



Tangled to Death

J.M. Griffin

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Danger lurks at every turn for Katie Greer. Having escaped death in the past, Katie Greer has taken residence in a New Hampshire town where life appears idyllic, but is far from it. Teaching tangled doodling classes in her art studio allows Katie to reach out to people who require a semblance of peace and tranquility in their lives. If only she could maintain those two things for herself, Katie would be completely happy. After finding the dead body of the town's infamous, and most mean spirited, gossip frozen on the bench outside her Tangled Wings Studio, Katie realizes her efforts to hide her true identity and live a normal life are for naught. As the prime suspect of ruggedly handsome Detective Jonah Kilbride, Katie searches for the killer in order to prove her own innocence. Much to her dismay, Katie's attraction for the relentless detective steadily grows, despite their continuous battles. Past events threaten Katie at every turn, catching her unaware, and creating havoc in a life she's desperately tried to establish in the town where she'd briefly found happiness. Can she survive or will she become the next victim on the killer's list before she can reveal their identity?

From Amazon.com.

Tangled to Death Details

Date : Published November 8th 2012 by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (first published November 7th 2012)
ISBN : 9781480270831
Author : J.M. Griffin
Format : Paperback 188 pages
Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Business, Amazon, Death, Murder Mystery

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From Reader Review Tangled to Death for online ebook

Constance says

Interesting characters and the mystery is good. But the book needs some editing to make it more readable, and it would have been nice to have more explanation of tangling.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review of Tangled to Death

5 stars

A complex “cozy” mystery, “Tangled to Death” presents a strong and feisty heroine who yearns only for peace and quiet (and yes, a little romance too), a little order to soothe the chaos her life had become. Settling in a quiet tourist-loving community in New England, Katie opens an art studio and teaches and practices “tangling,” a particular type of art with which this reviewer had been unacquainted. My only wish to add anything to this mystery would be illustrations of the process of “tangled” art.

I called “Tangled to Death” complex because the author is very skilled in not telegraphing the denouement ahead of time, but instead allows readers to work their way to it, and then to be surprised, perhaps even astounded. The budding romance is also neatly interwoven, and is suitable for YA readers and above. Readers who like to curl up with a good mystery which will stretch their minds and at the same time soothe with empathetic characterizations are sure to enjoy “Tangled to Death.”

Lisette says

For Katie Greer, moving to New Hampshire meant she'd have a fresh start to the life she'd once had. She'd survived a brutal attack that ended her parent's lives, and was looking forward to the solitude the small town she'd moved to promised. The place was everything she could have imagined and more. Until the moment she woke up one morning to find a body on her doorstep.

In his mind, Detective Jonah Kilbride is convinced that she's at fault. Nothing she could say or do will make him change his mind. After all, the body was found on her front porch. That must mean she's guilty, doesn't it? To Katie, however, that's far from the truth.

She's not sure as to why someone would want to implicate her in a murder. All this time, she'd thought she was free of the nightmares she'd endured so long ago when her parent's killer had almost ended her life too. Sadly, that's not the case. Katie knows that she'll need to remain one step ahead if she's to help Jonah solve the case before anyone else gets hurt. Unfortunately, she's no closer to discovering the truth than he is.

As time begins to dwindle, and others are hurt in the process, Katie soon realizes that someone has a bone to pick with her. While the killer's identity is still a secret, she can no longer deny the fact that evidence is piling up. Although she knows she's innocent, all fingers are pointed in her direction. Someone wants her out

of the picture, and she's not sure as to why that is. If she's to succeed, she'll need to play by the killer's rules. The question is, how can she do that if she's not even sure as to what those rules are in the first place?

This was a delightful thriller. I enjoyed every minute of it immensely. While the story does have romantic elements, they weren't the focus of the book itself. A nice little cozy mystery, the story draws you in, and keeps your focus riveted to every page. The pacing of the story was consistent, allowing the reader to get caught up in Katie's story, and the mystery surrounding the unexpected death she's implicated in. I did catch a couple typos and grammar mistakes here and there while reading, but they weren't that big to deter me from the story itself. Definitely worth reading.

Jeanne Jenkins says

I loved this book. I liked that a single woman had her own business and that the business was in a section of her home. I also liked that she had a cat, that seemed to 'protect' her. There were a few murders and attempted murders. There were lots of 'people of interest' and I tried to solve the mystery, but did not. We the readers, did not find out 'who done it' until the very end. I liked the way that all the loose ends were tied up, and all the questions were answers. A nice read.

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

Great first book in what I hope is a new series. I had never heard of Tangling but did some searching on the 'net and very fascinating. Anyway, this seems like a cozy to me and characters do what they usually do in cozies....solve the crime! There is a good back story and an intense feeling between Katie and Jonah.

Andrea Guy says

I have read 2 of J.M.'s books prior to reading this one. I really like her writing style. Like her prior books, Tangled to Death is short and sweet, less than 200 pages. So yes at times, things hurry along, maybe even faster than you'd like them too.

I think it is the fast paced nature of the story that works for me.

Of the three books by JM that I've read, this is definitely the best of the bunch. The plot is tight and the characters are really engaging, though Katie's tough girl attitude at times is a bit unnerving. I found myself really becoming intrigued by the Zentangle Art form. If I had any gripe about the story, it would be that "tangling" wasn't explained well enough.

I also loved the budding relationship between Jonah and Katie. The sparks were flying quite a bit, but I was also glad that Jonah didn't act on them, as Katie was a suspect throughout the novel.

I also like how her past was tied into this story and how things were resolved for her. The ending was definitely unexpected!

I love cozies and I love the little bit of romance that goes on here as well as the mystery.

Definitely a book worth checking out if you like cozies. I hope we get another mystery with Katie and Jonah.

Karen says

J.M. Griffin's novel, *Tangled to Death*, is a fun mystery full of quirky characters and one very unsympathetic murder victim.

This book is not perfect. There are a lot of characters, which is great, particularly in a story set in a small town. But it was sometimes difficult to remember who was who because there just isn't enough development of some of the townsfolk. They all sort of blend together and are sometimes indistinguishable from one another.

I also felt that parts of the story were far too rushed. At under 200 pages, the opening chapter describes Katie finding a dead body in front of her house, calling the police, and becoming a prime murder suspect all within the space of what feels like 10 minutes. The pacing is a little off.

Despite its flaws, though, this story is a fun read. And a quick one. Even when I was frustrated by clumsy dialog or repetitive phrases, I had to keep going to find out what was going to happen next. Would Katie's sad past come back to haunt her? Would Detective Kilbride turn out to be a really nice guy after all? And who did kill Flora Middly, anyway?

I'm giving this one a 3 out of 5 for fun, though unsteady, storytelling.

Danielle Bowen says

New author to me. I want to read more. I was frustrated by the number of series with one or two books... I decided not to by any more at this point.

Barbara says

If you are a Certified Zentangle Teacher and love mysteries, you will love this book. It is so neat to relate to what the author is talking about. You can almost envision the classroom and the characters in it. The only unrealistic thing is that Katie would have the same people coming in for a class daily. As teachers, we can only dream of such a time. Thanks for a great and relaxing read.

Jayne says

Katie moves to a small town in order to start over after a family tragedy. The easygoing lifestyle she had envisioned is quickly shattered, however, when she finds a dead body on her porch. After becoming the chief suspect, it's up to her to find the real killer...

This book was so much fun! And so interesting! I really enjoyed the mystery, as well as the touches of

romance. Katie is feisty, and she does not let Jonah walk all over her at all. Sure, she has her moments where her temper eclipses her judgment, but she is clearly smart and can hold her own.

Jonah can come across as a hard-ass cop, but in such a likable way that you can't be too angry at him when he gets all high and mighty. It's easy to see that the roughness stems from other feelings, so I was quite happy with him.

And Gretchen! What a lady. I wish we could've seen more of Crystal since she sounds like quite a character.

Overall, a good read. I've read a couple other books by Griffin, and I must say. They are all quite enjoyable.

Susan says

J.M. Griffin pens "Tangled to Death" a nice cozy mystery with plenty of twists, turns and strong characters to keep you reading. An enjoyable must read with a touch of romance and a surprise ending.

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the author which was provided for an honest review.

Lara says

I really enjoyed this small town murder mystery with a strong-willed woman artist who keeps running across dead bodies. She finds herself the center of an investigation, and has the past she has been avoiding return to prominence in her life. She is also an unwilling participant in an attraction between her and the investigating police officer. The ways she deals with that attraction are fun to read. And I love her therapeutic, protective attack cat.
