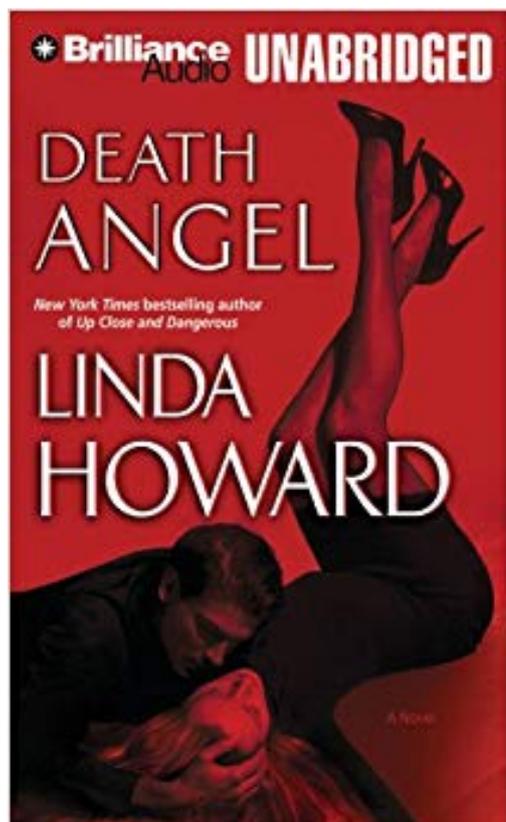


## Death Angel by Joyce Bean,Linda Howard



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A striking beauty with a taste for diamonds and dangerous men, Drea Rousseau was more than content to be arm candy for Rafael Salinas, a notorious crime lord who deals with betrayal through quick and treacherous means: a bullet to the back of the head, a blade across the neck, an incendiary device beneath a car. Now eager to break with Rafael, Drea makes a fateful decision and a desperate move, stealing a mountain of cash from the malicious killer. After all, an escape needs to be financed. Though Drea runs, Salinas knows she can't hide - and he dispatches a cold-blooded assassin in hot pursuit, resulting in a tragic turn of events. Or does it? Left for dead, Drea miraculously returns to the realm of the living a changed woman. She's no longer shallow and selfish, no longer steals or cheats or sells herself short. But in order to feel safe she will need to take down those who marked her for death.



## Reviews of the Death Angel by Joyce Bean,Linda Howard

### Hunaya

Recently I wrote that Cry No More was Linda Howards best novel, but after reading Death Angel I have to amend that opinion.

The author gives us two main characters-a mob boss's mistress and a paid assassin, and with the skill only a great writer has, she managed to make me care about them- to the point I was rooting for them to manage to put the past behind and start a new life.

Howard has made forays into the supernatural in a good number of her books, but here she takes on life after death. Then she shows what happens to Drea/now Andie after she returns with paranormal gifts she never had before.

It was important to me as a reader and a writer to know why she became the way she was, and it made sense.

As for the story line- despite other readers' complaints about money transfers and change of identity- the novel was over way too quickly for me.

I felt more encounters between the assassin/Simon and Drea/Andie would have taken away from the nail biting suspense of the plot.

spoiler: The way she died was horrific, and yet when uttered her last few words I was tearing at the beauty of them.

People can change-that's the basis for the novel.

Love is the catalyst that makes even someone who seems to have no heart and soul metamorphosis into a good person.

The FBI and the mob and all the secondary characters were well written and very believable.

This book blew me away, and I've already reread it.

I had missed something seemingly important, but was pure genius on the part of the author. Look for the nuances-there are many.

Linda Howard went out of her comfort zone to write this, and I give her kudos for this gutsy novel.

### **Helo**

What a surprise! Linda Howard knocked my socks off with this one. I read this book five years ago (a copy from the library) and then thought what the heck. I bought the Kindle version and I'm so glad I did. I ate it up and couldn't flip the 'pages' fast enough. At times hauntingly hypnotic might be aptly applied as might cathartic. Proof that Mrs. H is gifted and prolific.

Trigger warning though for any woman who has lost baby/a pregnancy or lost a loved one to death.

This book will leave you teary eyed if not openly crying.

### **Brakree**

Wow! What a ride this book kept me on the edge never sure what would happen. Simon and Andie were so good together and her miracle she saved him. Loved the HEA!

### **Lanin**

I'm not really sure where to start with this one. Linda Howard is one of my all-time favorites. I'll pick up one of her books without even reading the blurb first. When I read the blurb for this one I thought it would be along the lines of "Cry No More," which is one of the best books she's written. In reality this book is nothing like "Cry No More." In fact, "Death Angel" bears little resemblance to its blurb.

The first two chapters of the book start very promising, with Ms. Howard weaving her signature dark attraction between the H/h. But after that, the book takes a sluggish turn, with entirely too much time spent on Drea making her escape from her drug lord boyfriend. Minute little details on how to change one's identity, transferring funds from one account to another dominate way too many chapters. There's little dialogue past the third or fourth chapter, as Drea plans and executes her escape and takes on a new identity.

A major problem I had with this book is how little time the H/h actually spend together in the book. They interact in the first few chapters, then after that much of the book is spent with the hero chasing Drea across the country. I kept on reading, thinking to myself, "Okay next chapter they'll reunite." I was always disappointed. In fact, Drea and "the assassin," as he's referred to, don't have another scene together until almost the end of the book. After they finally reunited the whole ending felt rushed with very little romance, or even any sort of connection at all, between the two love

interests. In fact, because they had no chance to get to know one another, their falling in love with each other felt forced and unnatural.

Another glaring problem I had was with one particular scene that takes place in the middle of the book. I won't go into detail because I don't want to spoil anything, but this scene was just...strange. In fact, it was so out of place and odd, that I actually skipped the entire thing just to get back to the real story. It was almost like this was thrown in at the last minute as it didn't mesh at all with the rest of the story.

It pains me to give Ms. Howard a bad review. But it's almost like "Death Angel" was written by someone else trying to pass themselves off as Linda Howard. And the only reason why I gave this two stars instead of one was because I like "the assassin's" character. He was probably the only thing that felt like vintage Linda Howard to me. The fallen angel with the consummate dark streak she gives her heroes runs especially strong with this one. In fact, he's probably the darkest hero she's ever created as he is actually an assassin and doesn't just carry the nickname.

Don't expect this book to unfold like the blurb goes. The blurb is misleading and makes the story sound much more interesting than it really is. Save your money and go with "Shades of Twilight," "After the Morning," or "Cry No More."

Erin Kern

author of Looking For Trouble

### **Uthergo**

If I had a hot assassin attached to me as a self-appointed bodyguard after things go wrong (or right), I'd be a happy woman.

I was really pleased with how this story progressed. Watching Drea/Andie and the assassin/Simon play around like they were playing chess was a blast. The main hero and heroine were both incredibly intelligent and there was a tension throughout that really had me rooting for them. Their chemistry was amazing.

No, I wasn't a fan of the little "heaven" scene, but I can't really complain because I really liked the relationship between Andie and Simon. And the first time he has sex with her, it's for four hours. Yes plz.

This book will be staying with me for a long time.

### **Falya**

I have read every one of Linda Howard's books. I realized after finishing Death Angel, that each really is very different. Yes, boy meets girl, girl and boy have chemistry, there's tension, conflict, yada yada. But each story is so different. I cried big tears on Cry No More. I have reread the Mackenzie sagas numerous times. My favorites, Wolf and Mary. There is not that much intrigue, like in Kiss me while I sleep or All the Queen's Men or Mr. Perfect. Death Angel is a quiet story. You aren't really surprised that Andrea turns out not to be a dumb blonde. But you are with her as she fights back and makes her moves. Simon, who wouldn't want a man who can make love for 4 hours and bring indescribable pleasure; is who he is. He is not cruel, just who he is. And through one act, cracks those shields that he placed around himself, and quietly as he does everything else, changes and becomes the man of Andie's dreams; her Mr. Perfect. Death Angel is a keeper.

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