



## **Festive in Death**

*J.D. Robb*

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Personal trainer Trey Ziegler was in peak physical condition. If you didn't count the kitchen knife in his well-toned chest.

Lieutenant Eve Dallas soon discovers a lineup of women who were loved and left by the narcissistic gym rat. While Dallas sorts through the list of Ziegler's enemies, she's also dealing with her Christmas shopping list—plus the guest list for her and her billionaire husband's upcoming holiday bash.

Feeling less than festive, Dallas tries to put aside her distaste for the victim and solve the mystery of his death. There are just a few investigating days left before Christmas, and as New Year's 2061 approaches, this homicide cop is resolved to stop a cold-blooded killer.

## Festive in Death Details

Date : Published September 9th 2014 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : J.D. Robb

Format : Kindle Edition 390 pages

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Festive in Death for online ebook

### Jonetta says

It's close to Christmas and Eve Dallas gets a surprise call from someone she knows who's walked into a murder scene. She and Peabody have their work cut out for them as the victim was a creep.

I enjoyed this story a lot. It has all the things I love about the series...Peabody, a strong procedural, a cast of interesting suspects, clever dialogue, Eve's mixed metaphors, Roarke time and the annual holiday party at Eve and Roarke's mansion. An added bonus was a twist I didn't foresee for a long time.

There are some laugh out loud moments along with the mystery. It's a very well balanced story between the personal and the murder case. Nicely done.

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### Nina says

Oh my. **Christmas!!!**

Another time of Eve where she becomes so worried about presents and another Christmas party she and Roarke are supposed to host. Tsk tsk. Eve's not big about gifts and parties, but still, I kinda like seeing her so flustered when Roarke rains her with myriad of gifts (like in the book 22, Memory in Death). I always like In Death books when Eve and Roarke are celebrating their anniversary or Christmas.

Still a long time to read this one #sighheavily  
I'll still wait ~~im~~patiently for this book

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September 22

Ho, ho, ho. I love this book's Christmas. Eve is getting craftier with giving gifts--and of course receiving them from her hot-as-hell husband. My wait wasn't for naught, I suppose.

There are many surprises in this book--things that at first Eve wasn't comfortable to do but now she at least tolerates. And gift room! Who the hell has a room dedicated solely for *gifts*? Apparently, Roarke does.

The dynamic between Eve and Peabody gets better and better. They're getting perfect together, so in sync with each other. I love the interactions between Eve and Feeney, Eve and Peabody, hell, even Eve and Tiko.

While the murder itself isn't particularly exciting, I got more excited by their Christmas party and Eve's war to the shopping area (lol). And this book is definitely better than the last one.

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## Phrynn says

After 38 books you would think I might be getting tired of the In Death series but I most certainly am not! This is number 39 and reading it was like meeting up again with close friends and family. The Christmas theme is heart warming - everyone should enjoy Christmas the way these people do. I can't count how many times I laughed out loud at Eve's delightful naivety and as for Rourke, well, everyone should have one! Can you imagine coming home to that every night? This was such an enjoyable book that I did not want it to end. Roll on number 40!

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## Kjen says

5 Strong n Glittery Christmas Stars!!! JD Robb has had a pattern with the ID books for a while now. One case-intense book with edge and urgency and one lighter book with more banter, life outside of work, and side character interactions. This was the light book;) I believe that this book has given us the most off-case scenes ever. I loved the party prep/the party itself, the gift shopping/giving, the home life, the vid and popcorn, and on and on... It rocked! The case was well done and the twists at the end appreciated, too. As always, though, the characters take center stage for me...mainly Eve and Roarke, so I was a happy, happy camper. Also, I was very amused, because I'm fairly certain that Festive contained the best (view spoiler) in the series. Both of their reactions were hilarious, true to character/s, and will forever live in infamy in my mind;) Classic E&R! Loved this...love them...Enjoy!

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## ♥Sharon♥ says

Bloody hell! This is crazy indeed. After 39 books the magic is still there!!

***Festive in Death*** is another wonderful addition to this series. While there wasn't an OMG factor to the murders and mystery it still packed a punch. J.D. Robb works wonders with her plots and characters right up to the very end.

If I am being honest though I rather enjoyed the fact that the setting also finds Eve, Roarke and the gang at Christmas time.

Going along with Eve holiday shopping, party planning and gift giving is always amusing. Peabody continues to WOW me too. I adore her relationship with Eve. There is a moment in the book where Eve gives her the ULTIMATE MAG present and Peabody is overjoyed and overwhelmed with emotion. It just tickled me pink and warmed my heart.

But without doubt the best moments came when Eve and Roarke exchanged gifts on Christmas Eve. **OH. MY. HEART.** Eve still doesn't realize what she does to him. She continues to amaze him. And Roarke. How I love this guy!! I know I have said this many times before but I love how he loves her.

I know it seems daunting that there are 45 books in this series but I can't recommend it enough. J.D. Robb has taken such care with her writing and the development of these characters. It really is fabulous!

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## **Mo says**

I keep repeating myself here. Yes, it was great. Yes, I love Eve and Roarke. Yes, I love all the other characters in the books.

**"I shopped."**

**"Dear God! Are you alright? Should I call for the Mts?"**

LOL. Eve and her Christmas shopping.

**"You're reading a book."**

**"It's the Yeat's you gave me our first Christmas together. I reread it every year at this time."**

Roarke loves Yeats and takes out the book that Eve gave him on their first Christmas together ...

**She was lousy at giving gifts; she was worse at getting them.**

Some nice moments between herself and Feeney and of course with Peabody.

**"You go into marriage, you plow a road. You're going to hit rough patches, and some may be rougher and last longer than others, but you've got choices to make. You work to smooth them out, you hold until they do, or they don't. You stick with the road, or you get off. But you don't do something to make it worse, don't do something that maybe makes you feel better for the short term while it sucker punches the person you're married to."**

**"Just shut your mouth, you ignorant twat."**

**"Aw, Dallas, he called me a twat. How come you get to be a bitch, but I only get to be a**

twat."

"It's the rank," Eve told her. "You'll make bitch one day."

"Thanks. That means a lot to me."

I know I am not giving away much of the plot line but it's Friday night! I am tired. xxx

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## **Ann Lou says**

The murder and mystery of this series never gets old even after reading 39 books. Our victim in this installment is a guy people loved to hate but whatever he was, he belongs to Eve in death.

Also, we get to spend another Christmas with Eve and Roarke. All the gift buying/giving made Eve on edge. The party was a ultramazing (Mavis's term).

And the convo with Eve and Peabody about cheating was very interesting.

" You go into marriage, you plow a road. Stick and try to work it through, or don't. But don't give me the boo-hoo, I'm not happy so I'm getting naked with somebody else on the side. It insults everybody. Walk or work but don't make excuses." (that's my amazing Eve!)

And Roarke saying this to Eve.

" I love you beyond speech. Beyond reason." (me melts into a puddle)

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## **Cathryn Chandler says**

This latest installment for JD Robb's "In Death" series takes place in Eve's adopted home—New York City. The fact the victim is universally disliked is supposed to be a major test of Eve's personal ethic that everyone, no matter who, deserves justice and someone to stand for them. Although that idea is stated a number of times throughout the book—it doesn't really come across all that strongly in the plot.

This book was OK. But having read them all—next to most of the others in the series, it only came out "OK". The plot was fine—up until the end when it had a very "un-Eve like" plot twist, which went against one of her more ingrained traits: being able to see and identify the killer fairly early on—with most of those around her catching up a bit later. It took me aback a little that Eve missed what was fairly obvious for quite awhile.

It's an OK read. Nothing about it really makes it outstanding from any other "mid-list" type murder mystery. But that isn't where I would generally rank this series. It has a great deal of dialogue, but is a bit short on descriptive passages. Still- it's an easy read. You don't have to put it down every ten pages out of sheer descriptive overload (think "The Perfect Storm"). On the other hand, it isn't nearly as engaging as the earlier books either.

I think I'm having a hard time getting past the impression that Nora Roberts (JD Robb) isn't writing this series herself anymore. Eve has lost her femininity—and the dialogue itself is a giveaway for that. She's snarky in the manner of a teenager or young adult, and some of the few descriptions ("the color reminded her

of cum”.... Seriously??) just didn’t sound like her. She’s coming off as crude. And while she used to use baser language, and described some pretty gritty situations, Eve never seemed to come across as crude, even when she was being brutally direct in her comments and language.

And just as sadly, Roarke has lost his commanding edge. He’s coming across as a mere backdrop for Eve. It’s also interesting that although Trina got a short nod of interaction in the book—except for Roarke, Peabody and McNab, every other character had a 1 page or less appearance or simply got a mention. There certainly isn’t anything wrong with that sort of linear writing, in dialogue, plot and character interactions. I’ve read, and enjoyed, a number of books like that myself. But it does strike me as being more the way a male writes (as a general rule—there are always exceptions), and it has changed the whole tone of the series. I personally preferred the previous writing style. But as in all things—that is a matter of personal preference. I do know that I no longer wait for these books, mark the calendar, and download them the day they come out. But I do still read them when I come across a new one that has been released. So—3 stars—dead average.

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## **Delia Binder says**

The newest Eve Dallas? And set around Christmas? Oh, this should be hilarious! Christmas and Eve get along about as well as chocolate and mustard, with a side of *natto* - so I expect much humor while investigating the crime! Even worse, Eve's partner (and my book-Sister) Dee Peabody? **Loves** the holidays...!

*I Dare You - Tell Me That's NOT Eve Dallas!*

EDITED BECAUSE the signed picture I had of Stana Katic (from her role on HEROES) had a big honking DO NOT COPY legend on it. Turns out it's DO NOT COPY because Katic signed it - there were several pictures of her from the same photoset without that legend, including this one which looks even more like Eve....

Review! Right! Not much of a mystery, really - a real scumbag of a personal trainer, who's blackmailing the women he provides "personal services" to, is found dead in the apartment he used to share with his girlfriend...and her buddy/boss, Trina! (Yes, the same Trina Eve is terrified of having do her hair.) Trina calls Eve in in the middle of the night, so she's on the case - and she and Peabody quickly find themselves not with too few suspects, but too many. Separating Who Just Hates This Guy from Who Killed Him takes up most of the book's crimesolving time - which is okay, because it's a couple days until Christmas...and Eve still hasn't done most of her shopping yet! (OTOH, unlike previous years she has already gotten her big gifts for Peabody and Roarke.)

Also, Summerset basically offers to wrap her presents (once she gets them, in a shopping marathon with her teen Super-Salesman Tiko!) if she'll help participate in the planning for the party that Saturday. Scenes of Eve letting Tiko drag her to shop for bags for most of her friends, and treating party planning the same way she treats running a major police operation, are lots of fun - and show how Eve's becoming more used to being The Lady of the Manor, even though she'll never really *like* it.

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## Brenda says

The early hours of the morning in the lead up to Christmas found Lieutenant Eve Dallas dragged from her warm bed into the frosty outside air to investigate New York's latest murder. And a nasty one it was too – the cardboard sign with a handwritten *Santa Says You've Been Bad!!! Ho, Ho, Ho!* was attached to the victim's chest with a particularly vicious looking kitchen knife.

As Eve began the investigation with Detective Delia Peabody by her side, they started to uncover some facts about the deceased, Trey Ziegler that weren't very complimentary. He was a personal trainer, with a trim and toned body, but he was also a vindictive and hateful person – Eve had problems finding anyone at all who liked him. Of course the list of suspects was long – would she be able to eliminate enough potential killers to find the one she wanted before the Christmas break? She needed to pinpoint the murderer in a matter of days, and she also had the dreaded duty of hosting the glamorous and very large Christmas party that husband Roarke threw at their home every Christmas – it was the highlight of everyone's year; did she really have to attend – facing murderers was easier, wasn't it?

With the weather worsening and the mayhem of Christmas shoppers surrounding everyone, Roarke, Peabody and the team were by Eve's side as they hunted for evidence, interviewed suspects and came closer and closer to danger and deep, dark secrets...

Once again J.D. Robb doesn't disappoint! I love this series and have just devoured *Festive in Death* in a very short time. Bring on the next one!! Highly recommended.

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## Jilly says

What happens when a truly horrible person is murdered? You have hundreds of suspects because everyone wanted to kill this guy. Hell, I wanted to kill him myself. So, having the top homicide detective working tirelessly to solve his murder seems like a bit of a waste. Put your laziest, dumbest, apathetic guy on the job and just let it go.

The more you learn about the "victim", the more you empathize with his killers. He was truly a disgusting human being who deserved worse than an easy bludgeoning death. They should have given him the full Blandina death:

*Blandina of Lyons*

*Reportedly the last of the martyrs of Lyons, Blandina suffered a peculiar combination of martyr-deaths. Like Lawrence of Brindisi, she was grilled alive. However, she survived the grilling. Her executioners then threw her burnt body to the bulls, naturally resulting in her being gored and trampled. Still living, a merciful executioner put a dagger in her back.*



Ouch! That's gotta hurt!

But, unlike poor Blandina, our dead guy would have deserved the burning, bulls, and dagger.

By the way, am I the only one who thinks that maybe the people in the ye old days needed a different hobby than thinking up horrible ways to kill someone? If these people only had television, they might not have been so damn blood-thirsty. Sheesh! Well, unless they had to watch reality tv or the Kardashians. That might have just made things worse.

Anywhoo, Christmas is also coming up, so the police station is getting festive with a crappy tree, bent menorah, and even some sort of Kwanza decorations:

*She stood for a moment, studying a couple fake ears of corn now hanging on the pathetic tree.*

*"Isn't the corn thing Thanksgiving? Why is fake corn hanging on that tree?"*

*"For Kwanza," Jenkinson told her. "Trueheart said it's one of the seven symbols. He looked it up. We're all-inclusive in Homicide, 'cause whatever your race, color, or creed, you can get dead."*

*"We should write that up under a Merry Christmas sign."*

The homicide division is a colorful mix of people and it's a lot of fun getting to see their dynamic in these books. I guess you need a sense of humor when you are dealing in death and misery all day. Much like those funny funny folks at the DMV.

So, my only slight complaint is that I am a little tired of how much Eve complains and fights against having to do anything that is social. She is pretty selfish in how little she is willing to do for Roarke - even sitting down to a meal with him is too much work for her. But, her refusal to do anything at all to help out when they are throwing a huge party is just rude. She also acts like having to have her hair and make-up done is such an outrageous horror. Give me a break! Maybe she's not a girly-girl, but getting a freaking haircut is not some sort of medieval torture. Just ask poor Blandina. Ingrate!

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## **Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says**

### **4.5 stars**

I've been reading these slightly out of order, which I wouldn't normally do, but J.D. Robb makes it very easy for me to enjoy them regardless of the number on the cover. In Death series is one of the most popular series in the world and with good reason. Just days ago, I sung Nora Roberts' praises to all of you, and I still stand by my every word.

The series takes place about 40 years from now, which is highly unusual for the detective/mystery genre, but I love that Robb never makes a big deal out of it. Mostly it's the technology that's new. The people, the lives,

are very much the same. The changes in our world are subtle, which I suspect they will be, and everything that's available to Eve and Rourke is very easy to imagine being available to us in 2060. In a weird way, the futuristic setting makes sense. So many of my favorite long-running series (like Kay Scarpetta) run the risk of becoming outdated. In fact, reading those first Kay Scarpetta installments is a bit funny now, with all that old technology and crime investigation techniques. Robb faces no such challenge. Her futuristic gadgets will always be new and interesting.

In this installment, Eve and Peabody investigate the murder of a fitness trainer. By all accounts, the victim was a bastard and a criminal, but Eve wouldn't be Eve if she didn't give it her all. There are far too many suspects in this one, dozens of people with excellent motives and even opportunities. Eve will have to rely on her considerable experience and sometimes her husband to find the murderer.

As always, Peabody and McNab provide some much needed comic relief, and Eve's attempts at Christmas shopping are simply hilarious. While she's investigating, Roarke is preparing for their huge Christmas party and Eve is somewhat lost and trying to ignore the whole thing. Our heroine is still adorably clueless in social situations (which reminds me of Sherlock Holmes sometimes), but she's improved considerably and she is, as always, very much aware of her shortcomings.

Eve and Roarke are still an amazing couple, that's all that needs to be said about them. Robb uses their wonderful marriage as an asset, and never as a source of drama. There's plenty of drama with Eve's cases and there's absolutely no need to add to it by creating unnecessary romantic tension. These two work together as one and I adore them for it.

You don't need me to tell you how wildly popular this series has been from the start and you definitely don't need me to recommend it. Obviously it's something everyone needs to read. I'm still working my way through it, having missed several along the way, and every one is a special treat. A J.D. Robb book is a sure bet if ever there was one.

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## Fran says

This is the **39th book of the In Death series** (not including the novellas, I haven't read those). You would think I would have already gotten bored twenty-odd books ago. But honestly, I still want more!

**Eve and Roarke** are my favorite book couple ever! **Eve is my kind of heroine.** She's strong, smart, loyal, and a badass cop through and through, but deep inside, she has a soft spot for the people she cares about. **Roarke, on the other hand, will forever be my book boyfriend.** He's Irish, ultra rich, the typical alpha male, and a reformed "bad boy" with the perfect body and a longish hair, which he ties in a ponytail when he's hard at work. I mean, what's not to love about him? Nothing, I tell you!

Eve and Roarke have gone through a lot, and they have grown so much as individuals and as a couple since book 1. Actually, the whole gang has grown up and in number. So, **even though each book can be read as a standalone, it is still highly recommended that it should be read in order.** This is because the main characters' personal relationships continue to evolve in each one.

**To those who are wondering, there is romance.** It's not the smutty kind of romantic suspense, but yes, there is romance. It's written by *Nora Roberts* after all.

I love this series so much because it has my two favorite genres. **It's well-written, hilarious, the characters are awesome, and the suspense is actually not crappy at all.** Often, I would read many romantic suspense books that are more smut/romance-ish that the suspense aspect gets lost in the middle of all the drama. Personally, I can't help but swoon over Eve and Roarke every.single.time! **Their relationship and the deep and intense love between them has a more lasting impression on me than any other NA couples, and that's saying a lot since I pretty much enjoy anything with a HEA.**

So, if you're looking for some romantic suspense, do try and meet Eve and Roarke, and the rest of the gang.

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## **Sally906 says**

Opening line: *"... Men, Sima thought, can't live with them, can't beat them to death with a nine iron ..."*

FESTIVE IN DEATH is the 39th book in the mystery/romantic suspense 'Death' series which I never seem to tire of. I have found each of the books to be well-written with believable characters and darker edgy heart in mouth type murder investigations with enough humour to prevent you sucking your thumb in the corner. FESTIVE IN DEATH is set in Christmas 2060 – Christmas is not a season Lieutenant Eve Dallas of New York's Homicide department is at one with, and to add insult to injury Eve's partner, Dee Peabody, loves the season; very hard to carry out a serious investigation with Peabody strutting along in a pink leather coat!

A well written story with clever dialogue and a good balance between Eve's personal life and the murder case investigation. The investigation component starts when the murder victim's ex-girlfriend sneaks into his flat to put itching powder in his socks. To her horror she discovers the body, with her is Eve's hairdresser friend Trina who quickly calls Eve onto the case. So a couple of days before Christmas Eve has a murder investigation, a list of interesting suspects each with a strong reason to bump the victim off and a huge Christmas party to prepare for in the family home. Eve is smart, brave and a great friend and wife, although she does have problem with understanding the niceties of being part of the human race, getting dressed up and attending parties are one of the niceties of life she doesn't get. Her husband Roarke is a successful businessman, Irish, very rich, smart and brave and understands her aversion to parties. And while these two love each other and there are love scenes –they are more swoon than raunchy and don't detract from the investigation at all. Well maybe a little – but in a nice way. While the previous books have been mostly about the investigation with a little bit private life to break the tension, FESTIVE IN DEATH has part of the tension being the private life, as Eve forced into preparing for the Christmas party and being turned into a socialite for the night to cope with hundreds of guests, gifts to buy, decoration to be hung and food and wine to be organised. Mind you the bulk of those tasks fall to the Roarke and their live-in butler Summerset, all Eve has to do is turn up. For her turning up is the stressful part. Dealing with thugs, drug addicts and murderers is a piece of cake compared to parties. In the end the Christmas party happens – the murderer is found after some twists and turns and peace is temporarily restored.

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## **Tanja ~ KT Book Reviews says**

Eve and Roarke are just the bestest couple EVAH! Now I am ready for the holidays to start. Maybe I will do a full review, maybe I won't. Sometimes it just nice to have thouroughly enjoyed a book without the pressure of a review. But I highlighted so much awesomeness..... :) we'll see.

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