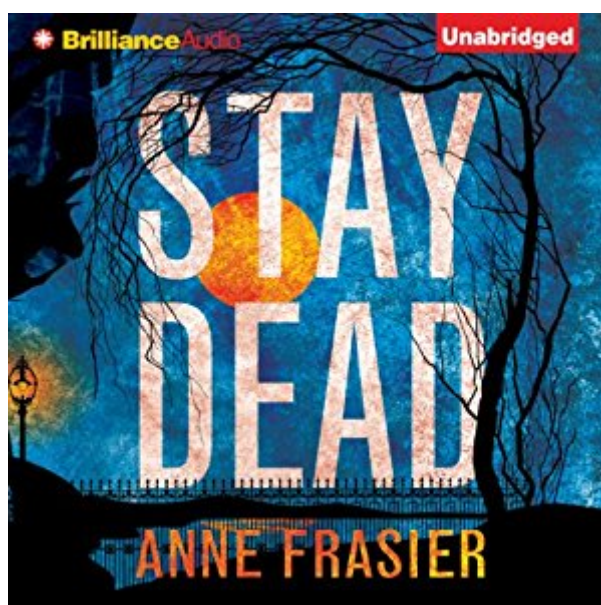


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Stay Dead: Elise Sandberg, Book 2



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Anne Frasier takes listeners back to her dark, enchanting Savannah - a place as terrifying as it is mesmerizing. Homicide detective Elise Sandburg is traumatized after her run-in with a madman the press has dubbed "The Organ Thief". As Elise takes refuge in her deceased aunt Anastasia's abandoned plantation to investigate and recover from her ordeal, she begins to question everything - from her dangerous line of work to her complex relationship with her handsome, tortured partner, David Gould. But with a madman on the loose, and her mother's claims to still hear from Aunt Anastasia, she may have more immediate problems on her hands. In Elise's world, where cold hard crime mixes with the local Gullah culture, nothing is ever what it seems, and no one is above suspicion - not even the dead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book started horribly. Like other reviewers I was sure I'd missed a book between Play Dead and this one, so I searched Kindle and finally read some of the reviews here. A prologue would have done so much to get the reader up to speed; as it was, I felt like I was in The Twilight Zone for the first 30% of the book. Not good. The characters had seemingly evolved quite a bit since the first book. The angry 12(?) -year-old daughter was now 15 and in Sweden. The ex-husband and family had moved to the Northwest. It just felt like the author was cheating or perhaps was just lazy. The story did pick up eventually, but so much defied logic (e.g., everything having to do with Anastasia), even given the voodoo aspect. In the end, I was glad I didn't delete the book (as I had been tempted

to a quarter of the way through), but it certainly wasn't as interesting or as well-written as its predecessor.

WOW talk about coming out of left field! What the heck happened to the 2.5 yrs since the last book? SPOILERS! Unlike Play Dead this book was all over the place and the author took a perfectly strong developed character and turned her into a TSTL (too stupid to live). First, I was sure that I had missed not one but maybe 2 books since the last one. So much so that I went back to kindle store 3 or 4 times searching for them. I was so lost for the first 1/2 of the book I almost did a review and didn't finish it. The author missed so much by doing the book this way that even though I have downloaded the 3rd in the series I may not read it. As stated earlier, this book takes up 2 to 2 1/2 yrs later so we have missed the ENTIRE development between Elise and Strata Luna bc now they are 'friends' and Luna perceives her as more of a daughter. We missed the entire segue with the daughter from living happily with her father, step brothers and step mother and not having much to do with her mother to now being so afraid for her she gets on a plane to come home at the age of 15 and this was her first trip, WHAT? I could barely buy car insurance much less fly home on an international flight at that age. And if she is living with her mother then WHERE have they been living bc the house is uninhabitable and under construction. Again, 2 yrs later. We missed the entire kidnapping (stupid though it was) and were left feeling like a fish out of water. David is still great but the rest of the book is just a mess going back and forth and there is no story development at all, we are presented with a Detective in the first book who did one stupid thing, to someone who is TSTL. She is tortured for days and she still is recovering with a cast on her feet, crutches etc and she gets mad and goes off on her own. OMG, really? And OF COURSE she is kidnapped again bc now she and David BOTH are TSTL. I am so disappointed in this book I just wanted to pull my hair out.

Savannah detectives Elise Sandburg and David Gould, from Play Dead, are back in this sequel. A page turner from the get go, we get a deeper look into the personal lives of Elise and David and their complicated relationship. Will they? Won't they? Can they even think about each other with a madman set on destroying Elise's life? Elise is still recovering from her wounds inflicted by The Organ Thief, when she receives a call from her mother who claims to have spoken with Elise's dead aunt. Elise decides to recover at her aunt's plantation on the Ogeechee river. Elise begins to question her life choices at the same time the killer is on the loose again and her dead aunt seems to be making appearances. Mystery, Gullah culture, crime, a hint of romance and the dead popping in for a visit...just a normal time in Savannah! felt like the low country has been captured perfectly in

this book. Most authors don't bother to know the "real" Savannah that we natives love. It's usually all Paula Deen and the squares, but this book takes us from downtown to midtown to spending some time in the swamp...all of home wrapped up in one book

Loved the first Elsie Stanburg book. When I started to read this book, it felt like I was reading book 3 not book 2. The main characters were discussing a case that they had just finished. Elsie and David's relationship had changed. I had to go online to check I had not missed a book, also the ending seemed rushed. I was disappointed.

The book begins after Elise has been kidnapped and tortured. For a while I thought I'd missed a novella or something. I hadn't. Not many writers can weave a plot like this one. You probably should read the first in the series, I did. The background and traumas from that book influence the plot of this book. This book you know who dunnit. Finding out why was a great ride. The bad guy's body disappears. Apparently dragged off by an alligator. I hope he really stays dead. I never cared for books where the evil villain keeps coming back; even though he's supposed to be dead. I'll have to wait until the next book to see if this author falls back on that time worn cliché. I was so keyed up from the unrelenting pace and tension, I finished the book. And now can't sleep. Start this book when you have time so savor the words, the plots and the characters.

The start of this book is quite confusing, especially if you read immediately after reading the first book. Considering how the first book ends, it's almost natural, given what is happening, that you think almost no time has gone by, and yet there is a massive amount of time between the two books. I'll be honest and say I felt lost and had to double check that I hadn't somehow skipped a book. Time also seems off in how things are described, almost as if Ms. Fraiser herself hadn't decided how much time had passed. In terms of the daughters' age it seemed as if 2 years have gone by but then there are other things referenced that make it seem as if only 1 year has gone by. All that aside, it does end up being quite a good story. If not for the confusing start I'd have likely have rated it 4 stars, but it really was jarring enough to make have to not it down a notch. Trust me, stick with it. It's worth it. And definitely pick up the 3rd one!

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