



## **A Merciful Silence**

*Kendra Elliot*

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**A Merciful Silence** Kendra Elliot

**In the fourth book of the *Wall Street Journal* bestselling series, FBI agent Mercy Kilpatrick must unlock the mystery of a mass murder, and the secrets of its silent witness...**

For Mercy Kilpatrick, returning to rural Oregon has meant coming to terms with her roots. Raised as a prepper, Mercy is now relying on her survivalist instincts to defend her town from the people the law can't reach. But this time, an investigation calling up a dark past for her and police chief Truman Daly may be hitting too close to home.

A rainstorm has uncovered the remains of five people—a reprise of the distinctive slaughter of two families twenty years ago. Except the convicted killer is in prison. Is this the case of a sick copycat, or is the wrong man behind bars? One person might have the answer. The lone survivor of the decades-old crimes has returned to town still claiming that she can't remember a thing about the night she was left for dead. As the search for the truth becomes more dangerous, Mercy fears that the traumatized woman may not have buried her memories at all. She might be keeping them a secret. And there's a price to be paid for revealing them.

## A Merciful Silence Details

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# **From Reader Review A Merciful Silence for online ebook**

## **Anita says**

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

Number Four in the Mercy Kilpatrick series and I hope there will be many, many more. If you are contemplating this as your first book in the series, please reconsider and start at the beginning. Mercy grows with each book and it is wonderful when the author takes us with her on this journey. I feel sorry for the State of Oregon. It seems that a lot of their citizens are missing a few screws. I know some really great people who live in Oregon and that is just not true, but we meet yet another fringe group in this book.

Mercy Kilpatrick was raised in a prepper family and the need to be prepared for the breakdown of society is strong for her, even being an FBI Agent. She is morning the loss of her hidden cabin while recovering from a gunshot wound to her leg. Her relationship with Eagle's Nest Police Chief, Truman Daly, is growing and strengthening, something that scares loner Mercy to death.

Mercy is called in when torrential rainstorms lead to the discovery of the remains of five people. The manner of their death causes Mercy to recall to deaths of two other families from over twenty years ago. The similarities are frightening in their implications and when others are murdered in the same way the question is: was the wrong man convicted or is this a copycat? One woman might hold the answer to that question. The lone survivor of these attacks over twenty years ago is back in the area, but she is deeply scared and doesn't want to dredge up that part of her past.

Truman has his own cases that are causing problems. After a traffic stop with a "Sovereign Citizen" or SC, Truman goes missing and now Mercy has several dead bodies and a missing Truman. As Mercy searches for answers, she kicks over a hornets nest and may pay the price.

**4 1/2-Stars**

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## **Chris C - A Midlife Wife says**

This book is a part of the series so in some aspects I was a bit behind the eight ball. I was not familiar with the previous cases and stories that led to this book. However, the author did a pretty decent job tying the characters together so that the story made sense for me.

This particular story features an FBI agent and her boyfriend who is the chief of police for a small town. The premise of the story was very intense and a bit creepy on its own. And then when bodies started showing up, the race was on.

Several scenes are extreme with raw grit and powerful detail. Plus, with several twists happening, you easily get caught up in the story. With the addition of the romance aspect, there is definitely some worries of the heart going on too, which make this read all the more intense.

The author has a fabulous talent for getting you right in the gut with the feels in all ranges of emotion in this book. Definitely one not to be missed! Now I have to grab some of her prior books in the series to catch up!

Kendra Elliot is going on my must read list.

\* copy received for review consideration

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### **Liz says**

The latest in the Mercy Kilpatrick series returns to form. I had been less impressed with book three, which was too heavy on romance and a little light on mystery. But book four is a solid police procedural. Heavy rains have led to the discovery of five skulls, all bashed in the temple and front teeth. The state of the skulls is similar to crimes committed over 20 years. Crimes that were supposedly solved with the murderer in prison.

A secondary story concerns Sovereign Citizens, those folks who think they're beyond the limits of US laws and taxes. Eagle Rock is home to quite a few folks that lean towards anti-government sentiment. Even getting them to cooperate with a murder investigation is difficult.

Mercy's anxiety is back in force with the loss of her cabin in book three. And everything happening here tests her both physically and mentally. This is one series I think it's important to read in order. Elliott does not spend her time rehashing as much as some other series' authors.

This is a fast paced book that had me on the edge of my seat. I was glad to see that while this was initially meant to be the last book in the series, there will be more. I've come to enjoy Mercy and Truman too much to want to leave them now. And I'm hoping that Ollie, a new character introduced later in the book, makes more of an appearance in book five.

My thanks to netgalley and Montclair Romance for an advance copy of this book.

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### **Carolyn says**

I just love this series. I was worried that it was not going to continue, but was happy to see there will be more to come. Excellent writing, wonderful, complex characters, terrific mystery and, at times, edge of your seat tension. Yep, it is a keeper!

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### **Maureen Carden says**

The intriguing FBI agent Mercy Kilpatrick is still a half bubble off plumb in Kendra Elliot's *A Merciful Silence*. She can't seem to shake all of her prepper upbringing which controls part of her life. Mercy is still with Eagle Nest Police Chief Truman Daly; but she hasn't learned to completely trust her love for him; while Truman's love for Mercy is all-encompassing.

Elliot is writing much more hardcore suspense in this story. There is a strong love story, but it is the symphony in the background to some tough stuff. Don't mistake this book for any sort of fluff. *A Merciful Silence* is the story of two well run police investigations that could keep you up late at night to finish.

Neither the prepper life nor Mercy's prepper family figure much in *A Merciful Silence*. Instead of preppers, the frightening sovereign citizens are featured after Truman arrests one of their members in a traffic stop. Let the craziness begin.

There is also the distressing discovery of the remains of five bodies in a culvert that are copy-cat murders, alike in all details to the murders of two families from 20 years ago; murders where the killer has been in jail for years. So, wrongly incarcerated man or a finely trained copycat?

Mercy's family is not completely absent; there is more of a rapprochement during a town tragedy. Mercy's sister Rose is present as the book's Christ-figure bringing hope and serenity after her great suffering.

Elliot introduces two characters, a survivor of the first set of murders and a hermit in the woods who are such counterpoints to the sovereign citizens and to killer of the families. They are a needed reminder to the good in the world.

Mercy grows the most in *A Merciful Silence*, she is realizing all of the preparation in the world can not act as a shield to what the world throws at her. Truman finds his strength through his deep love for Mercy.

Elliot's books are always well written with a deep compassion for those who view the world a mite differently. This does not include the sovereign citizens. In this book she is spot on in her portrayal of the sovereign citizens, a group characterized by the FBI as a dangerous domestic terrorist group. She shows them no mercy in her disgust and disdain.

Yes, this is book four in the Mercy Kilpatrick books, yes, you should read the others, but no, you shouldn't pass this one up in case you get it first.

Thank you to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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## **Jennifer says**

2.75 stars. Another solid installment of the Mercy Kilpatrick series. There was a little bit too much frustrating action in this one, though. And I wish that both the MCs didn't need some traumatic or horrible happening to one of them to make important relationship decisions. Overall, this wasn't my favourite of the series nor was it my least favourite.

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## **Melanie says**

*A Merciful Silence* was an action-packed and thrilling addition to the *Mercy Kilpatrick* series with an interesting case for Mercy and some exciting developments for the characters.

Mercy Kilpatrick has come to accept there are people the law can't get to and she aims to protect her town from those people. Raised as a prepper, a survivalist who prepares for the end of the world as we know it, and now an FBI agent, Mercy has the skills to protect those she cares about. When the remains of five people are uncovered during a rainstorm, Mercy cannot help but see the similarities to the killings of two families twenty years ago. But they caught the killer in those cases, so does Mercy have a copycat or is the wrong man in jail?

Mercy has always been the type to work through issues on her own, but in this book we see Mercy finally opening up and admitting when she needs the help of others. I liked that after the events of the previous book and the injury Mercy sustained, she wasn't able to immediately bounce back. Mercy doesn't deal well with limitations, so it was interesting watching her work through one in this book. Mercy and Truman continue to work well together even when they're not assigned to the same case. I love how they bounce ideas off of

each other and help each other on their cases. Their romantic relationship has some fantastic progression in this book and I'm excited to see what the future has in store for them.

The case Mercy works on in this book is brutal and definitely one that holds your attention. I was curious from the beginning how the author would tie together cases that were twenty years apart and I have to say I enjoyed how she did it. I was completely surprised by who the killer was and the lengths they would go to to achieve their goals. There is a secondary case included that Truman was working on which was just as interesting as Mercy's case and I enjoyed how it tied into everything. My only issue was the pacing of the book was slightly off as we skip ahead in the timeline a few times which threw me out of the story.

*A Merciful Silence* includes some characters from the author's *Bone Secrets* series which was a nice addition for fans of that series. I personally haven't read those books but I am definitely interested to read them now and hope to pick them up soon.

The *Mercy Kilpatrick* series is a fantastic romantic suspense series and *A Merciful Silence* is no exception. I highly recommend this series to anyone looking for a thrilling series to read and I can't wait for the next book to come out.

*\*\*I received an advance copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.\*\**

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## **Ian says**

The fourth Mercy Kilpatrick book is difficult. It's dark.

A mass murderer is killing entire families and the method is identical to a killer who was sent to prison 20 years ago. Is the wrong man in prison? Mercy and Truman find themselves hunting down a killer who is also hunting them.

I don't really like Romantic Suspense. I struggle with it. It's either too dark or too derivative. And this book is dark. It's too dark. Too dark for me.

And I'm not really sure why I like it but I do. I guess it's because I really loved so many of the characters.

The woman who survived the mass murderer and now lives a reclusive life with her dog. Loved her.

The boy who lived a hermit's life in the mountains. Loved him.

Mercy. Love her.

Truman. Love him.

I guess if you can't give me a story I love, make good and sure that you give me characters I love and this book, this whole series gives me that in spades.

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## **CD {Boulder Blvd} says**

Another good book in the series and it also reinforces why I follow Kendra Elliot and this series in particular.

I like the primary character of FBI agent Mercy Kilpatrick. Her unique background of being born within a

prepper community of Oregon gives this series a fresh and unique perspective. Her boyfriend, Truman Daly is a great beta hero. The main plot of this book is really interesting and I enjoyed the subplot as well. The supporting cast is well developed. This was a difficult book to put down and I kept reading until I couldn't keep my eyes open.

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### **Kathy Martin says**

As this fourth Mercy Kilpatrick books begins, Mercy is recovering from being shot in the thigh. She is also dealing with the anxiety she feels since her hidden cabin and many of her supplies were destroyed in a fire. As a person raised as a prepper, the loss of her place is making her uneasy. She is also having some difficulty letting her boyfriend Truman help with the decisions about the new cabin that is being built. Neither she nor Truman are used to sharing decisions but need to come to terms with it if they want their new relationship to prosper.

Both Mercy as a FBI Agent and Truman as the Chief of Police in Eagle's Bend are busy with their various cases. Mercy is called to a scene where the bones of five people have been discovered having been bludgeoned to death and had their teeth knocked out. This brings to mind a similar case from twenty years earlier where two families were found in their homes murdered the same way. The only problem is that the man convicted of those crimes has been and still is in prison.

As Mercy is looking into those old crimes and tracking down the single survivor who has returned to Eagle's Bend for the first time since the crimes were committed, Truman is dealing with the more ordinary tasks of his day from a traffic stop of a Sovereign Citizen using false ID and illegal license plates to the man who gathers bunches of traffic tickets for parking in front of a fire hydrant by his house to breaking up a bar fight between drunken brothers.

As Mercy struggles to identify the family represented by the bones and wondering why no one has reported them missing, a second family is found in their home killed the same way. Meanwhile, a reporter who has been harassing Mercy turns his eyes to the survivor and opens her up to attacks on social media.

Mercy's and Truman's cases overlap and the tension really builds when Truman goes missing. Mercy realizes how much she has let Truman into her life. After being rejected by her family fifteen years earlier and only now becoming reconciled with them, Mercy isn't good at opening herself up to others. Meanwhile, Truman is in a very dangerous situation.

This was another excellent entry into the Mercy Kilpatrick series. Fans of the series won't want to miss this one.

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### **Jean says**

A Merciful Silence is the 4th book in the Mercy Kilpatrick series. I really enjoy this romantic suspense series. It was a slow start for me but I was totally engrossed by the halfway point. So much suspense and edge-of-your-seat moments.

I highly recommend all the books in this series but this book could be read as a stand-alone. Can't wait to

read the next one.

Thank you to NetGalley and Montlake Romance for a copy of Kendra Elliot's "A Merciful Silence" in exchange of an honest review.

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### **Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says**

A Merciful Silence doubles the trouble with the dual plots of a vicious family killer and anti-government extremists. FBI Agent Mercy Kilpatrick and her boyfriend Police Chief Truman Daly have their hands full with both and neither come away without suffering emotional and physical harm. Mercy's ordeal through out the book has her by the end making some big decisions with her personal life – something she had been reluctant to fully commit to because of her past. The body count was high in this one and the nature of the killings gruesome. My favorite kind of suspense :)

Bonus... It always a treat when an author decides to mix in her other series characters. For the investigation into recently uncovering of the remains of five people, Dr Victoria Peres, who is a forensic anthropologist, and Dr Lacey (Campbell) Harper, who is a forensic odontologist, from the Bones Secrets series are called in to help identify the bones. I would love to have a series with just these two and the cases they sol

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### **Luli says**

*You can find this review in English below.*

4,5 estrellas.

Otra fantástica e interesante historia de la Sra. Elliot.

Esta es la cuarta entrega de una serie que me tiene entusiasmada. No soy fan de las series, suelen aburrirme muy pronto porque se vuelven predecibles y repetitivas. Bajo ninguna circunstancia se pueden aplicar aquí esas premisas. Cada historia tiene su proporción secreta de ingredientes (romance/suspense/relaciones) y todas funcionan.

En este caso, el comienzo de la historia ha sido lento, preocupantemente lento. Entiendo que a estas alturas en la serie, la autora dirige su obra a los fans incondicionales de la pareja Mercy&Truman, y se puede permitir el recurso de destinar prácticamente la primera mitad del libro a *presentar y asentar* la trama. Pero se ha hecho pesado.

Todo tiene su explicación, por supuesto, y a partir del 47% la trama explota y no hay ya ni un segundo de paz. Las piezas del puzzle van, cuidadosamente, cayendo en su sitio y se va abriendo la visión de túnel tan agobiante (en el buen sentido de la palabra) que circunda la historia. El lector tiene prácticamente la misma información que los protagonistas, vamos descubriendo el suspense a la par. Y aunque hay unos cuantos capítulos desde el punto de vista del malo, cosa de la que tampoco soy fan, no es una fuente de información sino de nervios...

No hay descanso. Nada ni nadie es lo que parece y el tiempo parece no avanzar cuando las pistas no conducen a ningún sitio y la investigación no tiene oxígeno. Pero una palabra aquí o un golpe de suerte allá y de nuevo la acción es trepidante, con giros inesperados y tensión por doquier.

Los personajes de la Sra. Kendra han andado un largo camino. Han madurado y crecido *ante* mis ojos y se



han convertido en personas diferentes, más complejas, más humanas, más cercanas, más fáciles de entender. Este es uno de los puntos fuertes de la autora. Mercy era un personaje complicado y difícil de querer, pero a estas alturas ya no recuerdo qué era aquello que no me gustaba de ella. Truman sigue siendo el héroe perfecto, caballeroso, paciente, que antepone las prioridades de Mercy a las suyas propias porque sabe qué es lo que ella necesita. Y en esta ocasión hemos vivido un intenso capítulo en su romance. Parece ser que ya han encontrado ese sitio en común desde el que van a ir planeando su vida de una manera más afianzada.

El suspense, como siempre, ha sido original. Duro y perturbador a ratos, pero sólido y original. El hecho de que se sigan solapando las nuevas investigaciones con los problemas de siempre favorece a la historia, porque nos da cierto descanso entre escenas muy intensas, nos da tiempo para bajar el nivel de estrés y continuar leyendo. Este es el otro punto fuerte de la autora. Sus suspense siempre tienen ese *algo más* que busco cuando leo este género.

Y la guinda del pastel ha sido la total y absoluta falta de melodrama familiar, que en entregas anteriores, tenía un peso considerable dentro de la historia. No era mi aspecto favorito así que me ha parecido perfecto. Además, poniendo un poco de *tierra de por medio* quizás la próxima vez que la familia entre en acción estaré más receptiva. Por ahora sigo pensando que son una pandilla de descerebrados. Pero quién sabe, conociendo a esta autora, un par de libros más y serán mi gente favorita.

Una serie muy recomendable y altamente entretenida.

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4,5 stars.

Another fantastic and interesting story by Ms. Elliot.

This is the fourth installment in a series which I'm crazy about. And I am not a fan of series, not by a long shot, usually they bored me too soon because they become predictable and repetitive. Under no circumstances can these premises be applied here. Each story it's different. Each one has its secret proportion of ingredients (romance/suspense/relationships) and they work beautifully.

In this case, the beginning of the story has been slow, worryingly slowly. I understand that, at this point in the series, the author directs her work to Mercy&Truman unconditional fans, and can afford the resource to allocate practically the first half of the book to *introduce and settle* the plot. But it was a bit dull.

But everything has its explanation, of course, and from 47% the plot explodes and there is no longer a second of peace. The pieces of the puzzle are, carefully, falling into place and the story is gradually losing its overwhelming (in the good sense of the word) *tunnel vision*. The reader knows practically the same as the MC's. And although there are even a few chapters from the bad guy's POV (not a fan of this either) it isn't a source of information but of nerves...

There's no rest. Nothing and no one is what it seems to be and time seems not to advance when the clues lead to nowhere and the investigation has no oxygen. But a word in the *right ear* or a stroke of luck there and the action is again fast-paced, with unexpected twists and tension everywhere.

Mrs. Kendra's characters have gone a long way. They have matured and grown *before* my eyes and have become different people, more complex, more human, closer, easier to understand. This is one of the author's strengths. Mercy was a complicated and difficult character to love, but at this point I don't remember what it was what I didn't like about her. Truman is still the perfect, chivalrous, patient hero who puts Mercy's priorities before his own because he knows what she needs. And this time we have lived an intense chapter in their romance. It seems that they have already found that common place from which they will be planning

their lives in a more consolidate way.

The suspense, as always, has been original. Dark and disturbing at times, but solid and original. The fact that the *usual* problems overlap the new suspense suits the story, because it provides a rest between very intense scenes, gives us time to lower the *stress level* and to continue reading. This is the other author's strong point. Her suspense always have that *something more* I seek.

And the icing on the cake has been the total and absolute lack of family melodrama, which in previous installments, had a considerable weight within the story. It was not my favorite aspect so it was perfect for me. Also, if *absence makes the heart grow fonder* maybe the next time the family shows I'll be more responsive. For now, I still think they are (almost all of them) a bunch of fools. But who knows, knowing this author the way I do, a couple more books in and they're going to be my favorite people in the world.

A highly recommended and very enjoyable series.

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### **? Kimberly says**

This was an intense one. RTC

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### **Maureen ~Bitch Can Write A Book says**

This series keeps getting better and better. And this one was absolutely epic.

It was the perfect blend of mystery, suspense and romance. I love Mercy & Truman, I love how their minds work, I love the aspect of their law enforcement expertise. I don't do spoilers but I will say at parts of this story my heart was breaking for Mercy.

I was literally engrossed in this story, it had so many twists and turns. I couldn't put it down. This author literally grabs you and sucks you in. It's well written and her voice is unique. I'm so looking forward to more.

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