



Fear the Dark

Kay Hooper

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In *New York Times* bestselling author Kay Hooper's new novel, an SCU team investigates a troubling string of disappearances. But how do you find someone who has vanished without a trace?

Something strange is happening in the small mountain town of Serenity, Tennessee. People going on routine errands never reach their destination. It's as if they simply disappear. Over the past few weeks, it's happened to five men and women—and now a child.

The local police chief calls the FBI, and a team from the Special Crimes Unit is immediately sent in. Agents Lucas and Samantha Jordan, partners in work and in life, have very different abilities. Samantha is clairvoyant and Lucas possesses a unique ability to find the lost or abducted. With them are new partners Dante Swann, a medium, and Robbie Hodge, a telepath.

The town is already on the edge of panic, but the mysterious events take a sinister turn when a body unrelated to the missing persons case surfaces and one of the SCU agents vanishes. Now, the team's hunt for the lost has turned into something very personal...and very dangerous.

Fear the Dark Details

Date : Published October 20th 2015 by Berkley (first published October 6th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Kay Hooper

Format : Kindle Edition 275 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Suspense, Fiction, Thriller, Crime, Romance

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From Reader Review **Fear the Dark** for online ebook

♥Rachel♥ says

Crime is low for the little town of Serenity, so when several people go missing in the span of one month, Police Chief Jonah Riggs is baffled. What make these occurrences stand out even more are the strange, unexplainable details accompanying each case. Jonah reaches out to a special, not well known, branch of the FBI, the Special Crimes Unit which is made up of people with special/unconventional talents and gifts suited for this investigation. **Fear the Dark** was sort of like X-Files melded with X-Men, two shows I gravitate toward, so I was delighted!

Don't let the fact that **Fear the Dark** is number sixteen in the series; it can be read as a standalone. Yes, there are characters from the previous installments, but the story focused more on Chief Jonah Riggs and the local mystery. The story was addictive, puzzling and a bit creepy! One thing I did miss was romance. I kept hoping something would develop between Jonah and Robbie, one of the SCU team members. There was a married couple from the previous installment, Lucas and Samantha, part of the SCU, and I appreciated the obvious care and deep connection they had, but other than that there was nothing. This story was more plot than character driven, which is usually not my favorite type of story, but there was enough action and mystery to still make it enjoyable.

Any fan of mystery with a paranormal base or anyone who was addicted to the X-Files like I was should enjoy **Fear the Dark**. It's the perfect time of year for this type of spooky mystery!

A copy was kindly provided by Berkley in exchange for an honest review.

Ballerina60 says

this was a serious disappointment. first of all, ALL YOU FICTION WRITERS please STOP giving girls boy's names!! we have Sam and Robbie. that's just confusing as you read along! second, i really don't like Noah and Miranda playing God. who do they think they are, anyway? they obviously think they are superior to other people and more important than other people. this story started out like it was going to be very interesting and exciting. but it had more holes than swiss cheese. how did the bad guy get his victims to such a far away location? did he keep them there totally by drugs or was he really able to hypnotize SIX people (and more) at a time? WHY is it assumed that the "older" victim will have to go to an old folks home after being a victim? can you say "ageism"??? why is it assumed that all of the victims will be permanently scarred by something they can't much remember? how did the bad guy know that the teenagers were leaving town? how did the bad guy know where the judge would be? etc, etc.!! did the bad guy have no family and no support system? how did he buy groceries? for that matter, WHERE did he get all those medical supplies? how did he get them transported and where was he keeping them refrigerated? the whole thing was just never explained. AND! how did the bad guy hide 5 feet away from a bunch of psychics with evil intent?? they established at one point that the bad guy had knowledge of security systems and computers, but they never followed up on that! just plain bad storytelling.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

<http://melissa413reads alot.blogspot.c...>

At first I thought it was cool this book was set in Tennessee, but then I was like.. uh..no I don't want this creepiness in my state. LOL

All of these people in the town of Serenity are vanishing. I was thinking alien abductions, or some other wackadoo thing. I was wrong!

The Chief, Jonah, is stumped trying to figure out how people can just vanish. They bring in some FBI agents that are actually psychics etc. They do a really good job at helping to find out exactly what is going on.

I really didn't see that one coming. I thought this was a good mystery book. I was really freaked out about it in the beginning. I wanted it to be the crazy Bermuda Triangle type stuff. LoL. It's really good though. a lot of suspense and a sad part. :-/

I think people that love mystery/thrillers would love this book!

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

I read this book for a reading challenge and I actually liked this story. It was a crime, mystery, thriller with a supernatural twist. It was entertaining and I enjoyed the story. The pacing was not too fast but it did not drag either. The mystery element kept me questioning who did it until the final reveal and that was fabulous. I would consider reading another book in this series in the future.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

1,5 stars

Fear the Dark is the 16th novel in Kay Hooper's Bishop/Special Crimes Unit Series and I've read and enjoyed most of the books in the series but the latest addition was not one of those that I liked...in fact, I didn't like it at all.

Cardboard characters which I did not find at all relatable. I felt I knew none of them by the end of the story. There was so much explaining and giving you details about everything supernatural and somehow nothing about the actual plot...okay, I think I'm confusing even myself but let me just give a few examples.....

"Are you saying we don't?" She was curious rather than confused.

Oh, I see!!! I get it....

”Then how was Jonah – how were you both, I guess, able to home in on her like that?”

Right, I got that too!!!

Allright, nothing I’ve written so far makes no sense to you or does it? Okay, I’m going to give you a short breakdown about the story...yes, I’m going to do my own

Weird things are happening in the small town of Serenity. People have gone missing under very strange circumstances.

The local Police Chief Jonah Riggs contacts the Special Crimes Unit people for help...and soon 4 agents arrive to assist him in solving the baffling mystery.

The story is more plot than character and I would have liked to feel more connected to the characters, which I didn’t feel at all.

All the pages of explaining the supernatural things drove me crazy and after a while I just skipped all the pnr info.

And romance....what romance!!!!

And really, when the villain is revealed and the reasons given for why he committed the crimes just felt a bit unreal and unbelievable.

There are a lot of readers who liked this book, but for mejust didn’t get to me!!!!

Diane S ? says

Review to follow.

Sophia says

So I read this blurb that just compelled me to read the book. I saw that, whew, this was already far into a series and established in a spin-off series. What was a reader gal to do? Well of course I snatched it and did some finger crossing that I wouldn't be hopelessly lost. Small town, spooky vanishings, FBI unit of psychically skilled investigators, yep, just hadta...

So, it didn't burn me that I jumped into the middle of the series because of the way the author set up the story. She started with the new situation and new characters before bringing into play the established ones. I definitely had the vibe that I was reading about people who got their own story earlier when it came to the FBI team, but it was secondary to the engrossing present situation.

The story opens when small mountain town chief of police, Jonah, gets a call from one of his officers. He arrives at the scene to find a recently abandoned vehicle, evidence that two teens were eloping together, no signs of a struggle, and foot prints that just stop and disappear. This is followed by a rash of people vanishing and no clues left behind. Jonah can't keep his town safe on his own so he calls in the FBI Special Crimes Unit.

Jonah is joined by Luke Jordan whose psychic ability helps him find people and Jordan's wife, Sam, who is a strong telepath, two junior members of the team, Robbie and Dante. The FBI team aren't in the area long before they sense the strong residue of evil and a cunning hunter who is strong and getting stronger. They need to stop him soon.

Alright, this was the perfect blend of atmospheric, sinister, and spooky. I enjoyed tracking with the law enforcement team on their case. The story was so strong that it could have easily overpowered the characters, but the author wrote a strong lead in Jonah and surrounded him with a well-drawn team both of local townspeople and the FBI agents. The story was mostly Jonah's narration, but it did flip between several others including the villain and one of the victims.

I loved that I wasn't able to solve it and was pointing fingers a few different directions. It is a gritty and darker story, but doesn't drop into horror.

Even though, Luke and Sam were new to me, I could tell that they are a well established couple in the series. I enjoy couples who share a detecting partnership because of the dynamics involved and these two were no exception. Sam is the stronger psychic and prone to push past her limits to help people and Luke is her lead on the team and has the job of knowing the difference between a lover's worry about the danger and a leader's concern that his subordinate might be pushing too hard. I definitely want to go back and get the start of their story and the start of the Bishops' story (couple who are the founders of the special psychic unit), too.

Only niggle was the abrupt ending though I will say that it was the type of abrupt that you usually get in a series when storylines will carry forward so maybe I just need to be patient.

All in all, this was a great introduction to a series of psychic thriller suspenses and I want to go back for the backlist and continue forward. I think these would have appeal to a broad range of readers from lovers of straight thrillers to paranormal mystery lovers and through on to blends of paranormal romantic suspense or thrillers. See? lots of folks should trysy!

My thanks to Penguin Group for providing the book in exchange for an honest review.

Chloe says

I like reading Bishop series but this book was a little disappointing. It started really well but the ending seemed rushed and none of the characters introduced in the book were well developed. Overall just 2 1/2 -3 stars

Danielle Gypsy Soul says

Fear the Dark is the 16th book in Kay Hooper's Bishop/Special Crimes Unit series. I wanted to love this book because I really like this series and physis FBI agents are so fun to read about. Unfortunately I was a bit disappointed.

This book centers around a small town that has a serial killer who is making his victims just vanish and leaves nothing behind except that "time stops" whenever anyone comes within a certain radius of the crime

scene. The story itself was fascinating but at the end there were too many unanswered questions that I felt didn't adequately explain some of the things that happened in the book.

This book had four agents trying to solve the crime and I really didn't feel like we had enough character development for Dante (who was new) and Robbie. Lucas and Samantha were the other two agents who had a previous book. I wanted to know more about Dante and we got very little about his past or his feelings in this book.

There was no romance to speak of and that seems to be a bit of a trend in this series that I am sad about. The ending had a twist that would have had so much more of a payoff had we had more character development.

I enjoyed this book but I expect more from a book in this series.

Stephanie G says

The Special Crimes Unit is called to Serenity, Tennessee when strange happenings have people disappearing without a trace and the town is on the edge of panic in this thrilling paranormal suspense.

This fast paced and smooth flowing plot pulls readers in with lots of suspense, thrills and very strange happenings as seemingly random people disappear into thin air. The local police chief makes note of a quite a few oddities that mark each crime but leave no clues to the how or whys so with five men and women and one child missing, he calls in the SCU. The characters are strong, compelling and grab the reader's attention from the very beginning and I have to tell you that there is no romance in this story as it is all about the mysterious with unexpected twists that keeping everyone guessing.

Agents Luke and Samantha are teamed up with newbies Dante Swan and Robbie Hodge and even with their unique abilities they realize this case is something they have never seen before. Spine tingling anticipation builds lots of pulse-pounding tension as the story progresses and the oddities lead to some very startling discoveries with excitement building even more as one of the agents becomes a target of the darkness. The scenes and details are well written which brings the story to life with vivid images and makes it easy for the reader to become absorbed in all the chilling excitement as the intriguing events guarantee that the reader can't put the story down.

This case pulled me in from the very beginning and had me as baffled as all the characters and I have to say not only kept me guessing, it kept surprising me as well. I always find that joining the SCU on a case is a thrilling experience, so of course I am looking forward to the next one. On a side note and not exactly important because it doesn't change my opinion of the book one way or the other...after reading the story I find that the synopsis is a bit misleading.

- Eva

Wanda says

There are strange occurrences in the town of Serenity as people are disappearing without a trace. The FBI Special Crimes Unit is brought in to help with the investigation. They are agents with psychic powers who use their special abilities to find lost people.

Unfortunately I struggled with this book, finding it to be disappointing on multiple levels. There was very little depth to both the story line and the characters. I found myself caring very little to what happened to the characters and skimmed through parts of the book. I have many unanswered questions on certain aspects of the story line, and the ending seemed hurried and contrived. I regretted wasting my time on this book. 2 stars.

Linda Strong says

When I hear the name, Kay Hooper, I automatically think of telepaths and empaths, psychics and mediums, clairvoyants. This is as close as I get to the paranormal ..not a shape shifter or vampire anywhere in sight. There is usually a bit of romance in her books. I have enjoyed them all immensely.

In a very small town in Tennessee, people are disappearing. Not only going missing, but seemingly disappearing into thin air. First it's two teenagers, eloping. Then a judge.

That's when the local sheriff calls in this very special branch of the FBI, whose agents all have one gift or another.

The agents are stymied .. and then a housewife goes missing. A 10-year-old child disappears in the middle of the night .. under the sight of a camera.

The secret to this mystery lies in what single connection they all have.

The suspense becomes more strained when a police office officer is murdered. The town is terrified and no one seems to be safe.

As with all Kay Hooper's book, I really enjoyed this one. There are several twists and turns leading away from outer space theories straight into the real here and now. Since I am not a psychic, I had no idea where this was going ... which makes the reading a lot more interesting.

I would recommend this one to anyone who likes the elements of magic, suspense and lots of surprises.

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

Fear the Dark was my first novel by Kay Hooper and therefor an introduction to the authors writing style.

At first glance, Fear the Dark looks like a thrilling mystery with a suspenseful storyline and captivating characters, and it was exactly everything I hoped for.

I picked this one up thanks to a wonderful review by Sophia @ Delighted Reader and boy was I glad I did that. I stepped into a world of atmospheric and spooky mystery with a criminal that had a thirst for revenge.

When people of Serenity, Tennessee start to disappear one by one into thin air, Jonah the local chief of police

comes to a conclusion that he is way over his head and calls in Bishop SCU. Arrive at the scene two couple sent over by their boss to investigate the strange disappearances that seem to pulse with sinister energy. Lucas, Samantha, Dante, and Robbie are the four couples that must work together and use their hidden and special abilities in hopes of bringing the man behind these disappearances to justice.

The author does an excellent job setting up the small town and everything that was creepy behind this entire mystery. It literally left goosebumps on my arms anytime we got experience the tragic evil that drove the criminal to do what he had done. The story ended up being gripping and sad, and I couldn't help but feel for Jonah and how he was connected to the entire thing.

Though there were couples in this book, I didn't really get any sense of romance and I was okay with that. I liked seeing how each couple cared for their partner and the length they went to protect them. Lucas and Samantha are together and the care and connection between them is genuine and apparent. Robbie and Dante are a couple that started working together and Bishops main goal is for the couples to come to trust and rely on each other.

I love learning about their special abilities as mediums and how they used to uncover the culprit behind the disappearances. Each couple was different with their own special skills that aren't perfectly refined but that is what makes the characters appear human, flawed and interesting.

The ending threw me. I was not expecting what had happened. Thought the conclusion felt a bit distressing, I too was a little surprised how quickly everything escalated and then ended so suddenly - I think an agreement Sophia and I shared on this.

Thought despite the sudden ending and what happens, I don't believe this is the last book in the series.

This can be read as a stand-alone, I had no problems jumping in. This review was originally posted on Night Owl Book Café

Cheryl says

The first half was good. The plot really bogged down in the middle, due to endless rehashing of the clues. The story didn't improve after that.

Lee says

This was too predictable. The main characters were not developed enough so I really didn't care about them. Also, this thing with Noah and Miranda not providing information to their people is getting old. I found myself not liking them in this book.

Overall I felt that Hooper just jotted down an outline for a story and filled in out of necessity to get it published. I wouldn't recommend this.
