



Pay Me in Flesh

K. Bennett

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Hungry For Justice-And Brains

Meet Mallory Caine. Attorney at law. Zombie at large. She's not like those "Living Dead" losers you see in the movies. She doesn't slobber, drool, or lurch-she's smart, stylish, and sexy. Sure, she's a zombie and a lawyer but, hey, a girl's got to eat. When Mallory's not in the courtroom, going head to head with her ex-boyfriend, killer-prosecutor Aaron Argula, she's in the seedy streets of Hollywood, hunting brain after brain. That is, until some psycho starts hunting zombie after zombie...

The Defense Never Rests-In Peace

The undead are decapitated, a letter "Z" carved in their flesh. Mallory doesn't want to lose her head, but she's worried. Like a lot of lawyers in L.A., she doesn't have a soul-a side effect of being a zombie, not a defense attorney. If Mallory dies before she gets her soul back, she goes straight to hell. No appeals. Objection overruled. If the killer isn't stopped, it's case closed for zombies everywhere. But Mallory is an undying champion of justice. And she won't go down-without a bite...

Pay Me in Flesh Details

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From Reader Review Pay Me in Flesh for online ebook

Kristin (MyBookishWays Reviews) says

You may also read my review here: <http://www.mybookishways.com/2012/04/...>

This one surprised me, in a totally good way! I imagined a quick, fun, read, and it was, but there was also some unexpected depth that caught me off guard. Mallory Caine is an L.A. defense attorney, and she's also a zombie. Not of the shambling kind, though. Turns out, someone shot Mallory, but what should have killed her, didn't, and she found herself one of the walking dead, forced to eat brains to survive. Mallory does this by posing as street walker Amanda on her feeding nights, and using her trusty hook to procure what she needs to live. Mallory doesn't take this lightly, though. In fact, she loathes herself every time she does it, and she hopes to find her killer, get her soul back, and hopefully return to one of the living. As an author, I would imagine that getting your audience to love a character that must kill people in such a gruesome manner would be a challenge, but this author is more than up to it!

In this first installment, Mallory must defend a young vampire prostitute accused of killing a cop. Mallory knows without a shadow of a doubt that she didn't do it, but proving it will be a challenge, especially when the prosecution is her former love, Aaron Argula, who wants Mallory back. It also doesn't help that someone is killing the area zombies. With swords. And Mallory might be next.

Like I said, this was such a fun read, combining court drama with supernatural hijinks involving vampires, shape shifters, epic battles of good and evil, and of course, zombies. Mallory is smart, sarcastic, and one kick ass lawyer, and I zipped through this one with a quickness. I'm really looking forward to diving into the 2nd book, The Year of Eating Dangerously!

Marliss says

I know this doesn't sound like Christian fiction, but it is. K. Bennett is a pseudonym for James Scott Bell. The story is about a zombie lawyer defending a vampire in a murder case. It gets weirder.

It was kind of a fun read--Jim Bell has a good sense of humor, and he keeps it clean, which I appreciate. However, I did not appreciate bad theology--demons are not the spirits of evil people after they die--nor did I appreciate the lecture about the second day of Genesis. It's germane to the story, but it could have been done better. Also, since non-believers will be reading this book, theories about the second day of Genesis should not be presented as Gospel.

Apparently, Jim Bell used a new editor because there were some things that were not up to his usual high standards. Since he has an extremely popular book on fiction writing, I hope that the next books in the series show definite improvement in the editing department.

I will probably read the next book in the series, but if the quality is as disappointing as this one, I won't be reading any more.

Tasula says

This book was a lot of fun, a snarky, brave heroine (who happens to be a murderous, brain eating zombie, but she can't help it) struggles to survive as a lawyer in Los Angeles, where some very strange things start happening, many of them centered around her. A nice adventure.

Matt Schiariti says

L.A Law. Zombie Style.

I've been gaining a larger appreciation of the zombie genre lately. I saw the name of this book and was intrigued. When I read the description I was scratching my head. 'A lawyer by day that goes on the hunt for brains at night? How can THAT work??'

Well it works..and it works well!

Mallory Caine is just your every day lawyer. Defending her clients to the best of her ability, her in court skills rivaled only by her unquenchable hunger for human flesh. Brains in particular. See, Mallory was killed a year ago but that didn't last very long. Now she finds herself in a case where she has to defend an friend of hers who's accused of killing a cop. Oh yeah, the friend claims to be a vampire. But hey, the undead have to stick up for each other right? One other thing, there's a crazed zombie killer with a sword that's trying to lop her head off...and lots of owls too...

Mallory is a fantastic character. She loves her job, loves LA, but she loathes what she's become. Always present is her moral dilemma. She doesn't want to kill to live but she has to. It's not that she's afraid to just call it quits and be over with the nightmare her life has become. She's strong. What she's afraid of is being confined to hades for eternity. She feels that if she dies before she can reclaim her soul from the one who reanimated her that's exactly what's going to happen. Yes, a zombie with a heart.

Even the secondary characters are fantastic, from her ex boyfriend Aaron who happens to be the prosecutor for the case in which Mallory is defense council, to the rat-like Nick, her neighbor and wannabe private detective.

Part urban fantasy, part courtroom drama, all fun, this book entertains from the get go with laugh out loud dialogue and great character moments. Even though the protagonist is an undead zombie (she takes great steps to look like a living breathing person) Mallory is an entirely human character who loves and dreams and is doing the best with what she's given.

A great balance of humor, action, drama and horror. In a way this book reminds me of Kim Harrison's Hollows series in that supernatural beings are coming to light and won't be ignored..it's light and serious all at the same time. Very interesting and original idea that's executed in great style.

Can't recommend this one highly enough. And as luck would have it the second installment comes out next week. Can't wait!

Mark Young says

This urban fantasy novel, *Pay Me In Flesh*, brings legal thrillers to a whole new dimension. In novelist K. Bennett's debut horror novel, defense attorney Mallory Caine must defend a shape-shifting client accused of murdering an LA cop. Witty, hard-fighting Caine—facing off with her handsome hunk of an ex-boyfriend, prosecutor Aaron Argula—seems to be the only person in the entire city of Los Angeles who believes her client is innocent. She must battle unnatural and almost insurmountable odds to save her client while staving off her own unnatural appetites to eat human flesh. Caine lives among the undead, a sexy vampire struggling against the forces of evil and the voices within her own head as she tries to understand how she came to be. Though some might argue with the theological assumptions found in this novel, they cannot argue against a world in which there seems to be a battle between good and evil—in whatever manifestations these forces choose to do battle—as *Pay Me In Flesh* unfolds.

The grim and the gritty is liberally seasoned with humor as Bennett introduces readers to a parade of hilarious characters. For example, meet Nikolas Papadoukis, the world's shortest insurance investigator who believes he's a human barometer and desires to be Cain's criminal investigator—for money. Or how about Lolita Maria Sofia Consuelo Hidalgo, dubbed LoGo, who owns the Smoke'n Joke business below where Cain rents her law office. Even Caine provides a little humor, as she eyes a judge trying to make sexual advances and ponders what he might taste like, or climbs into her bright-yellow convertible bug, nicknamed Geraldine, to fight LA traffic. Humor is liberally sprinkled to lighten an otherwise very dark story.

Dark forces seem to be gathering above this city of angels where Caine seems to be drawn to fulfill a purpose that even she is not clear about. Demons, devils and the undead mingle with the living in this fast-paced, always shifting novel. Don't get too comfortable when you start reading because everything you thought about justice, law and order, and crime may change before the last page. Word of warning! Don't take anything for granted! It could be a deadly mistake.

Bennett has creatively pushed the limits of believability in this novel to the point that many readers will soon become fans—they just won't be able to resist Bennett's imaginative mind. I would recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys urban fantasy and legal thrillers.

I was provided a free copy of this novel, but this did not sway my opinion. A great story filled with entertaining characters. Enjoy!

Sue says

Read it in one day! Loved it: loved the humor, the pace, the subject(s) -- much more than I thought I would. Can't wait to read the other two; gonna gobble them up.

Steph says

3 1/2 Stars

Update: I have since learned that the error-filled ebook that I received, may be just a fluke. This may or may

not be the case, as I can not really say for sure. I also have to mention that K. Bennett is actually a pen name for James Scott Bell, who is a very nice man btw. That might also explain why I found the romance subplot rather weak. For those who know me, know that I try to avoid reading male authored books at all cost, because they are usually quite inept with creating good romantic tension. My prejudice of course.

I can't say I recommend this book. The story and pace were decent enough, but I couldn't help but feel as if it was trying way too hard to be clever (Though I could be in just an irritable mood). The humor that it was obviously shooting for was also a miss for me. What truly put the last nail in the coffin were the staggering amount of grammatical mistakes and typos I found in this eBook. I mean it is off the charts staggering. It was such a painful struggle to continue reading this book, that I ended up requesting my first eBook refund from Amazon.

The writing is average to good, which is made up of mostly short and poorly constructed sentences. A few grammatical mistakes usually don't bother me, since I'm really not a stickler, but this eBook is littered with them. It's very distracting when you have to constantly reread sentences because the grammar is so bad that you don't get the meaning the first time through.

In summary, I really wanted like this book, and generally I did. But the inexcusable amount of mistakes kept me from enjoying what was already an interesting story. For those that are dead-set on giving this book a go, I suggest checking out a paper copy, not the eBook.

Beware of the other glowing reviews, as I seem to currently have the only Verified Purchase on Amazon. For those looking for a light & good humored Zombie read, I recommend **My Life as A White Trash Zombie**.

Hungry For Justice - And Brains": Meet Mallory Caine. Attorney at law. Zombie at large. She's not like those "Living Dead" losers you see in the movies. She doesn't slobber, drool, or lurch - she's smart, stylish, and sexy. Sure, she's a zombie and a lawyer but, hey, a girl's got to eat. When Mallory's not in the courtroom, going head to head with her ex-boyfriend, killer-prosecutor Aaron Argula, she's in the seedy streets of Hollywood, hunting brain after brain. That is, until some psycho starts hunting zombie after zombie...

Joseph R. says

I've heard a lot of bad jokes about lawyers through the years, especially from lawyers themselves. It's a profession that gets a lot of attention if not always a lot of respect. In all the iterations of the 21st century zombie craze, it seems logical that someone would write a book about a zombie lawyer. Not a lawyer who defends zombies, but who is a zombie herself. Meet Mallory Caine, zombie at law.

Now, in this version of zombies, apparently she doesn't look like a zombie. When we first meet her, she is being held in contempt by a judge. As they discuss the matter in his chambers, he makes a very aggressive pass at her. She shows a lot of restraint, not eating him then and there. She threatens to blow the whistle on him but he tells her everyone will think she made it up. He sends her to lockup to cool off.

She's bailed out by her ex-boyfriend, prosecuting attorney Aaron Argula, who conveniently shows up and wants to get back with her. She would be interested except for this little personality flaw she's develop, namely the taste for human brains. Plus, he dumped her back in the day so things still need to get smoothed out.

Mallory has a crummy office across from a dubious P.I. She defends many a dubious client, some of whom do not pay, especially when she doesn't win the case. But a deal's a deal, and like Shylock, she eventually gets her pound of flesh from the occasional deadbeat client. Mallory's other source of nourishment is dressing up as a hooker and leading men off to their doom in quiet areas of town. One such fellow happens to be an undercover cop. She doesn't know it at the time. In a nice twist, she defends the girl who is accused of killing the cop. That girl is a fellow streetwalker Mallory knows. And, she's a vampire! The prosecuting attorney is of course Aaron, who has nothing special about him aside from his devastating good looks and his super-smart (and probably super-delicious) brains.

The story may seem a bit hectic and have lots of elements thrown in, but that is it's charm. Mallory tells her story in a first-person narration with the kind of patter used by the likes of Sam Spade or Mike Hammer. A lot of humor lightens what could have been a ponderous book. She has moral dilemmas about eating people and troubles with her past (what mysterious thing happened at her birth, how did she become a zombie, and who is trying to pull her strings?) which makes the story interesting and her sympathetic.

The book reads a bit like a pilot of a TV show, setting up lots of ongoing story lines but resolving few of them. The main trial comes to a conclusion but other mysteries are left for sequels. So far, two other books have been written, *The Year of Eating Dangerously* and *I Ate the Sheriff*. I'll be reading (and reviewing) these in due course, since I enjoyed this one.

I would give it 3.5 stars if the system let me, but the book is fun enough to round up rather than round down!

Charly Toohey says

Hysterical and touching. The poor heroine had no idea why she is a zombie.

Linda says

PAY ME IN FLESH: MALLORY CAINE, ZOMBIE AT LAW

By K. Bennett

Pinnacle Fiction (paperback) (also available in e-book)

August 2011

Book Review by Linda S. Brown

With so many witty one-liners, the reader of *PAY ME IN FLESH: MALLORY CAINE, ZOMBIE AT LAW* might easily be distracted from the storyline while snickering at the jokes. A review could quite easily be comprised simply of some of those snappy jokes. For example, Mallory's philosophy: "Making people squirm on the witness stand is one of the things I do best. I like to practice it in the outside world, too." But that review would not do the book justice: there is a story here, and it is a well-crafted zombie/vampire/murder mystery. Trying to untangle the story without giving too much away is the tricky part.

Mallory Caine is an attorney in Los Angeles. She is sexy, smart, aggressive – and dead. She is a zombie. She spends her days defending her clients, some of whom deserve it, some not so much; she spends her nights

working the streets (no, not that kind of “work,” although she does get to know a lot of streetwalkers), looking for food (zombies don’t just drop into the local grocers for a freshly harvested brain, after all), trying to discover who murdered her, turned her into a zombie – and why. And what is the source of the Voice in her head? What is it trying to tell her?

When the police call her to a familiar address, Mallory discovers they are trying to arrest a friend of hers, Traci Ann. Traci Ann is a prostitute wanted for murder of a cop. As it happens, she is also a vampire. But Traci Ann’s grandmother is determined to prevent the police from taking her out of the house – after all, everyone knows a vamp can’t go out in the daylight.

To further complicate matters, Mallory has a larger number of adversaries than the average attorney: she must do courtroom battle with her very attractive, very attentive ex-boyfriend, prosecutor Aaron Argula. Who knew zombies had sex drives? Mallory certainly has one, and must fight off appetites of varying sorts whenever she encounters Aaron -- which is often, since he’s prosecuting the case of the murdered cop. Mallory must also fight off a mysterious hooded man who trails around after her, wielding a sword, evidently intent upon beheading her. And she seems to be pursued by a large flock of birds, including a particularly menacing owl.

And then there’s the question of Faith... It’s not every day one encounters a zombie seeking answers from God and comfort from priests. It’s probably even less frequent that the afore-mentioned priests turn into screaming demons. And yet this is Mallory’s life. Or death. Or whatever.

But perhaps the most entertaining feature about Mallory is her interview technique when hunting food (i.e. fresh brain). Her first question for her prey is “Where did you go to school?” She figures if she’s going to eat brain, she’d like it to be relatively intelligent. She has her standards: “Drug dealers are not always the best source of brains, but they’re a step up from the users.”

And, of course, because this is a story set in Los Angeles, home of Hollywood with all its glory and grit, there is a fading movie star and her faithful bodyguard, in a big, beautiful mansion on a hill. And because this is a mystery novel, nothing in that castle is as it seems...

So, Mallory Caine, Zombie at Law, has her hands full (not least of which is making sure she takes enough shark cartilage to keep her hands attached to her arms). **PAY ME IN FLESH: MALLORY CAINE, ZOMBIE AT LAW** is a unique, entertaining beginning to what promises to be a unique, entertaining series. Read it on a plane or bus – you’ll snicker, you’ll laugh, and your neighbor will most likely uneasily squirm away from you...

Dwayne Wojtowicz says

Vampires, Zombies and Lawyers! Oh My!

K. Bennett, a/k/a James Scott Bell, has a knack of getting the reader hooked, pulled along and thrown into the mix. He shows this in my book "Pay Me in Flesh."

Mallory Caine, Attorney (and Zombie) at Law, has her hands full. Still trying to figure out who killed her then brought her back from the dead, decides to take on proclaimed vampire Traci Ann Johnson's murder

charges. And to top it off, her long lost father appears and is charged in the murder of an undercover police officer. When Mallory gets hungry and upset, she turns into her alter ego, Amanda the prostitute, and goes on the hunt for people with an educated brain.

She goes head-to-head with her ex-boyfriend, Aaron Argula, with Traci's case, but things take an evil turn and twist, and all hell breaks loose...

literally...

Bennett/Bell has a flair of mixing a murder mystery with vampirism and zombism. the plot/story line is beautifully done and holds the reader spellbound. The plot has a subplot which involves Mallory in trying to figure out who was behind her so-called "murder," but she never figures it out. Hopefully Bennett/Bell leaves this open for a sequel.

The characters are enjoyable. Aaron, Mallory, Traci, Etta and others are all well developed and believable. The dialogue between them, especially between Aaron and Mallory, is filled with enough quips and sarcasm, I wonder if Bennett/Bell was in my house before writing this excellent novel.

Now the only question that I need to pose is this: Could the story be just as good if Mallory was NOT a zombie? Could Mallory's character stand up by itself? I believe it could. But would "Pay Me in Flesh" be just as good?

For those that want a quick, summer read, "Pay Me in Flesh" is the book for you.

Jacqui Talbot says

Mallory Caine is not your typical defense attorney. She's a zombie with an appetite for justice...and brains. When her client, a vampire prostitute named Traci Ann is charged with the murder of a corrupt police officer, Mallory takes the case without a second thought. Even though few of her clients are innocent, Mallory knows that Traci Ann didn't kill the cop...because she did. To complicate matters, she has to go head to head in a courtroom battle with a very attractive ex-boyfriend who whets her appetite in more ways than one. Then there's the mysterious sword-wielding zombie killer intent on beheading her along with the rest of her kind. If Mallory dies before she gets her soul back, she goes straight to hell. But she's not going down without a bite.

I fully expected to hate this book because, as you all probably know by now, I am not a fan of zombies. But Mallory isn't your typical zombie. She doesn't slobber, drool, or lurch – she's smart, stylish, and sexy. She has standards. Her first question for potential prey is "Where did you go to school?" The way she sees it, if she's going to eat brain, she'd like it to be relatively intelligent. You can't help but root for her. After all, she never asked to become a zombie, and she hates having to kill to live.

Though I enjoyed this book immensely, I did have a couple of issues with it. One was the cumbersome plot. Bennett left a number of loose threads that will no doubt, be tied up in the rest of the books in the series. Mallory's sarcastic voice, while hilarious, interrupts the narrative flow in some places. It was just too much. But my main issue with this book is that I didn't connect with the protagonist emotionally. Of course, this might be due to the brain-noshing scenes, but I think it's more than that. I never felt that she was in any danger, not even when the zombie killer trapped her in an alley.

Despite all of this, I could not put this book down. It's laugh-out-loud funny, and Bennett keeps the pace moving and throws in enough twists and turns to keep you up all night.

Favorite Line/Image:

A young couple was just emerging from a Lexus in the parking lot.

"LAPD!" I said. "I need your car!"

The guy, looking like some South Bay arm candy, laughed. The girl shook her head.

"I know, that never works," I said. "But watch out for the guy with the sword."

South Bay looked behind him and screamed. The girl screamed.

The guy with the sword screamed.

I was the only one with the decency not to make a girly noise.

Bottom Line: An entertaining romp. Highly recommended.

Jill Williamson says

Here we have Mallory Caine, attorney at law, who also happens to be a zombie. She's not your typical rotting, drooling, walking-like-Frankenstein zombie, though—no one seems to know she's a zombie at all. And her ex-boyfriend is hitting on her, so she must not smell like a zombie.

Her client is accused of murder. But Mallory knows her client—who happens to be a vampire—didn't do it. So it's off to court, where Mallory defends a vampire. Meanwhile, she is trying to find out who tried to kill her, who made her a zombie, and whether or not she can get her soul back.

I SO didn't know what to expect with this book. It was very different. At first I laughed, because it was funny. The voice of this zombie lawyer was great fun. But then she had to eat. And—as I do in all zombie movies—I wanted to look away. *shudder* Because that grosses me out. And it was weird for the hero to be killing people. But I pressed on and came to some hysterical courtroom antics as Mallory takes her case before the judge and has to argue for a fair trial for her vampire client, including only going to court at night, since vampires can't see the sun.

I got a bit grouchy with the bit about Adam's "first" wife, because that's not in any bible I've ever read. But neither are zombies, so I stuck with it. And as the mystery started to unfold, and due to the wonderful writing and quirky characters, I was hooked.

This book is weird. It's not for everyone. But I enjoyed it to the last page. If you love books about lawyers and trials... and if you love zombie stories... you **MUST** give this book a read. And if you're not sure—like I wasn't (because I don't love zombie stories), try the sample chapter and see what you think. You just might be surprised.

Michelle Bearss says

Mallory Caine is a lawyer in L.A. and she also happens to be a highly functioning zombie. Not stumbling around randomly eating anyone who gets in her way, but a fully functioning lawyer who happens to eat brains after work to survive.

Mallory takes a case of a young vampire that has been accused of killing a cop, but Mallory knows she is innocent as it was Mallory that ate his brains. Now she has to prove the vampire is innocent without getting herself caught.

This was a fun easy read with some decent characters. Not what I would have expected from a zombie book.

Merrie Destefano says

Fast-paced, paranormal legal thriller. Lots of fun. Zombie lawyer ends up defending a vampire client. Lots to love in this book!
