



## Deadly Spirits

*E. Michael Helms*

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## Deadly Spirits E. Michael Helms

When PI Mac McClellan's girlfriend convinces him to join the Palmetto Paranormal Society, he becomes embroiled in a case of whodunnit. The society president, while investigating an old hotel, is found dead at the foot of the stairwell, his neck broken. The man's secretary and current squeeze stands horrified beside his body. Authorities rule the death an accident. Mac has doubts—no one heard the man tumbling down the stairs. Then the secretary dies in an apparent suicide. Two deaths in two paranormal investigations, and not a peep out of either victim. Mac suspects there's more going on than a vengeful spirit. Book 4 in the Mac McClellan Mystery series, which began with *Deadly Catch*.

## Deadly Spirits Details

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Author : E. Michael Helms

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# **From Reader Review Deadly Spirits for online ebook**

## **Laura Thomas says**

This is my favorite in the series so far. I think it's because I'm falling more for these characters with each new book. That and there's something a bit more mysterious.

Mac McClellan is branching out from private investigations. His girlfriend talks him into joining the Palmetto Paranormal Society. Now he's ghost hunting. Not one for whimsy, his military background formed him into a no nonsense man, he's skeptical about things that go bump in the night.

It's not long before his lark with the paranormal becomes real. The president of the society is found dead under suspicious circumstances and, as Mac does his thing investigating the death, more bodies start piling up.

Since the dead aren't speaking, Mac investigates the only way he knows how, checking suspects off his list, digging up knew ones (pardon the pun), and stepping on toes. He may not be subtle, but he'll get his man, or woman.

I really like Mac. I admire his discipline and bravery. Adore his affection for his dog, sneaking him human tidbits even though the dog will thank him with odiferous emissions later. And he's quite the ladies man. Though he's not fooled by a pretty cover. He's just as likely to open a ladies door as to grill her when he suspects something fishy. And he doesn't stray from his lady love. Mac knows a good thing when he's got it.

The author gives you a wide variety of suspects and more than one mystery to solve. He puts you in the setting, feeling the humidity of the southern air, smelling the fishy scent of the ocean, and hearing the calls of the soaring gulls. I'm a southern gal and felt right at home. Minus a dead body or two.

There's also plenty of action. Things get burnt up and bullets fly. SSDD for Mac.

If you're looking for a fun detective series with a great storyline, look no further.

I was gifted a copy of this book. My review is voluntarily given.

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## **Sherry Fundin says**

Mac and Kate are back in Deadly Spirits and this time we will be hanging out with the Palmetto Paranormal Society investigating the haunted Navarro Hotel.

I haven't met Mac in person...yet, but seeing as how he hangs around the Florida Panhandle, it may happen. His investigations lead to danger and mayhem. His personality and the fact that he lives in a trailer always makes me think of the Rockford Files and Magnum PI. He's a bit old fashioned where it really matters, loyal and trustworthy. Even a bit of a prude...He even has a Dobie, my favorite breed of dog. So much is familiar to me, marinas, woods, fire towers, lighthouses, hauntings...

Action and mystery abound and Mac is on the case. E Michael Helms always includes some humor and I do

love chuckles with my murder.

The downside to his job, he has a hard time collecting payment before his clients kick the bucket.

Mac has a hard time taking the whole ghost thing seriously, until...the scream. I am a skeptic too. As they walk around with their ghostly equipment and asking the spirits questions, I would be hard put not to crack up laughing.

I loved everything about Deadly Spirits by E Michael Helms. He has included a lot of extras besides the mystery...a critter to fall in love with, a dash of the psychotic and a pinch of the paranormal...a recipe for success.

I love Mac and this is my favorite adventure...so far. Michael has brought him a long way, making him more complex in his simplicity. I can hardly wait for more!

It's New Year's Eve 2016 and between football and the year end fireworks, I cannot quit reading.

I voluntarily reviewed a free copy of Deadly Spirits by E Michael Helms.

See more at fundinmental

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## **Chloe says**

Private Investigator Mac McClellan reluctantly joins his girlfriend Kate in a nightly excursion with the Palmetto Paranormal society. During the trip the society president is found dead at the bottom of the stairs with a broken neck. The death though ruled as an accident raises Mac's suspicions and when more bodies start turning up Mac is convinced there is more at play than the ghostly spirits.

This is the fourth book in the series but can read as a stand-alone. I enjoyed trying to guess who the killer was but got it completely wrong. The dialogue was witty and hilarious and I loved the interaction between Mac and his dog Henry. 4 stars from me for this good old-fashioned mystery with interesting characters.

I would like to thank the author E. Michael Helms for providing me an ARC of this book in exchange for my fair and honest review.

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## **Dianne says**

**Has Mac started investigating the paranormal? E. Michael Helms Presents Another Mac McClellan Mystery - DEADLY SPIRITS Blitz & #Giveaway Click on Banner to Enter - INTL unless stated - Ends March 16, 2017**

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## **Darque Dreamer says**

Deadly Spirits will take you on a mysterious ride full of surprising twists and turns. It is fast paced, unpredictable, and full of excitement! If you love a well written murder mystery, then this one is for you!

Did anyone else read Nancy Drew when they were young? I was reminded of those books while I was reading Deadly Spirits. I really enjoyed this book! It was supposed to be book 4 in the Mac McClellan Mystery Series, but was promised to read like a stand alone, and it certainly did, but it also made me decide to add the first 3 books to my TBR!

So, now that my TBR is 3 books larger, let's talk about Deadly Spirits. It was fast paced and highly entertaining. It had bits of humor, intrigue, and plenty of mystery to go around. It had a well developed plot, captivating writing style, and nice, descriptive world building.

I really enjoyed the interesting plot that involved a murder happening during a paranormal investigation. Talk about spooky! The story really pulled me in and didn't let me go until the last page. It was certainly a "whodunnit" type of plot, and it was very well done.

The writing style was fantastic. I never found myself bored or confused. I was able to picture everything in my mind, and I just couldn't put the book down!

I was really intrigued with Mac's character too. He was brave and determined. He was astoundingly good at his job, and was very likable. But he also had a bit of a wandering eye that made me roll my eyes a few times, so he wasn't unbelievably perfect.

I loved the mystery aspect of the story. I was constantly trying to figure out who the killer was and was trying to put the puzzle pieces together. I loved how the story surprised me and kept me involved until the very end! If the first 3 books in the series are this good, then I may have a new favorite series! 4.5 stars!

Thank you to the author for sending me this free copy in exchange for my honest review!

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## **Susan Hampson says**

Although this is book 4 in the series there was no problem at all reading it as a stand alone as the story is complete. The characters had a natural flow about them and there was enough back drop on who was who and how they fit together all in a very natural way.

Mac McClellan has worked as a PI for the last 2 years after leaving the Marines and 24 years service to his country behind him. This of course makes him a pretty focused guy when he has to be but not today. Today Mac is tagging along with his lovely girlfriend Kate Bell who is a member of The Palmetto Paranormal Society, not that he is a believer in ghosts and such things but simply for Kate.

There isn't anything happening at the once Navarro hotel as far as spiritual activity goes except adding to any spirits already there as Dr. Ernest Bagwell, heading the ghost hunt, is found at the bottom of the stairs very much dead with a broken neck with a very distressed girlfriend at his side. Now Mac's interest is certainly tweaked but this is just the first death in this little band of ghost hunters that are going over to the 'other side' faster than you can say 'Is there anybody there?'

I couldn't help but like Mac with his at times wicked humour and annoying view of every woman he meets.

He just sort of grew on me the further I got into the book, I just couldn't help myself. A real whodunit that uncovers more than a killer. With layers of lies and secrets affairs, it is a very busy entertaining read. A great story, a mystery and light humour too.

I wish to thank the author Michael Helms for my ebook for this story which I have reviewed honestly.

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### **Vicki says**

I am going to start this with, I just Loved Mac. He was clever, a bit of a smart mouth, a lot amazing, and ever so funny. Best part, he was a great Private Detective. I loved everything about this book. The mystery was complex and the clues were interesting while the characters were just really down to earth. This is my first book by E. Michael Helms, but I assure you it will not be my last.

I highly recommend this to any mystery lovers, and if you have a taste for the paranormal, then grab this! Well written, amazing dialog and wonderful mystery.

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### **?Dani? ?Touch My Spine Book Reviews? says**

Wow!!! This book was fantastic and I give it without hesitation 5 out 5 mysterious stars! I had to put this book off for a little bit because I got sick but started reading it last night. I stayed up all night turning pages to this fun mystery until I finished but it was worth the sleepless night! This book made me smile, laugh, gave me the jeepers creepers and warmed my heart. Mac's character is fantastic! He is the epitome of a southern gentleman.

Mac has his faults but he is such a good hearted southern man. I also thoroughly enjoyed his sense of humor and his love for Kate. I agree with many women in this book that Kate is a lucky woman! I also enjoyed Kate's compassionate spirit. Dakota was also a fantastic character with her rugged past but a custom personality fitted with mouth of a sailor. I loved the characterization in Deadly Spirits.

I loved how this book had me turning pages and at the edge of my seat with suspense. This was the perfect novel for the Halloween season. Even though Deadly Spirits is Book 4 in the series, you can definitely read this book as a standalone basis. This book gives you just the right amount of details about the character's past so you don't feel like your missing something.

I will definitely not be reading Deadly Spirits as a standalone. I can't wait until I get the chance to devour the rest of this series! I loved your writing Mr. Helms and Mac's southern chivalrous personality! I will follow you anywhere!??♥

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!?

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### **Dianne says**

**Has Mac started investigating the paranormal? E. Michael Helms Presents Another Mac McClellan Mystery - DEADLY SPIRITS Blitz & #Giveaway Click on Banner to Enter - INTL unless stated -**

**Ends March 16, 2017**

Hard boiled and flip on the outside, soft-hearted and just a good ole' boy on the inside, Mac McClellan is to private investigators what grit is to sandpaper, rough, sometimes abrasive but able to uncover the beauty of truth under all of the lies. Is Mac dabbling in the paranormal? Doesn't he have enough to investigate among the living world? Follow Mac as he uncovers who did the deed of death in **DEADLY SPIRITS** by E. Michael Helms, a ghost story with more ghosts in everyone's closets than in the local cemetery.

Kate convinces Mac to join her at the Palmetto Paranormal Society, a group of amateur ghost hunters whose latest "fieldtrip" takes them to an old hotel, claimed to be haunted. While they found no evidence of ghosts, they did find the Society president dead from a fall, his neck broken and nobody knows what happened? Was he pushed by the spirit of a hotel guest? Or is the evil alive and breathing and ready to kill again? When another member is sent to the other side, Mac is quick to pick up that something foul is afoot and he is determined to keep digging until he uncovers the answers. What he didn't expect was that his digging would find him neck deep in secrets, affairs and the webs people weave, or that he would become the next target for death.

Fear not, our crusty ex-Marine is on the case and this old dog has more lives than a cat on a hot tin roof. To call Mac a character is an understatement! He's a charmer, a good ole boy, a sly fox and nothing gets past his suspicious nature, including the hot women who try to use their wiles to win his favor!

E. Michael Helms blends the grit of old time Private Investigators with the laid back Southern Charm of Florida's Panhandle and pours it all into every word, thought and action that makes Mac, well, MAC! Filled with wry humor, and characters that all smell pretty fishy to me, follow along as Mac does what he does best, noses around like a hound on the hunt for a hidden bone! Mr. Helms can write and as a multi-genre author, he has never let me down yet! Dare I say Mac has his own brand of sex appeal?

I received an ARC edition from E. Michael Helms in exchange for my honest review!

Series: Mac McClellan - Book 4

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Sheila says**

Smooth storytelling, great voice, compelling characters, fascinating plot twists, evocative locations and a perfect balance between resolution and reality make E. Michael Helms' *Deadly Spirits* a thoroughly absorbing and entertaining read. It's the fourth mystery in a series, but it stands alone perfectly, with just enough backstory, naturally told, to create depth and sketch relationships without ever interfering with the story. Mac McClellan is an enjoyably flawed protagonist, loyal, tempted and human. Kate (girlfriend) and

Henry (dog) give him much-needed anchors and assistance. Local cops inspire occasional reluctant loyalty. Local employer inspires amusing dialog. And local ghosts... well, Mac really doesn't believe in ghosts.

The voices, whether serious or fun, are always pitch-perfect. A flask of Scotch offer Mac "spirits I could count on." And the computer presents chances to study suspects online in a story that's as thoroughly up-to-date as it is good traditional fiction. The setting is Florida, where a storm of characters and events might cause as much trouble as the weather. But a link to Oregon, and a very real sense of time's passage, warfare's scars, and love's loyalties, make it a tale for all places and all readers who enjoy mystery. The Mac McClellan books are a great series (I've read two so far), and this one would be a great place to start.

Disclosure: I was given a copy and I offer my honest review.

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### **Ellen Behrens says**

Mac McClellan is at it again -- this time he's not just chasing bad boys and girls, but trying to sort out whether ghosts or pretenders are sending spooky signals from local haunts.

A man will do just about anything for his true love, so when Kate encourages Mac to help the paranormal group she's joined, he reluctantly goes along on one of their nightly excursions. Was that thump Kate heard a spirit -- or the sound of a flesh-and-blood body falling down the steps?

Quicker than you can say "Boo!" Mac's up to his eyeballs in bodies he can see, and those he can't. A bevy of beautiful women befriend him -- but who can he really trust?

I've long admired the way E. Michael Helms can weave a tangled web, filled with plot twists and various colorful characters -- but this, the fourth in the Mac McClellan series, was the reading equivalent of watching the plate spinners who used to mesmerize me on the old Ed Sullivan show: how many more plates and poles could be added before something comes crashing down? And then, miraculously, everything comes to a satisfying end.

Thank you, Mr. Helms, for another great Mac McClellan mystery!

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### **Martie Nees Record says**

I am not usually into books that are a part of a series, or detective stories, which this is, but I respect the author, E. Michael Helms, and agreed to review his novel. I quickly found myself liking the main character PI Mac McClellan, even though he gives his dog beer. This was the give away to me that the novel was written through a male's perspective because it was something my husband used to do to his dog, while I thought it was terrible. Helms has an engaging and very personal writing style. He incorporated his Marine background into his main character, which I especially enjoyed (since I read his memoir "'Proud Bastards: One Marine's Journey from Parris Island through the Hell of Vietnam"). I could hear the author's own voice in this novel, and it is a pleasant voice to get to know.

In this novel, the protagonist's girlfriend is part of a paranormal investigative group which is why this



"whodunit" has ghosts with potential supernatural actions that lead to murders. Our skeptic PI suspects there are more than spirits doing the killing. There are strong shades of Philip Marlowe in this novel. I could almost see Bogie (Humphrey Bogart) with a cigarette between his teeth. Though, I personally found Mac to be more of a soft-hearted tough guy. My only criticism is that the characters seemed one dimensional, but that might be because I haven't read the previous three novels in the series. All and all, this is a good beach book (if you don't mind homicide on your beach) with likable characters and enough twists to keep you guessing. If you are into detective stories, give PI Mac McClellan a try, I do not think you will be disappointed.

I would like to thank the E. Michael Helms for giving me the opportunity to be able to say that he can write and excel in any genre.

Find all my reviews at <https://books6259.wordpress.com/>

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### **Gayle Pace says**

MY THOUGHTS: Are mysteries your thing? Well E. Michael Helms brings Deadly Spirits, a mystery you can't miss. First question is "Who Dunnit?" This PI Mac McClellan book takes place in Florida. Now if you don't believe in ghosts, then switch on your imagination and if you do believe, this is right up your alley. Now the reason Mac has joined the Palmetto Paranormal Society is because of his "woman". She wants to do a little ghost delving with her honey. Seems like Mac perked the group up and things got going a little bit faster. Not that that was a good thing for Mac, for the reader, yes. Bodies, bodies and more bodies start showing up. These seem to be occurring at the haunted Navarro Hotel. That is if you believe in the buildings can be haunted. This was a little of a shock for the Palmetto Paranormal Society. They hadn't seen this much action in a while. But taking a look on the other side is what they're supposed to be all about. Some of the bodies found, well, there could be reasonable explanations for them such as the society's president found at the bottom of a staircase. An Accident? Could very well be. Another a possible suicide? But all of these bodies showing up couldn't be accidents or suicides! Now the author puts you right in the middle of this Paranormal Society and what they are finding. They now have a lot of questions that need answers. Mainly, WHO DUNNIT? The plot is full of twists and turns like a web of deceit that needs untangling. Never a dull moment when Mac is around. There's always danger and lots of action. He lives a lifestyle similar to our lovable character in the Rockford files, trailer and all. Could it be that he lives in that trailer because his clients seem to die before they pay? He has a lot of good qualities that are important, he has a touch of being a bit old fashioned which means a man stands on his principle, he's good for his word and he is strong. I think that's why I like Mac so much. With each book, we learn more about Mac and what makes him tick. The bad thing is, the end comes and it leaves you wanting more of Mac and his life. I'm hoping there's going to be a bit more ghost hunting to come. We are finally left with the question, WHO DUNNIT? Do you know after reading this? Was it human or ghost? Read and find out.

I received a copy of this book from the author and PUYB and voluntarily decided to review it.

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### **Nina Silva says**

This is Book 4 in the Mac McClellan Mystery series. I haven't read any of the previous books and was easily able to pick up with characters and subplots. Some allusions are made to earlier cases but just enough to

whet your appetite for those earlier stories.

Mac is a PI with past military experience. Somehow his girlfriend talks him into joining the Palmetto Paranormal Society. What should be late nights scoping out beaches, parks and possibly haunted buildings with 'ghost hunting equipment', leaves two members dead and one intriguing mystery to be unravelled.

This mystery (light suspense) novel is very well-plotted. The crimes are many, the clues even more abundant and the suspects and motives will keep you guessing. Although I was able to piece together some parts of the mystery, the ultimate culprit and motives were well-hidden. Every time I thought I had a viable suspect pegged, he/she turned out to be a dead end.

There's no doubt that this story is told from a male perspective. We're treated to several descriptions of the delightful female physiology Mac encounters. Yet, he worries about possible interest thrown his girlfriend's way...

This mystery story packed quite a punch. From the first chapter the action begins and the pace doesn't really let up until the end. The twists and turns provide a thrilling ride.

This is a plot driven story and the action keeps the momentum going. I was never bored while reading this book and wanted to get to the next chapter to find out what happens next. Plot twists abound and fully kept my attention.

Best line from the book: "He's about as useless as tits on a boar hog. I'd rather hear it from the horse's ass." Dakota always did have a way with words.

If you're looking for a well-crafted mystery that will keep you guessing to the end, give this one a try.

Disclaimer: I voluntarily reviewed this book at the author's request.

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## **Yesha says**

\*\*\* NOTE: I RECEIVED E-COPY OF THIS BOOK FROM THE AUTHOR, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW. MANY THANKS TO AUTHOR FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE TO READ THIS BOOK. \*\*\*

### **4.5 Stars**

It was a bit tough to review because there was many things going on in the book and not everything can be discussed. Let just say the less you know the more you will enjoy. And I didn't stopped to write notes on this book which is in a way good thing.

Deadly spirits is forth book in Mac McClellan Mystery. It's whodunit murder mystery and thriller with spooky touch and entertaining characters written flawlessly and perfectly executed.

### **Characters-**

There were many characters in this book including suspects and side characters.

Main character Mac McClellan, ex-Marine and private investigator, was smart, sarcastic, skeptic and real

charmer. He had unique voice and narrated story interestingly and made ghostly talk and investigation funny. I loved his relation with his dog, Kate and local police. His investigation style was impressive, he left no stone unturned and was quite a gentleman. I liked the way author represented him and all other characters of the book. They felt realistic.

What I liked-

The beginning was fast and strong. Mac's girlfriend Kate was member of Palmetto Paranormal Society (PPS) and she drags skeptic Mac to their first investigation at haunted hotel where one of the member of PPS dies suspiciously. As story progressed number of victim went high while narrowing down suspects was difficult and brain wrecking that took many character introduction for readers and research for Mac. Author created mind blowing suspense and investigation was written in such a way that it was difficult to pin point main culprit till the end.

I haven't read previous books but I can assure this book can be read standalone. One thing that I noticed that few characters were old and introduced earlier in the series by Mac's relation with them and I might have connected with them better if I read the book in order but anyhow they left quite an impression on me that I would love to see how they met Mac and how they grew with the series.

Investigation part was sometime went fast and then it was steady and smooth then again it turned to fast pace. I really enjoyed all twist and turns. All murder or attempt of murder happening to members of paranormal group kept me thinking who was the murderer and what was the motive, it made the book updownable.

Climax was most interesting of all. There was action and unpredictability, it kept on the edge of the seat. The theory at the end was also interesting with paranormal touch but I felt I wanted more clarity with psychology of murderer.

why 4.5 stars-

I couldn't get the psychology of culprit and real motive behind all the killing and crime (like main character I figured out few reasons at the end but still not the solid one).

Overall, I enjoyed reading this book. It was thrilling, entertaining and will keep your mind busy with whodunit mystery. I recommend this book to all mystery lovers.

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