



Living Grim

Elizabeth Holloway

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(Previously published as Death Becomes Me)

Grim Reapers on the run, Libbi and Aaron have escaped their hometown of Carroll Falls. They're unscathed, together, and alive, but there's a price to pay for their tenuous freedom. A deadly one.

Libbi and Aaron have broken the Reaper's covenant with Abaddon, aka Death himself, and now they're right at the top of Abaddon's Most Wanted list. There's nowhere to hide, and no one, alive or dead, they can turn to for help. Until Libbi hears word of a Reaper in hiding – a Reaper who once escaped Abaddon's wrath. Finding this mysterious Reaper might be the perfect solution, if Death doesn't find them first.

Living Grim Details

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From Reader Review Living Grim for online ebook

Holly says

So, WOW, this book surprised me. I'd read the first book a week, maybe two, before diving in to *Death Becomes Me*. I thought it was fun and interesting and even playful, in parts, despite dealing with what can be pretty heavy subject matter (death, obviously, but also suicide, murder, attempted rape). I loved the somewhat lighthearted approach the author took, and it's one I've seen before in books with the regular-person-recruited-as-a-reaper trope. We definitely saw some bad things and heard from Aaron what a nasty "guy" Abaddon was, but generally speaking, *Call Me Grim* was mostly lighthearted and fun. I mean, there's even romance, which is always fun, even if the boy is kind-of-like a ghost, should have died 40 years ago, and chronologically aged 58.

Fast forward to *Death Becomes Me*, which I have to tell you is much darker than the first book. It's not like it's all doom and gloom - the romance between Aaron and Libbi blossoms, and it's slow and easy, not rushed; plus we get to meet some new reapers and have adventure and battle danger along the way. But, the overall tone of this book is much darker than the first. I am not saying that I minded it, I just want to let it be known that the author strikes a different tone in this follow-up. It's not so surprising, right? I mean, we are, after all, dealing with teenagers who must reap souls and bring them to the Gateway and into the Darkness with all the creepiness that entails. But there is a lot of other stuff going on here, mostly to do with Abaddon and his super-nasty nature. I can't say I was shocked that he was such a baddie, I guess, but ... no, actually, I can say I was shocked that he was such a baddie! He does some downright despicable things in this book, things we learn about secondhand that happened in the past, as well as things that happen to our own beloved main characters. Why does this surprise me? Well, I think it's for the same reason that Libbi herself is surprised in the book - it's not like they're just reapers of souls of terrible, horrible people who will spend the afterlife in their own personal hell, right? They also reap the souls of loving grandmothers and young children who've never done a thing wrong in their lives. So, why is Abaddon so disgusting?? Shouldn't he be a bit more, I don't know, neutral? Therein lies the mystery at the heart of this second book, which Libbi feels compelled to figure out.

I will say, it was fun to go with Aaron and Libbi as they try to outrun Abaddon and stay off his radar. I loved their time with the Chicago reapers, especially Ruth and Nicholas. I think Nicholas has fantastic theories about who - or what - Abaddon is (he has been a reaper for 200 years, after all), and I hope he can figure out just what to do with them! He forces Libbi to confront those questions that have been niggling at the back of her mind ever since she met Aaron and saw the horrific scars she discovers are the result of Abaddon's punishment. At the same time, I was still surprised at some of the nastiness that Aaron and Libbi encountered, particularly towards the end of the book.

Despite hearing about, and seeing, how awful Abaddon is, I readily admit I still lived in la-la land as I chugged along to the ending. I don't know what I was thinking would happen, how I thought Libbi and Aaron would pull off escaping Abaddon for good and remaining free from having to serve as Carroll Falls reaper, but I can guarantee you that I was NOT thinking it would end like it did. WHOA! I was downright shocked by the events at the end of the book! I'm not saying that's a bad thing; in fact, I love it when an author can surprise me with a turn of events that still makes sense within the context of what's happened thus far. That's the thing, if you're going to shock and surprise me, it better make sense! And to be sure, this ending made sense ... it just wasn't what I saw coming! I was hiding out in my bathroom (because my husband was already asleep!) and **I. Was. Bawling.** I have to say, the author is brave for ending the book this way, and I can absolutely guarantee I will be reading on to find out what happens in book 3. I applaud Ms.

Holloway for writing a book that stretches and challenges her characters (and her readers!), for being brave enough to force the characters to own up to the consequences of their actions. Even if it's not "fair," and it's not what I wanted to happen, it is true to the subject matter and is, in truth, a more *appropriate* ending than what I wanted to see. Now, I can't wait to find out what happens to Libbi and Aaron, Max, Haley, Mom, and all the other characters we've met in the first two books. Bring it on!

Thanks so much to Ms. Holloway and Chapter by Chapter for allowing me to read an ARC of Death Becomes Me and to participate in the blog tour. I hope you will give the Call Me Grim series a read, and let me know if you love the books as much as I do!

Zoë Ann says

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

I know its weird to start with the end of the book, but guys, this just got soooooo interesting!! Seriously, cliff hanger much?! The suspense is real. *grabby hands* Next book please!

The book jumped right into the action; it took me a while to get into it because of this but in Elizabeth's defence, its been a year since I read the first and I had to remind myself what was happening. Personally I felt that the book moved to fast, there were some parts that were a bit rushed and it would have been nice to gain more details on them.

I really enjoyed the progress this book made; I liked the new theories about the reaper role and I'm looking forward to find out how they'll be approached in the next book. However it would have been nice to have had a little more about them in this one.

I actually wasn't so keen on the romance this time - I don't want to spoil but there were some big developments with that and they kind of jumped out of nowhere in my opinion. Libbi annoyed me, I didn't like the way she interacted with Aaron in this book very much; that was frustrating because Aaron is just so adorable.

I have said some negative things but no book is perfect, and overall I really enjoyed it. I can't wait for the next one and I totally recommend it. :)

Cassandra Brooker says

Death Becomes Me by Elizabeth Holloway
Review done by Cassandra for Cassandra's Reviews
I received an ARC for an honest review
I give this book 4.5 stars

This is the first book I have read by Elizabeth Holloway, it kept me intrigued and took me on an adventure of Death. I didn't know what to expect when I started reading this and I was surprised.
This book takes you on the adventure of escaping death not being in its grip or laying on the ground dieing.
This will give you a different outlook on death and how reapers really work.

I like this version of reapers and their story, it brings to light so much that you may not know and even though it's fiction, it's fun to think reapers do work for death himself.

I suggest you get this book and read it, I loved it despite some parts where I was uninterested but the book overall really makes up for it. An adventure of Reapers and Death await you!

Kitlina says

I received a copy of this book from the author for an honest review!

I know I really shouldn't start like this but I hated that ending so much that I was an inch away from blasting my kindle to smithereens.

I loved the book up until 80% or so, it went downhill pretty fast from there. I was emotionally destroyed and incapable of coherent speech after that. I won't reveal anything of course, if I had to suffer like that, then by God, you all should suffer. But it was bad, it was so bad.

Now I'm gonna say what I loved about this book, I loved the adventure Libbi and Aaron had while being on the run. I loved the new characters introduced, especially Nicholas. I loved the suspense of it all and the new angle of approach on the whole Gateway and Reaper thing. I am sure we'll have a definitive answer in the next book.

It was a really great read, very well written.

But I can't take my attention away from that awful ending. This was one of the worst endings I have ever read in a book. I am in pieces right now. And I am sorry I cannot give a more thorough review right now but I just can't gather enough thoughts to put in writing.

Stephanie Ward says

'Death Becomes Me' is the exciting second book in a fun young adult paranormal series. It continues to follow our main character - Libbi - as she and fellow Grim Reaper Aaron break out of their hometown of Carroll Falls and are now on the run with nobody to help them. By leaving their town, Libbi and Aaron have broken a covenant between Reapers and Abaddon (Death himself) - and now they're at the top of his hit list. With their options dwindling quickly, it seems like Death will win the final battle of their souls - until Libbi hears a rumor about another Reaper in hiding who has escaped Death as well. This could be exactly the information they need to stay alive - but only if Death doesn't get to them first.

I was really excited to read this second installment after loving the first book in the series. Although Reapers have been a bit of a trend lately, this one stands out from the rest - which is definitely an accomplishment. The story has a fast pace, detailed imagery and vivid descriptions, and a main character who is realistic and easy to identify with. Again, the plot may not be the most original, but it certainly has its own unique charm. I adored the inner dialogue and comments that Libbi makes throughout the story. She continues to be the epitome of the average teenage girl with her character and attitude, along with the everyday issues she deals with - school, family, friends, dreams, and fears. I easily reconnected with Libbi from the beginning of the story and it felt like I was experiencing everything right beside her throughout the entire book. Aaron's character is more complex in this book and I liked watching his character take shape and personality. Of

course, there's the romantic aspect between Libbi and Aaron, and I loved watching their relationship grow and change throughout the book. The story had a conversational tone which made it easy to re-immers myself into and I ended up flying through it in one sitting. It's a great mixture of fun and deep - dealing with serious and troubling issues like death with a light hearted and witty flare. I'm so glad that this book was everything I had hoped for and then some - sometimes series with great potential end up burning out after the first book. This definitely isn't the case with this series! The book was incredibly well written with complex characters, an exciting story line, and fantastic attention to detail on all levels. Overall, this is a original YA paranormal novel (and series) that fans of the genre will definitely want to get their hands on! Very highly recommended!

Disclosure: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Sophia (Bookworming Thoughts) says

I received this book for free from Author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Back in *Call Me Grim*, Elizabeth Holloway introduced us to the world of Grim Reapers, the dead who take the souls of the newly dead and bring them to Abbadon until they choose someone to replace them.

Holloway left an open ending with Libbi's and Aaron's story, and while I felt *Call Me Grim* can stand on its own well, I decided to take a gander on the sequel because I also felt *Call Me Grim* can do just as well with a sequel.

In *Death Becomes Me*, the second book in the *Call Me Grim* series, Holloway brings back to the Grim Reaper world, where Libbi and Aaron are now on the run with a huge price set on their heads by none other than death himself – Abbadon.

To be honest, by the end of the book, I honestly felt *Call Me Grim* was better off as a stand-alone, despite the fact there is an open ending where I'm left not knowing if Libbi and Aaron manage to successfully get away from Abbadon. *Death Becomes Me* seems to drag the overall plot, and the ending of this one also seems to continue on to a third book (I checked later and Goodreads says I'm right). The book is really just Libbi and Aaron on the run from Abbadon, finding out there was once a Reaper who escaped the clutches that comes with being a Reaper and hoping to find that Reaper before Abbadon gets to them. In between all of that, the romance goes to the next level, and every Reaper they come across either refuses to help them or tries to turn them in.

That's not to say *Death Becomes Me* doesn't have its good parts, however. (It's not a complete victim of second book syndrome – huzzah!)

Libbi isn't as humorous as I remember her being back in the first book – she's more serious this time around, and it fits well with the situation she's in. Although she's not as humorous, Libbi still has her occasional humor throughout the book – some of the parts where it's completely inappropriate to laugh were funny simply due to the way it was written.

Libbi definitely keeps her fierce desire to protect her loved ones from harm throughout both books, and while it does play a part to the end, it's one of the things I enjoyed seeing Libbi battle with: turn her back on her family and friends as she is recommended or giving in to Abbadon.

Ultimately, *Death Becomes Me* stands well as a sequel to *Call Me Grim*. While I feel Holloway left me with enough to be curious on finding out more on what happens to Libbi, I feel she is sort of dragging on the series to a third book just to give Libbi and Aaron a happily ever after and a solid ending. In all honesty, I'm probably just a weird person who wants to read a tragedy (No harm in that, is there?).

This review was originally posted on Bookwyrming Thoughts

✕Tabby✕ says

Tabitha @ Book Enthralled is excited to host this Chapter by Chapter book tour event for *Death Becomes Me* (*Call Me Grim* #2) by Elizabeth Holloway!

Blog Review

THE REVIEW

Why this book?

I loved the first book in the series!

What I thought

I first must admit that I didn't like this book as much as I liked the first in the series, but I loved that we got more Libbi and Aaron romance! Actually I'm just happy we got more Libbi and Aaron scenes in general! I feel that *Death Becomes Me* wasn't as much fun as the first book, but I really liked that there was less Kyle! Since I really couldn't stand him in the first book. So that in itself was a big positive for me! *Death Becomes Me* starts off where *Call Me Grim* ended. In this book Libbi and Aaron are running from Abaddon after breaking the Reaper's covenant and escaping Carroll Falls. Now they just have to make sure that Abaddon doesn't find them. This causes them to find themselves in some really interesting situations. As for our main characters; Libbi annoyed me a little in this book. I'm not 100% sure why, but I did find myself annoyed with her at times. As for Aaron I found myself loving him even more than before! My love for him really grew throughout this book! I did have some problems with *Death Becomes Me*, but I did find myself liking it! Also with the way this book ended I'm really left me wondering if this is the end of the series or not. Thanks again to Chapter by Chapter and Elizabeth Holloway! I enjoyed being part of this tour!

Maraya21 (The Reading Dragon) says

3.5 Stars

I don't know what i expected but this was not it, at all..

Not gonna fully review this but i'll say a few things:

For the majority of the book we have our MC, Libbi, whining and fretting over and over and over and over (you get it) about every little thing and about the thousands of possibilities there are for each and every little said thing to not go as she wants it to.

She has been running away from everything & everyone, never stopping to actually think, and again whining about everything & everyone. Though she was on point for some of those concerns sure, but that did not deduct from my annoyance.

The last 35% was where she finally mans up and goes out to do things. Again though no thinking but i'll brass this one aside cause i am impressed with her manning up.

A lot of theories and quite a few bits of history and information we had going on in this book and i must admit i am really curious to see what will be the result.

We also had a few new interesting characters, namely Reapers, added to the mix. My favourite was Nicholas. The ending was, again, not what i expected. It would have made my heart hurt but since Libbi had been so annoying for me during the majority of the book i wasn't that distraught. Don't get me wrong i was sad but it should have been to a higher intensity.

To summarise: I liked the book, well on half of it anyway. I really liked the various theories, histories and information bits given through out and i will wait for the third and final book to see how it all turns out.

Dominique says

The book picks up right after the first one. Libby and Aaron are on the run and Kyle is left at Carroll falls to be a reaper. Part of them think they are somewhat safe from Abbadon but they know they cannot escape him it's just a matter of time before they catch them and the punishment will be hell.

They need help but nobody can help them, Abbadon is everywhere, they meet another reaper Booby, who reveals that there's a rumour that another reaper escaped from Abbadon crutches. Is it true? Can they escape and be free before Abbadon finds them?

Great follow-up to Call me Grim. The author makes up feel the pain and fear of the main characters. You go through their journey and root for them every step of the way. The book is filled with suspense, danger and some romance. The ending was a surprise but I'm sure the third one will be as good as this one.

5 stars.

Lepp says

** Thank you to Elizabeth Holloway for being so patient with me and my belated review! With the holidays, my job(s), and other personal obligations I have had very little time to read. Thanks again!*

This review contains general plot spoilers of the first book of the series.

The action picks up right where it left off in this second installment of the *Call Me Grim* series.

Libbie and Aaron have left Carroll Falls in Kyle's hands and are trying to outrun/outsmart Abbadon. Things get complicated when Aaron learns that his soul attracts Reapers everywhere he goes (since he was supposed to have died decades ago) and Abbadon has made their capture his top priority. Despite this fact, however, Libbie and Aaron soon find an ally who has his own theories about Abbadon and the purpose Reapers serve.

Reviews for second books in a series are always harder to write for me because I feel as though I'm going to spoil too much of the plot (and if there's one thing I HATE, it's when I get accidentally spoiled from reading reviews)! This installment of the story gives the has more of a sci-fi vibe because we're learning more about the Reaper world and how things work. Libbie also starts to realize that she's not going to be able to run from her troubles. She's forced to make a choice. She can keep the family and friends she left at home safe... or she can run off with Aaron and make a life together. It's all very angsty and I love it!

BIG SPOILER: (view spoiler)

4 stars! I recently followed Elizabeth Holloway because I think she has a very imaginative mind when it comes to story telling. I'm excited to see what happens in the third book and other stories she releases in the future! Recommended!

Rachelann says

Let me start off by saying that this review probably isn't 100% fair to the author. It's been a year or so since I've read the first book, so this one was harder for me to read. I'll definitely have to re-read both of them in the near future.

Okay, first of all... the plot for this whole series is GENIUS! I absolutely love it.

Basically, there's a grim reaper in every part of the world. They collect our souls when we die, obviously. The only way for a grim reaper to give up their position is by saving someone from their death and training them to take over. Then the trainee has to kill them after 7 days to complete the process. The main characters are trying to cheat their way out of this because they fell in love and both wanted to live blah blah blah and there's a bad guy who's trying to catch them. You get the point.

So I LOVED the first book. It was clever, action packed and well written. I wish I could say I felt the same about this one. I honestly felt like everything moved WAY too fast. In the first book everything was laid out nicely for us. It had a good timeline and there was never a dull moment. This one felt like the author was trying to make everything happen at once so she could reach the end of the book. I wasn't excited while reading this one. There were so many things going on and I was STILL bored. Meh... I don't know. Maybe I'm being weird.

I didn't find myself loving the characters as much this time around. They were kind of annoying. Everything was just so unbelievable for me. I couldn't get into it. Something huge would happen that devastated me and

it would simply be shrugged off after a page or two. Certain things should have been written with more depth. Also, the love story is kind of throwing me off. It was totally hot and gushy in the first book, but this one made me think twice.

Despite the negatives, I still find myself caring about and loving this series. I'll be reading the next book!

(And *GOOD LORD* that cliffhanger!!!!!!!)

Bree says

3.5 rounded-up to 4 stars.

The second book, *Death Becomes Me*, wasn't as good as the first one (I mean, clearly, my review isn't as fan-girly as it was for the first book), but it's still pretty good. The concept of being a grim reaper is more exposed as we learn about other grim reaper "powers" and rules. We get to meet new reapers, which is the main reason why I started this series. And we finally get to meet Abbadon and learn of his world.

The book starts in the middle of action MCs running away from their reaper territory. We get a refresher on what just occurred (the end of book one) and what they're doing now (making sure they still have their reaper powers). Then we are introduced to Bobby, the reaper of the new territory. Clearly (view spoiler). I did like the point he brought up to Libbi, though (b/c I'm not a fan of Libbi's and Aaron's romance so...). So, anyway, we get to see these creepy things called Shadows. My goodness, the first description of a Shadow was a little scary, especially when paired with a little girl.

Some reviews say that the pacing was a little too fast, but I was afraid that if it slowed down there would be too much focus on Libbi's and Aaron's romance. Can't say I'm a fan, and I can't say that I grew to like Libbi all that much more, either. But Aaron and the other characters made the book enjoyable. It just didn't really seem like Libbi put too much thought into leaving everything behind. She just up and left with Aaron.

I really like the fact that we did get to meet other reapers, some who helped them, and hearing about their theories and such. It makes me want some spin-off books because I really like this world of grim reapers that Elizabeth, the author, has cooked up. It added layers to the world and answered some questions (as did other new info presented did). Also, characters from book one are brought back in to contribute to the struggles that our MCs have to battle with. This just made for a well-rounded story as well as some character development.

And that ending! You know... I'm not sure I had the right emotion for it. All I'll say is that I'm a fan of endings that are not the norm, and /or open-ended.

The first book was mostly setting up the world. This book explores it more, answering questions that only give way to other questions. This means a shift in tone, but the characters' personalities are still recognizable. I've already seen that there is a book 3, so I will be reading it. I can only image what it'll be like. I'm patiently waiting like I did with this book...

I recommend this book for those who like stories about grim reapers and a little romance along with some creepy and cruel bits.

I was offered a free copy from the author. This did not affect my rating.

Dorothy Dreyer says

This is an awesome sequel to Call Me Grim, which brings the danger, the action, and the characters to a whole new level. Holloway's writing puts the reader right in the middle of the world she's created, pushing you to the edge of your seat to find out how Libbi and Aaron will get out of the mess they find themselves in. Plenty of blood-curdling and hair-raising scenes in this one, and you'll find yourself biting your nails in worry for the beloved characters.

Jaime Lester says

Death Becomes Me was a great sequel to one of my favorite grim reaper stories! Picking up immediately after the lightning fast ending of Call Me Grim, we follow Libby and Aaron as they try to stay one step ahead of Abaddon. With romance, adventure, thrills and secrets, Death Becomes Me hit a high note, just like it's prequel!

Libbi and Aaron have escaped from Carrol Falls, leaving Kyle behind as the new Reaper. It won't be long before Abaddon, Death Himself, realizes they have escaped and come after them. As time seems to be running out, they learn something that could be the difference between their life after death, and Death Himself.

Libbi was an awesome character in the first book, and she is just as awesome in book 2! I love that she has a sarcastic attitude, but she also has a good heart. I hurt for her, knowing that she left everyone behind, but she didn't let it keep her down. She is a tough cookie. She is a teen MC, no doubt, but she seems more true to life than some MC's that I have come across lately. Aaron appealed to more in this book than the first. He grew a lot more as a character, and I saw more of the flashes of depth that we had in Call Me Grim. Libbi and Aaron's relationship was a great part of this story. They grew together, and held on to each other, and leaned on each other. They kept each other going, and that was awesome to see.

The settings, the plot, the new characters that we meet during the story, the action and adventure, the fantastic writing... All of it added up to a truly great story that I am happy to have read. Death Becomes Me goes from fun and flirty, to down and dirty, to thoughtful and emotional with such ease. I was fully invested from the moment Aaron and Libbi escape the barrier to the very end... Which I won't tell you about, but it was good! You just have to read it for yourself!

Dani (Dani Reviews Things & Love in a time of Feminism) says

I loved this book! Review to come :)

