



Sierra

Taylor Dean

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TOP FIVE FINALIST FOR THE KINDLE BOOK REVIEW'S 2013 BEST INDIE BOOK AWARD (In the Romance category)

Alyssa Fontaine's life, loved ones—everything familiar and dear—are brutally taken from her.

Taken captive by two men, she endures a horrific nightmare. A new life is forced upon her and even a new name.

Just when it appears that no hope is in sight, she is saved by an unlikely twist of fate. Trapped in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains, life will open its arms to her again and she will embrace it. She will find love such as she never knew existed.

Sierra is a heart-wrenching story of the power of the human spirit to survive amidst impossible circumstances and severe losses. It is a story of survival . . . and hope.

Sierra Details

Date : Published June 13th 2012 by Create Space

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Author : Taylor Dean

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From Reader Review Sierra for online ebook

Charissa says

Alyssa seems to have a perfect life--married to an amazing man who adores her and her 2-year-old son, Clay. They are her world. At a rest stop in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, her life changes forever when Pa and Adam (despicable nasty evil villains) abduct her small family. Forced to endure horrific abuse and tragedy, Alyssa finds herself alone in the wilderness with her 2 evil captors as they make their way towards their community where she will become Adam's "Eve."

Born a fighter, Alyssa escapes twice, but is recaptured both times and beaten terribly. Despairing of hope, a small miracle happens that lifts her heart enough to not give up. I don't want to ruin any of the suspense from here on out; let me just say that I didn't think I would be able to keep reading because Alyssa's life gets so terrible that it's painful to read about. But READ ON! This story was amazing to see the resilience of the human spirit when Alyssa gets a 2nd chance in life and love.

This will go down as one of my favorite reads this year! Taylor Dean writes characters that I always connect with and love with all my heart. Their pain is my pain; their joy is mine. I enjoy every second of her books, and this one was one of my favorites for the wide range of emotions she made me feel--utter devastation to complete bliss and joy! Awesome book.

Amy says

This is a beautiful story about finding love again after a tragedy. The story of Alex saving Alyssa and them falling in love touched my heart. The author wrote a beautiful love story that was intelligent (so many romance novels are too graphic and not true love).

I have to be honest that I didn't like the story at first. The beginning was dark, but that didn't bother me. I thought the author was too choppy in telling the story at the beginning. Once they arrived at Alex's cabin, the story completely changed and the author had a great flow for the rest of the novel.

One of the things that I truly enjoyed about the novel was their views on the sanctity of marriage.

I liked that the author added the two years later epilogue, but I was surprised that it included them coming face to face with Adam's family. I would have predicted them just living happily ever after in Oregon. It made you understand that Adam was a victim and his family was suffering too.

Kathleen says

Sierra is an unforgettable story of loss, hope, survival, love and second chances.

On the way home from a family outing, Alyssa Fontaine's world is turned upside down when her husband and son are brutally taken from her and she is abducted by two mountain men, who take her forcefully into the Sierra Nevada Mountains to start a new life with a new name, Eve.

Alex Kendrick has had a lot of tragedy in his life, and in order to get rid of the ghosts from his past, for the past three years he has called his mountain cabin retreat home. In the mountains he is at peace, he loves the simple solitary life that he has made for himself away from everyone.

Just when Alyssa thinks her life is over, an unlikely twist of fate brings a chance to escape from her abductors, and be saved by an unlikely savior, Alex. For Alyssa and Alex, it is a journey that will forever change their lives.

Every now and then you come across a novel that profoundly takes your breath away, and Sierra is that novel. Masterfully written and told in the third person narrative, Sierra is a story of two people who have known tragedy in their life, who are brought together under very unlikely circumstances to have a second chance at love and happiness. It is an amazingly compelling story of the power of the human spirit to survive tragic life circumstances, it will captivate you and take you on an emotional roller coaster ride while pulling at your heartstrings. Rich in details and vivid descriptions, the author masterfully weaves a tale that engages the reader and draws them into the characters' lives. The reader will feel the palpable suspense, drama, loss, hope and love in this riveting tale that is both heart-wrenching and redemptive.

Sierra is so much more than a romantic suspense story, it is an amazing testament to the resilience and power of the human spirit to survive, have hope and gain a second chance when they are dealt with unexpected life circumstances. This is a story that will resonate with you long after the last words have been read.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Reading Addiction Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

J says

4.5 stars I'll round up to 5 stars. A wonderful read that starts out very dark. Alyssa is on a family vacation with her husband and young boy. The family is kidnapped from a rest stop by some really bad "Deliverance" types. Their purpose is to use Alyssa as the younger one's "Eve" to his "Adam" and start a new community in the desolate mountains. Alyssa is forced to watch them destroy her family and then is brutally taken hostage.

By chance she and her captors come upon a cabin in the middle of nowhere. The cabin's occupant is a doctor that decided to leave civilization behind when his life had a series of tragic events. He is horrified to see the shape that Alyssa is in and starts to help her.

This story is beautiful in that it deals with coming to grips with the bad things that happen in your life, learning to accept love and happiness when you question whether you really deserve it or not and hanging in there even when there are major bumps in the road. This book is beautifully written and very moving.

Just beware. This is not your typical "steamy" romance book. Yes there is great love and sexual tension, but marriage vows are sacred and not to be taken lightly. It is not "preachy" but is deeply moving.

Laurie says

First off, I really liked the cover of this book – the snowy tranquility gave me a warm, cozy feeling. Then, after reading the blurb, I knew this would be an enjoyable read for me. One thing, the cover beguiles you into thinking this is a light romantic suspense story. That really is not the case. Even though there are a few scenes that capitalize on that homey feeling, many more are positively gut-wrenching. After the first few pages my attention never wandered; eager to find out what would happen next. The suspense kept me engaged whole-heartedly.

The author did an outstanding job creating the villains. Pa and Boy are creepy, nasty, and smelly. I loved hating them! Alex, especially, is a complex, flawed person. He and Alyssa both grow and change dramatically over the course of the story and face some mighty obstacles both together and apart. There were a few times when I just wanted to smack one or the other of them because neither could see the forest for the trees, as the saying goes.

I liked the overall voice of the story. There is a certain hopefulness that is never quite quenched even as circumstances seem most dire. However, there is also a feeling of dread hanging there in the periphery, callously prepared to poison all hope for future happiness. This suspenseful story is well-executed, cunningly crafted and ultimately is a testament to the ruggedness of the human spirit.

This book was provided to me by the author and Reading Addiction Book Tours in exchange for my honest review.

Reviewed by Laurie-J

Ruth Hill says

Let me begin by saying that any review I leave here will never do this book justice. Not since "Hunger Games" has a book so captivated me and taken me on such an emotional roller coaster! I thought I had read romances before, and books like "Jane Eyre" and "A Tale of Two Cities," I had always considered the peaks of romantic literature. Let me say this. This is the most romantic book I have ever read in my 38 years on this planet! In case you have not guessed by now, I loved this book!

When I began this book, I had no idea what I was getting into. I was horrified right off the bat, but I was so intensely drawn into the story that I savored every word on every page. Alyssa and Alex are fantastic characters, and Taylor Dean has made them truly three-dimensional. I connected with both in ways I never dreamed possible that I could connect with fictional characters. Alex gets my award for the most romantic character in a book--right alongside the Dumb as a Box of Rocks Award. No spoilers--read the book yourself.

I found myself tingling in unexpected ways and moaning (even when there were students in the room with me). More than once, I found myself crying over this story, and once I even threw the kindle down on the desk, determined to not finish it. It was too painful to read. Why? Well, let's just say that while I have not experienced anything like Alyssa did, I long for so much of what she and Alex expressed. And the book was so real to me that I found myself longing for what I don't have. Very rarely does a book ever affect me like

this. I am a romantic at heart (which the majority of people would never guess), but so far, I can't find anyone who wants to share that romance with me. At least I was able to have some vicarious pleasure with this story.

Let me end by saying there is basically no profanity. No misuse of God's name--always makes me happy. And no sex before marriage. What? Really? What an amazing idea in this day and age! And I am glad the author had the decency to give the characters privacy in the bedroom. In fact, that makes it even more romantic, in my opinion. This book brought out the true romantic in me that often gets neglected.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Andrea Guy says

If you look at the cover of this book, you may think you are getting a light hearted winter tale. That's definitely not the case here.

This is the kind of story that grabs you from the first page and makes you hold on until the last page is turned.

I always find books like this hard to review because of that whole spoiler thing.

So rather than try to sum the book up, I'll tell you this. When I first saw the cover and saw the genre as romantic suspense, I almost dismissed it. The cover gave it a kind of Harlequin-y look. A cozy suspense novel. (Not my favorite genre in the harlequin imprints) But something in the blurb made me give it a try.

It is nothing like the cover. And it isn't cozy. There are times when it is terrifying and others when it is absolutely romantic. Oh and don't worry, there are plenty of times when you'll cry. This book is packed with emotion and both Alex and Alyssa have gone through a lot and you will love them for their strength.

This book will definitely surprise you and Taylor Dean will be an author you'll be adding to your must read lists!

Christy says

Sierra is the 4th book I've read by Taylor Dean, and I love it just as much as I've loved her other books. She draws you right in and keeps you entertained throughout the whole book. Her books are always so well thought out and don't contain any unnecessary characters or scenes. I love that! It always makes me feel like I'm wasting my time when authors throw in extra stuff just to make their books longer. I, as a reader, do not appreciate it when authors waste my time! Taylor's books are concise and have just enough detail. She leaves some things to the reader's imagination. Isn't that what books are supposed to do?

Sierra starts out with the kidnapping of Alyssa, a wife and mother of a young boy. Two horrible men take her and her family hostage. They then proceed to leave her husband and son while taking Alyssa to be the younger kidnapper's bride. She fights them the entire time and tries escaping twice with little success.

This book is very intense! It takes you on a tumultuous emotional ride. I felt worried, hopeful, happy, sad, relieved, disappointed, and finally relieved again! The action in the book never stops. The description in the book is just enough to peak your curiosity and get your imagination rolling.

The characters are so great. The kidnappers are so creepy. Alyssa's depression is so real. Alex's concern and reactions are spot-on. Alyssa's father's attitude is very believable. The minor characters play important roles.

The whole time I was reading this I felt like this was exactly the kind of book I'd write. Taylor must be in my imagination :) I've always thought about living out in the wilderness, but, of course, with all of my necessary supplies!

This is a book worth adding to your TBR list. It is a quick read because you just don't want to put it down!

FicCentral says

I noticed this book the week it came out, but after reading the summary, I wasn't sure I could stomach it. Taken captive by two men, she endures a horrific nightmare... I'm sure I don't have to tell you what I assumed. However, over the past couple of months of watching reviews pop up, I noticed that not a single one of them mentioned the subject matter I was trying to avoid. Surely *someone* would have brought it up, right? So I took a chance, and it was worth it.

Alyssa is on vacation with her family when tragedy strikes, and in what feels like mere moments, an idyllic scene does in fact become a nightmare — not the nightmare I was worried about, but certainly heart-wrenching at best. One moment is all smiles and happiness, and in a cruel twist of circumstance, everything is almost instantly shattered. Alyssa is taken from her family, driven to the middle of nowhere, forced to walk through miles and miles of wilderness, and quickly losing hope. Despite the unimaginable circumstances, she tries (and ultimately fails) to escape twice, until it's clear that there really is no getting away from her captors. But just when it seems that there's no escaping a violent fate, salvation appears in the form of a remote cabin and its lone resident.

Alex has secluded himself deep in the woods, away from civilization and his own tragic past. The last thing he expects is for two incompetent criminals to come bursting through his door at dinner time, and certainly not with an abused captive in tow. I don't want to give the whole story away, but I'm guessing it's obvious he saves her, right? Only now he has an injured, devastated woman in his home, and his separation from civilization doesn't exactly make it easy to return her home. He's arranged his life so that there is virtually no contact with the outside world. No phone, no radio, not even a car or road to carry them out of the wilderness. So until his annual delivery of supplies is made by helicopter next year, they're stuck. That should give them plenty of time to fall in love, right? The falling is slow, of course. Two people bound by circumstance and sharing in tragedy have more on their minds than romance, and Taylor Dean expresses that in her characters so well. There's heartache, frustration, friendship, and a slow build, all the while shadowed by the fear that one of Alyssa's kidnappers may return.

In many ways, the tale is told perfectly, unfolding at just the right speed and pulling you in. Alex is understanding, protective of, and careful around Alyssa. They're strangers, after all, and while they've been thrown together and managed to survive, there's no rush to a happily ever after. When it finally does come, though, things are a little too perfect. The things Alex says, while exactly what we want to hear are... well, they're exactly what we want to hear, in a way that stamps out the otherwise realistic flow of their

relationship. He expresses his emotions completely and in ways that even the most sensitive men rarely do — I mean, what grown man living the life of a hermit on a mountain freely uses the word “frolick”? Unfortunately, that’s pretty much the way the whole story wrapped up — a little too neatly, conveniently, quickly... While the bulk of their tale was a measured climb, the conclusion was jarringly sudden and strayed from the otherwise perfect pacing.

Laura Thomas says

Taylor classifies her books as love stories.

There is romance in all of her books, but I classified some of them as horror and thrillers.

Sierra starts out with your typical happy family on vacation.

Then it turns dark in a hurry.

Two maniacs abduct Alyssa and Sam and their son Clay, forcing her to drive them deep into the woods.

Pa and Adam had found their Eve. They had no use for the man and the boy.

Sam and Clay are gunned down right before her eyes and Alyssa succumbs to the shock.

When she comes to, her reality is horrifying.

Her escape attempt is thwarted by her kidnappers, but now they’re lost.

But wait, they stumble upon a cabin.

Alyssa dares to hope. Could her savior be inside? Maybe she can survive this, but does she want to?

I can’t imagine anything more soul-destroying than to see your loved ones murdered.

No matter how much she grieves for her husband and son, Alyssa’s will to survive drives her on.

There is a miracle in the cabin. The miracle is Alex.

He’s damaged goods, but then, so is she.

Two people, trapped in a cabin for the winter, turn to each other.

What I like most about Sierra was how Taylor lulls you in the beginning, then she shreds the peaceful scene to pieces. It happens so fast you barely have time to comprehend what is going to happen. Just like in real life.

You'll be proud of Alyssa. Her heart has been shattered, she doesn't want to live, but she can't quit.

So she fights. with everything she can dredge up, she fights to live.

And life is waiting. Alex is waiting. He just doesn't know it yet.

So, Sierra is a thriller, wrapped around a love story.

Of all of Taylor Dean's books, this one moved me the most.

I cried, wiped the tears so I could see to keep on reading, and cried some more.

I smiled, then grinned, then laughed, and finally clapped.

Taylor gives you strong, genuine characters, a horrifying scenario that could happen, and the healing power of the human spirit.

I guarantee, after you read Sierra, you'll have to read Taylor's other books!

Thanks to the author for supplying me this book for my honest review.

Sherry Fundin says

As I open the book, I can hardly wait to see what Taylor Dean has in store for me today. A pretty cover and the book blurb make me eager to begin.

Riveting from beginning to end. Be prepared to read straight through.

Adam was born when his Pa told him they had found their Eve at a rest stop in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Alyssa's life was changed forever at the same rest stop.

The saying, your life passes before your eyes, ran through her mind, as she thought of all the wonderful memories she had, until now. She felt her life had been perfect. She had married her wonderful husband and their beautiful son, Clay, had recently entered their life.

Pa drove deeper into the wilderness and Sam began to worry for them all, but especially for Alyssa. They stopped and separated Alyssa from Sam and Clay. She thought if she went willingly, maybe Pa would leave them alive in the woods.

Alyssa had a hard time keeping it together, so they knocked her out. She was so worried about Clay and Sam, she really didn't care what they did to her.

Pa and Adam put a leash around her neck and led her like a dog. She couldn't figure out what they wanted with her. They hadn't done anything to her yet. When they told her why they had kidnapped her, she couldn't help but laugh. She felt the idea was so ludicrous, they must be yanking her chain. She began to realize they were not joking around and became horrified, trying to think of a way out of the mess she was in.

Alex had lived alone in the mountains for three years. He was an only child and had wanted for nothing. He came from a family of doctors, but with his family gone, he changed his world dramatically. He isolated himself at his cabin and seemed quite content keeping his own company. He had supplies brought in once a year and that was enough socializing for him.

Alyssa had been looking for an opportunity to escape. When it came, she ran for her life. Pa and Adam had taken her so deep in woods, she didn't know which way to go, so she just ran as far away from them as she could.

They caught her easily, she ran right to them. Adam said she belonged to him and he would kill her before he would let her go.

Alyssa prayed. She didn't want to die. She had to fight. They had to pay. She would not let them win.

5 STARS - Would Buy It For Them (lol)

I look at the cover and it conveys a feeling of peacefulness. I can picture myself in the warm, snug cabin, sitting in front of a cozy fire burning in the fireplace, with my feet up and a cup of hot chocolate (or a hot toddy) in one hand and a book in the other. A deep quiet settles over the cabin as the snow floats softly to the ground. Well, if you think that is what this book is going to be like, you better brace yourself.

This was a hard review to write. By the time I got to page 20, I wanted to stop giving any clues as to what was to come. It was a kidnapping, but the cruelty went way beyond that. It was very intense and I feel you need to read it for yourself to get the full effect of the events.

Riveting from beginning to end. Be prepared to read straight through. I couldn't put it down. It was hard to keep from skimming ahead. I just had to know what was coming. It was killing me waiting for it.

I thought Alyssa was an idiot, when she took off from Alex on her own. I hate when women are depicted as being so stupid. But then, Alex said, "sometimes you have to see and know for yourself how impossible something really is." It made sense to me. The scene helped to develop the personalities of the characters.

A man and a woman alone in the woods, of course sex is going to be an issue. A knight in shining armor? Well, the armor might be a little tarnished, but a knight nonetheless. A woman with a family to go back to. A man who had felt such loss, he had isolated himself in the mountains, with human contact only once a year, when supplies were brought in.

I watch a lot of the Alaskan reality shows on TV. Some of those people are pretty far off the grid. If it wasn't for friends checking on them and helping them out, who knows how long they could be dead before anyone found out. Some of them live in places that are almost inaccessible. Because of this, who knows if a story like this could be real or not.

But, it is a fantasy, a book. Just like in the movies, some things are put in to make it work the way the writer wants, or to make the reader (or watcher) become more involved in the story and up the level of intensity. And why not? It is fiction, not a true story. I want the story to take me to a place I would not otherwise go. To me, books are an escape. I want to be so engrossed in them, that the world around me is nonexistent. Taylor Dean seems to do that exceptionally well for me.

I received this book from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

My Favorite Quotes

"Everything that happens to us in life becomes a part of us and makes us who we are."

"Cold pizza is the best breakfast food ever" I can relate to that. My mother and I both think cold pizza is the breakfast of champions.

"It's like I've tasted the bitter, and now the sweet's so overwhelmingly good, I just want to bask in it."

"...there's one thing I've learned from all of this and that is, life is short, life is tender. It can be taken away in the blink of an eye. When you find love you grasp it, never let it go and enjoy each day you've been given to the fullest."

She slowly rocked him as she wept. Alex felt.....weeping.

The End

Krista Fee says

Seriously one of the best books I have read in awhile.

Lauren says

Alyssa is returning from a family vacation when the unthinkable happens. She's kidnapped by a couple of men, who do what they have to do to get her away from her husband and son. They drive her around until she has not a clue where they are. For days she is drug through the woods, tortured a bit, and on the verge of giving up. Then she sees something that just may be what she needs to escape.

I was hesitant to start this book- it's not I never read dark reads, I just try to time them to at least read them when my husband is home. Well, this was a little dark and heavy at the beginning, but otherwise it really wasn't bad. There was more time spent on the romance portion of the book than the dark portion. The book was enjoyable, and different from the normal romance book

Athena says

Sierra is a story of survival, loss, second chances, renewal and above all...LOVE!

Alyssa has a happy, good life. She has a husband that she loves and adores and a 2 year old son that is the apple of their eye. While on a road trip Alyssa is abducted by two men and her life as she knows it is ripped away from her.

Alyssa is taken to the Sierra Mountains and what these men have planned for her is something out of her worst nightmare. Days have past since she has been taken and she is in bad shape! While being trudge

through the mountains Alyssa and her captures come across a cabin. Alyssa is hopeful that this is her chance to be saved, but what is about to happen next is something she totally wasn't expecting and would have never predicted in her wildest dreams.

Alex is a broken man that has decided to remove himself from civilization and live in the Sierra Mountains alone. For the past three years this has been his sanctuary, until one evening all that changes! Two men with guns kick his door down and drag in a women who is dirty, bloody, and is being held against her will. Alex's only thought is that he will do whatever it takes to save this woman, But what he wasn't expecting was that saving her will change them both forever!

This story was amazing, I loved Alyssa's strength and will to fight when it looked like all hope was gone. I loved Alex for not only being Alyssa's hero, but for the kindness and care he showed her. This is definitely not your traditional love story, but it's a story about finding love in the most unexpected way.

Helga Rambler says

This book was amazing!! I love Taylor Dean and this was my favorite of hers so far!
