

<<Deadly Decisions (精装)>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<Deadly Decisions (精装)>>

13位ISBN编号：9784340079988

10位ISBN编号：4340079987

出版时间：2001年3月1日

出版时间：The Washington Square Press

作者：Kathy Reichs

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内容概要

Nine-year-old Emily Anne Toussaint is shot dead on a Montreal street. A North Carolina teenager disappears from her home and parts of what may be her skeleton are found hundreds of miles away. For Dr. Temperance Brennan, a forensic anthropologist in both Montreal and North Carolina, the deaths kindle deep emotions that propel her on a harrowing journey into the world of outlaw motorcycle gangs.

As a scientist, Tempe should remain dispassionate. As a caring individual, she yearns to take the killers off the streets. With her boss Pierre LaManche in the hospital, and her friend Andrew Ryan disturbingly unavailable, Tempe begins a perilous investigation into a culture where evil often wears masks.

From blood-splatter patterns and ground-penetrating radar to bone-sample analysis, *Deadly Decisions* triumphantly combines the authenticity of a world-class forensic professional with the narrative power of a brilliant new crime-writing star in a richly nuanced thriller. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Reichs is coming on strong", says the *New York Daily News* of author Kathy Reichs whose bestsellers *Deja Dead* and *Death du Jour* have been main selections of the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Literary Guild, translated into more than twenty languages, and sold to television for a major series. With *Deadly Decisions*, Reichs brings her cutting-edge scientific knowhow and unique storytelling power to a novel both poignant and terrifying. Emily Anne Toussaint, nine years old, is shot dead on a Montreal street. A North Carolina teenager disappears from her home, and parts of her skeleton are found hundreds of miles away. For Tempe Brennan, who, like Reichs, is an acclaimed forensic anthropologist in both Montreal and North Carolina, the deaths act as catalyst, propelling her deep into the bizarre culture of outlaw motorcycle gangs, where one misstep could bring disaster.

Rich with the authenticity that only Kathy Reichs can provide, from bomb blasts to blood splatter patterns, *Deadly Decisions* is a tour de force from a brilliant new crime writing star.

Critics (and publicists) often compare Reichs to Patricia Cornwell, as both are women who write bestselling thrillers featuring a female forensic expert. There's a significant difference between them, though. Reichs brings to her grisly novels a scientific detail and authenticity that Cornwell rarely matches. A virtue arising from Reichs's background as a top forensic anthropologist for the governments of North Carolina and Quebec, a background mirrored by that of her heroine, Tempe Brennan. But Cornwell, a journalist before she turned novelist, is a more accomplished writer than Reichs, and her more fluid prose and plotting support a heroine who exudes a vitality that Brennan doesn't. Reichs's strengths and weaknesses are apparent in this third novel (after *Death du Jour*) featuring narrator Brennan, which finds the crime fighter tangling with outlaw motorcycle gangs in Montreal. The novel opens as Brennan, "sorting badly mangled tissue" in an autopsy room, is interrupted by the arrival of another body: that of a girl, nine, caught by a bullet that one gang, the Heathens, had intended for a rival Viper. The mangled tissue belongs to two Heathens who'd been en route to bomb the Vipers' headquarters: war is raging among bikers in Montreal, and Brennan is soon caught in the battles, not least because her visiting nephew, Kit, is enamored with bikers, including some involved in the war. The narrative carries Brennan to assorted bikers' hangouts, and to much forensic digging, all of which Reichs handles with an admirable intensity and veracity. Still, the novel has a stiff, storyboarded feel, with a subplot involving Brennan's cop lover, who has he turned gang member? A particularly intrusive. The pacing is lopsided, laborious in front and action-stuffed at the back, and the narrative spreads its message about the malfeasance of outlaw bikers with a heavy hand. Overall, the novel works, but the gears show one time too many. Agent, Jennifer Rudolph Walsh at the Writer's Shop. Major ad/promo; 6-city author tour. (July)

Adult/High School-Tempe Brennan becomes involved when two motorcycle gangs declare war, plot revenge, and leave an innocent child caught in the crossfire. Tempe sorts out new and old murders, ties together clues in Montreal and North Carolina, and worries that her visiting nephew is becoming involved with the gangs. Competent young adult readers will enjoy the information on motorcycles and will relate to the nephew. However, there are many characters, victims, and police organizations to keep straight. Reichs explains the latter in context,

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but then refers to them with abbreviations. Abounding in grisly details, this novel is sure to please Reichs's fans.-Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA

Abridging Reichs's complex books, rich in detail, would seem to be a daunting task. It has nevertheless been accomplished here (by George Truett), retaining the book's story, spirit, and impact. Katherine Borowitz's precise and evocative narration complements Tempe Brennan's latest, a foray into the world of biker groups, violent death, and dealing with a sometimes difficult nephew as a houseguest in her home in Quebec. Borowitz's reading of French phrases is perfectly voiced, and she makes real a range of complex characters--from outlaw bikers to French-Canadian police. As Tempe works to identify the skeleton of a young girl and find out who is apparently threatening her, Borowitz crafts a flawless performance that brings the listener totally into Tempe's life. M.A.M. Winner of AUDIOFILE Earphones Award.

Crime writer Reichs is amazing! Once again, readers will be eager to learn the grisly details of how her forensic anthropologist heroine, Dr. Tempe Brennan, teases information from the bones of mutilated, decomposed, often animal-gnawed human bodies. Here, Tempe is outraged at the death of a child in a war among bikers vying for the Quebec province drug trade, and she joins the investigation. Tension mounts as she becomes embroiled in the rivalries of outlaw motorcycle gangs, "the mafia of the new millennium." The case becomes more complex as another biker is killed and the death and dismemberment of a teenage girl years before in North Carolina are linked to the Quebec biker mayhem. Then Tempe's Harley-riding nephew from Houston gets involved, revving up the plot as the tale speeds across the finish line to a satisfying conclusion. The author of the best-selling *D j Dead*, Reichs roots her skillful storytelling in her own experience as forensic anthropologist in both Montreal and North Carolina. Highly recommended for all public library fiction collections.

-DMolly Gorman, San Marino, CA

Beautiful, cosmopolitan Montr é al has the distinction of hosting the last active biker war in North America. Consulting forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance Brennan, brought up once more from North Carolina to help separate the bodies of a pair of identical twin Heathens blown up by their own bomb, is on hand when a Viper informant leads the S?ret é to a field where two much older bodies are buried--together with the skull and leg bones of Savannah Osprey, a hydrocephalic teen who disappeared from North Carolina in 1984, and whose body has long since been laid to rest back home. What are her missing parts doing in Pointe-St-Charles, and how is she connected to the slain bikers? As Tempe (*Death du Jour*, 1999, etc.) applies her customary expertise to these problems, problems are piling up on the home front as well. Her main squeeze, Lt. Andrew Ryan, has been arrested for dealing drugs, and her visiting nephew, Kit Howard, is infatuated with two equally unsuitable role models: the bikers whose equipment he's fascinated by, and Lyle Crease, the smarmy newscaster who's using him to get to Tempe. By the end, the body count has risen so high that it scarcely registers--replaced by forensic examinations of body parts, blood spatters, and old photos as centers of dramatic interest--and the mystery itself (whodunit, when, how, and why?) is shapeless in all but its broadest contours. Still, fans will be hooked by those ghoulish stints in the lab, the penny-dreadful chapter endings, and the endless flow of acronyms that prove what a tough cookie Tempe is. (Author tour)

Temperance Brennan is a forensic anthropologist with one of the longest commutes in fiction--from North Carolina to Montreal. She works in both places, and in this third outing (after *D é j à Dead* and *Death du Jour*) she manages to make a riveting (if a bit too coincidental) connection between a skull in Montreal and the partial skeleton of a teenager--dead since 1984--in North Carolina. Linking them is a 9-year-old girl shot on a Montreal street, the victim of a war among members of an outlaw motorcycle gang in eastern Canada. Another piece of the puzzle is provided by Tempe's visiting nephew, who is fascinated by the biker culture and is drawn into the mystery Tempe's trying to solve:

"Know anything about Slick?" asked Kit.

"He doesn't look like the pick of the litter."

"Yeah, even from that motley litter." He flipped the picture. "Heck, this guy croaked when I was 3 years old."

There were two more photos of Slick's funeral, both taken from a distance, one at the cemetery, the other on the

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church steps. Many of the mourners wore caps riding their eyebrows, and bandannas stretched to cover their mouths.

"The one you've got must be from a private collection." I handed Kit the other pictures. "I think these two are police surveillance photos. Seems the bereaved weren't anxious to show their faces."

The science is as accurate as the author can make it. Kathy Reichs's own background--as forensic anthropologist for the chief medical officer of North Carolina and director of forensic anthropology for the province of Quebec--ensures verisimilitude of place and procedure and creates a believable milieu. Fans of Patricia Cornwall will enjoy this solidly written suspense thriller, while those of a less scientific bent, who don't mind a somewhat lagging pace, will skip the details and concentrate on Reichs's fluid writing. All readers will enjoy the way Tempe puts the pieces of the puzzle, as well as the bodies, together.

--Jane Adams

Kathy Reichs is forensic anthropologist for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of North Carolina, and for the Laboratoire de Sciences Judiciaires et de M é decine L é gale for the province of Quebec. A professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Reichs divides her time between Charlotte and Montreal. Her first novel, *D é j à Dead*, brought Dr. Reichs fame when it became a New York Times bestseller and won the 1997 Ellis Award for Best First Novel. *Deadly D é cisions* is her third novel featuring Temperance Brennan. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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