

TWICE DEAD

By Eleanor Sullivan

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Mystery / Medical / Amateur Sleuth

Reviewed by Susan McBride, MyShelf.Com

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As a fellow St. Louisan, I was anxious to read Eleanor Sullivan's debut, TWICE DEAD, since the book is set in the city Sullivan has turned a nursing career into the background for this intriguing medical mystery. Her protagonist, Monika Everhardt, is a nurse-manager at a fictional hospital on the south side called St. Teresa's. The plot takes off rapidly when Monika's paged during the St. Patrick's Day parade because of a patient's suspicious death. At first the young woman, Hope Pierce, is thought to have fatally hemorrhaged following an abortion. But, as the medical examiner and Monika look more closely at the case, its determined Hope wasn't ever pregnant.

So why would she have a torn uterus? Unless someone with access to the hospital ICU had wanted her dead. Monika makes for a wonderful amateur sleuth. She's level-headed and determined, and she has a best friend who just happens to be a cop (the perfect person to serve as a sounding board for her suspicions). Monika's relationship with her cousin, who's more like a sister, provides for thought-provoking contrast when a serious issue like abortion is discussed.

But cozy lovers needn't be wary of picking up TWICE DEAD, because Sullivan doesn't go heavy-handed on the issues. Rather she's pieced together an interesting puzzle that will whet the appetite of any fan of medical mysteries.

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