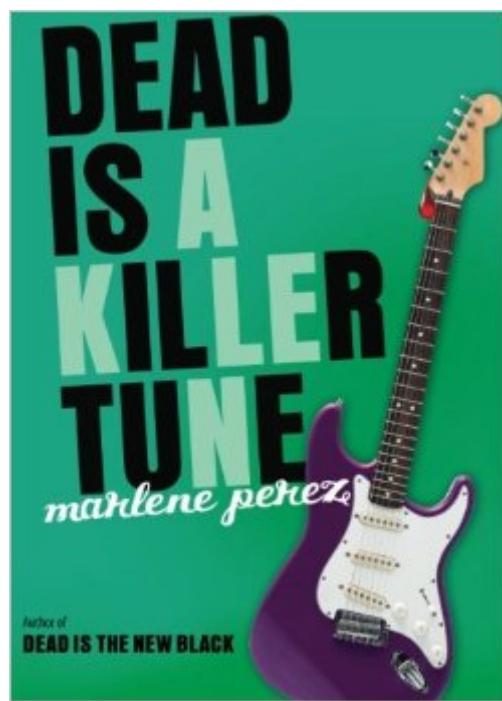


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# Dead Is A Killer Tune



## **Synopsis**

High school freshman Jessica Walsh is a Virago-a woman warrior who must protect her hometown from danger. And in Nightshade, California, trouble is always lurking. At the town's Battle of the Bands, Jess's boyfriend, Dominic, and his band, Side Effects May Vary, are up against Hamlin, a band so popular, their fans follow them everywhere. Soon, the competing musicians are doing risky, illegal, and even fatal things-and claiming that they heard strange music that compelled them to do it. Can Jess and her friends track down the tuneful tyrant before it's too late?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Series: Dead Is (Book 7)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 4, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547608349

ISBN-13: 978-0547608341

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #504,565 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #130 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Music #442 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #539 inÂ Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Jessica continues to deal with the typical trials of high school, in addition to being a virago, a female warrior, protecting her hometown of Nightshade. When a Battle of the Bands brings a band named Hamlin to town, odd things begin to happen. The fans seem to become rabid, people start doing strange things they cannot remember doing, and members of rival bands start to go missing or get hurt. Clearly, treachery is afoot, and Jessica is determined to do something to stop it. Having recently read the previous book in the "Dead is" series, I was eager to read the next book. I ended up having very mixed feelings. First, I liked seeing more of Jessica's character, and learning more

about her family specifically. It made me feel a bit more connected to her, and more interested in her story. And in terms of the overall storyline of the book, the plot was solid enough. I actually liked the whole concept of it. These books work very well as standalone stories. A reader can jump in at any point, take that book for face value, and have a great little story. However, since I had just read the previous book, I did think there would be more flow from that story to this one, yet I found it lacking. It seemed like there were gaps where the previous story ended and this one began. I felt like I had missed an entire book between the two, particularly when it came to Jessica's relationship with Dominic. I found that a bit distracting. Similarly, it seems like all of the characters have some kind of angle. Either they are some supernatural creature, or they are part of something sinister. It makes it hard to really connect with characters when they can all be boiled down to belonging to some category of supernatural beings.

It took me a month to get through this book. Normally it would take me a day or two. I'm not 100% sure if this is because since I started this series back in 2008 my taste and expectations have changed (It tends to happen when you read over 100 books a year), or because this one was much slower than the others. Either way I didn't like this book as much as the others. I found that the characters were focused more on being polite and up standing citizens compared to the actual on goings. Although this is a nice idea its not very realistic and takes away from the story. At the same time there were a lot of little side thoughts (I was going to ask them, but thought better of it, or hmm...that sounded familiar but I didn't have enough time to think about) I don't know if you get what I mean from that but I hope so. There were also moments when some things just didn't make sense. A character in the novel states that the last thing she remembered was an estate sale, yet the next sentence she says she can't perform because she doesn't sound good anymore. My observation is that she became a good singer after the estate sale not to mention she joined a band after the estate sale and join the competition after the estate sale...so how did she remember all this is she didn't remember anything after the estate sale and there were no mentions of someone explaining things to her. A lot of little things like that that perhaps only an observant reader would noticed really got to me and took away from the story line. Then I have to say that the story line was...busy. There seemed to be a lot happening and I sort of got the feeling of the book being a mystery. I know that sounds dumb because it is right...

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