



Death of the Body

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I grew up in a world of magic. By the time I was ten I understood nature, talked to the trees, and listened to the wind. When the kingdom of men conquered my town, I was murdered by one of my own—the betrayer of my kind. But I didn't stay dead.

I woke to find myself in a strange new world called Los Angeles. The only keys to the life I remembered were my father's ring, my unique abilities, and the onslaught of demons that seemed hell-bent on finding me. Now I must find out who I really am, protect my friends, and get back to my beloved hometown of Orenda.

Death of the Body Details

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From Reader Review Death of the Body for online ebook

Rebecca Ethington says

Had an opportunity to beta read this book for a great debut author. A full review will come... but know this... its an awesome ride :)

Jams says

---Advanced Copy Reader Review---

I decided to give this a quick reread in preparation for the release of book 2 (Death of the Spirit) in the series.

Death of the Body was just as creative and interesting the second time through.

---Original Review given Oct 2013---

This is probably my all time favorite beta read. Mr. Chiantaretto's "Death of a Body" was so well written and unique that it was a pleasure to read.

The characters were interesting enough that I wanted to know more about all of them...even the side characters. The magic system was exciting and interesting and the plot kept me reading (ie devouring) as fast as I could.

Nichole Taggart says

I will admit in the beginning of this book I was a little unsure. I had heard nothing but good thoughts and read very positive reviews, so I trudged on dutifully knowing not all can be revealed in the first chapter. But, as I got about 8 pages in I was grasped by the story and its characters.

I felt myself being thrust through every twist and turn and, as though I was watching an action packed thriller on screen. The world of magic and elementals is explained in an all new light giving the reader great perspective as no other author has ever managed to do in my opinion.

The religious undertones that arise throughout the book would usually turn me off, forcing me to accuse the author of pretentious misguided views put forth by yet another person that has not properly done their research. (Yes I have read quite a few books like this and, I am very well educated in theology and polytheistic religions.) But, to my utter surprise, Rick Chiantaretto has made it not only work within the parameters of his book but, also has done his research. (If I'm honest I was crushing on the authors knowledge just a little bit.)

I give this book a definite 5 ***** stars and will leave my fingers crossed for it to turn into a series. Perhaps

book two will have a bit more about the secondary characters to fulfill my extreme curiosities.

Verna Loves Books says

I was instantly captivated by this book as soon as it started. The beginning will blow your mind. You're like what in the world happened. So of course I kept reading because I needed to know more about what was happening. It is such a wonderful story that will keep you reading and your interest peaked.

I absolutely adored Edmund. He was such a great kid. As soon as the book starts you are in love with him and his friends. They are all wonderful. Then you learn their secrets and you can't help but adore them that much more. My heart broke for all of them though the more I read. Especially Edmund. He went through so much.

So if you love getting to read a different type of story that will leave you thinking and doing your best to guess what's going on this is the book for you. I was ecstatic to get to read this book; it was definitely suspenseful and kept my attention. I was NEVER bored and I love it when a book can keep me glued to it. Definitely worth reading.

Robin Parrish says

I was provided an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

I started this novel thinking that my kids would like it. I could not have been more wrong. What was really so amazing about this book was that it was not a quick read for me.

This story begins with a 10 year old mage and then we travel through some deadly adventures with him. The reason this was not a quick read for me is because the details that enriched each sentence. Not only that, but the importance of each detail really grabbed me.

Edmund was a pretty striking character and I did not identify with him immediately, but as I read about him maturing I grew more and more fond of him.

I think that the author really took time to develop a history and world for Edmund and that comes across in his writing.

I am excited for a sequel to this one.

There is some blood and gore in this one, but the author did a great job of giving just enough detail to see it without making me sick!!

Laura Perry says

Amazing!! This book has such a unique idea and is completely gripping from beginning to end! Rick's imagery is absolutely phenomenal. I felt like I was watching it on the big screen the entire time I was reading it and I got really excited to eventually see it in movie form. Just be aware it may not be appropriate for children under 13. I think it's a must read!!!

Sheena Boekweg says

This book is not the present you'd buy your great Aunt Muriel. This is a grizzly, awesome, dark, smart, and scary little book. It starts off with the ten year-old main character waking up after being slashed across the stomach. It keeps going from there.

This is a book about resurrection and rebirth, and you have to live behind the eyes of someone who happens to die a lot. Not a lot a lot, but more than I have. I've never died before, but after reading Death of the Body, I kinda feel like I have. It's the kind of book that writes itself into the back of your eyelids. I loved it.

With all the talk about death, and resurrection, it's natural that it delves deeply into religion. It's not disrespectful per-say, but the story analyzes religions with an almost snarky reverence. It fictionalizes religions. It made me think. It made me unsettled, and then it made me dive back in.

The writing is crisp, the words flow well, and he has a clear voice, but I liked it the best when I was so sucked in I didn't notice the voice, and all I heard was the whispers of the trees, and the gentle cadences of the system of magic. The romance felt real, but not central to the story, though it shifts motivation.

This book is not for everyone. But if you love thinking about all things possible, (Justin, I'm talking about you) then this is a book you'll just love.

It's quite possibly the most brilliant, grizzly, monster-filled book I've ever read.

And the monsters look human.

That's the scariest part.

Shayna Varadeaux says

Edmund lives in a world that is magical and he can commune with the earth itself. It's pretty cool and unlike any other story I have ever read.

He has a destiny and an amazing magic. He is out hunting with his friends when things go seriously wrong. Edmund loses everything within a short amount of time and has been betrayed by a trusted man who ultimately ushers in his demise.

Characters are very believable for me all well described as well as the scenery. The author paints a grand picture in both sight and sound for me. When the fire followed him back through the tree I could imagine the sight and smell of it all. There is a great attention to detail. The whole elemental thing was great I always love that! I love Xia and Alexander!

I was taken aback by the religious twists to the story it was intriguing to say the least.

All in all it was a really good read. A good plot, creative and unique. Definitely an Urban Fantasy to give a great example of what Urban Fantasy should be.

I can't even imagine going through the crap Edmund had to go through.
As Alexander he must find his way and figure out what has happened to him. And what his destiny holds.

If you like mysterious Paranormal or Urban Fantasy this is the book for you.

Very imaginative and if there are more books to come I look forward to reading them.

Annie Ray says

This book captivated me from the first page. Edmund is a well developed character who gains sympathy for all he must endure during the course of the book.

Angela says

I was given a copy of this book for the blog tour in exchange for an honest review. What to say about this book? Well, let me just say that I have not read anything like this!! It is so imaginative, witty, action-filled, scary, creepy, surprising and awesome. I was enjoying the book and when I was just getting a sense of what I thought was happening, Rick changed it!! Something completely unexpected happened and it changed into something else. But this did not detract from the story or the circumstances. It actually enhanced it and caused me to be even more invested in the story and want to know more about what the hell was going on. Rick is so adept at not giving anything away until the last possible second. While the main character, Edmund, would come to the realization sooner than the reader, he never let it be known to the reader until it was necessary. I really had a hard time figuring anything out early on, which is a good thing to me! I was so enamored with this story and I did not want to stop reading it. I only had about 40% left when I went to bed the other night and I stayed up to finish it because I had to know what was going on. I couldn't quite put my finger on what was happening and what everything meant so it was frustrating and I needed to know! I felt like I needed to know more than I needed sleep. I love when a book does that to me.

Cap'n Heather.....Aarrrrrrr says

"What if all religions were stories, and all stories were true?"

4 Fantastically Bloody Stars

Ok...so I am an Urban Fantasy virgin.

I know right?
Death of the Body was my FIRST read in this genre.

And. WOW. It did not disappoint.

Edmund is a 10 year old boy living in a world of magic. He lives in the quiet town called Orenda. He talks with nature...communicates with the Earth herself.

But. Edmund's world comes crashing down around him when he and his people are betrayed by one of their own.

Edmund in turn....is murdered.

"I watched in disbelief as blood seeped through my fingers and dripped, thick as syrup, to the ground."

Waking up a 12 year old boy, Edmund tries to piece together his being and his memories, and how he came to be who he woke up as. He needs to find a way to get back to Orenda and to avenge his family and his people.

Ok. I don't want to give much else away. This book. It was captivating. I had a hard time putting it down each time I had to. Edmund is such a strong character. He is kindhearted, loyal, and fearless. He looked death in the face and he said "Go to Hell".

Each of the characters in the book brought so much to the story.

Nicholas was the humor. He was likeable and relatable. The banter between him and Edmund made them real. It made them human.

Xia. She was the grounding force of these boys I think. She is a tough, mouthy girl...my kind of girl. The budding romance between her and Edmund adds another aspect to the story. It adds a softness to the story.

"I caught a mischievous look in her eye just moments before she pressed her lips to mine. The look caused a thrill to ripple through my body, but the greater response was when I felt her melt into my embrace and give way to my lips."

Now. Ok.

I am not a religious person in anyway. No way whatsoever. Nadda. I don't typically read much of anything that contains religious references, and I do not follow religious practices or keep up on the 411 of religion. So, that being said, there were times where I was disinterested with all of the religion talk and had a hard time following along. I had to fight the urge to skim a few times. And, that was because I didn't want to miss something important.

But. It didn't deter me from continuing on and experiencing the magical story of Edmund.

That ending.

I couldn't have even guessed that's what was going to happen! The plot takes different twists and turns that it kept me on the edge of my seat and kept me wondering. Constantly questioning what the future held for the characters. And shock at the things that did happen.

When I first started reading, I had my assumptions about what was going to happen or what I thought certain things meant. And those assumptions were basically shattered when I got to the end of the book.

I did have one hang up. I felt that the ending was a bit rushed. It just seemed to all end so quickly. I would have liked to see it play out a little bit more....but then I guess that means the author would have left me with MORE questions about the ending.

Haha!

Rick truly has an amazing ability of describing a person or a scene that draws the reader in. He gives such a vivid depiction of everything that is happening, you literally feel like you are there. Like you are experiencing it along with the characters. You can SEE everything so perfectly.

I am a visual person. I like the images to be drawn out or described for me. I like pictures. I like to see what I am reading. Rick has done that with this book.

He uses words, names, objects that have meaning. Like for instance. Orenda. The name of Edmund's home had meaning. And that meaning actually makes a lot of sense for the book.

oren•da

noun \?rend?

a supernatural force believed by the Iroquois Indians to be present, in varying degrees, in all objects or persons, and to be the spiritual force by which human accomplishment is attained or accounted for.

I was completely and utterly fascinated by this book and the authors ability to grab my attention and keep it. Few books have done that for me as of lately.

So. Bravo Rick.

You made me step out of my perfectly manicured smut box and take a chance on a genre that I would have never given a second thought to. And I actually enjoyed it.

Now. Can we please have book two since you left us hanging with book one?

Janett The Pleasure of Reading Today says

This is not the kind of book I would've picked to read. That said, I'm glad I gave this book and this amazing story a chance because I LOVED it!

I'm not going to tell you what the book is about you can read it and figure it out yourself, I'm going to tell you what I loved about the book and consequently the author.

The story flows easily and it gives you a clear understanding of the main character and his journey through a magical world.

The images described are vivid and colorful, incredibly real. Every scene is described in a way that you feel like you're part of the story. The characters are believable, and even though I had a little bit of a hard time at the beginning matching the age of the character with the language used, that didn't take away from the story at any moment.

This book makes a lot of reference to religion and although I understand this is a delicate subject for certain people, we have to look at the big picture. This is a character looking for his place in the world he lives in, searching for his purpose and constantly asking himself questions that us humans, as characters in our own stories looking for our reason to live, are also wondering about.

This is a fantasy book, no doubt, but it's also a well written story by a very intelligent and well spoken author that I would highly recommend. Be brave today and try something new ;-)

Laveda Kasch says

This book had me so engrossed that I didn't want to eat, sleep or work! I will NOT be getting mommy of the year, due to this book! I loved the way this writer made everything he described so vivid in my imagination. It was like I was in the book walking right along with the characters, seeing, hearing, almost feeling everything they felt. If a writer can do that to you, you've lucked into finding an amazing story teller and you should gobble up everything he writes! I know I will. Not even some of the best selling authors I've read can make me feel like I've stepped inside the pages of there book. I can read and love the story, but not feel it. Make since?

The characters were very likeable, funny and interesting. Edmund is the main character and he lives in Orenda, a place of magic, a place where they're one with everything around them. We first meet him at age 10, not too long before he dies and...moves on. He is a very mature 10 year old, but I thought it fit well, as he was raised a totally different way than a child from our world would be. Nicholas is my favorite out of the trio, although Edmund and Xia are just as awesome, there is just something about Nicholas that makes me want to hang out with him and soak it all in. He'd defiantly make me laugh, although we don't get to see much of that side of him, you'll see glimpses.

We don't meet Xia until about halfway through the book. She has some magic abilities of her own, just not quite as strong or even like Edmunds, and she is Edmunds love interest. She is , I think, a good match for Edmund.

This book had me on the edge of my seat at times. Who am I kidding...I was on the edge of my seat most of the book, trying to figure out what was going to happen next and who was going to turn out to be the bad guy. I did not figure it out until it was too late and I'm usually very good at guessing what's going to happen. This book talks about all types of religion. Some might be put off by that, but I realize it is a book, and the writer is telling a fictional story. Either way, I find all kinds of religion fascinating, I loved it. The book as a

whole, everything in it and even the cover, was awesome for me. I am all about some darker reads! I give Death Of The Body 5 stars.

Helena Ison says

This is only a portion of my review, the rest can be found on my blog
Accepted Wisdom

I would describe Rick Chiantaretto's writing as vivid and articulate. The horror elements in his writing are gruesome and fear-inducing. The world he creates is astonishing and quite complex; it draws you in and takes you on hell of a ride that will leave you gasping for breath. His character development is remarkable; each character comes to life before your eyes in such a realistic manner. You can literally feel their emotions flow off the pages. The magical elements are fantastically intriguing and will make you wish you had the ability to perform magic yourself.

My opinion:

Death of the Body wasn't what I expected it to be.... It was so much more! It honestly scared the daylights out of me. The energumen (demons) in this book are absolutely terrifying and vicious things. I've been freaking out every time I hear the wind blow loudly or see a strange dark shadow. One encounter Edmund had in particular has shaken me to the core. I'm not sure I will ever be able to get the image out of my mind. This is saying a lot because it takes a lot to freak me out, I totally don't scare easily.

Edmund has such a strong will to live. He is loyal, compassionate, and brave. My heart aches for him because everything has been taken away from him, yet his hope never falters. He goes through some horrible situations that would break most people but he always finds a way to survive. I have a feeling that no matter what happens he will find a way to make things right. He is a fighter and will do anything it takes to get justice for his people. I cannot wait to continue on with him in his journey!

As a whole I loved just about everything in this novel. I was a little taken back by all the religious references at first, sometimes a bit confused, but they are important to the story. Without them the book would seem incomplete. In the end everything falls into place and makes perfect sense. I just wish it didn't end in a cliff-hanger because now I have to wait to find out what happens. I hate not knowing. The wait for the next book may kill me.

This is only a portion of my review, the rest can be found on my blog
Accepted Wisdom

Rachel Marks says

"What if all religions were stories, and all stories were true?"

Death of the Body is possibly one of those most unique stories I have ever read. From the first page I became fully engrossed in the world that Rick Chiantaretto created and I was not able to put it down until I finished

it. It was so good in fact that I finished the book in one sitting.

Death of the Body is the story about Edmund and his journey from another world (or as the book describes it, another level) called Orenda. Orenda is a world of magic where Edmund is able to directly connect and even communicate with nature.

Tragedy strikes his world when his kingdom is conquered and betrayed by one of his own kind. Even though this betrayer does kill Edmund, he miraculously wakes up in Los Angeles, CA. All he has now to guide him is his father's ring, his magical abilities, and the vague letter from his father he found in Orenda before he was killed.

Now when I say that this storyline is unique, I really mean it. It touches on the subject of religion in a way I have never seen done before and I absolutely love that aspect of the book. It's one of those stories that really makes you think.

What I loved most about Death of the Body along with the unique storyline was the characters. Edmund, Nicholas and Xia are all fantastic with very distinct personalities that seem to jump off the pages as you are reading. Their banter back and forth between one another had me laughing out loud at times and I couldn't help but wish I knew characters like this in real life. The romantic relationship that develops between Edmund and Xia is also quite adorable.

Overall I absolutely loved this book and I would recommend it to anyone looking for an dark urban fantasy mixed in with a few (small) horror elements. I can't wait to read the next book in the series :)
