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A Dark Lure



Synopsis

Twelve years ago, Sarah Baker was abducted by the Watt Lake Killer and sexually assaulted for months before managing to escape. The killer was caught, but Sarah lost everything: her marriage, her child, and the life she loved. Struggling with PTSD, Sarah changes her name to Olivia West and finds sanctuary working on Broken Bar Ranch. But as her scars finally begin to heal, a cop involved with her horrific case remains convinced the Watt Lake Killer is still out there. He sets a lure for the murderer, and a fresh body is discovered. Now Olivia must face the impossible—could the butcher be back, this time to finish the job? As a frigid winter isolates the ranch, only one person can help Olivia: Cole McDonough, a writer, adventurer, and ranch heir who stirs long-dormant feelings in her. But this time, Olivia's determination to shut out her past may destroy more than her chance at love. It could cost her her life.

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Customer Reviews

I agree with C.R. Hurst, the first reviewer I read, that this was a difficult choice for a Kindle First. I was not interested at all in the dysfunctional family drama, the legal thriller which looked a bit boring

to me, and the silly-looking teenage supernatural hunter book one of a series. That left this psychological thriller as the only choice. It is really misnamed as a psychological thriller, as it should really be labeled as a romantic thriller. I was not totally unaware of this, having read the summary and editor's review, but I was hoping that the romance would be downplayed. I was wrong. This was a romantic thriller, through and through. Not really my style. So if you like romance, drama relating to love-hate relationships of fathers and sons, fathers and teenage daughters, etc., and like a serial killer thriller mixed in, this is a book for you. By romance, I'm talking the whole nine yards - she noticing his biceps, deeply tanned skin, masculine appeal and yearning for what she has denied herself all these year, etc., this is it. As another reviewer said, this book was similar to "The One That Got Away" in its plot of the one serial killer victim that escaped, but with serious PTSD which she fights to overcome. I also agree that this one was richer in its plot and character development. But I think it has too many flaws to get the full five stars. It is ridiculous that a just retired cop would lure the killer he still believes to be on the loose to the home of the victim that got away (not going into how he knew that) and not warn her or anyone else there of the danger. I don't buy his disease as affecting this decision and being a good excuse. I also think that the playing out of the plot was somewhat predictable and the ending too pat. The characters were well-drawn, but too formulaic to me. I was also frustrated with the way characters knew things that they kept to themselves, when being open about their knowledge and their feelings might have solved a lot of things. I find that type of plot line too frustrating. Yet, there are many readers who love books about strong female lead characters that overcome tremendous odds to survive. Many eat this kind of book up. If that is your thing, then this book is for you, if you don't mind the drawbacks I mentioned. It is a plot line that has great appeal to many readers and if you are one of those, consider this a four-star, or even five-star, review. I also agree that there was rich texture in the depiction of the surroundings, which is the rugged Canadian northwest, which adds flavor to the book. I was certainly not bored with it and three stars is not a negative review. The writing is good, though not extremely incisive, and it holds your interest. I really don't think it covers new ground, though. So, in the end, don't go by the number of stars I gave this book, go by the things I've said about it, and the other reviews you've read and if this is your kind of book, go for it. But if romance is not your thing, skip it. This is not a true psychological thriller, like the ones by Andrew E. Kaufman, which are generally darker in nature, and without the romantic involvement. I hope I've been helpful in your decision-making. Good luck.

This writer knows how to tell a story, which makes me glad I read this book. The only caution I have

for other readers is that *A Dark Lure* is a romantic suspense novel, not really a psychological thriller as it's categorized on the Kindle First page. The romance plot is prominent, with many scenes built around the electric glances and verbal sparring between the central couple. I am not a big fan of romances, but the characters here are developed and interesting. Admittedly, the hero and heroine fit the standard expectations of the genre - she's tough and feisty, he's ultra cool and masculine without undermining her, and their attraction is immediate despite differences between them - but these characters also have some depth with their complicated histories, and the well-developed secondary characters bring a lot to the story and make it feel more grounded. There are some unrealistic elements in the suspense plot. The killer not only dangles clues intentionally, he even arms his target to give her a sporting chance. Also, an investigator who believes the killer is still out there long after the case is closed lures the killer into making a move. This trap might be smart, except that it unveils the heroine's new identity and leads the killer directly to her without alerting her that she's in danger. She is a little slow to put it together on her own, but fortunately the hero is good at noticing bread crumbs. In the end, I looked past these story elements because it is a romance, which often involves a degree of fantasy, and I enjoyed the story, which really is well written. Readers who dislike romances or want gritty realism should probably select something else. I do recommend the book for those who enjoy romantic suspense, or who might be open to giving the genre a chance. This is a good one.

I so wanted to give this book a higher rating. I loved this book and would have given it a higher rating if not for the end. What I liked: The book is told from different people's perspectives which normally would bother me but in this book it worked. There was some predictability for me but not so much that by the 25% mark I had it all figured. It was more like the 50% where all the main plot points for me were figured. This didn't bother me because there was still the issue of how things were going to be resolved. What I hated: The reason for the 3 star is because the book just ends. I don't know if there will be a series and things will be wrapped up in a later book. It didn't look like it but it irritates me that there were things not concluded. Overall, I don't feel it was a bad book. I would definitely read it again. The book just needed an epilogue like 6 months down the road to show where everything was at.

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