Violet and Doc together, I sometimes wonder what would happen with her and Coop.

This story was the mother load. I was completely engrossed from page one. Lots of mystery and action. Great villains and a fantastic plot. I really hate to wait another year to read the next instalment.. *sighs* Ah well, as long as you keep writing Ann. *winks*

So, if you've been under a rock and haven't started this series yet, I highly recommend you check it out!

Oh! I also want to shout some praise for Ann because Dead Case is #2 on Bestseller list for Ghost Horror on Amazon. And #1 on Hot New Releases for Ghost Horror!!

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

RTC!

Marion Driessen says

Third book in the series, and it just makes me want to read more and more. Laughing out loud, holding my breath - you name it and Ann Charles gives it. Romance, humor, suspense, all in one package. Try it!

Elena says

Dead Case in Deadwood was an unexpected tough read, one that took me something like a month to finish (alas! Some skimming took place). I enjoyed Nearly Departed in Deadwood and adored Optical Delusions in Deadwood but had to fight hard the urge to DNF the third installment of Charles' **Deadwood series**, set my Kindle on fire and throw it out of the window for good measure.

Violet! **What the hell, Violet?!** Get a grip, girl. You are a piece of sh*t. An immature, aggravating, demanding, selfish, whiny and not particularly bright one at that. Violet, do you have any idea how infuriating it is to try and enjoy a series when all you can *truly* think about is how satisfying it would be to slap silly (well, sillier) the MC in the face? Violet, girl: if your being such a piece of sh*t will force me away from an otherwise fun and lovely place like Deadwood, I'll come looking for you. Charles provided us with a map of the place: it's a pretty detailed one. Just saying.

Also: right, Anne Charles?

I mean, **what is your problem with good looking women?** I have a number of gorgeous female friends and I promise you, beautiful women don't necessarily coo or purr when they talk: they talk; they don't sway or sashay when they walk: they walk; and even if or when they are single they are not the threat to society you paint them to be because incidentally they have other stuff to do and think about besides getting their hands in the pants of every human male that enters their airspace.

So, yeah: I need a break from Deadwood, afterall. Will be back later: Violet, you'd better behave.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

This series is becoming seriously addictive! To think I didn't like the first instalment and almost never got to reading the second one!

In Dead Case in Deadwood the story is fun and there are several sub-plots which make the book an entertaining read. The dialogues (especially those with Harvey involved) are seriously funny and Ann Charles doesn't go over the top with the paranormal part of the story which is nice.

I have to say that what I particularly enjoyed in this instalment is the development of the characters. No matter how crazy/wacky the situations they find themselves in, their evolution rings true and feels quite real. I like Violet's character because she is very lifelike: she has problems with her kids and with money, has body issues... I think that this is why I like Violet better than Stephanie Plum (whom she is often compared to), she feels more like a real person to me.

A very enjoyable read, I'll dive into Better Off Dead in Deadwood right away! :)

- ↘ **Book 1:** Nearly Departed in Deadwood ★★
 - ↘ **Book 2:** Optical Delusions in Deadwood ★★★★★
 - ↘ **Book 4:** Better Off Dead in Deadwood ★★★★★
 - ↘ **Book 5:** An Ex to Grind in Deadwood ★★★★★
 - ↘ **Book 6:** Meanwhile Back In Deadwood ★★★★★
 - ↘ **Book 7:** A Wild Fright in Deadwood ★★★★★
 - ↘ **Book 8:** Rattling the Heat in Deadwood ★★★★★
-

Ian says

Violet Parker once again finds herself in the middle of a whole world of misadventure in Deadwood. She needs to sell a hotel to a Ghost Whisperer or lose her job; figure out what Ray is up to at the funeral home; find out who the the headless corpse is and why he's headless; and if she has a little time take her relationship with Doc to the next level.

There are books that are a lot like this series and in nearly every case I liked them for one or two books before the glow faded. But these books are saved by Ann Charles' humour. That's what's keeping me interested and the reason I've just bought book #4.

Sue says

These books would be a lot better if our main character didn't persistently act so stupid. There are very few circumstances where she doesn't make the exact opposite decision that any sane, reasonable, intelligent, responsible person would. But I could handle that if the author would just explain why the character acted like such an idiot all the time. We really have no idea why she is a mid 30's mom of twins who still acts like a college kid. She's still sponging off family but makes decisions like nothing has any ramifications. Her aunt is an enabler and her "best friend" is a bigger ditz than she is. Would any grownup who REALLY needs a job to support their family put up with the crap Ray has shoveled? And Harvey's nephew or not, Coop's behavior is insulting and borders on harassment. Real estate agents have no legal obligation to pry into the

backgrounds of their clients beyond their credit worthiness. Even convicted felons have the right to buy property in this country and real estate people can and do sell it to them. In fact, they could probably be sued if they refuse to. A lawyer on retainer for Violet could make a fortune just suing the people she has to deal with.

Really, I think she can be smart AND funny. Read a Molly Harper book. She does it with all of her characters.

Jaime Jeffrey says

CLIFFHANGER!! R u freakin kiddin me? I'd punch Doc in the Adam's Apple. He runnin 'round talkin 'bout Violet not tellin Natalie, when he did the same damn thing. He never once said, out right, to Natalie "yeah, I'm just not that into u." Lil miss Namby Pamby, coulda forced this issue by tellin Doc, "this is not my problem, u want me, u tell her," after the very 1st time he kissed her. Instead, we get bush beatin, pussy footin & all around foolishness, that could've well been avoided.

Next, FORESHADOWING, that sister of hers is bad news & I'd have stomped her till my boots got sticky a long time ago. She'd be afraid to lay eyes on my kids, much less drive'em somewhere.

Lastly, really? I mean for real? Was Violet sittin on a pile a money before she had the twins? Did I miss that part? We find out she's doing all this poor me, poor me, pour me another, when she wrote the twin's father out of the picture. She would at least be able to get her boy shoes & her girl glasses if she was getting child support. If he didn't pay at least u'd have the knowledge that he was rottin' away in jail. Hurtin' the kids, herself & her best friend, was all of her own making. The silly twit.

One last thing, y didn't she take the opportunity to cut Ray's throat when she had it? He's strapped down, sharp tools r about & she didn't grab 1 & say "U fucked w/ me the last 3 months, now I'm finna fuck u." & plunge somethin into his throat. I'm done!

Tammy says

This one was all over the place. The romance was silly and off putting. The charming "will they or won't they" from the first two books was just tedious by book three. The fact that they are still sneaking around was corny. The mystery was strange and confusing. I find her constant inability to learn from her mistakes stupid. She prattles on and on about "doing what is best for her children" then jumps head first into dangerous situations that could get her killed over and over. This book just didn't really work for me. I already bought the next one so I will read it and hope it is better.

Kelly says

Holy smokes! I haven't been this enamored of a series since... umm, well, it hasn't been all that long BUT STILL! I am so enjoying the shenanigans these characters get into. I mean... Harvey and his love gel (fruit flavored because that's what his lady friends like), best friend Natalie and her determination to see Violet paired up with the Detective despite Violet's insistence that she wasn't into him and he wasn't into her (something I'm not too sure of), Doc's ghostly visitations (not to mention his ... stamina in the stairwell. And

the bedroom. And the bean bag chair.) ... all of it just makes me giddy. It's fast-paced and sometimes silly and I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN WITH IT!

Oh. OH! I can't forget to talk about some speculations about Violet that were tossed around. Well, I won't ACTUALLY talk about them because they're the sort of thing that I think you have to experience for yourself but I will say that if Doc's ideas are true, it'll open a whole new world for Violet. And since what he's saying makes sense... the next book should be VERY interesting. *smiles maniacally at everyone* Very. Interesting.

Once again, we have some nice setup for the next book/mystery. Violet helped the Deadwood PD tie up one investigation but a lot of questions were left unanswered and the ending... oh, the ending. Nothing comes easy in Violet's world and things just look like they're going to get even hairier in book 4.

excited grin Can't wait!

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Dead case in Deadwood was a free Kindle book I downloaded on 10/04/12 for the Why Buy the Cow? reading challenge.

Pernette says

I enjoy Ann Charles Deadwood series. It is funny, mysterious and there are always some kind of "high jinks" going on. Violet Parker is always getting herself into some kind of trouble and Dead Case in Deadwood is no exception. This book starts off with a headless corpse and ends with disappearing albinos. Lots of fun.

*** Jennifer says**

3.5 stars. My least favorite so far - but I still really liked it. I think what put me off that half star was the funeral home center of the plot. Funeral Homes just aren't even a little bit interesting to me.

Still, a very good story, and the character development in this book was much stronger than the first two books: Doc and Violet actually have conversations in this book (although, thank goodness, not too many) and the shit hits the fan in a relationship or two. Cooper intrigues the hell out of me and I'm eager to see what Ms. Charles does with his character.

The plot line had a few twists I didn't see coming. I'm looking forward to seeing whether anything will come of Violet and her possible new talents. I'm not sure how I feel about the new bad guy - it feels just a little too out there and going forward with it might reduce the series premise into silliness. We'll have to see. (view spoiler)

I can't wait to dive into the fourth book.

Douglas Meeks says

Dead Case in Deadwood (Deadwood Mystery Series #3) I try not to give away too many 5 Star reviews because I don't want them to become commonplace BUT this series has been so overwhelmingly entertaining I cannot do anything else. Violet is settling in and getting more laugh out load funny, the romance is picking up a lot AND the paranormal aspects of these books takes a huge leap forward. You need these books to read between whatever your usual reading choices are because they are like a treat for the readers. I don't reprint the summaries or cover hints just to make my reviews longer so take my word for it and grab this series, you are gonna thanks me :) Ann Charles, you have my heartfelt thanks for writing such fine entertainment. This is not Pulitzer prize stuff, it is laugh out loud funny to break the dangerous and heartfelt moments up and it works wonderfully.

Gina says

This 3rd in the Deadwood series continues the adventures of Violet, bad realtor with a spooky reputation whose curiosity puts her in the middle of some criminal cases along with a big cast of secondary characters. As per my earlier reviews, I still think Violet is a narcissistic Mary Sue who doesn't suffer the consequences of her actions in any real or realistic way. I don't really like her at all. There was some much needed character development in this one, so I still have hopes I'll grow to like her more in the future. But, I still really enjoy the story/mystery due to the well developed secondary characters and light-hearted, zany plots. As a fan of Deadwood (the real place), I also enjoy the setting.

Don't start with this one. It doesn't work as a stand-alone as it completes a story arch began in book 1, and there are some character relationships and traits that need to be understood in context of the books up until now.
