



## Love and Decay 2, Episode One

*Rachel Higginson*

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Zombies- as if that wasn't enough to ruin any girl's dream of a happily ever after.

In the last two years, Reagan Willow has survived Zombies, kidnapping, being held prisoner, more Zombies, car crashes, a dangerous stalker, no showers and most importantly Zombies. Life is complicated in the Zombie Apocalypse but Reagan is surrounded by friends that have become family, a settlement she can trust and a man that would do anything to keep her alive.

Last spring, Kane Allen tried to take Reagan away from all those people she's come to love so fiercely. She escaped, though, and in the aftermath of that traumatic experience, she's learning to live with the guilt and consequences of her actions.

Life has moved on since Kane and his father Matthias attacked the compound, but that doesn't mean it's been any safer.

On a routine supply-run, Reagan finds out exactly how unsafe she is

Reagan may have survived Kane's captivity, but can she escape a Zombie ambush or retaliation from The Colony? Matthias promised war, and he's keeping his word.

The Zombie Apocalypse has never been so dangerous.

Love and Decay, Episode One is the first episode in Season Two of a novella series in a Dystopian Romance about Zombies, the end of the world and finding someone to share it with.

This story takes place over multiple episodes, with a release date every two weeks. Approximately 20,000 words.

## **Love and Decay 2, Episode One Details**

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## From Reader Review Love and Decay 2, Episode One for online ebook

### Leanne Crabtree says

I love this series so much! I'm glad Rachel continued it :)

She's done such a good job of writing a post apocalyptic world consumed by zombies, with few humans remaining, and with main characters that have managed to find love.

I still love all the characters!

One thing, though. Why won't Kane die?! He's crazy and unkillable (not sure that's a word but oh well) no matter what they do to him.

Looking forward to reading the next instalment!

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### Jocelyn says

The twists have already begun and I wasn't even buckled yet!

Now, I have been an avid reader of the Love and Decay novella series since minute one, so you would think I would be sufficeintly prepared for the no stop action, suspense, and butterfly inducing romance, but it seems that I just will never learn. For some reason this one threw me even more than the ones before but I am anxiously (and by anxiously, i mean gnawing at the bit) for the this friday when the next one comes out - thank heavens \*hallelujah\* this novella series has a new episode every two weeks!

If you haven't already joined in for the ride, get Love and Decay volume one and join me, you won't regret it!

[and remember, this is coming from the girl who HATES everything zombie!!!]

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### Ashley says

#### **I LOVE this novella series!!**

I can't believe I let myself get so far behind. I didn't realize how much I missed these characters until I started reading again!

*I was not the kind of woman that paced in front of a fireplace for hours, wringing her hands and worrying about her man.*

*Oh, no. I was the kind of girl that strapped on a semi-automatic, and a sawed off and blew the head off anything that tried to come near her man.*

*I didn't play homemaker. I played backup. That was the only love language I could speak.*

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### **Kelly says**

ARC Review:

While Episode One came in a spatter of blood and bullets, Episode Two was a fast paced psychological thriller that will have you gritting your teeth and holding your breath.

At the end of Episode One, Kane left Reagan a little "gift". The very knife she stabbed him with, effectively shattering any illusions of safety she may have felt in the compound. She chooses to keep this from Hendrix in fear of pulling him further into Kane's sick obsessive games.

In the meantime, Tyler is consumed with the difficult task of rescuing her little brother, Miller from the clutches of their sadistic father. Of course this group would never let one of their own get into any danger without backup, so they venture out to scout Matthias' camp. If you know Rachel, you know that these errands never go smoothly (what's the fun in that?) This particular outing is no exception....

Episode Two may not have much blood but there's plenty of tension, jealousy accusations and passion to hold you captive until the end.

I really like that Rachel took the time to dive into the character's psyches to reinforce their core values in a soulless world. Love is tested with the impurity of doubt and jealousies. Friendships are fortified amidst the ever present stench of death. And the sanity of one man, threatens to overshadow them all....

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### **L. says**

I REFUSE TO BELIEVE KANE IS STILL ALIVE I. R E F U S E.

I feel like the only person that 100000% refuses to put up with that character. No sympathy at all. He's fucked and I was so proud of Reagan for what she did at the end of season one but DAMMIT CAN HE JUST DIIIE?!?!?

Hendrix and the boys being cute as always and holy fuck zombie intensity, it keeps getting crazier. Terrified and excited for season two. NOW DIE KANE.

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### **Lisa marie says**

Great start to season 2, jumps right in with the action and sucks you in. Wish the episodes were longer

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## **Sara says**

This series gets my heart just a racing! When the action starts, sometimes I am afraid to read on. But I do, and it is so stinkin' wonderful! I never thought I'd like a zombie series, but I LOVE this one. Rachel Higginson has started season 2 off with a bang, and the only suck is I have 2 weeks until the next one.

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## **Deanna says**

This episode is my favorite so far. And that's saying a lot because I **LOVED** the last episode of the first season. That episode was amazing!

But so was this one.

Honestly, this novella series is just so brilliant and so exciting all the time that I can never be bored or disappointed with it. It's just fabulous, really.

This new season began with Reagan dreaming...

*"You're bleeding," I whispered as I finally met the fathomless gray depths of his haunted eyes behind thick black-framed glasses.*

Yes!!!! You know what those glasses mean, don't you? Gah! My heart started racing when I read that. I thought Reagan was dreaming about Hendrix. But it was Kane! Yay! I'm cool with him just being present in Reagan's dreams for a while. After stabbing him and shooting him last season, I would be surprised if Reagan wasn't affected by what she did to him.

I swear, every chapter, every line of this novella was spectacular. I couldn't get enough of it. I know I already gave away the little Kane dreaming bit at the beginning so I should probably keep from saying anything more, but can I just say how much I love all of these characters?

I feel like I say that every time, but I truly do love them all. Including Tyler. I wasn't a Tyler fan once upon a time, but now I really feel like she is a part of the whole Parker family. (And by "Parker family" I mean all the Parkers, Reagan, Haley, Tyler, and Miller. They are all one giant family and I love it.)

(view spoiler)

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## **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

*It was hard to believe in God when the world around me resembled hell so strongly. But then there were moments like this. There were situations I survived when I shouldn't have. There were minutes added to my life that should not exist. There were miraculous drives home in which a vehicle this beat up should not have made it- but it did. And I did. I continued to breathe, to think, to live. I continued to survive despite this decay, despite this horrid death that crept into every part of my existence but my own life and the lives of those people I loved most.*

\*\*\*\*

Oh glorious day! I am thrilled beyond belief to be back in Higginson's wonderful world of zombies. I was over the moon when asked if I wanted to read an ARC of season 2 episode 1. Um, would riots ensue if Daryl was killed on The Walking Dead? Hell to the yes! I jumped at the chance to read an ARC. I have missed these people something fierce. Especially Reagan and Hendrix. Hallelujah! It is about time these books returned!

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*Because as much as Hendrix loved me. And the boy absolutely did love me... He wouldn't hesitate to put a bullet right into my temple if I happened to get bit.*

*And that, my dear End-of-the-World survivors, was true, everlasting love.*

\*\*\*\*

Life is somewhat better since we last heard from everyone. Meaning it is stable for the time being. The threat of Matthias is still present. But life continues. No one knows for certain if Kane is dead or alive. No one has seen him when out scouting. But no news doesn't necessarily mean good news.

I really wasn't expecting this book to be all that intense. I was actually thinking that Higginson would just give us all a read that slowly got us back into the groove of things in their zombie infested world. Kind of a 'here is what's been going on update' kind of story. Yeah, so not happening. From the start to the very end the story was absolutely crazy. The story was intense (as usual). And the story was amazing (as usual). I loved every minute of it and so glad to be back with everyone again.

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*I was the kind of girl that strapped on a semi-automatic, and a sawed-off and blew the head off anything that tried to come near my man.*

*I didn't play homemaker. I played backup. That was the only love language I could speak.*

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Another must read episode to an all new season!! I am so glad it is back and give mad props to Higginson for bringing it back with a bang!!

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## **Donna says**

I just love this series, the characters, Reagan, Haley and the Parker Brothers Hendrix and Vaughn and the others. A romance or two going on in the midst of a zombie apocalypse. There is a bit of humor and it is just a well written exciting fast moving story.

Each episode in the series is not long, about 80-90 pages long but only cost 99 cents each and they are worth it for sure. I am totally hooked and am on episode two now of Season Two. You can get the first Season episodes 1-6 for \$3.99 but I couldn't wait.

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### **Lenore Kosinski says**

What just happened?? Seriously, sometimes I just want to slap Reagan so hard.

OK, this episode started off a little slower since it contained a bit of a recap -- which is totally necessary if you hadn't just finished reading the first season, but made me want to hurry it up a bit. But it really doesn't last long at all and we're right back into the thick of things. And it gave us a chance to see how things had been progressing since we last saw our pack of heros.

I can honestly say I didn't see the developments of their raid coming. I mean, I should have. But wow. Just when you think that things can't get much worse than the usual feeder attacks, Ms. Higginson throws in a wrench. Definitely kept me on the edge of my seat.

But then we got to the end. And perhaps Lenore is going to reserve judgement until she reads the next episode, but she was not pleased with the way Reagan handled a certain something. Grrr.... (and yes, I did just refer to myself in the 3rd person).

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### **Cassandra Mello says**

Cute one with a really graphic zombie scene which was, yes kind of icky, haha but well written!!! I did squeamishly close my eyes a few times while reading, haha. I don't quite know what's happening with the Kane angle, it's being teased out a bit. Anyway, I'm glad this is back. I'm excited to see what POVs we will get this season :)

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### **Shannon Deberry says**

Season one is a must read for anyone who has not picked up this series. And this is Episode one season two. While safe in the compound , Reagan keeps having reaccuring dreams about the last run in with Kane. With what happened she feels he must be dead, but these dreams keeps him in her thoughts. Her love continues to grow with Hendrix in whom she finds security and peace.

Hendrix and Reagan are asked to go out scouting and to gather supplies, but also asked to take a couple of other's from the compound who need the experience.

I mean things are bad enough in the zombie world but those who may not be able to help in a confrontation, yikes! The group comes into a building with supplies , and they are about ready to enter when they realize, that its a trap. Well organized, something is coating the floor. Hendrix gives the orders for them to leave, and the new guy says we cant leave this,steps out and immediately lands on his back and cracks his head, blood , yep , and here come the zombies.

This was a set up and the group is sure of it, they need to make it out of here, they need to get back to the compound.

Once back Reagan finds a note on her bed, she opens it and her heart fills with dread, its from Kane. Great first episode for a new season.

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### **Kelly says**

Rachel brings us back into her post apocalyptic world baptized in blood. Seriously y'all prepare yourselves, Love and Decay starts with tons of blood and doesn't slow down. As always, Rachel picks up right where she left us just in case you're super ADHD (like me). All coming from Reagan's point of view makes this recap not only entertaining but very sarcastic. Are y'all ready to jump back into the Parker's blood and gut covered zombie world?

After escaping death and Kane (not sure which is worse, although Kane is a hottie) Reagan is dealing with the emotional trauma that comes after dealing with a crazy person. Meanwhile, the Parkers and the girls are trying to live life as close to normal as possible in the safety of Gabe's compound. Rachel, as always, is a pro at adding little nuggets of sweetness into the misery of zombie life. Look for Hendrix comforting Reagan and pledging his love to her \*sigh\* and of course the hilariously dry comments from Harrison.

It's Reagan, Haley, Hendrix and Nelson's turn to go on a supply run. Gabe gives them a map and what starts off as a normal outing turns out to become a nightmare. Everything goes according to plan until the group reaches the grocery store. What they thought was an odd smell turned out to be a deadly new weapon. They narrowly escape the store only to face a deadly roadblock.

Reagan just wants to get back to the comfort of the compound and take a nice hot shower. Just when she's able to relax and feel safe, Reagan receives a little "gift" that shakes her to the core and makes her question the safety of her new home.

### **What I Thought:**

WOW!!! Rachel is truly in her element with this book! Love and Decay is a fast paced, grip your iPad thrill ride you hope never ends! I didn't realize how much I missed all these characters until I was able to rejoin them in their exciting adventure. Rachel has a way of grabbing the reader by the shirt and yanking them into her story and not letting them go until the very end, which always ends in a HUGE cliffhanger by the way!!

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### **Caylie says**

\*\*I received this as an ARC, in return for an honest review\*\*

### **What the eff?!?**

If this is how season 2 starts off, I am terrified of how the rest of the season will go.

Honestly, this episode started off a little slow for me. It was basically a recap of season 1. I thought that may

be all there was going to be to this episode.

WRONG!!!!

Holy hell. A routine raiding trip that goes very.much.wrong.

I couldn't even read fast enough... My heart was beating like crazy in fear that Rachel would kill off a beloved main/semi main character... I'm looking at you Star-Crossed series!!!

Ahem.... Sorry. Got off track. But I wouldn't put anything past Rachel anymore!

Also... The ending?! What.the.hell?!? How did that get there?!? Ugh!!!

Anyway... Amazing way to kick off season 2! Can't wait for the next episode... Or hell, for the rest of the season!

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