



4-1-2012

## *Left for Dead*, by J. A. Jance, Touchstone, 2012

Larry Riggs

Butler University, lriggs@butler.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las\\_bookreviews](https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews)

---

### Recommended Citation

Riggs, Larry, "*Left for Dead*, by J. A. Jance, Touchstone, 2012" (2012). *LAS Faculty Book Reviews*. 110.  
[https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las\\_bookreviews/110](https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews/110)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in LAS Faculty Book Reviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@butler.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@butler.edu).

## Because Ideas Matter...

The faculty and staff of Butler University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents

### Recommended Readings



#### *Left for Dead*

by J. A. Jance, Touchstone, 2012

Reviewed by Larry Riggs

I must revise what I said in my review of Jance's previous book: she is both a good writer and an excellent storyteller. Jance's smooth handling of the complications in the new Ali Reynolds novel synthesizes plotting and writing. The seemingly unrelated, but ultimately convergent, stories, each beginning with a character being left for dead, evoke the horrific, the ordinary, and the psychological spaces where the two meet. Characters familiar to Jance readers from earlier entries in the Ali Reynolds series meet at a hospital in Tucson, where Ali has gone to give support to the family of a police academy classmate who has been shot and left in the desert. At the hospital, she encounters Sister Anselm, a nun and patient advocate, who is watching over an unidentified young woman who has been raped, horribly beaten and, like the police officer, left for dead in the desert. This young woman turns out to be a missing teenager whose family has been agonizing over her disappearance for three years. The officer's distraught wife, who was involved in a brutal battle with her former mother-in-law for custody of her children by an earlier marriage, must have an emergency Caesarean section delivery. The officer and his wife have been set up to look like drug dealers, and the young woman is implicated in a murder. Again, this is a very complicated but expertly handled plot.

- Larry Riggs is Professor of French at Butler University.