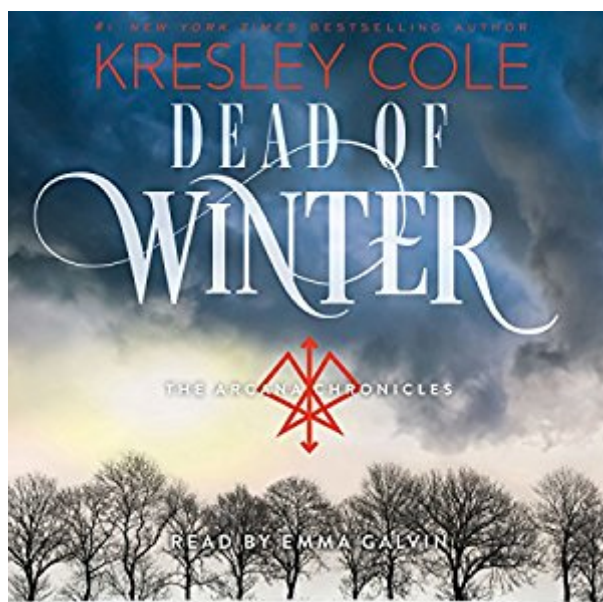


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Dead Of Winter: Arcana Chronicles, Book 3



Synopsis

Can Evie convince her rival loves to work together? Their survival depends on it in this third book of number one New York Times best-selling author Kresley Cole's Arcana Chronicles, a nonstop action tale of rescue, redemption, and a revenge most wicked. Heartbreaking decisions: Evie was almost seduced by the life of comfort that Death offered her - until Jack was threatened by two of the most horrific Arcana, The Lovers. She will do anything to save him, even escape Death's uncanny prison, full of beautiful objects, material comforts... and stolen glances from a former love. Uncertain victory: Despite leaving a part of her heart behind with Death, Evie sets out into a frozen and perilous post-apocalyptic wasteland to meet up with her allies and launch an attack on The Lovers and the vast army they command. Such formidable enemies require a battle plan, and the only way to kill them once and for all may mean Evie, Jack, and Death allying. Evie doesn't know what will prove more impossible: surviving slavers, plague, Bagmen and other Arcana - or convincing Jack and Death to work together. Two heroes returned: There's a thin line between love and hate, and Evie just doesn't know where she stands with either Jack or Death. Will this unlikely trio be able to defeat The Lovers without killing one another first?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not going to lie...I don't recall ever waiting this breathlessly and anxiously for any book to arrive. I'm the type of person who would much rather wait for the whole series to finish before beginning it, mostly because I get really invested in the characters and in their story lines and care so much

about their fates. (The ending matters, people!!!) But this time, in preparation for the third installment, I have been re-reading *Poison Princess* and *Endless Knight* for months, looking for clues and hoping I could successfully predict what would happen to my beloved characters. I would browse blogs and believe it or not, even study Tarot cards just to get a possible glimpse of the future. I also braced myself because I was 100% positive that the ending would have a cliffhanger almost as bad as the second one. And I have to say, I was not mistaken. In fact, I'm still asking myself what the heck just happened. In *Dead of Winter*, we see Evie escaping Death's fortress so she could launch a campaign to save Jack from the Lovers. Apparently, only with Evie in the mix can Jack be saved from the evil twins. Death also involves himself because as we know from the previous book, he considers Evie as his to protect. So the whole book spans roughly around a week or two of their lives and is mostly dealing with the question of how to defeat the Lovers and who would Evie pick: Jack or Aric. To be perfectly honest, I have been team Jack since the very beginning. Never did I really waver from my belief that Evie and Jack belonged together, and I felt that Ms. Cole shared this sentiment. In this book, we see Jack as we knew him from before: brave, brash, intelligent, fearless, reckless, cunning and caring...but he has become more now.

"*Dead of Winter*," the third installment in Kresley Cole's *Arcana* series, is unfortunately a middling filler of a novel that shows promise of character and relationship complexity, but falls short of expectations. Mainly, not much occurs in the story to move the plot along and characters remain frustratingly stagnant and superficial. The dialogue, further, can be gratingly and manipulatively slow and unnatural in order to preserve important plot points for later time. For example, none of the characters appear to ask any essential questions, reveal significant information, or insist that other characters explain vital details because either they are relentlessly sleepy or some coincidence occurs where an event disrupts someone on the cusp of revealing anything. Consequently, it is easy to roll your eyes throughout the story when the reader tends to be a couple steps ahead of the protagonists. Although the story may seem action-packed because the plot revolves around dispatching the Dutch and Duchess of Perverse, the story as a whole does not move forward. Evie barely acquires more of her powers and she does not learn much of anything new from her past games or about the origin of the games. You can sum up this book with two sentences: (1) The gang puts their differences aside to get rid of the twins. (2) Evie must choose between Jack and Death. To further touch upon the latter sentence, it saddens me that our heroine, Evie, is relegated to a superficial love triangle and that she spends the majority of her time choosing between her two suitors rather than actively participating in or ending the game. As an aside, I do not have anything

against love triangles and generally enjoy them if they are interwoven into the story well.

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