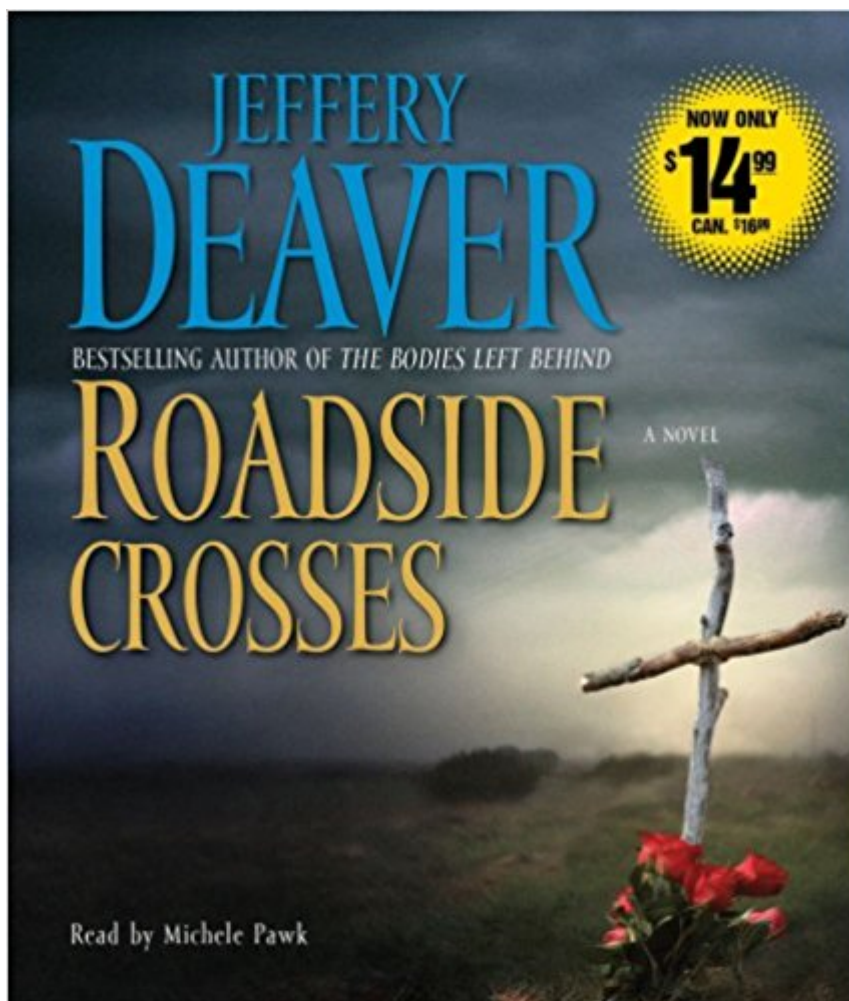


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# Roadside Crosses: A Kathryn Dance Novel



## Synopsis

The Monterey Peninsula is rocked when a killer begins to leave roadside crosses beside local highways — not in memoriam, but as announcements of his intention to kill. And to kill in particularly horrific and efficient ways: using the personal details about the victims that they've carelessly posted in blogs and on social networking websites. The case lands on the desk of Kathryn Dance, the California Bureau of Investigations foremost body language expert. She and Deputy Michael O'Neil follow the leads to Travis Brigham, a troubled teenager whose role in a fatal car accident has inspired vicious attacks against him on a popular blog, The Chilton Report. As the investigation progresses, Travis vanishes. Using techniques he learned as a brilliant participant in multiplayer online role-playing games, he easily eludes his pursuers and continues to track his victims. Among the obstacles Kathryn must hurdle are politicians from Sacramento, paranoid parents, and the blogger himself, James Chilton, whose belief in the importance of blogging and the new media threatens to derail the case and potentially Dance's career. It is this threat that causes Dance to take desperate and risky measures... In signature Jeffery Deaver style, *Roadside Crosses* is filled with dozens of plot twists, cliff-hangers, and heartrending personal subplots. It is also a searing look at the accountability of blogging and life in the online world. *Roadside Crosses* is the third in Deaver's bestselling High-Tech Thriller Trilogy, along with *The Blue Nowhere* and *The Broken Window*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In bestseller Deaver's surprise-filled third Kathryn Dance novel (after *The Sleeping Doll*), Dance, an

agent with the California Bureau of Investigation, gets an eye-opening education in some of the hottest areas of the cyberworld. After an auto accident kills two teens, vicious smears of Travis Brigham, the teen driver deemed responsible but not charged in the accident, appear on the Chilton Report, a popular blog. After one of the accusing bloggers barely survives an assault, Brigham becomes a person of interest. Brigham disappears, and attacks, each preceded by a crude roadside cross, spread to other Chilton bloggers. Meanwhile, Dance also looks into a mercy killing at Monterey Bay Hospital that takes an unexpected turn, and Robert Harper, a special prosecutor from the attorney general's office in Sacramento, begins an investigation that will affect her. Deaver's expert and devious plotting makes it a challenge to stay only a couple of steps behind him. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Deaver is bound to slip up sometime. But not this time. This novel, which follows on the heels of *Sleeping Doll* (2007), again stars California Bureau of Investigation agent Kathryn Dance and, like its predecessor, is tightly constructed with a suspenseful story and plenty of plot twists. Deaver, perhaps more than any other crime writer, is able to fool even the most experienced readers with his right-angle turns, and this story of a serial killer who uses social networks to find his prey is full of them. Deaver's investigators are very good at their jobs, and in order to fool them (and us), he must be exceedingly clever, as well as just a little bit deceitful (having characters say things that turn out not to be true, for example, even though they believed the things when they said them). So far Deaver has avoided accidentally telegraphing a plot twist in advance, but someday, surely, he'll out-clever himself. Or maybe he won't. This is an excellent entry in what promises to be a series as popular as the author's Lincoln Rhyme novels. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Jeffery Deaver (as I understand it) is a well know author and has many successful novels. *Roadside Crosses*, on one level is a good crime thriller. A series of attempted murders are linked to crosses which are left on the roadside. Unlike memorial crosses which indicate an anniversary of a road death, these roadside crosses have the current date on them - indicating that a killing will happen. The agent in-charge of the investigation, Kathryn Dance, stumbles into the world of blogging and internet gaming. This forms a fascinating and very interesting sub-plot. The prime suspect soon becomes a teenager who had been viciously attacked on a blog thread. Travis had been involved in a fatal car accident. His character is systematically attacked on the blog by other students from

Travis' school. It is these students who are now being attacked. The blog is hosted by a guy who takes pleasure in outing 'injustice' 'hypocrisy' and revealing 'truth' about people. Deaver examines a ton of issues in this novel, including the ethical implications of blogging and how people regard what is posted on a blog as 'truth' without any thought that it might not be true; the intense speed at which rumors spread through blogging and the damage such rumors can cause. Add the good writing and the wonderful twists, especially towards the end, then you have the ingredients of a great read.

Roadside crosses are harbingers of death and disaster in this latest Kathryn Dance novel. Dance, a kinesics expert and agent with the California Bureau of Investigation, is drawn into the blogosphere in the hunt for a killer. Is it the victim of cyber bullying or evil corporate meanies behind the mischief? If you are able to slog through the incredibly boring first half of this book you will find out. I was disappointed with this novel and found it hard to finish. Deaver is the master of twists and turns and Dance is a character with potential. However, the action drags, the dialogue is inane and there are just too many last minute miraculous rescues. The computer tutorial did not help although the gaming sequences were not all that bad. There was also too much of the earlier Dance book contained here including the prosecution of her former love interest and the silly mercy killing storyline. So I'll put up a cross for this one and pray that the next book will be better.

He has written another fantastic book with great characters. Lots in play in this one and things are not what they seem. This is a great story.

Really enjoying the Katherine Dance novels, story line in parts is a little weak, however they are good light novels, easy to read and I really like the on going thread running through them with Katherine and Michael..... from the very first one I thought that he and his wife would split up. Although I am now on to XO and she is having a relationship with the computer geek she met in roadside crosses. Oh well never mind I do have the fourth book so will wait and see what happens. I like the characters ...TJ is great and the others will I hope come into their own as the novels progress. The bumbling, lazy egocentric boss is great and I can just picture him. Anyway all in all a good, light, easy read.

Roadside Crosses has renewed my faith in Jeffrey Deaver's new series of books. I enjoyed the addition of her character in the Lincoln Rhyme series' -and arguably one of Deaver's best books-

Cold Moon and was happy when she received her own story. Unfortunately, I found myself rushing through Sleeping Doll trying to get to the interesting parts, which were few and far between. However, Roadside Crosses has renewed my interest in the kinesics expert. The various plot lines that are intertwined within kept me thoroughly involved in the world. My only gripe, which is shared by many, is the constant lesson in the "synth world" (world wide web). Jeffery Deaver often includes something of a lesson on some topic or another in his stories and they are usually interesting. Unfortunately, this time he's chosen a topic that is so mainstream that it feels redundant, which can take you out of the story for a bit. Still might be nice for the older generation who haven't gone tech. Other than that I highly recommend this to those that enjoy the Lincoln Rhyme series. It's fast-paced and the twists just keep on coming.

I had never read anything by Jeffery Deaver before. I was waiting at my local LesSchwab tire store to have my winter tires put on and they were backed up three hours, so I said I would wait. They always have an abundance of books and magazines there so I picked up his book "The Sleeping Doll" and could not put it down. I came home and purchased it on my kindle. After finishing it, I went back and purchased several more of his book, specifically the Kathryn Dance series). Love love loved them all.

Love this author! I really like the Kathryn Dance novels as well as the Lincoln Rhyme series. Please keep them coming!

Jeffrey Deaver at his usual greatness.

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