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Dead Again: Dark Dreams: (The Dead Again Series, Book 1)



Synopsis

Joan Portman's nightmares are killing her – literally. Each evening, this troubled seventeen-year-old meets a painful demise in one of three horrific ways – by bullet, by fire or by attack of a pack of ferocious beasts. So authentic are these dreams, that Joan resorts to cutting herself upon waking, just to prove she's still alive. Tired of her meds and weary of being misunderstood, Joan accompanies her family on a European excursion in hopes of breaking this crazy cycle. But matters soon go from strange to surreal when Joan is thrust back in time in each country she visits – at once realizing that her frightening nightly visions are actually genuine memories of her former lives. Now, forced to re-live her harrowing experiences as a female gladiator in ancient Rome, a prisoner of Auschwitz in WWII Germany, and as heroine Joan of Arc in medieval France, Joan believes she may finally be able to put this torment behind her. But the key to Joan's recovery may lie in a final act of bravery – one that will require her to risk her life once again, and this time it just may be her last.

Reviews "In this work of historical juvenile fiction, the writing is very descriptive and imaginative which helps to keep the reader's interest. This is the first book in a series. The dreams can be quite dark almost disturbing at times, but interesting! An enjoyable piece of fiction!" – Best-Selling Author Rev. Dr. Kevin T. Coughlin Ph.D. <http://www.revkevsrecoveryworld.com/>

"This book sheds light on a very sensitive topic: teen self mutilation. Linda Cousine handles this subject in a very careful manner, and she obviously did her research. This time travel fiction story is bursting with stories of the bravest, most kick-butt teens in history: Joan of Arc, a teen prisoner of Auschwitz, Lady Jane Gray, and a teen gladiator of Ancient Rome. She had me at "time travel" and "Europe"! As soon as I read the description, I knew I had to read this, and I'm so glad I did. If you like exploring the meaning of strange dreams or ever wonder what it would be like to live in another century, this book is for you." Ashley Emma, bestselling author of Fearless Author and Undercover Amish www.ashleyemmaauthor.com

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Customer Reviews

"Dead Again: Dark Dreams" is the thriller I've been looking seeking for a while. Joan is an ordinary Midwestern high school student on the surface, but deep inside and on her wrists, she is scarred. The book starts out explaining the daily troubles of Joan's life- anxiety, depression, and a series of nightmares that leaves her feeling with no choice but to be a cutter- just to remind herself that she is alive. Her harsh dreams turn into nightmares- very intense and elaborate- to the point where she realizes that they are her former lives. If you allow yourself to play along and not question the reality, you will see that Linda Rey delivers an incredibly suspenseful novel that will make you eager to learn what is next. I enjoyed her prose and cannot wait for the next book in the series!

“Dead Again: Dark Dreams: (The Dead Again Series, Book 1)” by Linda Rey, is a standout when it comes to offering a unique spin on the Dark Thriller / Young Adult genre. This first installment in the ongoing “Dead Again” series follows a troubled and misunderstood seventeen-year-old named Joan as she travels with her family through Europe in the hopes of ending the series of vivid dreams that keeps putting her in situations that result in her death and demise. Without spoiling any major plot points, the story develops into interesting areas that introduce the theme of experiencing former lives and reliving the most horrific moments within each of these lives. I have always been intrigued by the belief of past lives and love how the author uses this as the driving force or "gimmick" through the story. Most of what happens in this fast-paced, original, and always intriguing book is done in a way that compels you to keep reading and trying to discover all the mysteries that the author presents to you. One

aspect that I particularly enjoyed is how mundane and ordinary the book portrays Joan as it starts out. Linda Rey does a great job setting up Joan's personality and daily life that involves hot topic issues such as teen anxiety, depression, medication, and having experiences that cause the main character to resort to being a cutter. These might seem like topical devices used for the sake of differentiating this protagonist out from any others, but I thought this aspect of the character was done respectfully and authentically. Never once did any of these elements of the story come off as a gimmick used to exploit current issues. I also enjoyed how the author constantly increases the suspense by upping the ante and giving more twists than I expected when first going in. Linda Rey's writing is consistently good that provides unique and realistic voices to all her characters. For the first time in a long while, I'm excited to hear this book is an ongoing series. Rarely do I ever find a story that is well developed and provides an interesting enough set-up within the first entry to deserve a standalone series, but *Dead Again: Dark Dreams* is the exception. I am very excited to see what's in store for the second book in this series and look forward to many more books by Linda Rey!

Some may find this book very disturbing to read and it takes you to a very real place that some people struggle with in life. I find that by incorporating the nightmares that make Joan cut herself really brings the story together and makes you understand why she does it. I find it very unnerving to think every time I closed my eyes at night I would find myself facing a different way I die. I like how the author is able to transport you to the different historical points in history and really make you feel that Joan was there. I couldn't even begin to understand what would have been going through her head to see the things she saw and try to make sense of it all, only having to result in cutting myself to actually feel and know I was in reality. In times of struggle and uncertainty, it is good to have someone on your side. I found it a relief that at least her sister believed her and was on her side. I was upset that her parents took the role of not believing her or couldn't understand what she was going through. I guess it would be hard to explain to your parents about reliving past life experiences through your dreams. I think this shows in real-life how someone who may be struggling with an illness and finds cutting themselves for release would have naysayers who would be doing more harm than good. Joan took a chance by getting rid of the things that were hurting and holding her back and in the end found that by facing this scary journey she was able to overcome and finally live. This is definitely a good read, although uneasy at times and was difficult for me to put down. Ms. Rey keeps you wanting to go further into the story and see it to the end. I am certainly looking forward to reading other novels by Linda Rey.

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