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Waking Up Dead

WAKING UP
DEAD

SHE EXPECTED HEAVEN OR HELL.
SHE GOT ALABAMA.



MARGO BOND COLLINS



Synopsis

When Callie Taylor died, she expected to go to heaven or maybe hell. Instead, when she was murdered in Dallas by some jerk with a knife and a bad-mommy complex, she went to Alabama. Now she's seen another murder, and she can't just let it go; she must find a way to make sure the police figure out who really killed Molly McClatchy before an innocent man goes to prison, all the while trying to determine how and why she woke up dead in Alabama.

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Customer Reviews

Waking Up Dead is an intriguing paranormal mystery. The story follows Callie Taylor, who wakes up one day as a ghost in a small town in Alabama and finds that she can't leave. Any time she tries, she immediately pops back into the center of town. She finds life as a ghost relatively boring until she witnesses a murder - and finds that an innocent man has been arrested for the crime. Suddenly, Callie makes it her mission to find someone who can see her - she needs all the help she can get to solve the crime and put the real murderer behind bars. The negatives: Lack of connection with main character. My only real issue with this book was that I never formed a real connection with the main

character. She wakes up in Alabama after being brutally murdered in Dallas and never shows much more than mild surprise at her circumstances. She remembers the details of her death (which we find out later in the book were really horrific), but seems completely detached - she remembers it all with a "Gee, I really don't like that guy who killed me" kind of attitude that was perplexing to me. I think that this is the reason that I just never felt invested in Callie or her murder investigation. What I enjoyed: Secondary characters. While I wasn't terribly connected to Callie, I did enjoy the secondary characters - Ashara, Maw-Maw and Stephen. These three are the only people who can see Callie and help her solve the murder. Ashara was fun because she was very no-nonsense and wasn't going to just roll over and take Callie's hauntings without a fight. Her grandmother, Maw Maw (as Ashara calls her) was equally strong-willed and had strong convictions and a stubborn streak!

Waking up Dead is quirky and funny with mildly serious undertones. It's Ghost meets Lady in White of paperbacks. This book draws the reader in, empathizing with the witty ghost, Callie Taylor, who attempts to embrace her untimely death and adjust to life in the hereafter; the only thing is that her hereafter is still on earth...in Alabama. Just as Callie is beginning to get the hang of things in the spirit realm, she witnesses a murder and finds herself racing against time to prove the innocence of a man accused of murdering his wife. But where does she begin? It isn't until she encounters the spiritually discerning and beautiful Ashara that she becomes hopeful in her mission; but this adventurous chase sends them on the most arduous race of their lives as the walls begin to close on the innocent Robert McClatchey. I will admit that initially I thought I wouldn't favor this book, thinking it was just another typical ghost story. But I found myself intrigued and turning one page after another, all the while laughing at Callie Taylor's awkward experiences and adjustments to being a ghost. It is nothing like I expected of any book that delves into the ghostly realm of haunts and spooks. In fact, it's full of surprises, twists and turns that'll keep you holding your breath. The author, Margo Bond Collins, should be praised for her creative efforts. She was meticulous in developing and carrying out the murder and redemption plot for Waking up Dead. This story comes to life from the very beginning with its matter-of-fact approach to Callie Taylor's death and unfolds one unexpected twist after another. It allows the facetious Callie to tell her own story the way she personally experiences it.

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