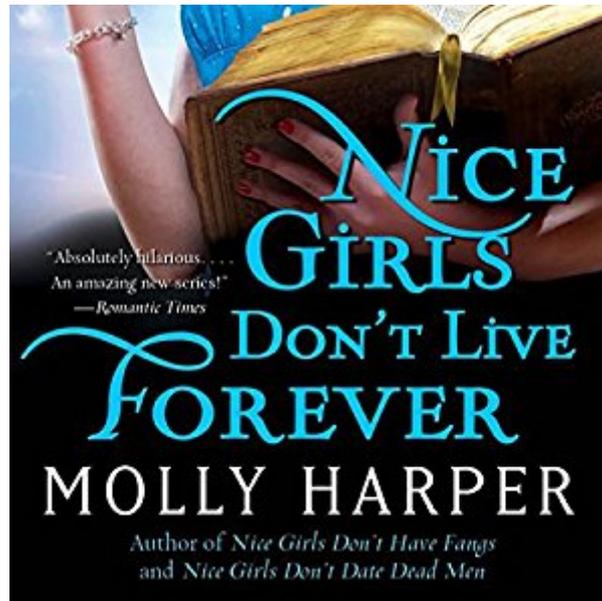


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Nice Girls Don't Live Forever: Jane Jameson, Book 3



Synopsis

Unexpected Undead Break-up Nothing sucks the romance out of world travel like a boyfriend who may or may not have broken up with you in a hotel room in Brussels. Jane Jameson's sexy sire Gabriel has always been unpredictable, but the seductive, anonymous notes that await him at each stop of their international vacation, coupled with his evasive behavior over the past few months, finally push Jane onto the next flight home to Half Moon Hollow • alone, upset, and unsure whether Gabriel just ended their relationship without actually telling her. Now the children's-librarian-turned-vampire is reviving with plenty of Faux Type O, some TLC from her colorful friends and family, and her plans for a Brave New Jane. Step One: Get her newly renovated occult bookstore off the ground. Step Two: Support her best friend, Zeb, and his werewolf bride as they prepare for the impending birth of their baby . . . or litter. Step Three: Figure out who's been sending her threatening letters, and how her hostile pen pal is tied to Gabriel. Because for this nice girl, surviving a broken heart is suddenly becoming a matter of life and undeath. . . . --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yes, it's yet another paranormal vampire book. The trend that just won't die. But I'm one of those readers who really doesn't want it to. I like my vampire books. As long as they're done well. And they have great characters. And you can't go wrong with a snarky, southern librarian turned antiquarian book selling vampire named Jane. This is definitely one of the funniest books I've read

so far this year. Nice Girls Don't Live Forever is the 3rd in the series, and I haven't read the previous two. I'm of the firm opinion that each book should stand on its own merits, and this one definitely does. I wasn't lost at all, despite some pretty extensive backstory. What did confuse me, though, was that this book, the conclusion of a trilogy, had very little hero in it. He shows up abruptly for about 3 or 4 scenes (a fight or a sex scene), then disappears just as abruptly. Maybe the romance plays a bigger part of the previous two novels, but it fails quite spectacularly here. It starts out with a did-we-just break-up? drama overseas. Followed by chapter after chapter of Jane moping about the break up. We see far more of just about everyone than Gabriel, our oft-absent hero. Secondary characters abound in this novel and they're all terrific--except for Gabriel the sketchy one. He's off stage somewhere doing something--we're never very clear on what--and has very little presence in the story. Even those with vampire fatigue would probably enjoy this book. As long as you're not in it for the romance. The one liners are spectacular. NCDLF is told in the first person. Which some people (me) love and others just can't stand. So you've been warned! My other pet peeve with this particular novel is the ending. It seemed too pat. Too formulaic.

I don't usually pace myself whenever I read series, I'm more of a back-to-back kind of girl, but the Molly Harper / Amanda Ronconi duo deserves to be savoured because they make outstanding audiobooks together. NICE GIRLS DON'T LIVE FOREVER is a winning amalgamation of smart aleck humour, three dimensional characters, snappy writing, and excellent narration. The story is more action-packed than usual, and I loved the werewolf tidbits that are scattered throughout this book. It's the little details that make a series stand out, and JANE JAMESON's got them in abundance! These novels usually tend to be pretty straightforward in the plot department, so I was pleasantly surprised by the complexity of this installment's story. The Courtneys were hilariously stereotypical blondes, and I loved the dynamics between Jane and her two BFFs: Jolene and Andrea. The latter character is also involved in another thread that was unexpected, but due. And, of course, there's no shortage of laugh-out-loud moments including Dick's attempt at "cheering" Jameson up after her supposed break-up with Gabe which proves to be oddly effective. Who knew that getting drunk, swallowing your feelings, and starting a bar fight could be so therapeutic! I did have one major beef with this novel, and that was Jane and Gabrielle's continued on-again-off-again relationship woes. I'm not big on the whole "create drama within the main couple with miscommunication" ploy unless the protagonists' love is still fairly new. Jameson and Nightengale have been together pretty much since book 1, yet they haven't learned to talk to each other which frustrated me to no end.

However, the werewolf morsels did help to distract me from this minor annoyance with their unique details that were both enlightening, and a little scary.

I'm not sure if the Jane Jameson series is intended to be a trilogy or not, but after finishing the third installment, *Nice Girls Don't Live Forever*, I'd say it reads very well like it should be. Jane's back with her trusty friends, family squabbles, and boyfriend angst in this book about the life and loves of an ex-librarian-turned-vampire just trying to make a little something of herself. Wielding the double-edged sword of witticism and sarcasm and brandishing a shield of self deprecation to cover insecurity, Jane manages yet again to charm and amuse as she deals with the doubts and fears of a potential cheating sire/lover, the annoyance of family, the terrors of the pink Courtneys, and the danger of a potential stalker, all while she opens her bookstore and helps her best friend and his new wife get ready for cubs...er...kids. I've enjoyed each book in this series as light, cute, whimsical romps...with a wee bit of fang...and this one in particular was a pleasant road trip towards maturity, confidence, and a freedom of spirit that Jane had been previously lacking. With the comfort of familiar faces that are all quirky and fresh, *Nice Girls* provides a few hours of relaxation and escapism without forcing you to think too hard or relate too closely to the goings on, even while Jane's exploits and concerns, fears and doubts, hopes and dreams so closely resemble our own. She truly is an Everywoman with fangs, and that's one of the most appealing aspects of this series (trilogy?). My only significant complaint about this book in particular, and the overall series in general, is that EVERY major issue that Jane had, every true crisis of heart and hope, came to an almost too-comfortable resolution in the last few chapters of this book.

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