



Death Before Facebook

Julie Smith

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Murder most viral!

In 1994, when Mark Zuckerberg was ten and this book was first published, the Internet was the fresh new face in town--who knew how dangerous it could be?

Twenty-year-old Geoff Kavanagh should never have posted about seeing his father murdered...because way too many people on the TOWN, a sort of Facebook-of-the nineties, knew things about his family he didn't even suspect. Decades-old skeletons start falling out of closets after Geoff's untimely death, thanks to New Orleans Detective Skip Langdon. Langdon finds Geoff's gorgeous mom suspiciously uninterested in her son's fatal fall. But Mom's apparently the only one. It seems the post has gone viral. Suddenly all the TOWNspeople have theories—and ambition as cyber-detectives. What's a murderer to do but kill his way out?

Formerly titled "New Orleans Beat."

Death Before Facebook Details

Date : Published December 30th 2013 by booksBnimble (first published June 1994)

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Author : Julie Smith

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From Reader Review Death Before Facebook for online ebook

Christine Kayser says

I was pleasantly surprised by this used book store find. I bought it because the back of the book description featured one of my favorite things - '90s books talking about modern technology. In this case it was a murder investigation that hinged on an online community called The TOWN.

I was also pleasantly surprised to learn that the series detective named on the cover - Skip Langdon - is a woman.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book, and I'm considering picking up some more in this series. Skip was great. The murder mystery was tangled and had a great payoff. Worth whatever few bucks I spent on it, for sure.

Michael Bafford says

This is an old book - in the digital age - but being an old man I can recall coupling up to the Information Super Highway via modem. Holy Cow. I was never involved, much, in any bulletin board groups though, and nothing like the TOWN.

Our book circle had as theme; bookface. I supposed they meant facebook. I was wrong, but by then I'd found this book and the free sample was a bit interesting and it was cheap on Mighty River Mall so I bought it and then had to read it.

New Orleans in the winter. I've read a few New Orleans set books, mainly James Lee Burke, which I enjoyed. But other than learning it is cold in large houses without central heating there was not that much local atmosphere. Bars and houses and the cop station could have been anywhere.

There were many characters and as I read sporadically I tended to forget them. Messed up families and relationships and a defiant teenager left me cold. The murderer surprised me but the thrilling climax is among the worst thrilling climaxes I have ever read, just silly.

Brooke says

I've read Julie Smith before and really enjoy her, but it's been a while. She has a HUGE cast of characters that I assume show up in her books regularly, but this was like reading Tolstoy without the depth and literary style. I didn't get familiar enough with the characters to follow the story until near the end of the book and there were still gaping holes and big questions when I was done. It just didn't hang together like other things (House of Jazz, I recall) that I have read. Confusing. Fragmented. Hard to follow.

Anne says

I must have read this before because I've read all of Julie Smith's New Orleans books. And I was a bit disappointed when I got this one and found it was a revised version of an earlier book. But I'm read it long enough ago that I enjoyed it all over again. As others have said, there are a lot of characters. But it wasn't hard to keep the main ones straight. And the plot flowed along quite nicely.

BBS's, and early Internet, was actually a bit more intimate than Facebook because everyone on it was a geek of some sorts. And yes, just this sort of sharing did go on. So having the sort of close knit community was very plausible.

Athena says

Interesting

I was kind of confused about the time period of this book, and some parts of felt like it was from the 40s and in others it felt like it was 70 years. I just never really clear. I also found some of the characters to be limited and the overall plot to be quite confusing. But the ending is good and it is a very interesting read over all.

Cheryl Turner says

Pretty good

I really enjoyed this. I have been reading these series in chronological order. It's like watching a good movie. I would like to see if skip gets back with Steve in the next series.

Alicecake says

Thus far, this is my least favorite of the Skip Langdon series (I accidentally read out of order, with one more to go). Overall, I enjoyed the book, getting to know Skip, the city of New Orleans, and learning about some very unusual topics. My only criticism is that even though in the Author's Notes, Smith states this revised e-book edition more streamlined, I still found it too bogged down with many disconnected details. By the time they all fit together I had forgotten that some of them were even mentioned. I also found myself skimming through the seemingly endless posts in the chat rooms and bulletin boards. I am hooked and looking forward to reading Smith's other series.

Iris Smale says

Did not read. Language was foul in the first couple of pages. Don't think much of an author that can't write without that.

Alice Williams McGrath says

Good read-a little complex

Maybe it was me, but the relationships were a little confusing to remember when I went a day or two with no time to read. Binge reading it would be great. Skip is the type one is pulling for and the New Orleans setting is spot on.

Lorraine Overturf says

Yuck

I found this book to be a chore to read. I hNnNad trouble keeping the characters straight. Not my cup of tea.

Michael Stewart says

This mystery was published in 1994. It is set among a group of people involved with an online community (pre-facebook prominence).

Though living in Canada, I enrolled in at least three bulletin board-type programs: Prodigy, CompuServe, and America On-line. Everything is so much easier now. Then we had dial-up speeds and long distance charges depending on whether these American programs had Canadian hubs - they usually didn't. A different time, for sure. It cost a lot more and we got a lot less than today, but we were truly addicted to these early virtual towns.

It's a decent mystery that captured the lure of the bulletin board communities. A recommendation especially for those of us who experienced on-line communities before Facebook.

Nola Arganbright says

Skip is a detective and is investigating a murder that is linked to a social media site. The victim has been posting at the site concerning memories he seems to be having regarding the night his father was killed. I enjoy the books by Julie Smith. This is the first of this series that I have read but it will not be the last. It is a revised version of an earlier work by Ms. Smith. I thought the subject matter was very current given the surge of people sharing their lives through the Social Media sites. I enjoyed the characters and found them a little quirky and the main character is a smart cop but experiencing the ups and downs of the regular person. The flow was good but not being much of a computer nerd I was a little lost at a couple of places in the story. Very enjoyable!

Rebecca says

The worst written I've ever seen from this author. Disappointed me because I really expected better--often tend towards thriller but always pretty clean writing and consistent. The inconsistencies here really bugged me. 2.5 star. Being generous because I suspect disappointment is big piece of urge to give lower. Author says this is partial rewrite from original published version. I suspect it wasn't cleaned and edited properly after rewrite and inconsistencies stem from missed bits when reworking some scenes....

Gail says

Confusing is what Julie Smith's novel Death Before Facebook was for me. I had trouble following the story and all the characters in it. I just can not recommend this book to anyone. I've never read a book by this author and most likely will not so again.

tomlinton says

Difficult to keep the characters straight

Enough story to keep reading
but barely that
You may want to quit early
but good luck finding the finale
