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Saving the life of someone you love should not be the worst thing you have ever done, unless you are an Angel of Death. Disgruntled with his position in the afterlife and conflicted by his feelings toward his new client, Nathaniel Evans forgoes the rules and saves nineteen year old Juliana Crowson from being hopelessly stuck in Forge Creek. This alters Juliana's destiny and she finds herself in a series of near death accidents. In the mountains of Colorado, Nathaniel comforts Juliana as she struggles to understand her paranormal abilities while coping with her brother's drug addiction. When an ill-tempered Native American Shaman teaches her the difference between ghosts and place memories, she decides she wants nothing to do with the supernatural world. Too bad she doesn't know that Nathaniel is part of it. Will fate bring these two together, or has Nathaniel made the biggest mistake of his afterlife?

Death Lies Between Us Details

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Author : Jody A. Kessler

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From Reader Review Death Lies Between Us for online ebook

ratherread says

4.5 Stars!!!

I loved this book and can't wait for the next one in the series. "Death Lies Between Us" is a unique urban fantasy that revolves around Native American mythology. Although it was slow at times, the plot was outstanding and the second half of the book was a real page turner. In fact, I got lost in the story toward the end and stayed up until 3am in the morning reading. When I finished the book, I was stunned to see it was so late past my bedtime...the ending was that good to me.

Nathaniel and Juliana are both kind hearted and I as a reader, love them dearly. They are perfect for each other, except for one major problem...Nathaniel (Nathan) is dead and currently employed as a death angel and Juliana (Jules) is very much alive. When Nathan is sent on assignment, he sees Jules trapped in a white water creek, and instead of letting her die, he saves her life.

Jules, although in denial and struggling with her gifts, has inherited many supernatural abilities from her native American grandmother. While accompanying her rock star brother to a recording moguls estate, her abilities are awakened by the strong spiritual powers locked in the estates property. One of her abilities is ghost whispering and enables her to see Nathan, when others can't. They care deeply for each other, but because of their situation, there is no doubt that they will have many trials ahead of them in future books.

The book has suspense, unexpected twist and a lot of fascinating Indian folk lore. This is not an erotic NA romance, but the age of the characters places it in the NA category. It basically has almost no physical romance, just romantic attraction. It is clean enough for teens to read. I plan to continue reading this series, but I do hope it gets steamier.

But with or without eroticism, the plot is great and the mild cliff-hanger ending prepares the reader for future adventures with Jules, Nathan and the other cast of characters. Oh, I also hope that future books reveal why the young, handsome Indian Shaman, Chris, is so ill-tempered. And maybe he can find love and redemption.

Aileen Harkwood says

Winsome, fresh and lovingly crafted, this novel of life and death, angels and Native American mysticism is completely deserving of its recent award, the 2014 Readers' Crown for Best Paranormal Romance.

I'm reluctant to agree that *Death Lies Between Us* is genre romance alone, because it incorporates so much of what is normally found in mainstream fiction. The hero and heroine seek to explore the world and not merely their sexual attraction to one another. Jody A. Kessler has built a setting rich in both physical *and* emotional description, with familial love and friendships also sharing the spotlight, thus enhancing the twined tales of love and loss.

Perhaps what I admire the most, however, is the author's restraint in plotting and how this creates a thoughtful home for the novel's paranormal elements. Each of the characters and their actions are so human and well grounded, that the magic feels like a natural part of life in Kessler's Colorado mountain town.

I loved this tale of two young lovers, one alive and struggling to understand her purpose as a healer, the other an Angel of Death still hurting from the abuse he suffered when he was alive. Bring on the next book in the series, please!

Jody says

Released March 2013! Book two, Angel Dreams coming soon.

Do you like to read about Angels, Native American spirituality, ghost stories, teen angst, and first love? This book has it all. I hope you enjoy it!

Katie O'Sullivan says

This is a well-written, wonderful debut novel. The beautifully described Colorado mountain settings, the no-nonsense female protagonist, the strong family bonds, the herb lore, the Native American elements... and the fact that her guardian angel was also an Angel of Death! I mean, how cool is that?

The book begins in Nathan's point of view, so it's no surprise that he's an angel, someone who was once alive but is now entrusted with helping souls cross from the land of the living over to the other side.

Although we first see Juliana from his viewpoint, the narration soon shifts back and forth between the two of them, written in dueling first person perspectives, giving the reader a better understanding of both characters, and what's at stake.

Neither character has a full grasp of the situation, which the author allows to unfold organically, giving the reader information as the characters perceive it. With twists and turns and misunderstandings, Jules and Nathan are inexplicably and undeniably drawn together, with the reader rooting for their relationship to succeed, despite the fact that we know – we know from page one – he's already dead.

Ms. Kessler does an excellent job of writing believable characters and beautiful scenery. The herb lore she incorporates flows naturally with the story, as does the Native American spirit mythology. The sibling bonds between Juliana and her brother are both believable and heartbreaking, and the author does an excellent job conveying the complexity of their relationship, as well as the relationship between Juliana and her grandmother.

But at its heart, DEATH LIES BETWEEN US is a love story, between two souls who are bound by fate despite the odds against them. I loved everything about the interactions between Jules and Nathan, and hope that there will be more books about them coming soon!

Maer says

With an advance copy of this to review, I'm happy to add this to my "new series to watch" list. What a refreshing and intriguing read this is! Kessler has crafted a book for all ages, not just the YA crowd. Her heroine, Juliana, is quirky and ethereal at the same time and someone you care about almost immediately. Nathan is a very different character and his shadowy and conflicting emotions make for a very interesting contrast to Juliana.

Kessler has created the beginning of a fascinating series that makes you want the next book sooner rather than later. The story has twists and turns that never stop coming. The supporting characters are as interesting and well drawn as her main characters. The story is tightly written and the pacing is excellent. The narrative is strong and the dialogue is believable.

Mostly, though, this is about the characters and getting wrapped up in their emotions and stories. You won't find cookie-cutter characters here. Only realistic, flawed and enticing characters who draw you into their world.

Fiona Wilson says

This is a young adult/new adult paranormal romance book, with a huge twist though.

Nathan is an angel of death with a new assignment. He is sent to watch over Juliana until her death, helping her with the transition. However, during an incident in the woods, he ends up saving her instead. This changes the course of her life, and goes against all that he stands for.

Juliana looks out for her brother Jared, works in her Grandmother's shop, and is thought of by some as a witch. We first see this during an incident in the woods, but don't find out more about it until later in the story.

Nathaniel becomes more and more embroiled in Jules' life as the story goes on. He even makes himself visible on more than one occasion, saving her on several occasions. He becomes emotionally attached to Jules, but what future is there for them?

Jules is not an ordinary young woman. We find out more about her during the story, especially when she meets Chris, a Native American ghost hunter who allows her to open her mind to her special skills. He shows her how to use these skills to see things and helps her become the woman she is meant to be.

The author has managed to write a story which pulls the reader in very quickly. There are so many different elements within its pages but they all work well together. I couldn't wait to see how she would pull it off, or if these two were destined to forever be apart. The ending will surprise some, but it is perfect in my opinion. I look forward to seeing what comes next from this author.

Jeannie Walker says

If there is one thing I know about- it is the paranormal as well as the Angel of Death and the afterlife...maybe it is because I am a Native American Indian. My Cherokee Indian ancestry believed in the supernatural world.

Readers, if you want to get swathed in something good - then I suggest you take a chance and read this very interesting novel. It has great dialogue and realistic characters.

Just to let you know - I wrote a true story about a spirit that kept popping up when I needed someone, "Thomas, The Friendly Ghost", and I fully understand why others in this novel didn't notice Nathaniel (who is an Angel of Death) in this intriguing tale, "Death Lies Between Us".
I hope you read this fascinating novel. It is a YA, but I believe readers of all ages will enjoy it.

Jeannie Walker- Award Winning Author of "I Saw the Light" - A True Story of a Near-Death Experience

Constance Phillips says

Kessler's Death Lies Between Us is a paranormal, YA novel in which the lines between this world and the next are slightly blurred.

Her heroine, Juliana is feeling her way through her life, trying to find her way and her place, while battle forces that seem to "have it in" for her. Most young adult and new adult readers will see a lot of themselves in Juliana. Older readers will be able to relate to what she is going through. It's truly a book for all ages.

Just when you think you have this story figured out, there is another twist and another turn taking Juliana's recent string of bad days to worse. Her only light of hope being the mysterious new guy in her life. Nathaniel has a way of popping up just when he needs her most.

This reader will be waiting impatiently for the next book in the series.

Christie72 says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

This was the first paranormal NA book I have read. It's the story about a young woman, Jules, and her angel of death, Nathaniel. He is sent to help Jules cross over when it's her time to die. However, he finds it hard to stay objective the more time he spends watching her. He finds himself developing feelings for her. Things get more complicated when Jules begins to actually see him. She has recently developed the ability to see spirits and people who have died. Like Nathaniel, she begins having feelings for him even though she doesn't know his true identity. The story is told from Jules' and Nathaniel's point of view, so you are able to see how each of them feels about each other.

The author has an extraordinary talent in describing the settings in her book. I found myself in the beautiful forest with Jules. I could see and hear the sights and sounds that Jules did. In my opinion, that takes real talent on the part of a writer.

I also enjoyed the development of the supporting characters, especially Jules' grandmother and Chris, a sort of mentor for Jules. She also references a lot of Native American mythology. I found Chris incredibly interesting. I am looking forward to future books that hopefully develop the mentorship between Jules and Chris. There was also a twist at the end as well. I will definitely read the sequel.

Rebecca says

Jody Kessler has written a YA book that is appropriate for all ages, and by that I mean not just the teenage crowd. We mainly follow along with Juliana Crowson as she tries to understand what she is and her place in this world. It doesn't help that her brother, Jared, is a self-destructive personality. That some of her misguided peers think that she is a witch. And that, she meets an angel of death named Nathaniel. [I hope when my time comes that my angel is like the hunky Nathaniel.]

Add into the mix that Jared's band has just received a huge music deal from the very handsome, and very rich Lance. Who has the creepiest relative ever, Mason. Lance is taken with Juliana, and I think the relationship might go....oh I don't want to give too much away.

It would seem that Juliana is only smitten with Nathaniel though. She doesn't understand his erratic behavior. Why doesn't anyone else seem to notice him? Why does she feel so drawn to him?

In enters her grandmother, who owns an herbal shop and does some readings. She helps Juliana to a point. But the character I grew to like the most is Chris Abeyta. He is a Native American who has much the same innate gifts as Juliana. He helps her to see auras, teaches her how to focus, and helps her understand who and what Nathaniel is.

So, as you can see there is a lot packed into this book! If you like YA with a more adult narrator and a slighter darker theme, you will enjoy this book. I know I did.

Kristen says

GENRE: New Adult

THEME: Paranormal, Romance, Angels

RECEIVED: Author

BLOG: <http://seeingnight.blogspot.com/>

REVIEW:

Death Lies Between Us is a unique New Adult paranormal romance that follows two characters that connect but are separated with the fact one is not alive. I loved the concept behind the plot and the character development was well done, each character was a bit damaged and trying to find their purpose.

Death Lies Between Us follows Nathaniel, the Angel of Death whose next "client" is the very intriguing Juliana. He decides after one incident in the woods to help her, even though it's against what he stands for as an angel, since he's not suppose to interfere. She is destined for one thing and that is to die, but Nathaniel makes a choice, which changes both of their lives.

Juliana, when the readers first meet her you can see she's the mature one next to her brother. She is more of a mother to him, making sure he's eating and watching out for him when even he chooses the wrong path. Their brother sister connection is a wonderful addition to the plot, there are some heart breaking moments between the two and I wished that her brother didn't treat her so bad near the end. In addition to Jared her brother, we get an idea why Juliana keeps an eye on her brother because of how much her mother works, but she does find a little peace with her grandmother who owns an herbal store.

Nathaniel is a mystery; his character at the beginning was a bit unusual and for me and I couldn't connect to him as quick as I did with Jules. But I soon started to love his connection with her, I was so curious on how

these two could be together if Nathan isn't suppose to "alive". I loved the beginning when he helped Jules after a rude ex girlfriend of her brothers just left her in a tough spot. It was interesting to get more into his family background as well, it's a tragic story and I feel connects him to the loss Jules had in her life. He blames himself for what happen to his family and the readers get to see his emotions open up more just being around her.

In the end there was a mix of paranormal aspects with auras, mythology, spirits and Juliana learning more about herself and her abilities. One of my favorite tidbits in the story was Chris who guides Juliana, he explains a bit more about Nathan and teaches her how to understand the spirits. In the end the readers really get to see her abilities develop. I enjoy when author can have two POVs without it getting confusing, the readers will be able to grasp the emotions of both characters easily from their perspectives. There is a lot of mystery, emotional twist and turns and supernatural elements that surprised me. I'm curious with the ending what with be next for Jules and Nathan, I love there is so much more I want to know and of course see how Jules handles her abilities a bit more.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a Paranormal Romance novel that would be suitable for both Young Adult and New Adult readers. Fans of The Collector by Victoria Scott and Kim Harrison's Hollow series will want to get their hands on Death Lies Between Us by Jody Kessler.

Shawna Romkey says

Death Lies Between Us is a beautiful paranormal love story. Kessler has a way with language and paints a vivid picture of the main character's world- the harsh realities and the intriguing mysteries. The tension builds throughout the entire book and the reader gets to learn about a whole new lifestyle and a whole new supernatural world. DLBU is a fabulous debut novel and I can't wait to read what comes next in the Angel Falls series!

Toni says

What can I say about this debut novel? Let's start with first impressions – the cover is absolutely breathtaking. I had to buy this book because I could not take my eyes off the cover. Well done, Jody Kessler.

I instantly liked the heroine, Juliana Crowson, and her brother, Jared. Their close sibling relationship was endearing. Even though Jules had assumed the role of his caretaker – trying to convince him to make good decisions based on his propensity to choose the wrong path – they were still like the best of friends. Nathaniel is the Angel of Death. Now you would think you would be terrified, for the heroine, by the Angel of Death, but not in this story. Nathan is broken — trying to help others cross over into death and understand their fate when he hasn't quite accepted his own. When he meets his new 'client' Juliana, everything changes... for both of them.

Death Lies Between Us is a fascinating paranormal romance that has twists and turns that can't be predicted. I was on the edge of my seat, flipping pages furiously through most of the book. Jody A. Kessler has created the beginning of a series that keeps you wanting more. The story is tightly woven and flows beautifully from beginning to end. The supporting characters are just as well written as the main characters. There are those you love, those you hate, and some you just can't quite wrap your head around. This is definitely an author,

and a series, to keep your eyes on!

Nancy Segovia says

Not your average paranormal romance!

This unique love story involves a young woman who is just emerging from the cocoon of young-adulthood. She is still young enough to still find zest and excitement in life, but she is old enough to know better than to trust first impressions or even second ones. This engaging mindset traps her in the conflict of wanting to know more, much more, about her "unseen" visitor and a constant struggle of pulling away from him in spite of the fact that he seems to only want what is good for her coming to her rescue time and again. This book has skilled writing, intriguing plot twists, unique concepts and a captivating romance. A great read all the way around.

Chris says

4.5 out of 5 Stars

Saving the life of someone you love should not be the worst thing you have ever done, unless you are an Angel of Death.

Disgruntled with his position in the afterlife and conflicted by his feelings toward his new client, Nathaniel Evans forgoes the rules and saves nineteen year old Juliana Crowson from being hopelessly stuck in Forge Creek. This alters Juliana's destiny and she finds herself in a series of near death accidents.

In the mountains of Colorado, Nathaniel comforts Juliana as she struggles to understand her paranormal abilities while coping with her brother's drug addiction. When an ill-tempered Native American Shaman teaches her the difference between ghosts and place memories, she decides she wants nothing to do with the supernatural world. Too bad she doesn't know that Nathaniel is part of it.

Will fate bring these two together, or has Nathaniel made the biggest mistake of his afterlife?

Death Lies Between Us is the debut Young Adult/New Adult Paranormal novel by Jody A. Kessler. This is definitely an author, and a series, to keep an eye on.

Nathaniel's an Angel of Death, his job is to watch over and escort those that are soon to die into the afterlife. But, it's not that easy for him, especially after meeting his next 'client' Juliana. He's immediately drawn to her, which is totally against the rules. Angels of Death aren't allowed to become attached to or interfere in their client's lives.

Juliana is a little bit funky, a little off the beaten path, and a whole lot independent. Jules's is also a protector type, looking after her brother, Jared, and trying to keep him from making the wrong choices that he seems to prefer. This gets Jules's in to some dicey situations and even though Nathaniel isn't supposed to help her, well he breaks those rules which sets other things in motion.

Juliana has a few twists of her own, but if I share those I'll give away some of the larger plot points. Once Juliana and Nathaniel meet physically the story really is set in motion with all the things that go bump, and twist, and turn.

This story was very well paced. The characters were engaging, showed depth, character growth, and a lot of emotions. The conflict was well written, had some good plot twists, and a good amount of information to fill in any questions you might have about the Native American mythology and beliefs.

I really, really enjoyed this first book by Jody A. Kessler. Personally I'd suggest it for anyone that's a fan of Amy Plum's Revenant series or Kelley Armstrong's Darkness Rising series. I'm anxiously awaiting the next book in the series!
