



Art of Death

Ana Bosch

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Despite the support of his rich older boyfriend, starving artist Riley Burke is determined not to be a trophy—hence his second job as a nude model at the local art school. It's important to him that he pay his own way, so when the artist Coliaro requests a private modeling session with him, he jumps at the chance to earn some real cash.

Then he hears the rumors—that Coliaro is undead. That his worshippers perform rituals to fill him with life energy. That every time he paints a male nude, the painting transforms to depict a gruesome murder. And that shortly after, a young man turns up dead.

The source of these rumors is a man named Westwood, who claims to be an instructor at the school and warns Riley not to get involved. Riley ignores the advice—but when the rumors pan out and another murder looms, he turns to Westwood for help. Westwood is clearly keeping secrets. He's dangerous, and Riley doesn't know if he can be trusted—which makes him all the more attractive. Riley is in way over his head... and his involvement with the undead may make him the ultimate target.

Art of Death Details

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From Reader Review Art of Death for online ebook

Moniquee says

4.5 stars

If you love paranormal action. This is one book you should try it

The intense characters and the world building of this story just grab my attention from the first page and at the end of it - I have to say "What a ride indeed!"

This is one of the stories I know I would re-read it.

Argona says

Well, where to begin? This book was well-written with a nice story and a very interesting plot. I like dark and twisted stories and I started reading this one with high hopes. The cover is gorgeous, the title is unique and the summary is quite intriguing. But...

For at least 150 pages of this book, I was annoyed and irritated. At first, I couldn't figure out what was my problem with this story, then it suddenly hit me. Riley, the main character, was my freaking problem! He was so unlikeable that at some point in the story, I actually wanted him to die! This was quite a new feeling to me. I usually don't wish for the main characters to drop dead in the most brutal way possible.

I wonder, was he supposed to be a flawed character? Was I supposed to think of him as an imperfect human being capable of making mistakes?

Let me explain. Riley was a very selfish bastard through at least half this book. During these pages, he cheats, emotionally and sometimes physically on a very kind and loving boyfriend. Sometimes I was willing to cut him some slack since he was so obviously in need of professional help but those times were very very rare since his capability of performing stupid actions was quite high. Without any doubts, he has a death wish during most of this story. He suffers from depression and needs therapy. He is selfish and unreasonable and childish when it comes to his partner. For a while I actually wanted Nick to be the main character and that's a baaaad idea!

The author really confuses me. Her secondary characters inform her main character of his many many stupid actions and his infidelity. He is called bad names to his face! So the author knows her MC very well, then why? Why write such a nice story around such an utterly unlikeable character like Riley? He is not a flawed human being. He is a selfish dumbass!

Yeah, he has a thing for dangerous men and likes rough sex. Then, dear Riey, be kind enough to break up with your current lover and let him carry on with his freaking life! Riley has very dark memories from his past and it appears that during this story, he is trying to atone for his mistakes. Yet his actions only endanger people, specially those closest to him. His behavior doesn't make sense to sane human beings. For example, he is stuck in a confined place, seconds away from getting brutally murdered and instead of concentrating, straining his ears for sounds, looking for ways to save himself, he takes his time exploring and browsing through old newspapers. Riley, I am happy you have such a peace of mind in such dangerous situations!

(view spoiler) is in danger and he is suddenly reminded of his college life and how fun it was to be a college boy and then proceeds to enjoy the feel of handling a brush again. Oh, good thing he had coffee. It's not like a life depends on his actions. It's not like he has to hurry and do anything in his power to save a life! No, he has an hour! It's ok, he can daydream and of course he needs coffee. Obviously adrenaline isn't pumping when your loved ones are about to die!

It can be me. I am a crazy person. With people important to me in danger, my heart would be ready to crawl out of my chest and I would be in a frenzy to do anything in my power to save them. My mind would be empty of anything else, only focused at the task at hand. But that's me. I am crazy like that.

And get this. Imagine you are Riley's boyfriend.(poor you) (view spoiler)Your lover, who is responsible for everything, calls you and asks if you are fine. You are? Well then. He will talk to you tomorrow. Bye bye.

I am sorry. I know I am ranting but I have to connect with characters to really like a story and Riley failed me.

Westwood was cool. He was exactly what he was supposed to be. Dark, cold, dangerous and wild. He has one big flaw. He likes Riley! Now, I can forgive him for that. Riley is very beautiful(as I was told so by many individuals) and who knows? Maybe death causes brain damage to undead people.

The erotic scenes, were EROTIC SCENES! Delicious and dark!(Bless the evil undead man for that.)

This is a paranormal thriller. Unfortunately the MC is so freaking stupid and predictable that most of the times, you know what's going to happen next. There were many times that I raised my eyebrow and thought..*really?*

Villains leaving secrets of their demise lying around in stupid places is one of these many occasions.(view spoiler) The villain wants the MC to find his weakness after all. So yeah, weak points regarding plot do exist.

The end of the book made me add another star to my rating. It was a great ending! I was rewarded for enduring Riley. Does the end justify Riley's actions? His cheating? HELL...NO! If only Riley had been a faithful slightly better human being, the twist at the end, would have had even more impact on me.

In conclusion, only a man like Westwood can survive Riley. Riley, the self-destructive and questionable lifeform + dangerous bipolar man = A perfectly symbiotic relationship.

This is a good book, one that focuses on the plot. With a few changes, this could have been a great story. I am going to read the next book one day. Riley can't cheat anymore. Westwood will murder him for that. Also, the cover of the sequel is even more gorgeous *stares hypnotized* can...not...resist...it!

Tiya Rosa says

2.5 stars

A well written novel with a gripping mystery/paranormal plot ruined by characters so beyond unlikable that you can't help but spend a good portion of the book plotting elaborate torture scenes around them.

I'm a character-focused reader. I appreciate a well executed plot and kickass settings, but a novel will still not work if I don't like or even empathize with the main characters. I'm not saying they have to be awesome

people - I'm saying that if they're horrible, they should at least embrace it or have something else going for them that I can work with. Alas, that was not the case here.

We have Riley who starts out as a hardworking but starving artist then became (view spoiler). He also toed the line between insistently curious and TSTL. His bumbling around produced actual results, though, so he should prolly be allowed to live albeit still being fucking stupid.

I can actually deal with the TSTL - barely, but possible - my problem is with this MC feeling so free with his judgments of other people and their actions when he does not even but give a spare glance on how he's been treating people he's supposed to care about. And while that twist at the end was nice and interesting, I resent the fact that it had to be used to justify Riley being a douche. (view spoiler)

Westwood, now this guy embraces the evil. The problem is I have no earthly idea what he's doing with Riley which means I don't trust his judgement. I can't root for an MC who has awful taste in men. (view spoiler)

As mentioned, the plot is pretty good and the writing decent, so there's a lot going for this novel. If you're more a plot-driven reader, this will definitely be a great read. If you're like me, though, who focuses more on the characters, don't expect much character-wise although you'd prolly have fun reading about Porter and the villain.

Don Bradshaw says

Reviewed on Hearts On Fire... <http://heartsonfirereviews.com/>

This was a good murder mystery book with a decent plot. Riley Burke is an illustrator but he's not picking up much work. Determined to pay his half of the bills, he takes on a job as a nude model for a nearby art school. His partner, Nick, is a successful lawyer and tries to dissuade Riley from holding down two jobs but Riley is determined. Coliaro is a well known artist who visits the school to put on a demonstration and asks Riley to sit for him. Coliaro also asks Riley to do a private sitting for him but is warned to keep away from the artist by a man named Westwood. Riley really needs the money so does the sitting and it's one of Coliaro's best works. The only problem with the artist's nude paintings is that soon the figure in the portrait; hands go missing leaving bloody stumps and the heart cut out. Soon after this happens, a young man is murdered leaving behind only the arms holding the heart. The police are baffled as the bodies are never found and there are attributing the murders to a serial killer. Riley becomes suspicious and visits Coliaro again only to find that the artist is an undead and is quickly caught up in a web of lies, betrayal and death. I enjoyed the story line and the character developing that Ms Bosch did. Weaving the undead in with the murders was a unique idea. All of the elements for a good murder mystery were very well put together. I had a hard time identifying with or liking any of the characters. Riley came across as a whiney child and Nick as just as ass. The only character that I came close to liking was Porter, Riley's undead friend. All in all this was an interesting and well written story.

Vio says

4.5 stars

This was a suspenseful and intriguing murder mystery which I loved, completely captivating and the "undead" kept the story moving along very nicely, interesting and clever writing IMO. I would have enjoyed this much more if there was more on page time between Riley and Westwood they have a very intense scene near the end its passionate, rough, sexy and very fitting for the situation. The main theme of this story is the investigation and getting to the bottom of these gruesome murders that keep occurring. Cheating? Yes but Nick deserved it all, I couldn't care less about him, creepy guy needed to have a bit more pain and suffering. Riley had good reason to be cautious about trusting him. A good solid read, recommended to fans of crime!

Karel says

A fair bit of warning for those who are looking for a fluffy romantic read: This isn't it. If all you want to read about is tall, dark and dangerous sweeping the dude in distress off their feet to their castle in Transylvania... Nope. Don't look here.

Westwood, the resident tall, dark and dangerous, is an asshole all the way to the very last word, and shows his affections for Riley only through actions. He doesn't stand around talking in paragraphs about the beauty of Riley's eyes, but shows all of it through his actions instead.

Both books in the series are extremely well-crafted, and probably the best MM romance novel featuring undead anything I've read thus far. The plot is good, convoluted enough to offer surprises, and all the characters are very strong, if unlikeable.

The world Bosch has crafted is also amazing. I love how creative she was with the undead. Instead of rehashing the old and used and adding only what is obviously there to make the characters more likeable (Like say, vegetarian vampires), she adds something fun to the mix. I loved reading about the rituals each undead had for its followers, and how they gained power from the mob that supported them.

The characters were truly commendable as well, though it might not be everyone's cup of teeth. No nice guys here. Practically every character has some flaw, ulterior motive, or they're lying about something. Cruelty is mentioned but not callously forgiven. I love unlikeable characters when they're human, which these characters are. If you're not like me and asshole characters spoil everything for you, you might want to skip it too.

In a weird way though, I wished Riley had stayed with Nick. I thought they were really sweet together, in a old married couple sort of way. And despite how it eventually ended up, I still thought Nick was really, really sweet. Ah well, forgiven for the amazing plot! Five stars for both!

M says

Whoa. I'm confused. This book has a rating less than 4 (at the time of writing this - hopefully it will change). Look, I know how little GR ratings mean. I get it, we're all emotional voters and the rating is very rarely based on merit. But dammit, this book was *good*! Yes, I really freaking enjoyed with my *emotions*, but more than that, it was genuinely well-written and clever and compelling. The plot was odd and interesting, the characters were terribly, wonderfully flawed, the violence was shocking and it was deliciously twisty. The thing I liked most, though, was how I could never tell where it was going, due mostly to the stupid, stupid decisions made by the protagonist. In any case, I was riveted. I literally could not stop reading. The proof is that I had the day off today to prepare for a huge work assessment tomorrow, but did I spend my time

studying? No. I inhaled this book like it would disappear if I looked away from the page for even a second. I think maybe the less-than-deserved rating is based on the marketing. It's lodged firmly under the MM heading, and yes, there are gay people and yes, there is sex (one particularly fantastic scene) but it is not a romance novel. Not by a long shot. It's a paranormal thriller (but not the bad kind), I guess. So I'd recommend this book to anyone who's looking for something different, to anyone who (like me) is feeling a bit estranged from the usual MM offerings. It really was great fun.

Sashu ~Sabine~ says

[cheating, lying, callous or egoistical (hide spoiler)]

Meggie says

This story is truly unique. The main storyline circles around mysterious murders and fanatic behaviour. I really couldn't understand what did Riley see in his boyfriend. Nick was weird and boring, but sure he was kind to Riley, which made him even more suspicious. Anyway, here we have a lot of unpleasant characters, one of them is Coliaro. What a creep! I really recommend this story it's truly well written, fresh and pulling from the start till the end. It was worth it!

Dustin says

I think my most favorite part of this book was the supernatural part of the undead. It piqued my interest to continue reading because I wanted to know more. I was definitely taken by surprise by who was really who in the book and at first I was furious when I found who did all the killings, then sad, and finally happy that the bastard got caught. I think there is another one after this and I'm hoping it is just as good as this one.
