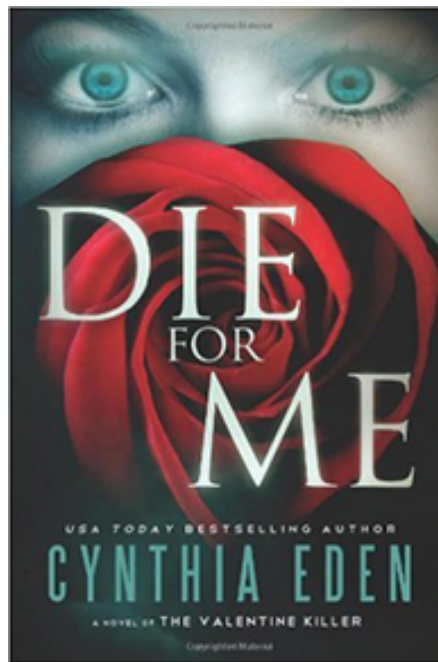




Die For Me

Cynthia Eden

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Die For Me Cynthia Eden

She thought her fiancé was the perfect man—until he turned out to be the perfect killer...

Katherine Cole is running for her life, desperate to escape the Valentine Killer—so-called because he stabs his victims through the heart and leaves them holding a telltale single red rose. Still he tracks her to New Orleans and begins carving a bloody path to her door. But this time, Katherine refuses to run any farther. This time, she'll do anything to stop the madman she once loved, even trust the sexy cop promising to keep her safe...

Detective Dane Black never lets his emotions interfere with his job, even as the Valentine Killer surfaces in New Orleans to stalk his prey. But when Dane agrees to protect the killer's ex-fiancée, Katherine Cole, he can't ignore the passion kindling between them. After a single unforgettable night binds them body and soul, Dane knows he won't rest until Katherine is safe in his arms—and the Valentine Killer is dead. Dark and intensely sexy, this romantic suspense novel from USA Today bestselling author Cynthia Eden is sure to leave readers breathless.

Die For Me Details

Date : Published February 12th 2013 by Montlake Romance

ISBN :

Author : Cynthia Eden

Format : Kindle Edition 358 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary, Mystery, Thriller

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From Reader Review Die For Me for online ebook

Jonetta says

It's been three years since the Boston Valentine Killer was last heard from, now suspected to be dead....until similar murders happen in New Orleans. Valentine's fiancée, Katherine Cole, just happens to be living there under a new identity. When she walks into the police department to offer assistance, Detective Dane Black isn't sure if this is a gift or the killer.

The story moves pretty quickly and has some strange twists throughout. I have to admit, though, that I'd figured most of them out. It still didn't change my level of enjoyment. It's an interesting story along with a steamy romance. Trying to keep up with a cagey and intelligent serial killer made it all worthwhile.

Jamie says

6 STARS! ROMANTIC SUSPENSE AT IT'S VERY FINEST!!

I am in total fan girl mode here over Cynthia Eden!

Now THIS my friends.. is EXACTLY what Romantic Suspense should be... this is my first Cynthia Eden book (kicks self) and it definitely won't be my last. Before I even finished this one I was on Amazon downloading a couple of others. It was THAT GOOD.

Katherine....A woman trying to start a new life..running from a nightmare..turns out her fiancé is a sadistic serial killer...

Dane....A sexy determined Police Detective that will do anything to protect her. He'll also do anything to catch Valentine. He may even have to use Katherine as bait to do it..

A seriously creepy serial killer that is completely obsessed with Katherine. He loves her and will do anything to keep her.

And one of the very best surprise's of any Rom Suspense I've ever read. It's not often that a book can really keep you guessing.... Usually, it's fairly obvious from the start of most books who you can trust and who you really can't. Not here.. not here at all. I LOVE THAT! Kept me guessing and kept me hooked.

Cynthia Eden as written a story that is a MUST READ for any lover of Romantic Suspense.. an ABSOLUTE MUST READ!!

Mara says

I'm a fan of Ms Eden's pnr series. Even if I'm not a fan of contemporary I like her work enough to give it a try. (And it was on offer to boot!)

I'm really sorry I didn't like Die for me. I read it, but honestly it was a chore. The book is romantic suspense or it should be. The problem is that I found it very weak in both. There was no mystery (the twists were telegraphed) and there was no real romance.

What I found worse was that the book reached a new height in lack of reality. I simply couldn't believe what I was reading. (view spoiler)

The lack of professionalism in the plot was over the top: from the wacky obsessed profiler, to the crazy obsessed psychiatrist and her lecherous psychiatrist pal, to the cops. There's not one character who is salvageable as a professional figure. It is really unbelievable.

The heroine is a fucking saint that you hate on site (that kind of character that is soo good that even a killer is charmed, here literally). Give her a pair of wings and a halo, please. And of course every man wants to shag her or protect her.

She is so brilliant she doesn't recognize the killer even when faced with him. (He was her live-in fiancé who is also a genius and fools every one every time every thing he does.)

The romance. If you can believe a cop can have sex with a suspect within a few hours they've met...and plan to marry her and change his life in four day... If you believe that a woman who doesn't trust anyone, a woman with her past, starts trusting a guy who cuffed her the first time he met her (with total disregard to her and the law) ... than this is your kind of love story. :)

To balance my dislike, please read BamaGal's review, she loved it:
<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

?Karlyn P? says

DNF @ 70% I have loved several romance suspense books by this author, but this one didn't work for me. The romance was flat and uninteresting, the suspense tedious, and I really never cared who the bad guy was. I was forcing myself through this story, something I promised myself I wouldn't do anymore, so I am calling it a DNF.

To make matters worse, I tried listening to this on audio. The reader butchered many of the voices, including the hero Dane. So if you do want to read this one, I recommend skipping the audio version.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

This is a DNF. I've rolled my eyes way too much with only 10% into the book. The cop cuffing her was

ridiculous. Stroking her skin within an hour of meeting? In fact her going to the cops versus letting law enforcement (FBI/Marshals) make contact was kind of stupid on her part. The Marshall was unable to call her by her requested name repeatedly within minutes, felt like a stupid characterization. And these are the characters I'm supposed to be vested in?

There was no depth to scene development and it almost felt like a draft.

This was an earlier book by this author and hoping that's why the writing was too contrived, too OTT and too ridiculous. It was everything that started turning me off this genre.

Alex ? says

The idea of the suspense was brilliant, the execution was only good.

Some twists were predictable and very obvious from the very beginning, but some of them were unexpected. The involvement of the h into the investigation was implausible, who tells suspect/witness all the facts and evidences?!

Romance part was ok, too insta, but safe.

Strong heroine. I respect people, who try to help even if it's dangerous for them, who don't hide but fight!

“We aren't who our pasts say we are. Damage doesn't define us. We define ourselves.”

Baba says

3.5 stars.**Review completed February 23, 2013**

Die for Me could have been an outstanding read if...

A couple of years ago Michael O'Rourke was suspected of murdering several women in Boston. The media dubbed him as the *Valentine Killer* because he always stabbed his female victims in the heart and left each victim holding a rose in her hand. At that time Katherine Cole was Katelynn Crenshaw and she'd been his fiancée. One day she caught her soon-to-be husband red-handed when he tortured another victim in their basement. He vanished into thin air when she called the police. As a consequence she had to start a new life with a new name. Nowadays she is living a relatively lonely and quiet life in New Orleans as a gallery owner. It seems, however, that Valentine followed Katherine to New Orleans and he is about to start another killing spree.

It hadn't been an easy death. Not with all of those slices on her arms. Some deep enough to sever veins and tendons. But those wounds hadn't killed her. The perp had just been playing

*with her until the moment he drove his knife into her heart.
Dane leaned forward. The victim's right fingers were curled around something. His eyes narrowed. It looked like...Savannah Slater was holding a bloodied rose in her right hand.*

After watching the news, Katherine decides to talk to Dane Black, the lead detective of the case to get more information about the latest murder. Also, she needs to decide if she has to run again. Though once arrived at the police station, Dane is anything but friendly or helpful.

Detective Black gazed into her eyes. "I get the feeling you're a dangerous woman."

He even arrests her--sort of.

Instead of running again Katherine has a change of heart. Now she wants to help to bring down the killer to be able to sleep without the nightmares waking her. And detective Black needs her trust to solve the case.

*His lips lifted from hers. "Let's make the nightmares go away."
Yes, please. She was ready to shove those nightmares in a dark closet and padlock the door.
Dane eased back. "I want you naked."
She wanted him the same way.
"I'm not a gentle lover."
He seemed to be.
"I like sex wild and hot."
Sounded good to her.
"And you...you need more."
But Katherine shook her head. Didn't he get it? "What I need right now is you."
"Then baby, you've got me."*

I'm a fan of Cynthia Eden's *Deadly* series, and I especially loved *Deadly Fear*. *Die for Me* is without doubt a good read but unfortunately not as great as her *Deadly* books.

The Good

I liked the plot very much. It is well thought out and the bad guy is a highly intelligent yet very twisted and creepy sicko. Also, the final third of the story, which I think was pretty stellar, made up for the somewhat disappointing romance between H/h. The plot really made me turn the pages. Besides, the more I read the more I was convinced that I had to deal with HUGE spoiler (view spoiler) From the get-go the villain was known, however, it really took me a while to see that specific twist coming. Well done!

*"Why? Because Valentine might come after me?"
(view spoiler)*

"I don't want any more deaths on me!"

His gaze searched hers. "That's what you need to stop believing. None of the deaths are on you. They are all on him. Every single one."

The Bad

There's no getting round it to point out that I was not wowed by their romance. In fact, I really couldn't feel their chemistry and I did not like their insta-lust either. It felt kinda flat for me, and I've had a very hard time to warm up to Dane and Katherine as a couple. In consequence, there was a lack of build-up and it felt way too rushed. Truth be told I couldn't believe that Katherine was so ready to jump Dane's bones in no time flat even though she never liked a man's touch for the last three years. Come on!? I mean that was not realistic. Their "love" for each other was just not believable. Plus, Katherine was such a scared little mouse initially (she even had to see a shrink) and then out of the blue she did transform into a fearless and heroic fighter? I'm sorry, but I couldn't for the life of me buy into that. And then there were some overly melodramatic as well as sugary lines which did not appeal to me either.

If I remember correctly Katherine had two TSTL moments.

(view spoiler)

Don't get me wrong. *Die for Me* is not a bad book by any means, but unfortunately it could not live up to my very high expectations. Hence, I can't deny that I'm slightly disappointed.

Mo says

This one started off great ... then it sort of faltered halfway through. I don't know what it was about it that it did not keep its momentum for me.

It was fairly obvious to me who the killer was but it was a bit unbelievable that nobody "uncovered" him earlier... OK, the ending was played out well, with a bit of excitement. Maybe my expectations were too high going in.

It's taken me a few days to do this review. That alone kind of shows that the book did not "wow" me.

I will definitely check out more books by this author in the future.

Jo says

A must read for all romantic suspense lovers!

Three years ago, Katherine Cole, came home early, only to find her fiancé, the man she believed to be so perfect, killing a woman in their basement. Her fiancé, dubbed the Valentine Killer, escaped and Katherine had to move and change her name. Now a woman was found dead in her city, in exactly the same manner as the Valentine Killer's previous victims. Katherine won't let him escape again. She approaches the lead detective, Dane Black, offering her help.

I loved this book! The suspense was intense and captivating, and I couldn't put the book down. I loved how instantly attracted Dane was to Katherine, and how Dane was the first man Katherine felt safe around in the last three years. Their chemistry was off the charts, and Dane was one very sexy detective.

"I don't ever want to lose you," he rasped as his heart thundered in his chest. He wouldn't. Couldn't. Obsession? Love? Sometimes, it was hard to tell where one ended and the other began.

I loved how Dane was perfect for Katherine because of all his flaws, and how Katherine never saw him as damaged because of his past. She knew just how strong, and brave he was *because* of his past. Katherine was a wonderful heroine, and had a spine of steel. Not her awful childhood, or the fact that her fiancé turned out to be a serial killer, changed her inner goodness.

This is the first book ever that I liked the serial killer. Yes, I know how shocking that sounds, but Michael O'Roarke knew how very bad a man he was, and he wanted so much to be better, to have a normal life with a wife, but he couldn't change who he was. His only redeeming quality was his love for Katherine. Both of them had the same awful childhoods, but while his turned him into a monster, Katherine kept being a good person, the only person who had ever loved him.

Do you love me, Kat? The voice from her past whispered through her mind.
She could hear the echo of her own laughter. *Of course I do. I'm marrying you, right?*
She'd been so confident. So certain.
You love all of me, right?
He'd been teasing her, or so she'd thought.
The good and the bad? You'll stay with me, for better or worse?
She'd kissed him. *That's what I get to promise in the vows.*

Michael O'Roarke broke my heart, and I felt so very sorry for him and the choices he made.

Cynthia Eden is a master storyteller. Writing a fantastic romantic suspense that was chilling and romantic, and writing a serial killer than one could feel sad for.

Ezinwanyi says

A gripping account of survival and love

This story was well written and mesmerizing. I couldn't stop reading until i finished the audiobook. Katherine Cole was as resilient a heroine as any I've read. What she had been through would break anyone but she kept putting on foot in front of the other and living. I also liked Dane for his strength and protective nurture.

His book wasn't as gory as I thought it would be and I'm thankful for that.

Saly says

Wow, if I was the heroine I would have cracked totally, but man she had strength, a crappy childhood didn't deprive her of kindness and then finding out that her fiancée was a serial killer still didn't break her, even though it made her go into her shell, scared to be touched, scared to trust anyone but when the same MO is used in a murder, she cannot not say anything, she has enough guilt to deal with it.

For the hero, the homicide detective on the case, the heroine is bait at first, he doesn't know her, he just wants to catch the psycho Valentine whose only obsession is the heroine. I loved the whole book, there was great balance between the suspense and the romance.

Kim Bailey says

The Valentine Killer

This book was perfectly creepy & wicked ... just in time for Valentine's day. LOL!

I don't read a lot of murder/mystery ... I normally find them either too predictable and boring, or too procedural and boring ... Well, this book is **NOT** boring ... So far from it!

Cynthia Eden impressed me with her ability to not only keep me interested throughout the entire story, but to actually fool me a couple of times to. I found myself guessing & then double guessing & then changing my mind & then guessing again ... Conclusions were never completely formulated or trusted, not until I turned the very last page. **Bravo!**

There were some very well written sexy times thrown in as well ... Obviously, not the focus of the story but they sure did add intensity to the situation. And I really enjoyed how the love story was able to build in the midst of a suspense filled mystery.

I will most definitely be reading more from this author in the future!

Thank you to the publisher for providing a complimentary copy of this book for review via Netgalley

? Irena ? says

This book was a pleasant surprise. I enjoyed almost every single moment of it. It seems I finally found a contemporary romantic suspense that I really like.

First of all, I must admit that I don't know much about what is or what is not considered great in this genre. I

expect both romance and suspense to be good. It doesn't matter if one is more pronounced than the other. In *Die For Me* both the story and the characters offer a lot.

Unlike the last Cynthia Eden's book I've read, neither Dane nor Katherine act as animal in heat. There is a *feeling at first sight*, but considering that the whole story is crammed into a couple of days, then I'll forgive that. So, I didn't find the romance in this book tedious and I didn't want to skip the scenes with the two of them together. To be honest, I didn't find it extraordinary either, but other things made this story great.

What won me over is the suspense and Valentine himself. After three years spent under witness protection and following the new murders committed the same way her ex fiancé used to kill his victims, Katherine Cole decides that she is sick of being afraid. Despite everything, this quiet woman makes a choice to start living again.

This book is not perfect. It has its issues, but it worked for me.

Anne OK says

A killer named Valentine; gifts of red roses to scare you breathless, and a Valentine's Day that brings murder and mayhem!

Eden pens an incredibly gripping page-turner in this cleverly-crafted psychological thriller. Michael Valentine, our obsessive killer, is very well drawn as a damaged and psychologically scarred individual. His sight is set on the only woman he's able to love, the only woman he admires for her courage – and the only woman who can identify him and help bring him to justice.

A hard-nosed, all-business detective (don't worry – he's also tall, dark and scrumptious!), Dane is attracted to his only suspect. And he's intent on towing the line as he works to prove her innocence. He's a top cop, one who carries his own dark secrets, and his character is believable.

A heroine who has survived a nightmare of terror yet remained strong, Katherine won't be defeated by a killer named Valentine. She stays the course determined to end her ex-fiancé's reign of terror. Her character has been meticulously developed by the author. She's very easy to admire and love.

Eden has given readers enough twists and turns in this fast-paced and intense storyline to keep readers guessing and on the edge of their chairs from beginning to ending. And the attraction between Katherine and Dane is balanced well and heartfelt. Good dialogue and interaction between them added a real plus to making their relationship feel real and unquestionable.

Cynthia Eden just keeps getting better and better. Along with this latest gem, her "Deadly" series is one of my favorites. As a Valentine treat for readers, "Die for Me" will satisfy both romance and suspense lovers and it comes highly recommended. This reader looks forward to many more thrillers from Cynthia Eden.

The BookChick says

My Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥♥

EXCELLENT: The characteristics of a 5 star story include: an awesome story; and, I love everything about the story — characters, plot, and story elements. I would definitely read it again and I would highly recommend to a friend and rave about it often.

Book Description:

She thought her fiancé was the perfect man—until he turned out to be the perfect killer...

Katherine Cole is running for her life, desperate to escape the Valentine Killer—so-called because he stabs his victims through the heart and leaves them holding a telltale single red rose. Still he tracks her to New Orleans and begins carving a bloody path to her door. But this time, Katherine refuses to run any farther. This time, she'll do anything to stop the madman she once loved, even trust the sexy cop promising to keep her safe...

Detective Dane Black never lets his emotions interfere with his job, even as the Valentine Killer surfaces in New Orleans to stalk his prey. But when Dane agrees to protect the killer's ex-fiancée, Katherine Cole, he can't ignore the passion kindling between them. After a single unforgettable night binds them body and soul, Dane knows he won't rest until Katherine is safe in his arms—and the Valentine Killer is dead.

Dark and intensely sexy, this romantic suspense novel from USA Today bestselling author Cynthia Eden is sure to leave readers breathless.

Page Count: 358 pages

Initial Reaction:

Excellent story. I'm totally blown away!

My Thoughts:

This book was provided by Montlake, courtesy of NetGalley, for an honest review.

Die for Me is the story about Katherine Cole, a woman on the run from her grizzly past. The story opens with the heinous murder of a local reporter who was cut multiple times, had her heart removed, and had a rose placed in her hand. The homicide detective on scene, Dane Black, recognizes this signature from a similar crime committed in Boston a few years earlier. Those crimes were dubbed the Valentine killings because of the seemingly sentimental aspect of the crime. Katherine Cole, née Katelynn Crenshaw, has intimate knowledge of both the crime and the killer. When she hears about the murder of the reporter she immediately goes to the police station to speak with the detective in charge of the case, Dane. Sparks fly between Dane and Katherine which they both immediately call a halt to. However, the passion between them ignites when they are thrown in the path of killer determined to make Katherine his next kill.

This was an excellent story because of its perfect balance of thrill, suspense, and romance. The characters were very well thought out and complex -- even the "bad guys". I immensely enjoyed the interaction between Katherine and Dane. Ms. Eden conveyed very real emotions and reactions between them which helped to make the story even more engaging with the thrilling plot. And speaking of the plot -- it was simply stunning with its high octane intricate twists and turns. The reader was drawn to a seeming conclusion only to run into a red herring that led to another clue and another outcome. *Die for Me* was a definite nail biter because of all of the unexpected plot details.

As I was reading *Die for Me*, it felt reminiscent of the early *In Death* books by Nora Roberts. *Die for Me* contains the same level of depth, interest, and bite. I highly recommend this story to anyone looking to read a well done romantic thriller. Wonderful job, Ms. Eden!

[image error]

Reading Time: 5.5 Hours

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