



Heart Stop

Radclyffe

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Jay (Flash) Reynolds has a brilliant future as a trauma surgeon until an eighteen-wheeler on a rainy night changes her life. Newly appointed chief medical examiner Olivia Price is more at ease with the dead than the living—at least the dead never lie. All she needs to do is listen to their stories. What she doesn't need is a surly new resident who would rather be somewhere else.

Two women, one with a damaged body, the other a damaged spirit, challenge each other to dare to live again.

Heart Stop Details

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Author : Radclyffe

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From Reader Review Heart Stop for online ebook

Rosi says

This is the sixth book of the First Responders series written by Radclyffe. This time the plot focuses on situations within the medical examination department, where the causes of death are determined, instead of going into the frenetic pace of hospital urgencies, which is the usual environment in the medical novels of this author. As usual, too, secondary couples play an important role in the story, sometimes diverting us from the main plot. The medical language is very detailed and profuse, as well as the use of acronyms, this has been a distraction for me sometimes. On the other hand, I have enjoyed very much the romantic story between Jay and Olivia. Although they have a very different background and despite the cold reception that Olivia has with Jay in the beginning, I liked the growing of their attraction, the respect with each other and with their decisions and the final acceptance of their feelings. In general and as always, the book made me have a very good time.

Samantha Luce says

Radclyffe's got a definite way with words. She's excellent with character development and relationships. The two leads are interesting and their romance is one to root for. If you're a fan of her Justice Series you'll be pleasantly surprised to see some of those characters pop up here. If you haven't read that series you might be a little lost, but not enough to wreck the enjoyment of this book.

Netgalley ARC received for an unbiased review.

Agirlcandream says

Heart Stop is the sixth book in the First Responders series and the first one I have read. I was a big fan of the Provincetown and Honor series but never read the Justice series. In hindsight this put me at a big disadvantage reading Heart Stop. There are cameo appearances by many couples from the Justice series. Many. So many that I struggled to keep the many couples straight. Fortunately they all play minor roles and carry the subplot, a subplot which provides the majority of bodies to keep our leading ladies occupied when they are not busy falling in love with each other.

So why would I choose to read a book knowing I would have little knowledge of the majority of the cast of characters? Medical Examiners. Doctors of the Dead. I love me some ME page time. My personal favourites in the fictional world will always be Dr. Li Morris from JD Robb's In Death series and the sexy and secretive Dr. Maura Isles, not the one in the television series, the sultry ME in Tess Gerritsen's Rizzoli and Isles novels. A Medical Examiner rarely gets the spotlight (except in fictional settings) and yet they are tasked with interpreting unexplainable deaths to families and law enforcement. In Heart Stop, Olivia Price, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner fills the bill and then some. It takes a meticulous perfectionist with an excellent sense of deduction and reasoning to see and understand what a body on the gurney is telling them. Olivia is an excellent ME. She is driven and dedicated. Doctors scramble to win a chance at a fellowship to be trained under her excellent tutelage.

Jay Reynolds was a trauma surgeon until a serious accident forced her to step back from the action and pace of the operating theatre and agree to apply for a fellowship with the pathology department. She is as reluctant to force her way into a program which may or may not be suitable to her physical abilities as Olivia is reluctant to replace one of her chosen fellows with Jay. Both women are placed in uncomfortable positions by their friends and associates and choose to make the most of their obligations.

Fans of Radclyffe know her background as a surgeon. They know she writes strong female characters and adds plenty of spice when it comes to sexy time with her couples. Sometimes the focus on medicine can be too detailed and bore the reader. My fascination with ME's had me loving every scene in the morgue and out in the field. Sexy time was still in abundance with the visiting former couples but Radclyffe allowed Olivia and Jay time to find their own connections and build their relationship slowly. I loved their scenes together. You could feel the sexual tension spark between them and for me that is hotter than any between the sheets adventures.

I may have come into this read at a disadvantage not having read the other books in this or the Justice series but I felt I was rewarded with a great read just the same. Olivia and Jay are a strong enough pairing that this can be read as a standalone novel. Seeing the other characters interact may have peeked my curiosity, especially the pairing of Dell and Sandy. Sandy's backstory sounds like a winner.

ARC received with thanks from Bold Strokes Books via NetGalley for review.

Stephanie says

This is the second book in this series I have read. I read the first one and now this one. It's classic Radclyffe. If you like her stuff this won't disappoint!

Well developed nicely executed plot. Interesting setting, nicely developed main characters, hot sex scenes...the list goes on and on.

I received an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Mirtha Siblesz says

Loved it!

Glad to see that this story does not only focus on the two main characters Olivia and Jay but the rest of the cast from the Justice series. I liked Sandy being a police detective now with her background she humanizes the people the interacts with. I also liked that the author brought back two of my favorite characters Ali and Beau. I was hoping they would further input into these stories. Overall, a job well done!

Kernan says

A few months ago I was scouring through Goodreads looking for ff books featuring medical examiners and here's one with two. Radclyffe never goes wrong with doctors as she scores again here. She's portrayed the mystery and the romance equally well. One of her best in recent times.

Heinerway says

I love Radclyffe. I've read everything she has written. So, of course, I had to read her new book asap. Great writing, great characters, great sex scenes, great cameos... but I found the story itself not very interesting.

Tiff says

If you are a Radclyffe fan, you're going to love this one. The romance of Heart Stop has all the right elements. Fantastic main characters, delicious romantic tension, and just enough angst to keep you riveted to the storyline. I adored this book!

Dr. Jay Reynolds is lucky to be alive. An almost life ending accident has changed the direction of Jay's life. Jay was born to be a surgeon. This was her life plan for as long as she can remember. In the blink of an eye, everything has changed. Jay is no longer physically capable of surgery. She can't stand for long periods of time and not to mention the tremor in her hands. A push from a friend Jay changes her medical career into the field of pathology.

Assistant chief medical examiner Olivia Price is 100% the job. She expects excellence not only from herself but everyone around her. Burned by her first love, Olivia has completely written off all aspects of love, nope, this is for others, not for her. She spends her time focusing on the dead, and giving them final respects and answering clues on how they met their end. She is fine with that. Of course, this all changes when a new student, is thrust upon her.

Right off the bat, you have two things, a lot of tension and a lot of attraction. Let me tell you, I loved every second of Jay and Olivia's story. It's interesting, it's hot and Radclyffe gives you just the right amount of push and pull to keep you riveted to their story. Secondly, there is a crime element of this book. If you have followed Radclyffe's books you are going to meet up with a lot of past characters. Rebecca Frye and Catherine Rawlings, Dallon Mitchell and Sandy Sullivan, Dr. Ali Torveau and Beau Cross are all in here somehow connected to our main characters and looking for who a fatal synthetic heroin has ended up on the streets of Philadelphia. I think when you have a book that includes past characters you walk a thin line of whose book is this. Radclyffe does a good job of their cameos tying in directly to the story as a whole.

I always love a Radclyffe book, and this one I must say was a delight. I really, really liked Jay and Olivia's dynamic. 4.25 stars

Alena says

Netgalley

The First Responders series just isn't for me. I've done quite well staying away from it, but this sounded good.

Add to that that characters from the Justice series were resurrected and I was all in.

So yeah... it's a continuation of the Justice plot, but I had conveniently forgotten how much I wanted that series to be over by the end. It had gotten more and more shallow and that was continued here. Sandy and Dell, such an interesting couple, were once more reduced pretty much to sexual interaction, and if not doing it then definitely thinking about it. It's such a shame as these characters have so much more to offer.

I liked the main characters ok. I did enjoy seeing Jay trying to get a handle on her new career. That part fully delivered for me.

One problem I often have with lesfic series is that by the end of it, pretty much all important characters are lesbians. Same here. I can't even specifically say what bothers me about this, but it does.

I don't know what I would have made of this if I hadn't remembered the Justice series as well as I did. I think I might have felt lost with all these characters and plotlines.

Lex Kent says

4 1/2 Stars. I'm a huge fan of Radclyffe, and am always excited to get my hands on one of her books. I especially love some of her earlier series like her Justice series and Provincetown series. When I heard this book was going to be full of Justice series people, I could not wait to read this. I am so happy this book was everything I love about the First Responders and Justice series.

They way the First Responders series is written, each book is it's own story. You can read them in any order. Now this book is a little different, because it is basically Justice Series 6.5 if you count the prequel A Matter of Trust. Can you read this book without reading the Justice Series first? Absolutely. The only problem is you will be learning a lot of new characters, and you will not have the connection to them, like I did reading all the previous books. I did not think Radclyffe would write another Justice book. It really was such a treat to be able connect to these women again. My only small complaint, there was only a little of Sloane and no Michael. Michael and Sloane are one of my favorite lesfic couples, so it was disappointing. I do understand it though, they would not have fit into the story as well, I still wanted a Micheal cameo though.

Beyond the Justice Series folks, the main story focuses on Jay and Olivia. Jay, if my memory is correct, was a secondary character in Trauma Alert, First Responders book 1. There are also a few appearances from Ali and Beau. You would not have to read that book first, and to add, it was nice to see Ali again. Anyway, Olivia is a new character, as far as my memory remembers. She is the Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, and takes her job very seriously. When Jay, a former trauma surgeon, shows up in her office for a job, Olivia thinks she is unqualified. Pressure from the top lands Jay the job. Can Jay handle the job? And can they keep working together despite the fierce attraction?

One of the things I enjoy about Radclyffe's writing, is her characters. She is really good at crafting characters that you would either want to hang out with or date. What was great about Olivia and Jay, their chemistry was off the charts. I mean totally smoking hot the two of them. I have not read that much chemistry in a while. The sex scenes were pretty intense also.

Not only was the chemistry and romance good, the overall story was good. I was riveted with all the medical examiner scenes. I never thought I would say that, but it was so damn interesting. With shows like CSI,

crime scene techs get all the glory. But medical examiners are just as important, and I was extremely interested in all their scenes. They were very well written.

Overall, this book checked all the boxes that I look for in a good read. A great romance with an interesting storyline, that kept me turning the pages. I wish there could somehow be a sequel with all these same characters. I want more of the medical examiners, and the Justice crew. This is an easy book for me to recommend.

An ARC was given to me by BSB, for a honest review.

namericanwordcat says

If you love medical romances, you have to pick this book up. Right now. I don't love medical romances but the procedural, crime, and medicals parts of the plot were riveting.

Flash and Olivia are both driven and brilliant in this romance between a disabled trauma surgeon and a workaholic medical examiner. Brains and talent are hella sexy.

This admiration for fierce and exacting spirits is clearly the love song between these two. The sexy times are very hot but we don't get much of them as they have work to do.

If you are a fan of this series you will love all the chapters in past couples points of view. It is seamless and well written.

This is my first book in the series so while I liked those chapters I wanted more couple time with the main characters. I also want more romance and intimacy (emotional and physical). Olivia's backstory and how it actually plays out in a relationship for example.

Looking the the other books in the series, I can see the romances are followed over several books. This kind of plotting is not my favorite but the writing here is excellent and I would highly recommend this writer.

I was given this book for my honest review. So, there you have it.

Diane Wallace says

'Netgalley ARC provided by The Publisher in exchange for an unbiased review'

Likable read!

Radclyffe created a storyline/series that is filled with erotic sex scenes, medical references/scenery and violent drug confrontations that could easily fit into a movie scene or film. This author never holds back on the things or the style in which she writes because she is as descriptive as ever in this book and even down to

her long detailed in the plotline. Furthermore her writing style has always been about the senses; you can hear, feel, taste and see everything that is going on. There are lots of different relationships at play in this storyline which I had a bit of a hard time keeping track of all their home lives never mind that this story lacks something like maybe chemistry and energy between all the cast. I had so many unanswered questions at the end:- like the hetero relationship one of the main character had in the past (I'm scratching my head with that part of the story)

Kennedy says

What was most enjoyable was a coming together of some of my favorite characters/couples from other reads doing what they do best which is their passion for life, their dedication to the women they love and their determination in regard to their work. Life after an unfortunate tragedy gives us a bright light into what is possible with an attitude adjustment and outside encouragement. Jay Reynolds needs a reason to carry on with her medical career and what a strong group of supporters she has. Olivia Price is beating herself up and leading a solitary life. When Olivia and Jay meet, it is a wonderful coming together of two people that need each other.

Read provided by Bold Strokes Books via NetGalley.

Jane Shambler says

I really enjoyed this book. I only picked it up last night and I just could not put it down. It has a bit of everything. The main characters are very realistic, the chemistry between the two main characters is hot and there is just enough angst in there to give it a realistic feel.

The two main characters are Dr Jay Reynolds who has been in a horrific car accident and is looking to changing careers from a successful Trauma surgeon to a career in pathology. Then you have Dr Olivia Price who is an extremely excellent Assistant Chief Medical Examiner. She is an extremely serious person who is dedicated to her job and her expectations are high for not only herself but for those she works with. She was also betrayed by her first love. She decided long ago that was no longer in her future.

Now the two meet in unusual circumstances of Jay being fast tracked on to her pathology programme. And the angst begins between the two main characters. Sexual tension and attraction starts. The two are like chalk and cheese. I can not say much more because I want you to enjoy it as much as I.

Also, you get to meet some old friends from the Justice series Rebecca Frye, Sloan, Catherine, Jason, Dell, Sandy and not forgetting Watts. Also Ali Torveau and Beau Cross. They all play very good cameo roles in an exciting and entertaining book. Radcliffe has been able to incorporate these characters as part of the main story. She does it with ease as well. You find yourself missing them. I guess Ali plays the most influential of the characters. You also get a brief glimpse of our favorite CSI Dee Flanagan.

I really enjoy Radcliffe. But this has something extra. I think it's the way she incorporated the Justice series as a backdrop to this story. Radcliffe never ceases to amaze me. Always a new angel. I gave this 5 stars. I can not wait for more. Enjoy!

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

Review of Heart Stop by Radclyffe

This book is number 6 in the First Responders series but it is also a continuation of the Justice series. The reader can catch up with some of the most iconic characters of that series (Frye, Dell, Sandy, Sloan, among others) along with Ali Torveau and Beau Cross of First Responders # 1 Trauma alert. Despite the "old" characters, Heart Stop can be read as a stand alone book. However, this book is so much than that as it introduces the reader to the lives of Dr Jay Reynolds, a former surgeon who had to switch her career to Medical examiner as a result of an accident, and her boss, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner Olivia Price. The plot follows their attraction and budding romance together with the investigation of a dangerous war between two crime organisations. Radclyffe balances the thriller and romance elements of the plot with her usual expertise and keeps the reader on the edge until the end that promises more contributions of Rebecca Frye's team.

My only criticism is that the book blurb doesn't describe the mystery/action aspect of the plot (though the cover gives a hint). The publisher only categorises it as a contemporary romance.

Overall, a very good mystery and romance read. 4.5 stars

ARC provided by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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