



Love Me to Death

Allison Brennan

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Six years ago, Lucy Kincaid was attacked and nearly killed by an online predator. She survived. Her attacker did not. Now Lucy's goal is to join the FBI and fight cyber-crime, but in the meantime, she's volunteering with a victim's rights group, surfing the Web undercover to lure sex offenders into the hands of the law. But when the predators she hunts start turning up as murder victims, the FBI takes a whole new interest in Lucy.

With her future and possibly even her freedom suddenly in jeopardy, Lucy discovers she's a pawn in someone's twisted plot to mete out vigilante justice. She joins forces with security expert and daredevil Sean Rogan, and together they track their elusive quarry from anonymous online chat rooms onto the mean streets of Washington, D.C. But someone else is shadowing them: A merciless stalker has his savage eye on Lucy. The only way for her to escape his brutality may be another fight to the death.

Love Me to Death Details

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From Reader Review Love Me to Death for online ebook

Suspense Magazine says

With sheer determination, Lucy Kincaid has beaten the odds. A one-time victim, she's worked tirelessly to rebuild her life, focusing on her goal of joining the ranks of the FBI despite the lingering anxiety ingrained from a brutal attack and kidnapping six years prior. She survived and in a fitting twist of fate, made certain that her attacker didn't. She'll do what it takes to never be a victim again and try to help those that unwittingly step into predators' paths.

While waiting for word on her FBI application, Lucy spends her free time volunteering at a victim's rights group and surfs the web undercover to smoke out re-offenders. But as in any good story, the best laid plans never go smoothly. When Lucy discovers that the criminals she's entrapping become murder victims themselves, the FBI takes a brand new and very different look at Lucy. Now everything's in jeopardy, family, her future, maybe even her life.

With her freedom and future now in peril, she joins up with Sean Rogan—daredevil and security expert—and they work to track their slippery prey. Now here's a guy we'd love to meet. Street smart and facing unfamiliar territory as he discovers that he wants Lucy to be his, he doesn't see the damage that she feels deep inside and he'll do anything for her. However, someone is watching them both. A cold-hearted killer has his violent eyes on Lucy. Her only means of escape? Perhaps another fight to the death.

Three circling threads braid this story together: Lucy's past, the vigilante-murderer of parolees and the stalker. With so much evil surrounding her, it's a sad state of affairs when the good guys begin to appear suspicious.

A fan of Allison's for many years, you always know what you are getting...a great story with love 'em or hate 'em characters and perfectly placed plot twists in every book.

Reviewed by Shannon Raab for Suspense Magazine

Stephanie (Once Upon a Chapter) says

What I Loved: Allison Brennan is guaranteed to give me chills. I go into one of her books expecting it. She didn't disappoint! I think the best part of the book was that there were two unknowns, so my mind was unable focus on one or the other. While I had an idea of who the big bad guy was, I didn't actually know who he was. All I had was a profile.

I fell in love with Lucy when she first made her appearance. I'm as proud of who she's become as I would be a real person. Sean Rogan is just what Lucy needs. He's smooth and suave, protective but able to let Lucy make her decisions. I really look forward to finding out how they'll work together.

What I Could Have Lived Without: If you haven't read a Brennan novel before at least read this first: Almost all of Brennan's novels contain some form of sexual abuse/sexual assault/rape. It is not gratuitous! These parts of the plot line are necessary for character development. I can read it. Yeah I get that bad crawly feeling and my stomach may drop but to me it's all part of the ride. If you absolutely cannot read these things or don't want to, maybe look for a spoilerish review to decide if it's really worth passing on. Otherwise you may miss a wonderful romantic suspense.

Recommended For: Romantic suspense readers who enjoy a chilling read...with a happy ending of course! :)

Avoid If: You cannot or do not want to read a book that has sexual abuse in it.

Doreen says

Due diligence for work! I didn't like this quite as much as I enjoyed the Max Revere books I've read so far, most likely because there is So Much Backstory alluded to here that it doesn't feel like the start of a series but the continuation of some other book I can't quite figure out. Also, it was absolutely maddening how everyone was all "protect Lucy!"... except for the moment she was kidnapped. And that thing at the florist? Ayfkm?! A name isn't a positive ID, ffs. That was some really shoddy detecting and everyone involved should be thoroughly ashamed.

That said, I'm only really critical because dang can Allison Brennan write a thriller, and I guess I just expect her characters here to be as smart as the characters of the Max Revere books (tho what's up with Ms Brennan's thing for half-Cuban ex-boyfriends?) I did very much like Lucy's perspective not only on survival but also on trust and vigilantism. I kinda want to force the writers of Arrow to read this book for those latter two topics alone. But I digress. The love scenes were terrific! And another stellar thing about this book is the fact that it's set in DC and actually knows what it's talking about. I really hate when books are set in my area by an author who has no idea what he or she is doing.

Anyway, an enjoyable thriller and I'm glad to finally make the acquaintance of Ms Brennan's work. Good, solid stuff. She's now on my Read This list.

~Megan~ says

Having read the previous book in the series regarding Lucy Kincaid's kidnapping, I was really excited to read about her all grown up. This is by far my favorite Allison Brennan book...it reminded me a lot of Karen Rose.

Lucy is such a strong character. She's been through literal torture and though she has her moments of weakness, she has come through it all with determination. I loved her decision to try and help others by taking scum off the streets. Sean was a super hot, perfectly protective, romantic suspense hero. I loved him to pieces...he seemed to anticipate Lucy's needs before she did.

I'm looking forward to the next book in their series!

Denise Sellers says

My first book by this author and I must say it was very enjoyable. It started out a little slow, and it always does when I read a new author, but it certainly picked up and had many characters which kept you wondering who actually was the criminal! I will definitely be reading more in the "Lucy Kincaid" series!

fleurette says

[From the very beginning you know that there is s

Donna says

I will start by saying this is not my kind of book. It took me several days to get through this. I finished it this morning and I'm already wondering, "What was this about again?" I did the audio on this and I can't blame the reader, because it was read well. I will even say the story was good. It had good suspense, too. So, I knew I would finish it...eventually.

First off, there seemed to be so many people in it. So I found myself hitting the rewind button to re-listen so I could learn who all these people were. A fair amount of them had such minor roles, they could have been eliminated and the story would not have suffered.

There also seemed to be a lot of back story introduced every time something needed more explanation. I had to rewind a lot because of that as well. For me, it felt super manipulated, because there was an explanation for everything.

The female mc did not have a consistent presence. She wobbled a lot between what the author was telling us who she was (ie: a tough FBI wannabe), to being a weak victim of a past crime. Survivors of traumatic experiences usually don't whip out a fine tooth comb to go over it every second of every day.

The romance was fantasy fiction. It caused excessive eye rolling and there was a simpering part that almost activated my gag reflex. I am not a fan of the mix of genre's here.

Lastly, the men seemed a little whiny. But maybe it was how the reader read the lines. I don't know. I just know it didn't feel right.

Kelly Houser says

Review: I received a review copy of this novel from TLC Book Tours. Many thanks to Lisa for providing me with a copy. I was really excited to receive this book, as I have been wanting to read something by Brennan for quite awhile. I had a really mixed reaction to this novel. Let's start with what I liked.

I enjoyed Brennan's writing style. It was really easy to get into the story because her writing style was very inviting. Brennan is very skilled at creating detailed settings that sprang to life in my mind.

So, what didn't I like? As I said, I've never read anything by Brennan before, and I know the description states that Love Me To Death is the first book in the Lucy Kincaid series, but I got the distinct feeling that I had dropped into the middle of a series, or at least that these characters may have been in other books that I haven't read. I don't know that that is the case, but it definitely had that feel to it and here's why.

There was an abundance of back story regarding Lucy's kidnapping and rape. At the same time, none of her ordeal got any page time in this book, so I felt like I missed something or that this back story may have been a part of a different novel. This was bothersome to me.

Additionally bothersome was the sheer volume of characters. There was Lucy, her 3 or 4 bothers, her sister-in-law, an ex-lover, a private investigator team which was made up of several siblings, Lucy's boss, many FBI agents, and about 10 bad guys and victims. Because of the volume of characters, I had trouble keeping who was whom straight and this prevented me from totally engaging with the story.

The plot itself was interesting, but with Lucy's back story and the present plot, I felt a little lost. I felt lost because I felt like I didn't have all the details on Lucy and the current plot seemed very tied to that back story.

Overall, this book ended up just being OK for me. I really did enjoy Brennan's writing and will definitely pick up something else by her. If you are a fan of Brennan's then you will most definitely enjoy this book. If you are new to Brennan, like I was, I wouldn't recommend this book as a starting place.

Sonja says

Er komen erg veel personages voorbij in het boek. Hierdoor was ik - zeker in het begin- af en toe wel even het spoor bijster in welk deel van het verhaal ik zat. Het verhaal lijkt het van de hak op de tak te gaan door het verspringen tussen de vele personages. Gelukkig krijgen ze allen vrij snel een eigen persoonlijkheid. Het eerste deel in de Lucy Kincaid serie laat je uitgebreid kennis maken met Lucy en de mensen om wie zij geeft, aangevuld met de nodige dosis romantiek .

Een leuk element in het boek is dat de krantenartikelen, smsjes, mails, brieven etc. letterlijk worden weergegeven. Zo komt het verhaal levensecht over en maakt het nog meer indruk. Daarnaast worden de gedachten van de stalker weergegeven vooraleer Lucy of haar vrienden/familie doorhebben dat ze gestalkt wordt. Dit maakt het interessant en tevens een beetje "creepy". Op deze manier leer je de stalker al kennen voordat ook maar iemand in het boek iets over hem weet.

De opbouw is redelijk, het duurt wel een poos voor het verhaal op gang komt. Eigenlijk zijn er drie grote verhaallijnen die een beetje door mekaar lopen, en allemaal rond hetzelfde hoofdpersonage draaien (Lucy Kincaid). Maar op het einde blijkt toch alles verband met elkaar te houden.

Ik ga zeker nog meer boeken van deze serie lezen.

April says

A tale of suspense and deep darkness of the soul. Allison Brennan brings readers a story that will captivate them from beginning to end in Love Me To Death.

Upon beginning Love Me To Death, I was hooked. The suspense and action is constant throughout the entire story, taking the reader on a journey of unending twists and turns.

It has been six years since Lucy Kincaid was brutally raped, tortured and nearly killed. Through it all, she has come out strong and determined to save others from ever suffering as she once did. With the dream and goal of becoming an official part of the FBI, Lucy works for an undercover victim's rights group, whose main goal is to put rapists and attackers, out on parole, back into prison. What Lucy did not count on were the guys she "set up" through online chats, to end up dead. Exactly who is taking matters into their own hands and why are they making Lucy look like a suspect?

If she didn't have enough to deal with, Lucy discovers there is a stalker on her tail, and the terror of six years ago, which constantly haunts her, comes thrusting forward relentlessly. The one glimmer of light, filtering through the nightmare, is Sean, Lucy's brother's partner in a security firm. Sean is set on protecting Lucy, no matter the consequence, and will stop at nothing to keep her safe. As the flame soars between Lucy and Sean, the twisted and menacing mind of evil gets closer to Lucy and her dream of a "normal" life. Can she be saved before spiraling into an eternity of darkness and endless torment?

Love Me To Death focuses on a very real and very terrifying epidemic - online predators and sex offenders. This is not a book that can be read light-heartedly, nor without having a cruel reality thrown in the reader's face. However, this realism creates a memorable and hard-to-put-down read. The story is solid and I really enjoyed the characters. Particularly the strength and courage of Lucy and the sturdiness and love of Sean. They are both incredibly real and strong characters that work well off of one another, as well as together. I also enjoyed Kate, Lucy's sister-in-law, whose care and love of Lucy makes for a wonderful support system as well as an added dimension to the story itself.

While I greatly enjoyed the story weaved by Ms. Brennan, I do have to be honest in saying that as I read Love Me To Death, I often felt as though this was actually a continuation of a prior story. I did a bit of searching and did not come across anywhere that mentioned this book being a spin-off of another or part of a series, so I am not exactly sure what to think of this aspect. This prior story, did unfold throughout the main story, however as I read, I often felt questions popping up in my mind, as well as feeling as though I was missing something, somewhere. I am not sure if this was intentional, on the part of the author, as a way to draw the reader in and make them continue to read to try and figure the questions out? Whatever the reason, it did take a bit away from the story, for me. While I loved the characters and plot, I was unable to completely feel as though I was within the story, for reason of lacking information. I do enjoy Allison Brennan's writing style and her ability to create a fantastic story, so I still recommend Love Me To Death to readers looking for a great suspense story, however I did want to mention my trepidation on the background story, to make future readers aware of it. Overall, Love Me To Death is a great read and held my attention from start to finish.

Mieke Schepens says

Lees de recensie op mijn blog: <http://graaggelezen.blogspot.nl/2016/...>

Machelle says

The beginning of this book was more like beginning in the middle of a series! There was so much back story put out for the reader with very little detail as in "let me hit the highlights to get you caught up from the last book" that it was a huge turn off and I ALMOST put it down and said forget it. The last half of the book was

better and had great drama as well as mystery. Not sure I will be continuing this series as it wasn't my favorite.

Jamie says

The first in a series is tough! But this one did not disappoint! I highly recommend!!

Dindy says

I wasn't really expecting to like this book because I do not like the mixing of the romantic suspense with the more hard core thriller. I prefer to have my mystery/thrillers without having to endure the formulaic romance storyline. For a great deal of the book I was on high alert for anything that would make me want to jerk out my headphones and go on to something else.

And for quite a while it teetered on the edge. Yes, it was pretty much hit-you-in-the-nose obvious that Lucy and Sean would get together, and we had to have the obligatory sex scene. I always wonder how the narrators on audio books feel when they are narrating those scenes. And the book just barely missed being patronizing about Lucy-- the characters were repeatedly amazed at her strength and poise despite all she had been through. I could just picture them patting her on the head. And I had a hard time relating to Lucy's outrage at finding out that predatory pedophiles were being murdered instead of arrested and sent back to prison. The passages about the dangers of vigilantism and the necessity of relying on the justice system were much too preachy.

SPOILER ALERT: DO NOT READ FURTHER IF YOU DO NOT LIKE SPOILERS!

And yet... Although Lucy bordered on being too good to be true, I grew to like her as a character, just as I grew to like the other members of her extended family, and I liked the way they all put their various alliances aside to focus on rescuing Lucy-- oops-- there was something else I normally wouldn't like-- the fact that the heroine had to be rescued at the end.

Except here is where I really have to give credit to Allison Brennan. She actually came up with a plausible way to put Lucy into a dangerous situation without having to rely on her heroine being too stupid to live. Leaving aside the fact that the whole stalker subplot was utterly unbelievable and was clearly put in there just to set up a situation in which Lucy would need to be rescued by Sean, the actual kidnapping was carried out in such a way that it was clear Lucy could not have prevented it.

It made perfect sense that Lucy would want to go to the church for Cody's funeral without her current boyfriend accompanying her since Cody had been her previous boyfriend. It also made perfect sense that everyone involved thought all the danger was resolved with the arrests of the members of the vigilante group. It also made sense that Lucy's stalker was able to drug her as she was entering the church without her knowledge-- although the thought of a version of rohypnol that can be absorbed through the skin makes me shudder. And it made sense that once the drug started to work, Lucy would become ill and leave the church to get some fresh air, leaving her coat with the cell phone behind on the church pew. I might wonder why her sister-in-law, Kate, didn't accompany her to the church, just for support, but overall I think it is plausible.

Even when Lucy is kidnapped, she does not dissolve into victim mode. She largely keeps her wits about her, trying to learn more about where she is, looking for escape opportunities, and handling her captor adroitly. I can even forgive Brennan for sending the cavalry in to rescue her instead of letting her get herself out of the situation because, let's face it, there are some situations in which no matter how capable the person, there is no escape. And when Sean finds Lucy handcuffed and barefoot in the cage in the basement, she is clearly not in victim mode-- she unlocks her own handcuffs once she is given the lock pick tool by Sean, and she grabs Sean's throw-down gun to provide coverage for him while he is picking the combination lock that holds the cage shut (although why he didn't just shoot it, I am not sure.) She saves the life of her fellow captive and gets herself out of the basement because Sean has to carry the other woman out.

So the book redeemed itself at the end, and I ratcheted the rating up largely on the basis of how the kidnapping and rescue of Lucy was written.

Would I read another book in the series? I am not sure. I might read *Fear No Evil*, which details an earlier Lucy story in which she is kidnapped and held by a pornographer who videotapes her multiple rapes and posts them online. *Love Me to Death* repeatedly refers to it and I'm kind of interested to see more of the story. I might read another book in the Lucy Kincaid series to see if Brennan can focus more on the suspense aspects and drop the formulaic romantic crap. I certainly wouldn't buy it, but if it shows up at my library, I'll probably check it out.

Renee says

I had to quit on this one. I was listening to the audio version, so the irritants were even more noticeable. Too many people with obvious backstories I didn't know, as this was the first of her books I've tried. The interminable internal dialogues. Characters (including the bad guys) seemed to be constantly pausing in the middle of a scene to analyze their feelings/motivations/history/possible actions while other characters often hung out in limbo waiting for them to finish and the character to actually speak or do something. Mary Janes. Everyone was too wonderful. "I create magical databases to find criminals." "My boyfriend is a master hacker and can get in anywhere." "My friend is the best profiler known to man." "My brother is a genius." Extra words. Why use one, when you can use a whole bunch?! "He pulled out the lime green metal folding chair with the paint chipped off the lower left leg that had been at the desk across the room where Agent X was sitting earlier in the day before he left to solve crimes and brought it back across the room to the desk where [she] had been sitting dejectedly despondent with her head in her hands and her long dark hair falling over her shoulders to trail down her long luscious legs which he found incredible attractive and arousing though he should not right now because other important and bad things were happening and her brother might not like it but he is a grown man with his own branch of the company that he runs but never actually appears to work at and she is a grown woman and it should not matter that her brother might not like it and though he has never found anyone like her remotely attractive before that is probably because he had not met her and he did not want to grow up which is why he usually dated airheads but now that he was spending more time with [her] due to the 3 currently unconnected horrible things that were happening to her he kind of liked her now more than he had liked those other women who only wanted to do fun things like ride in his car that he liked to drive very fast when he wasn't flying them somewhere in his personal plane that he pilots he thought as he placed the metal chair next to where she was sitting in great internal pain at her desk in the brown leather chair that usually molded to her body but not when she was stiff with pain as she was now making sure the bent leg of the green metal chair did not accidentally bump her as he settled the chair in position, lowered his well shaped posterior, in such great shape due to the fact that he worked out a lot, into the chair and then he moved her hair away from her ear and said..."

instead of

"He sat down beside her and said..."

There are people who enjoy this style of writing - if you do, please give it a try. AFAIK her books sell just fine, and kudos to the author for developing a following with a nice connected series of books. If you prefer a faster pace with tighter writing, you might want to give this one a pass.
