



The Professor

Cathy Perkins

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The Professor presses his palm against her flank, feeling the liquid warmth of her blood, hotter than her skin. Hot, like the life force that he has claimed... The power over life and death is the ultimate thrill.

Someone is murdering women on South Carolina's college campuses: three women, three different schools. The Governor's order to State Law Enforcement Agent Mick O'Shaughnessy is simple: make it stop. More political maneuvering diverts Mick to nearby Douglass College. There, instead of another dead body, he finds Meg Connelly, grad student and faculty advisor for the latest victim.

Determined to finish her master's degree, Meg doesn't need anybody's help - including her estranged family - to succeed. There's something irresistible about Mick, but the last time she let someone get close to her, she lost everything except her self-respect.

As the investigation heats up, so does their relationship. But Mick's interest in Meg doesn't just endanger her heart--it puts her in the sights of the killer.

Once he gets her alone, he can take all the time he needs...

92,000 words

The Professor Details

Date : Published January 23rd 2012 by Carina Press (first published January 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Cathy Perkins

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Suspense, Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Professor for online ebook

InD'tale Magazine says

Cathy Perkins writes a serpentine tale of suspense and mystery.

Read full review in the 2012 September issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Amy Moniz says

I really, really liked the writing style and the plot, the characters and the story. The only thing that I didn't like was that I wanted to know more detail about what happened AFTER Mick saved Meg...did they hug, kiss or more? I guess I wanted more of the relationship side after the traumatic climax--the good stuff. There were so many pages in the book devoted to developing the story and the characters, and then the climax was almost on the last page.

Angela Campbell says

Great romantic suspense from an author I hope to read more from! I really enjoyed the hunting-for-a-serial-killer premise here, and while the romance seemed to take a backseat at times to the mystery aspects of this book, that's actually what I ended up liking the most about it. Meg and Mick were both likable characters, and I enjoyed that their relationship was sweet and took time to build. Standard romance readers will probably think the romance is too mild, but I am glad these two weren't hitting the sheets every chapter. I was skeptical at first of the implied love at first sight between them, but in the end, I commend the author on a job well done. A nice suspenseful tale with a touch of romance, this was a great, easy weekend read.

Ruth says

This book, provided to me by netgalley, is absolutely the best cops-romantic-suspense story I have ever read. Honestly, it's just completely brilliant, and kept me totally absorbed from beginning to end. I was gripped within the first two paragraphs.

I really like romantic suspense, but 9 times out of 10 I find the suspense part is, well, pretty crappy. It's usually clear within about 30 seconds whom the bad guy is, and then it just falls into the usual cycle of hero and heroine spending hours in bed, and then the heroine doing something that makes her TSTL, and the hero saving the day.. OK, so I like the hero saving the day part, but the rest just leaves me feeling slightly disappointed, no matter how much I enjoyed it. Like that feeling you get when you get given some really fancy chocolates, and they end up being no better than Hershey's Kisses.

Well, this one didn't do that. The focus really was on the suspense, which is realistically where it should be IMO, to make it an exciting read and credible. The romance was complex, real, messy and fabulous. The author managed to convey the Love At First Sight thing without resorting to the old They Touched Their

Hands And Sparks Flew nonsense. The heroine was just, well, excellent. Strong, damaged, smart, determined, vulnerable, independent. The hero was lonely, a chick-magnet, loved and repulsed by his job, and didn't know he needed something to care for until he did.

Now, onto the meaty stuff - the suspense was brilliant. The author keeps you hanging until the end, although it doesn't feel they are teasing you, but instead, it follows the natural progression of an investigation, which is incredibly well-described, by the way.

I only had one little problem, in that the heroine should have spoken to the hero sooner about one issue, but even that was a weak spot rather than an out-an-out TSTL moment.

5 stars. Excellent book. Can't wait for this author to write the next one!

Katrina says

There were several things that pulled me right into Cathy Perkins's book *The Professor*. The setting, back in my single days I worked in Manning, SC. My aunt and uncle lived in Lake City, SC. One of the best school librarian's I ever worked with grew up in Newberry. It was fun reading a book set in places that I could close my eyes and remember, I don't think I've ever been able to do that with a book before.

The emotion felt by the characters, the way the author chose her words, and wove them together in a way that made you feel the way the characters felt. Meg's past, how it made her the woman she is. Mick's past that gave him the gumption to be supportive, even though he didn't know what she'd been through. Then toward the end... Oh my, enough said.

The sinister Professor, learning about him, tidbit by tidbit throughout the book made it hard to put the book down.

I had reached a funk in reading. There are so many publisher required formula books on the market these days, that I'd lost hope of reading something that would capture my imagination and draw me in. I'm glad that I'm a part of a book club that wanted to read *The Professor*, it returned the joy of reading to me.

Sobia says

Meh....*The Professor* is billed as Romantic Suspense, but it's more romantic SUPENSE, with the emphasis and detail on the mystery/suspense part of story line....there is a romance subplot present, but it's only a marginal part of the story, IMO...and felt like it was separate from the mystery plotline. And I'm not sure if this makes sense, but it felt like the romance bits were written by someone who hasn't written romance before...like it doesn't read like romances novels (in their various forms) generally do...I guess that's not technically a bad thing, it just made everything feel off...i really don't know how else to explain it...

Add to that there were parts where the book dragged, and other bits (sorta like info dumps) that seemed totally unnecessary to the over arching story....those parts weren't long, but they felt so out of place, and not a little boring, that I ended up skimming them...

so 3 stars....It's a pretty decent read for someone who likes suspense/thrillers, but for me, a fan of equal parts romance and suspense in my RS reads, this was just meh...

Cathy says

I love these characters - although I might be a little partial in my opinion :)

Alicia says

A fabulous book with a compelling story. A serial killer has killed 3 women so far each from a college campus. Mick is the special agent in charge of going through the evidence from each city to see if this killer can be caught. In the middle of an investigation on a different matter, Mick meets Meg and is impressed with her. All of a sudden he just can't seem to stop thinking about her. The killer is also looking for another victim and seems to have settled on Meg. Emails are sent to both Mick and Meg from the killer. Meg is worried because the emails are weird and creepy. Will Mick be able to save Meg from the killer? Will Meg be able to overcome her past to think about a relationship with Mick? Fantastic story with all sorts of twists and turns.

? Sassy ~ Amy ? says

This Is NOT a romance!! Publisher billed this as romance NOT Author!! Like bad covers we complain about, it's the publishers fault!

I did like this book. DO NOT get me wrong.

Just to say up front, this book was billed as a romance, but just because 2 people end up maybe HEA & they kiss, does NOT make a book a romance. That being said... review below.

Reading this book as a murder mystery it was a great book. It would have been a 5 star read if I had I not been expecting something that never came. Publishers fault NOT author.

Meg is a teacher/assistant paying & living her way through her graduat program at a small university in South Carolina. She meets Mick an State Police "Agent" when he comes to her University to investigate a murders involving 3 college female students.

Each girl is kidnapped raped and tortured & eventually killed. The killer has his sights on Meg & decides she belongs to him. He also sees Mick as a threat & decides if he takes Meg, he can hurt Mick as well.

It was pretty spooky & it could happen. Some of it, like quirky comments were pretty funny. I never really liked Meg because she was so damaged & standoffish. It took the whole book to resolve anything, but it was still really good. I'm finding it hard to describe. I think my real problem was that I expected romance and there wasn't any & what was there could have been cut out completely.

It took me back to when I was a little kid, I ordered bubblegum ice cream at a sit down ice cream place. My mom didn't want me to have it. When it came it had no bubble gum in it. My mom said "maybe it's at the bottom" so I ate the whole thing & there was never a single piece. The whole time I was looking for the

bubble gum. That was one of those stupid kid trust things that you never forget. When I was reading this book I was waiting for this relationship that wasn't happening & it brought me back to that little mad feeling of being robbed of my bubble gum. Stupid, I know, but you get what I mean.

Lucy Dosch says

This was an incredible thriller, full of suspense and intrigue. We are not only in the heads of our main characters Mick and Meg, but also the killer throughout the story. We watch what he sees and feel his increasing obsession, first with Meg, and then when he realizes the growing relationship with Mick and Meg, he obsesses about defeating “his enemy” and taking Mick’s woman in the ultimate humiliation of the man he deems as his nemesis.

As we watch the killer getting closer and closer to his goal, the question of whether the police will unmask the killer before he can get his hands on Meg will keep you enthralled.

This was a great suspense/police thriller, and we spent a lot of time working with the police through the investigation. I would have like to spend a little more time building on the romance/relationship between Meg and Mick without the looming killer or Meg’s resistance to the relationship; maybe a quiet bbq with his family or a short epilogue.

See more at <http://ebookobsessed.com>

Chi Dubinski says

Readers who enjoy a suspenseful story with a romance should check out “The Professor” by Cathy Perkins. When three woman students are murdered, all at different colleges in the area, local law enforcement calls in Mick O’Shaughnessy, agent with the state of South Carolina. While examining the evidence in the case and interviewing witnesses, he meets Meg Connelly, a graduate student and sorority house resident advisor. Lots of twists and turns in this novel while the identity of the killer remains a mystery.

Jeannie says

Loved this book! The suspense had me biting my nails all the way through! Excellent story, characters, ploy and pacing!

Barbara Andrews says

Very good intense story.

Pam says

Great thriller with wonderful romance.

Gloria Harchar says

Agent Mick O'Shaughnessy is introduced as part of a special task force to solve murders that are affecting small-town college campuses. The crimes are horrific. The killer's unique calling card is the only thing that all three victims have in common. This is so scary that I had to hide behind the leather sofa to read it! And the romance completes this thriller that will keep you reading through the night. If you are a fan of Tami Hoag's, then you will love this book!
