



## Winters Heat

*Cristin Harber*

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After putting her life on the line to protect classified intelligence, military psychologist Mia Kensington is on a cross-country road trip from hell with an intrusive save-the-day hero. Uninterested in his white knight act, she'd rather take her chances without the ruggedly handsome, cold-blooded operative who boasts an alpha complex and too many guns.

Colby Winters, an elite member of The Titan Group, has a single objective on his black ops mission: recover a document important to national security. It was supposed to be an easy in-and-out operation. But now, by any means necessary becomes a survival mantra when he faces off with a stunning woman he can't leave behind.

When Titan's safe houses are compromised, Colby stashes Mia at his home, exposing his secret—he's the adoptive father of an orphaned baby girl. Too soon, danger arrives and Mia lands in the hands of a sadistic cartel king with a taste for torture. As hours bleed into fear-drenched days, Colby races across the globe and through a firestorm of bullets to save the woman he can't live without.

## **Winters Heat Details**

Date : Published September 25th 2013 by Mill Creek Press

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Author : Cristin Harber

Format : Paperback 278 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, War, Military Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Suspense, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Winters Heat for online ebook

### Elise X a.k.a Ryder's Pet X says

**Boring. I was so bored.** Which is strange considering there was lots of action. So why was I bored? Let me tell you: insta-love. There was fucking insta-love in this book, and as soon as I realized it, my brain zoomed out. I'm not interested in insta-love, I hate them, but I didn't want to DNF it. So I went through it all, though half into the book, I started skimming.... Plus, the characters weren't any special, nor did I connect with them. They just were. Which was boring as well. Did I mention that I was bored? But the book was light, fast forward and had action in it with insta-love, so if that's your thing, then this is for you.

*Behind him, Jared cursed and shouted. "No one else falls for a chick. Ever. Again. No one."*

#### Quick basic facts:

**Genre:** - (Adult) Contemporary Romance

**Series:** - Series, Book One

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Colby Winters

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Probably not.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - If you like insta-love.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - No.

**Rating** - 1.5 stars.

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### Melissa Haggerty says

I do not know if I can even begin to write a review that will do Winters Heat justice. I know what I was expecting, a romance with some chase and suspense. There are many books like that out there, and many of them are really good books. In my opinion Cristin Harber went beyond what I was expecting and delivered something extraordinary.

The plot of this book starts fast, and it just never stops. It is rescue after rescue, but it doesn't get boring. I was on the edge of my seat, waiting to see what Mia and Colby would do next. I love that their relationship, while moving fast, still has a progression over the book. It added a bigger element of believability to the story.

Mia is so interesting. I don't know what I expected from the beginning, maybe for her to be a bit unassuming and kind of a wall flower. How would she stand up to the big personality that I was expecting Colby to be? Oh did Mia throw me for a loop. She was brave, strong, and she didn't shy away from anything. I was so intrigued with how self-sacrificing she was. In the rare moments where she broke down, I felt for her. She is a character that I got lost in.

Colby Winters is strong, all Alpha, and sexy. He came off abrasive, but that man was a teddy bear at heart. I loved each little layer that we got to see of him. He was like an onion (or cake), lots of layers. If I ever find

myself kidnapped I think I would want Mr. "Just call me Winters" to come to my rescue. He jumps in with both feet and tears up anything in his way.

Although the plot and characters are amazing, what really set this book apart for me were Harber's descriptions. She brought hole-in-the-wall hotel rooms to life; I could picture the beater cars; I could imagine the simple luxury of showers and soft sheets after being on the run. The Columbian jungle leapt off the page, I could almost feel the heat and humidity, and imagine the vines, trees, and horrible bugs. Her descriptions made this book worth six stars to me.

I love finding an author whose voice I know I will never tire of. There are some authors out there who write a book and you know you will love everything else they write. I think Cristin Harber is one of those authors. Winters Heat is exciting and so incredibly fast paced. There was an intense and beautiful romance that ran perfectly alongside an action packed adventure. Garrison's Creed, here I come!

I received an e-copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. All thoughts and opinions are 100% my own.

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### **Serban Georgiana says**

Aceasta serie este combinatia perfecta intre povestea de dragoste si actiune pura.

Titan este o organizatie nonguvernamentală de elita, care se angajeaza in diferite misiuni.

In cazul de fata ,este vorba de recuperarea unui CD care contine date secrete despre o organizatie criminala din Columbia.

Floare la urechie pentru Winter Colby. La experienta pe care o are in cadrul Titanilor, aceasta misiune nu ar fi trebuit sa fie una dificila, dar atunci cand o intalneste pe Mia Kensington totul se complica.

Mi-au placut personajele, si povestea lor de dragoste, dar cel mai mult mi-a placut actiunea acestei carti, si faptul ca tot timpul "se sta ca pe muchie de cutit". Ador genul acesta de carti, pline de actiune.

Cristin Harber a fost o surpriza interesanta, si modul ei de a scrie mi-a mers la suflet.

Punctajul acestei carti este de 4.5 stele.

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### **Victoria says**

**Insanity. She was delicious insanity. In between breathless pants, wicked want fired. Her lips were full. Her kiss was better than he expected, and hell, he expected a whole lot. She stoked him faster than he could remember. A kiss unlike any other kiss.**

**I'd like to announce, I have a new book boyfriend. Colby Winters, your all mine.**

Before starting this book, I wasn't familiar with the Titan series and had never heard of the author, Cristin Harber. That was roughly two days ago. Since then, I've read (inhaled) Winters Heat and book two in the series, Garrison's Creed. I am now debating whether I actually have time to write a proper review before I start reading book three, Westin's Chase, which I have already downloaded!

Colby is delicious. His alpha tendencies and protective nature along with his capable warrior skills had me

swooning more than once. Seriously, this guy is kick ass! He's one of the best hero's I've read lately and probably one of my all-time favorite hero's from the romantic suspense genre. And did I mention he is seriously sexy? Oh yeah. This guy totally did it for me! Mia's character was also easy to like. She had a good head on her shoulders, handled stress well, and didn't act like a brainless damsel in distress.

I love Cristin Harber's writing style. The dialogue between the characters is authentic. The story line is well thought out and complete. I think romantic suspense can be a difficult genre to nail. Some readers want more suspense while others want more romance. I think Winters Heat was the perfect mix for me. The book offers a suspenseful story line along with a heavy dose of steam. For readers familiar with Maya Banks KGI series or Lori Foster fans, Winter Heat felt very similar in terms of mix of suspense and romance as well as the wonderful alpha hero. And Cristin Harber can definitely write a good steamy scene. I love that her scenes never feel rushed. She gives pages of detail (nothing over the top), you know how each character is feeling, what sounds there making, etc. I've definitely read more intense sex scenes but something about the romance in Winters Heat was very sexy to read. Everything played out very naturally and was very HOT!

**He pounded into her harder. Almost too hard. The sound of their slapping flesh burned his ears. She didn't fight it. No, she seemed to crave it as much as he did. Her hips moved with him, begged him to keep up the intensity.**

**The lights were on. His woman was wild. They were out of control and completely in sync. *Sweet addiction, have mercy.* He struggled for more, struggled for restraint, but reveled in the complete lecherous abandon.**

**“Colby, please.” She begged, muscles constricting on his shaft. “Make me come again. Now.”**

**It was all he needed to push into overdrive. Palming her ass off the mattress, he gripped tight, fingers flexed, and aimed to please. He needed to explode, but not until that beautiful face had unraveled again. She'd come on his cock if it killed him.**

Yep, HOT!

I'm writing this with the benefit of already having read book two in the series. (All books are stand-alone). Because of that, I know that Winters Heat isn't just a one hit wonder. This series totally rocks. The writing is wonderful, the story line well thought out, the romance is hot, the hero is hotter...This is such a strong debut, I can't wait to read more and the good thing is, there are several books released, so no waiting for months! Definitely a solid 4.5 STAR book for me. Really excited to see what this author has next, definitely one to watch!

Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for a copy of this book in return for a honest review.

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**CC says**

[  
short separation towards the end  
his friend tries to get him to

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### **Kate's Corner says**

**Move over all other Special Ops and Security Firms as The Titan Group show you truly what it means to be a bad ass alpha male. So I would give 8 guns if I could but unfortunately Goodreads only offers 5 stars**

All I have to do is think of Colby Winters and I start drooling. He is sex on a stick. He has a simple assignment pick up a package at the airport and head home only that when he gets there he sees that there is a lady trying to pick up the package. She doesn't realize that there are thugs on her tail and gets manhandled into leaving with them.

Colby Winters saves the day and goes on a road trip (well not really) to shake off the bad guys. Mia is a right spitfire and gives Colby a lot of shit to begin with but the better they get to know one another the more the attraction grows. After Mia is kidnapped twice and nearly killed twice or was it more. Colby decides to not take her to one of the Titan safe houses but to his home where Mia meets his mother and his daughter Clara. Mia is a civilian and only went after the package as one of her clients mentioned it to her in therapy and he "accidently" died.

The Columbian Cartel is still hot on their heels and after the package. Mia ends up being kidnapped at Colby's home and being taken to South America. This is where "Operation Save Mia" takes place and it kicks ass.

I wasn't sure about this book but after the awesome plot full of suspense, romance, fighting alpha males and an awesome story it is a must read. The characters are introduced bit by bit and the character development of Colby and Mia is to notch making everything to turn out alright in the end. Colby although he was trying to do the right thing for Mia was actually doing the wrong thing and well being a douche but that made the ending so much sweeter.

I received this book from Netgalley and have already signed up for the second one.

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### **Dee says**

Having never read this author before I didn't know what to expect, but this series has been receiving high ratings/reviews so when the box-set (3 full stories plus 2 novellas) was on sale for £0.77 at Amazon I jumped in to give it a try.....Unfortunately it is now back up to it's usual price but still well worth it's price. The stories are also sold individually.

I can honestly see why this author has been getting those high ratings as this is a really great story which was extremely well written and full of action. Usually when starting a new series I kind of dread having to wade through all the character building that we usually get in the first book, but Ms Harber did a fantastic job of giving us just enough to spark interest in the other characters but the story was mainly focused around the H/h.

A really good read that I would happily recommend to all that like RS

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### **Pamela(AllHoney) says**

The first in the *Titan* series by Cristin Harber and the first book I've read by this author. Colby Winters is at the airport in Kentucky to pick up a package. But before he can get it a woman secures it and is then kidnapped by baddies. So he rushes in and rescues the woman and takes control of the package. The woman is psychologist Mia Kensington from Virginia. She was directed to get the package by one of her clients who is now dead.

This had all the elements that should have made it a joyful ride but it just didn't quite reach the potential. It was a fair read but not really my style.

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### **Duchess Nicole says**

DNF

I don't mind insta love but this was weird. From the way the blurb sounded, there was some sort of push-pull with these two, as the hero kind of sort of saves the girl while also kidnapping her. First of all, he could have alleviated her fears with a thirty second conversation instead of making her think that he was actually kidnapping her from her kidnappers. Second of all, the hot and heavy started waaaay early. Third, for being a badass former black ops military dude, Colby is pretty inept. The bad guys steal his package and the girl within a couple of pages, then after he steals them back, the bad guys track them down TWICE more within the next fifty pages, so he decides that the best place to hide is at his HOME, with a newborn daughter and his mom. WTF? At this point, I'm picturing a bumbling seventeen year old with peach fuzz laden wispy whiskers and a rebel flag tattoo.

After pushing through about 80 pages, I finally checked out some of my friend's reviews and nearly smacked myself in the forehead for not reading them before the book. Not my cuppa at all :(

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### **Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says**

What can I say...smokin' hot cover...military ops...guns, danger, damsel in distress...well, yep I am sold! Unfortunately I just didnt find the thrill to be there.

Colby Winters is a part of the covert Titan group...he is an extreme soldier. His latest mission puts him together with a military psychologist who has ended up with a much wanted NOC list! On the run from a drug/trafficking cartel there are shooting sprees, car chases, and kidnappings...Colby Winters and Mia Kensington waste no time straddling the console and feeding off the adrenalin.

Sounds good right? Sure, until one night of getting it on after about 4 hours of knowing one another leads to "forever kinda feelings" and "i am never letting you go", "take down your walls for me" jibberish! I am gonna need much more than that. I just couldn't get the instant connection between muscle man and khaki/cardigan wearing woman! Colby was pretty alpha hot with his all in attitude, but Mia just didn't work for me...instead of being sassy and strong, she came off bitchy and insecure.

If I could have skipped the first 40% and jumped in after, I would have probably really liked it as the action picked up, the connection seemed more plausible. I also liked the other Titan team members a lot, so I will definitely give this author and this series a second go round

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## AJ says

### 2.5 'Almost, but not quite' stars

The first in the *Titan* series, this book is fast paced, action packed and all high intensity. Sadly for me though, a little too fast paced, and a little too clichéd with the badassery.

Colby Winters is an ex-Seal who now works for the Titan group, an elite band of badasses who carry out secretive and highly dangerous operations. His latest mission has him tracking down documents that could prove deadly if they fall into the wrong hands.

Mia is a strong, determined and independent woman, a therapist who found out about the secretive documents from a patient of hers who died in order to keep them a secret. Trying to do her bit, she goes after them only to end up kidnapped by bad guys until Colby comes to her rescue.

The two of them soon find themselves on the run from a Columbian cartel, with Mia now a target and Colby fighting to keep her alive.

All very exciting, right? And yeah, it is. The part that didn't work for me was the romance. Not really insta-love, but definitely insta-lust and then it's pretty much insta-relationship.

Seriously, they're on the run from bad guys, and he's so overcome by passion in the 4 or so hours that they've known each other that post car-chase he pulls onto a freeway exit ramp so that they can make out and he can feel her up a bit. And does she protest? Hell no, she overcomes her kidnapping trauma to jump on in there with a bit of groping of her own, and this is seemingly the beginning of a relationship between them.

I'm all for lusty attraction, and fast movers, but in this case, it just confused me. I was reading and all of a sudden... wait, what? Why are they kissing? And then, after yet another attack, they wind up having wildly hot monkey sex that very night - which is not all that unusual for a contemporary romance, but it's all very intense with 'take down your walls for me' and 'where is this going' sort of conversations happening that first night \*sigh\*.

And then there's Colby himself. He's a clichéd badass - tough, ruthless and spouting off clichéd one-liners about his badassery.

*"I'm no angel, and I'm not finished dancing with the devil."*

Somewhat bizarrely, he has an adopted baby girl - bit of a souvenir from breaking up a sex trafficking ring. Yes, I get that this adds to his swoon factor - big badass, tiny baby girl who has him wrapped around her adorable little finger. But it just seemed really weird.

And then there is his questionable decision-making. They're on the run from dangerous bad guys and he

decides to take Mia to his home .... where his infant daughter lives..... where he leaves the two of them alone and unprotected while he goes off to work.... hmmmmmm.

But despite all that, and even with things moving so quickly between them, I did like the way Colby handled their developing relationship. He wants Mia, and he lets her know it.

*“No, Mia, I don’t do this after my ops. I don’t shower with women and ask about their feelings. I’m flying blind here, babe, no idea what I’m doing. But I’m doing it for you.”*

There is a bit of stupid, but it’s handled well, and if you can suspend belief that they are madly in love and want to spend their lives together after 4 days, then you might just find yourself getting swept away.

*“I’ve needed you my whole life, Mia. And I had no idea.”*

Oh, and on a side note, the word “doll” as a term of endearment just does not work for me but Colby, apparently, loves it. He says it all the. freaking. Time! And literally every time he called her “doll”, I cringed.

But moving on...

The story moves at a fast pace, and even with all of the relationship drama, the action in the book definitely kept me interested. There is so much going on, and it’s all very intense, violent and exciting, and I enjoyed that aspect of the story. I also enjoyed the time spent with the other Titan group boys, and I see some potential there.

*Behind him, Jared cursed and shouted. “No one else falls for a chick. Ever. Again. No one.”*

I almost DNF’d this book, but I think the fact that I was listening to it as an audiobook helped pull me through. I find that it’s easier to put up with something that would have you putting down your kindle if you’re listening to it while you’re running errands or doing housework. And Jeffrey Kafer does a great job telling the story – he has a wicked voice, and his sexy is almost shiver-inducing.

Despite my issues with this one, there were aspects of the story that I really enjoyed so I’m not ready to give up on this series just yet. I’m intrigued by Cash, and his story sounds really good, so I’m cautiously looking forward to his book up next.

2.5 stars.

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### **Beanbag Love says**

This story starts out great. Colby Winters is sent to extract a package from an airport in what is supposed to be a simple operation. When he gets there he finds not only a group of Russian bad guys moving toward the

same package, but a lone woman, Mia Kensington, already there securing it for herself. Thus ensues a series of intense action sequences and a lot of one-on-one time for the leads.

The one-on-one time is where I started to have a problem. It really starts to feel claustrophobic after about 20%. We know there's a group that works with Colby, but we don't get to see them until around 50%. That's when things picked up again for me.

Colby is a commando and Mia is a therapist, mainly working with the military and their families. One of her patients gives her the old "if something happens to me ..." and that's how she ends up in this mess. They make a great couple. Both smart, both attractive, both complimenting each other in a variety of ways. The problem is that we're treated to about 10 inner monologues for each of them that remind us how they never do this and this relationship is impossible and what are they thinking. It gets old and the book bogs down.

Also, Colby turns into kind of a squish for a while and that just feels odd when he's the kind of guy who can probably perform surgery on himself while strangling a bad guy and eating a steak at the same time.

After the Titon Group enters the scene things get even more intense and the whole story starts to regain the lost momentum. It takes a while to get their names and types out, but once they're known to the reader they're really engaging.

Despite the use of a very tired trope near the end and some basic story holes, I ultimately found it pretty enjoyable. The excerpt for the next book in the series was very intriguing, so I'll be continuing with this promising series.

*I was provided a copy of this book by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Bee'sBooks says**

Ok,

I am still reading this book and trying to finish it. I have been on a break from it for a minute due to illness and then my Kindle had the nerve to get a frozen screen I'm waiting for a replacement screen, so I can resume my story. However, all of the setbacks aside, here is my review on this book so far, MEHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

I am so trying to like this story, but I really want to quit it, but my sometime OCD (for real, not even a joke) won't allow me to leave it unfinished,, so I am on a like two and half page a day situation, which is not conducive to a speedy rap up of this book at all. So far, this story to me is so unbelievable in a "Lord please, give me back the time from my life that I spent reading this," kind of way. This story is a bit disjointed to me. It starts with Colby Winters, a special op, security expert something or other, going to retrieve some top secret package from a park, he gets to the location and encounters a woman, Mia, retrieving the package he was going to get. However, before he can get to her, some guys from some Colombian cartel swoop in and kidnap her. Then, Winters decides he has to save her to get the package and when he saves her decides she is pretty and starts to like her and they kiss. Mind you, all of this happens in like the first twenty to thirty pages give or take a few. WHHHHAAAATTT????!!!!. I am so sorry, but if I am kidnapped and I don't know who has taken me or what is going on and the guy who saves me, comes in like gangbusters and takes me without saying who he is, the last thing I will end up wanting to do is kiss him and think he is hot stuff.

I understand this is a story and none of this is real life, but I still feel like some of it needs to feel plausible and unfold in a way where I am like, "Oh yeah this could happen." I shouldn't immediately feel like "What in the hot hell just happened?" Instead, I am left feeling like "What did I just miss?"

I will continue on my OCD, must finish everything I read, two and a half pages a day until the end; because that is all I seem to be able to take at a time. I will continue to read other stories and one day I will write a proper rated review, but it most definitely won't be soon.

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### **Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says**

DNF

Reason: Main dude has no brain

Explanation: He's doing an op for the Titan group or whatever they are called, he finishes the op plus kidnaps the main woman and they run together because the human trafficking cartel is after them both.

Human trafficking cartel. After them both, but mainly after the woman and her package.

\*some spoilers ahead\*

So they need to hide from that human trafficking cartel and he decides to take them to his house where he has a few months old baby (!!!!!) and his mother looking after the said baby.

So. Stupidity number one.

He mentions that the Titan headquarters is impenetrable, so damn secure it's... , I don't know what it is but impenetrable says it all. And he's currently doing a job for the said Titan group/security/whatever it is. But does he go there to hide? No. He goes home but is not really worried cause he has... Security cameras. Yeah. Shoot him right now.

Stupidity number two though it still goes into the number one.

I kinda lost it there, well actually I lost it after the incredibly predictable thing happened considering where they went to hide and how un-impenetrable that location was.

Uber disappointed in this book. When it comes to suspense I need characters with brains and this dude didn't deliver.

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### **Beth says**

4 Candy Coated Stars

Reeces Peanut Butter Cups are my favorite. Chocolate and PB. So yum. But there are lots of great candies out there. Some you have only on special times like candy corn in October. Or malted Robin's Eggs at Easter. Sugary melt in your mouth goodness. Stuff you wanna just lick up. Add the men of Titan Group to that list. Alpha sweetness you will want by the handful.

Colby Winters is a man on a mission. He is former military and works for a Special Ops Groups that takes on bad guys all over the globe. He has a slight candy addiction, but nothing that interferes with his job. This mission should be easy...retrieve a package. Done. Oops. Not so fast.

Enter Mia. She is a psychiatrist who is in serious need of some therapy herself. She is trying to help a former client. He's not former because he was cured. He's former because he is dead. Mia gets the package that Colby was after. Now she has the package, Colby and the bad guys on her tail.

As Mia and Colby are on the road trip from hell as they fight off waves of bad guys. They are attracted to each other, I mean DUH, right. He is a walking candy gram of sexiness. But being with Colby means some dangerously strange things can happen.

**She tasted of sweat and tear gas, of soft woman, and carnal ambition.**

Really? Sweat and *tear gas*? I guess you can't tell what will turn on a military man. But can they trust each other with their lives and their hearts. Colby's life is constantly surrounded by danger. Can he allow Mia to be pulled into that circle of danger? Could Mia be more danger to him than the guys with guns?

**You, my friend, have a death wish. Columbian cartels are child's play compared to a woman on the warpath.**

This was a great sexy, fast paced, thriller of a candy coated read. There are some surprises in there too. I was not expecting some of the secrets and plot twists. I can't wait for Titan #2. Just like M&Ms, you will want these guys by the handful. Oh wait. That sounds bad doesn't it? Yeah...I stand by it. You will want these guys by the handful.

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