



Die for Love

Elizabeth Peters

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The annual Historical Romance Writers of the World convention in New York City is calling to Jacqueline Kirby, a Nebraska librarian who desperately desires some excitement. But all is not love and kisses at this august gathering of starry-eyed eccentrics and sentimental scribes. As far as Jacqueline is concerned, the sudden "natural" death of a gossip columnist seems anything but. And when she's approached by a popular genre star who fears for her own life, the resourceful Ms. Kirby quickly goes back to work...as a sleuth. Because there's a sinister scenario being penned at this purple prose congregation. And when jealousy and passion are given free rein beyond the boundaries of the printed page, the result can be murder.

Die for Love Details

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Author : Elizabeth Peters

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From Reader Review Die for Love for online ebook

Shonna Froebel says

Love the intelligent, sexy librarian main character

Tifa says

This is one of my top three Elizabeth Peters' novels but is also one of my favorite books of all. I love everything about Peters' writing here. Her wit is in top form, and Jacqueline is perfectly acerbic and smart. I adore how Peters gently (yet perfectly) pokes fun at the romantic novel industry, from authors to readers. She keenly hits on many of the problematic issues of the genre that are still problems decades later. Everything about this book is funny yet on point, and I'm starting to realize that I'd rather be a Jacqueline Kirby than a blonde bombshell like so many other heroines. Peters created a really great modern female character in her, and I wish there were more like her. I also love how Peters included the blurbs from "romance blockbusters" yet always had them cut off right before the best part. I remember reading one of the authors who had to have been part of her inspiration who must likely ripped off her stories from "The Lustful Turk." It was schlock like that that makes me so happy to have found Peters instead.

Kate says

October, 2018:

Peters' fat-shaming (or perhaps disgust?) is quite prevalent here despite the light thriller plot that allows for absurdity of her usual variety. Jacqueline Kirby is just not my preferred sleuth. Read through my library's Hoopla app by Grace Conlin.

June 14, 2011: Kirby solves a mystery at a Romance Writer's convention - how cool is that? Very 80s feel but how can you resist a librarian sleuth? Read on Playaway.

Melissa says

I picked this up only because Jacqueline Kirby was the only character I liked in Peters' The Murders of Richard III. She is back in this fluffy book full of more cardboard characters and predictable plot. Ms Kirby's character herself seemed a little bit splintered... my least favorite of her books.

Lisa Greer says

I'm a sucker for anything by Elizabeth Peters. She has a Ph.D in Egyptology AND writes first class mystery novels full of wit and trivia. Oh, and she's in her 80s or close to it and is still writing novels.

Chana says

Inane, I couldn't keep my mind on it, it was so boring.

Asst. Head Librarian at Coldwater College in Nebraska, Jacqueline Kirby, decides to take a trip to NY making it tax deductible by attending a convention of the Historical Romance Writers of the World. What follows is supposed to be funny, but it's not; it supposed to be entertaining, but it's not. I don't even want to go into details, if you like this kind of book read it yourself.

Simon Mcleish says

Originally published on my blog here in November 1999.

The third Jacqueline Kirby novel is one of Elizabeth Peters' most outrageous. Setting a mystery at a romantic novels conference enables her to write several over the top spoofs of a genre almost beyond parody. Like her heroine, she clearly enjoys the bad taste piled on in such huge amounts; enough kitsch becomes fun.

Yet there are aspects of the romance industry of which Peters does not approve, and which this book criticises: the deceptions carried out on the readers, the bad treatment of the only slightly less naive authors. (As in many genre fiction, most authors start out as fans.)

As a crime novel, Die For Love has an easy puzzle, though it helps if you know some Shakespeare reasonably well. It is the background which makes it fun, along with the acerbic quality of Jacqueline.

Colleen says

Set in the midst of a conference for romance writers, this mystery features my favorite Peters character Jacqueline Kirby, a librarian from Coldwater College of undetermined age. Eager to escape the rain in Nebraska, Kirby sets off for NYC to attend the Historical Romance Writers of the World conference because she thinks she can write off the cost as business deduction on her tax return(!). Sandwiched in between the clues of the exciting mystery plot are magnificent tongue-in-cheek looks at bodice-rippers and the industry that produces them. The satirical tone and Kirby's dry wit will have you laughing your way through the novel. At then end, you too may be inspired to try your hands at writing a romance novel- after all, if Kirby can write and sell a novel while solving the murder, why can't you?

Danielle says

Elizabeth Peters writes some of my favorite, lighthearted, sassy mysteries. Some know of my secret addiction to trashy romance novels...this books mocks the entire romance culture and illustrates why I enjoy reading them.

Gigi says

Elizabeth Peters novels are my comfort food. Rereading *Die for Love* years after I initially read it reminded me why Jacqueline Kirby can hold her own with Peters' better-known heroines (Amelia Peabody and Vicky Bliss) thanks to her clever deductions and acerbic wit.

Stacey says

This book was seriously ridiculous—and seriously *awesome*. The whole time, I kept wondering if it was a brilliant work of satire or an outlandish and absurd farce. In the end I decided it is both. But who cares? I was wildly entertained, and that's all that matters.

Only Barbara Michaels/Barbara Mertz/Elizabeth Peters could write a book where I cannot stand the heroine, do not understand the murder, do not care about the victim(s?), cannot fathom the setting's existence, but yet enjoy every minute of the book nonetheless. And somehow also made me glad we live in a post-*Fifty Shades of Grey* romance publishing world—what?!

Also notable: the antique dress motif reared its vintage head once again. (Barbara, honey, you slip this into your books even more often than Stephen King does Derry and John Grisham does private planes.)

5 stars for my sheer delight in a book that legitimately only deserves 3 stars.

Ivonne Rovira says

Acerbic, clever Jacqueline Kirby has had it with her college librarian job in dreary, desolate Coldwater, Neb., and she makes her way back to the Big Apple for a romance writers' conference — more as a vacation than as a future vocation. While she's there, Jacqueline witnesses the death of Dubretta Duberstein, a tabloid reporter-columnist who lets it be known that she is hot on the trail of serious — possibly criminal — shenanigans involving some of the romance writers and an unscrupulous harridan of a literary agent who calls her "Aunt Hattie." When Dubretta dies soon after touting her scoop, ostensibly of a heart attack, Jacqueline has no doubt that Dubretta's death is actually a clever case of murder.

Die for Love is the third book in the four-volume Jacqueline Kirby series. The murder is well plotted, and I was totally surprised by the resolution. Always amusing, the novel is at times laugh-out-loud funny. Author Elizabeth Peters has no problem manifesting Jacqueline's bossiness, duplicity, and dogged certainty that she is always right, as well as Jacqueline's kindness and intelligence. She's a fun heroine in her own right, but Peters' send up of the twee romance novel genre really ices the cake. What a rarity! A book that's simultaneous a guilty pleasure in the form of a mystery and exercise in literary snobbery.

Lynn Spencer says

One of Peters' Jacqueline Kirby mysteries, this novel sends our intrepid librarian to the annual conference of the Historical Romance Writers of the World. What unfolds is a tangled web of blackmail, coercion and murder among the leaders of the romance world.

At this point, it's good to remember that this book was written in the early 80s. Much is made of the supposed inferiority of romance writing and of the various bodice ripper stereotypes, but it's done mostly tongue in cheek. As a romance lover, I found it a tad wearing, but at times I could also chuckle as I recognized bits and pieces of romance kerfuffles I'd only heard of secondhand.

From things I've read and heard about Romlandia in the 1980s, the convention Jacqueline attends seemed like a mashup of RWA and RT. On the one hand, there are authors looking for mentoring and publishing deals. But then we also have cover model shenanigans. I suspect someone deeply familiar with the world of romance in this time period would probably catch a lot more references than I did, but I did recognize homages to real-life figures that I think may have inspired the author, and I loved the names of publishers used throughout the book (Windblown Romance, Wax Candle, etc...)

Jacqueline Kirby is not my favorite of Peters' heroines and the mystery wasn't as strong and suspenseful as others I've read by her, so I have to admit that I enjoyed the setting more than the main plot on this one. Still a fun read, though.

Donna says

I read this book about a year ago. I'm a fan of Peters' Amelia Peabody series, and this (along with Vicky Bliss) is a somewhat less well-known series.

I enjoyed the lampooning of the Historical Romance community. As an avid HR reader, I think it helps to have a sense of humor, as it's all just too silly to be taken seriously. I also like the Jacqueline Kirby character, though she can come across as harsh sometimes. The mystery was well formed, and it wasn't until the last 15% or so that I had an idea whodunnit.

Really my only knock against it was that Kirby's relationship status was muddy throughout, and left me wondering what the heck was going on. But as it wasn't really central to the story, it was easy to overlook.

Susen liest says

Ich habe das Buch mittlerweile zum sechsten Mal gelesen und es war wie immer sehr vergnglich! Auch wenn ich die Auflösung des Krimis schon in- und auswendig kenne, liebe ich es, mich immer wieder in die Geschichte und das Zusammenspiel der Charaktere zu vertiefen.

Die sehr schlaue, zynische und etwas schrullige Bibliothekarin Jacqueline Kirby, die nebenbei mindestens einen Doktortitel hat, will aus ihrer stets verregneten Uni in Nebraska entfliehen und endlich wieder etwas Sonne und das Flair einer Großstadt genießen. Daher entschließt sie sich, auf eine Convention von Liebesromanautorinnen zu fahren (das kann sie mehr oder weniger als Fortbildung geltend machen, denn sie ist knapp bei Kasse). Dadurch kommt sie nicht nur aus ihrem Trott heraus, sondern hat viel Spaß an den

Liebesroman-Klischees (ich auch!) und will zu guter Letzt selbst das große Geld als erfolgreiches Liebesromanautorin machen. Allerdings geschieht noch der eine oder andere Mord und Jacqueline hat alle Hände voll zu tun.

Insgesamt kein allzu frischer Titel (1984), der vielleicht nicht jedermann zusagt, aber ich liebe den Humor von Elisabeth Peters und ihre schrulligen Heldinnen. Da es sich hierbei um einen meiner Lieblingsbände handelt, werde ich ihn sicherlich nicht zum letzten Mal gelesen haben ;)
