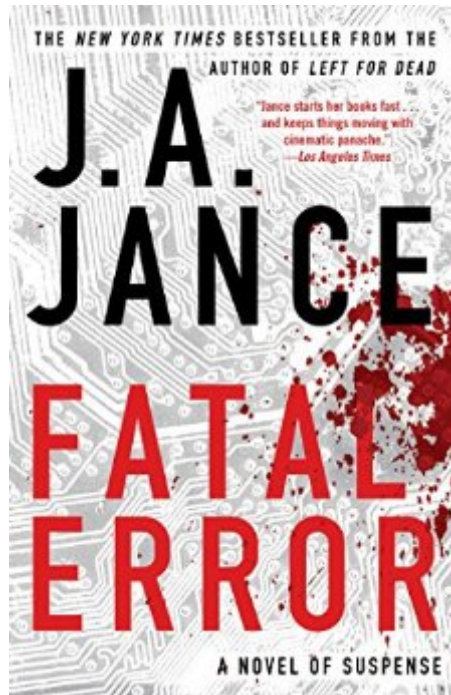


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Fatal Error: A Novel (Ali Reynolds Book 6)



Synopsis

When an old friend is accused of murdering a cyber-sociopath who courted women over the Internet only to steal all of their money, Ali Reynolds steps in to investigate. "Jance's newest mystery is another New York Times bestseller! Ali Reynolds begins the summer thinking her most difficult challenge will be surviving a six-week-long course as the lone forty-something female at the Arizona Police Academy" not to mention taking over the 6 a.m. shift at her family's restaurant while her parents enjoy a long overdue Caribbean cruise. However, when Brenda Riley, a colleague from Ali's old news broadcasting days in California, shows up in town with an alcohol problem and an unlikely story about a missing fiancé, Ali reluctantly agrees to help. The man posing as Brenda's fiancé is revealed to be Richard Lowensdale, a cyber-sociopath who has left a trail of broken hearts in his virtual wake. When he is viciously murdered, the women he once victimized are considered suspects. The police soon focus their investigation on Brenda, who is already known to have broken into Richard's home and computer before vanishing without a trace. Attempting to clear her friend's name, Ali is quickly drawn into a web of online intrigue that may lead to a real-world fatal error.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ali Reynolds takes a six-week-long course at the Arizona Police Academy. Considering she is fortysomething and female, that alone would be a challenge, but she's also taking the 6 a.m. shift at her family's restaurant while her parents are on a cruise. Brenda Riley is a colleague from Ali's old broadcasting days. She has an alcohol problem and tells Ali a story about a missing fiancé that just doesn't sound right. Ali does some digging and find out he isn't who he says he is. He's a cyber-sociopath leaving a trail of broken hearts. After he's murdered, the various women become suspects, but the police center on Brenda. Ali attempts to clear Brenda's name. I really like Ali and this series of books. I must say I really missed her blogging in this book. Plus I missed her interacting more with her family. That said, I still enjoyed this book. It was well plotted and had a good pace to keep the reader interested and wondering how the guilty party would be caught. The author has done a great job crafting a group of characters that make me care about them. If the town were real, the diner is one I'd want to eat in if I came to town. Ali is a great investigator. I must say I like having her be an amateur rather than a policewoman, but she'll be great as that, too, if it happens in future books. I highly recommend this book and the series.

Ali Reynolds finds herself in a tough place when she agrees to run a background check on a guy for a woman she used to work with. No good deed goes unpunished, as we all know. The guy is a cyber-Lothario with women all around the country. He is also involved up to his neck with a woman who has much better survival skills than he does. It takes Jance a while to get all her ducks in a row, not quite long enough to make me put the book down for good. I'm glad I persevered; Jance ramps up the action and the suspense as the page count gets higher. I don't think it's her best novel, but it won't drag her average down by much. If you've liked her writing in the past, read on.

I do not know how to classify this book. I would not call it a mystery because from the get go you know exactly who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. It is not a thriller, since the book takes a meandering path to an obvious conclusion, but yet, general fiction doesn't make sense either since there are both mystery and thriller elements associated with the story. Alison Reynolds is finishing her Arizona Police Academy training when she is informed that due to budget cuts, there is no current opening for her, now what is she to do. Her parents are on a long overdue vacation and she is spending her mornings and afternoons at the Sugarloaf Cafe but she is not the type to just sit around and wait for something to happen. Well, into her life comes Brenda Riley another ex-anchorwoman who has an interesting tale of a man that she is engaged to but has never met.

That is curious. Said fiancé is now missing and Brenda is asking Ali to help her track down this wayward man. With the help of Detective Gil Morris, Ali soon finds herself on the trail of Richard Lowensdale who apparently through his cyber stalking has strung many women along but this time his luck has run out when he is deemed expendable by an evil woman with her own drug cartel connections. I have really enjoyed the previous five books in this series, but somehow this one fell off the rails. It felt to me that Ms Jance either was bored with the series or decided that her previous accomplishments were enough to get this out to her readers. I can recommend the previous books in this series, but I would have great difficulty recommending this one. In addition, as for where the title came from, that was just tucked into the final chapters of the book more as an afterthought than having any real purpose.

I started reading the Ali Reynolds series because I was told they were great and take place in and around the Phoenix and a Sedona areas. The first couple books I truly loved and enjoyed. I purchased the entire series on my Kindle. I'm now deeply regretting that decision! The more I read these books, the more I want to DELETE ALL OF THEM! Ms. Jance should realize that most of her readers already know the history of the Sugarloaf Cafe, her parents, B Simpson, her TV anchor past, her first dead husband, her second husband that was killed, her house renovations, her son Chris and his wife's history, her live in butler Leland, etc. etc. etc. Does she really need to drone on and on paragraph after paragraph repeating this history every single book? Each book has a cumulative effect starting with book one and coming up to the present day. What will book ten be like? Half the book will be old history. It has become very boring. I've read many other series books and books that contain the same character and there is little mention of past activity. I appreciate that as a reader. I am surprised that her publisher has not halted this practice as she is sure to lose loyal readers just to appease the occasional reader that may pick up a random book in the middle of the series. Very disappointed!

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