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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 years, 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.

An unspeakable thing that happened twelve years ago ends up changing the lives of a group of strangers today when their paths cross unexpectedly for some and intentionally by a madman who started it all years ago. Each of the main characters had a traumatizing thing happen to them in their past. None more than Sarah Baker who was abducted by a serial killer and abused both physically and sexually before managing to escape. She birthed a child shortly after but gave it up when neither her husband nor her own parents could stand the shame of what happened to her and turned their backs on her. After being deserted by those closest to her Sarah then left and became Olivia West and ended up working on the Broken Bar Ranch. Cole McDonough lived through two traumatizing things in his life time. Losing his mother and younger brother in a car accident when he was driving and then losing the woman he loved and her son when she walked away from their relationship after a harrowing ordeal almost got them killed in a war torn country. He left his father and the Broken Bar Ranch behind a long time ago and never looked back but once he finds out his father is dying he returns. Gage Burton and his daughter Tori are still reeling from the loss of his wife and her mother. Gage is being forced to retire from the Canadian police due to an illness. He has many regrets in life but the biggest is his fear that they never caught the right man for the Watt Lake killings. He sets up online traps using Sarah's name to try and lure the real killer out even 12 years later. When he finally gets a hit he heads to the Broken Bar Ranch with his daughter in hopes

of finally catching him.

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