



The Protector

Marliss Melton

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Eryn McClellan teaches ESL in Washington, D.C., until the day she's targeted by terrorists avenging her father's actions in Afghanistan. The FBI has stepped in, but when it looks like they are using her for bait, General McClellan enlists the aid of the only man he knows he can trust: former Navy SEAL Ike Calhoun.

Embracing solitude in his remote cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Ike thought he'd left the War on Terror far behind. Now he's stuck shielding a blue-eyed beauty from ambitious federal agents and crazed jihadists. More disturbing still, the charming Eryn seems intent on shattering his self-imposed isolation. Ike does his best to resist her welcoming ways, but he can feel his resistance crumbling like a mountain in a mudslide. With the FBI hot on their heels and the terrorists not far behind, Ike willingly wages a one-man war in defense of the woman whose passion and faith have given him the strength to rise above his past.

The Protector Details

Date : Published June 24th 2011 (first published 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Marliss Melton

Format : Paperback 238 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Protector for online ebook

Kris H. says

I'm so glad Mariliss Melton is back. I'd forgotten how well she does romantic suspense. I really liked this book and can't wait for her to continue with this series.

Glamdring says

2,5 stars

I gave this author a try because of my author's names challenge.

Until the last 1/3 I was giving it 3,5 stars, but then the heroine started to have TSTL reactions. Also, at one point I found the FBI behavior OTT. I mean, the heroine is the daughter of a respected 4 stars general, not any lambda citizen they can bully as they please.

Saly says

This book didn't work for me, I didn't like the characters (what is up with the names?), the whole setup with the daughter of a General being hunted and the whole FBI thing seemed so reckless and unprofessional and most important of all I didn't like the characters.

The story didn't pull me in, the characters monologues and dialogues were weird. The romance too lacked something.

Bottom-line not my cup of tea, try the other books by this author.

Bukcrz says

I had high hopes for this book since the blurb itself is very promising. However, as the story unfolds, the two main character's love story starts to slides to the backside for me and the reason I kept on reading was because of the sub plot. In short, the secondary characters and the secondary subplots engaged me more than the H/h's story.

The h is a very fine example of a character that thrives well when the weather is good. But when hardship comes, her selfishness/brat-iness appears. I can understand that she's gone through a lot but the way the author portrayed her response to the situation, she ended up just like a clueless brat. Which also contradicts the background that the author gave for her. Not a character I like.

The H on the other hand, is your averaged tortured soul, former SEAL, and reluctant hero. I like him enough. But the main reason why the H and h's story did not get to me is because their chemistry does not make sense. It's more like 'I-don't-want-to-get-involved-but-I-can't-help-that-I-am-attracted' line of cop out. The h's attempts to connect to the H by plying him with questions about his family that he really does not want to talk to his team - much less towards a bratty stranger. And then she pouts because he rebuffs her attempts at

talking! Hello, that's not talking, it's prying especially since they just meet less than 24 hours ago. I laugh when she told herself about her attempt to play psychology to a PTSD SEAL when she herself just melt at a drop of a pin - unfortunately, she did not stop the attempt.

Overall, I think the author wants the h to appear like a strong yet June-Cleaver-caring but in the end....The book has a whinny h and a hen-pecked H. Amazing secondary characters and secondary subplots, great pacing and just enough suspense and intrigue.

April says

Check out my other listens at Eargasms Audiobook Reviews

This was a very interesting read. The premise was intriguing and kept the story flowing. I gotta say I did not like Ike all the time. And the FBI guy Kane is really not like-able.

As a hero, Ike is rough around the edges. He was bossy and domineering, not always in a good way. He kicks things off more bully than hero. Fortunately he lightens up over time and exposure to Eryn. By the end I really had come to like him. The while tortured warrior is a weakness for me!

I really liked Eryn, she is spunky and sweet all at the same time! The thing I like best about her is she listened to her instincts. She did not fall prey to the "too stupid to live" moments. A girl with brains and heart!

These two had a nice chemistry and interesting dynamic. Once they got to know each other things between them were playful. I love a couple that do not take everything so serious.

The book has a mixed narrative, most of it swaps between the two leads POV, but there are times when supporting characters are in charge. This was great for getting to know everything that is going on, it also makes the bad guy more sinister.

The book moves at a steady pace but there are a few times when things drag. The action comes fast and furious, but there is plenty of downtime too. The main plot was complex but simple at the same time. It was very much inline with current events. I do not read a lot of terrorist thrillers, so this felt fresh to me.

There are a few yummy steamy scenes! Gotta expend the post chase adrenaline!!! Oh yeah, things are very smexy! This is the time it is totally fine to have those Alpha moments!!

I listened to the audiobook narrated by David Brenin. He has a delicious voice with a gravely growl! Oh yeah, he gives good voice!! He has a really great pace, swift but steady enough you can follow. I loved his men's voices, they were wonderful. The women's voices are a bit on the low and breathy side , they work but are not very feminine. I enjoyed his read and will definitely be looking forward to him in the rest of the series!

Overall, this was an entertaining read, it had faults but not so many to stop me listening. I am intrigued by the rest of the series and want to hear more. One of the big things that caught me was the ending, it did not just end with them getting back together. There was a resolution to issues in their lives. I had more than a few tears fall, especially in the last chapter!

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

Auntee says

I'm so glad Marliss Melton is back in the game again! Her **SEAL Team 12** series is one of my favorites, and I can't believe her publisher didn't want her to continue writing about SEALs. Her latest book, *The Protector* is self-published, and MM wisely chose to stick with a formula that has worked for her in the past. Her heroine, ESL (English as a second language) teacher Eryn McClellan, is the daughter of the top US commander in Afghanistan. Eryn's in a bit of a pickle--she has a terrorist after her head (literally), vowing to seek revenge against her father (sort of an-eye-for-an-eye thing). The FBI is protecting her and holding her at a "safe" house, but want to use her as bait to draw out the terrorist. This doesn't sit well with her father, so he enlists the aid of one of the men he trusts the most--former Navy SEAL Isaac "Ike" Calhoun. Due to a horrible incident (Ike's hair turned gray over this) where most of his men lost his life in Afghanistan because of a decision he made, the guilt-ridden Ike has resigned his commission and retired to a secluded cabin in Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains where he teaches survival training. When General McClellan calls on him to protect his daughter, the reluctant Ike knows he can't let the general (who has been like a father figure to him) down. He'll do everything in his power to keep Eryn safe until the terrorist hunting for her is captured. And there's *no way* he'll allow himself to fall for the beautiful Eryn...

Yep, all the elements seem to be here for a great book. Strong, silent-type hero who doesn't feel worthy of the heroine's love, a heroine who starts out rather wimpy but with Ike's training becomes a force to be reckoned with, and a religious crackpot villain straight out of today's headlines. The writing is good, but a little something was missing that made me think it wasn't quite "up there" with her previous books. Things didn't start cooking with the H/h until about the midway point, and up until that time a lot of time was spent explaining the terrorism plot. It seemed like just as things were getting interesting with Ike and Eryn's possible romance, MM switched back to the terrorist's POV, or the FBI's POV.

Now, once MM allowed Eryn and Ike to hit the sheets, things started to pick up both romantically and with the suspense. I really couldn't put the book down after that, and there were some definite nail-biting moments, a surprising death, and a heroic rescue. And I have to admit I shed a few tears for Ike too...

Although I loved Ike and Eryn, I think MM short-changed Ike on his backstory. I wanted to know more about him, but we were given just the barest details about his past. Ike was a character who wasn't the most comfortable talking about himself, so Eryn getting information from him was like pulling teeth, but I would've enjoyed reading about his thoughts at least.

And...a little more heat between the H/h would've been nice. What she gave us was certainly sensuous and sexy, but I was hoping for a few more scenes.:)

So, if you've enjoyed Marliss Melton in the past, you should enjoy this one once it gets going. True, for me it doesn't rank up there with her best (Next to Die, Too Far Gone, Don't Let Go), but it's good. Good but not great. Hopefully MM will continue on this path and keep writing about her awesome military heroes. 4 stars

Danielle Gypsy Soul says

I really did not like this book which is a shame because I liked her Seal Team 12 Series. However, this book just wanted to make me throw my kindle across the room. First off the heroine was just not my cup of tea. I first I thought she might be okay but the second she was "rescued" from the FBI by a man she's never met before she takes a pill which makes her sleep. She spends most of the trip asleep even though she isn't sure who/why this man rescued her except that he says her father sent him. Then when he throws her pills away she has a tantrum. She just comes across as weak and needy through most of the book with some TSTL moments thrown in. The hero isn't that much better. He has no sympathy for the heroine's situation, he's rude to her and refuses to talk about much of anything including how he plans to keep her safe. The fact that they rarely have a conversation meaningful or otherwise makes it incredibly hard to believe they fall in love. The sex scenes were just awkward and there was no chemistry to speak of.

He emitted a groan as she cradled his tumescence. WTH?

That's just the "good guys". The villains were even worse. They were so stereotypical I just rolled my eyes and groaned. Not to mention that the FBI agent was completely over the top and stupid!

My suggestion is to skip this one!

Carrie says

Marliss Melton's SEAL Team 12 books have been among my favorite military-themed romantic suspense. I was disappointed when her publisher decided no more SEAL books. That turns out to be short-sighted since the heroic SEALs killed Bin Laden, making them very popular with the general public. I was delighted to hear Melton was self-publishing a new series of military RS in ebook format, and bought the first one as soon as it was out.

Unfortunately, it didn't live up to Melton's previous books. The overall story idea is good, but the execution is just okay. The writing in *The Protector* feels so different than the SEAL Team 12 books that it felt like a different author. She overused similes and metaphors, and the emotions of the characters were overwrought. The heroine was also TSTL several times, but that's a common plot with RS, unfortunately, so that doesn't mean bad prose.

Two stars on Goodreads means a book is *okay*. This book is just that, okay. Because of Melton's track record as one of my favorite RS authors, I'll give her a pass on this book and look forward to the next one.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

The first book in Marliss Melton's *Taskforce* series. Eryn McClellan is the daughter of a general and teaches English as a second language. One of her students saves her life but loses his and Eryn is put in FBI custody for protection. But the FBI isn't doing all that great of a job so the General calls on one of his former men, Isaac "Ike" Calhoun, to protect his daughter. Now the reluctant "protector" must ensure Eryn's safety, not

only from the bad guys but himself.

This has all the right elements and is put together in a way that makes me love it. I'm a big fan of Ms. Melton's *SEAL Team 12* series so I was sure this would be a winner too. It is a winner for me. It may not have grabbed me quite as hard as the *SEAL Team 12* series but it is most certainly worth reading.

Julie says

Another author friend of mine was discussing the problems Marliss Melton had had with her publisher (Ms. Melton writes military romantic suspense and apparently her publisher decided they didn't want any more *SEAL* books from her) and so Ms. Melton had decided to self-publish.

I was intrigued by the story and wanted to see what the publisher had passed up, so I went ahead and read *The Protector*. From the very first page we are pulled into Eryn's story when one of her students is acting very strangely while completing an after school project. She feels uncomfortable, realizing they are alone, and decides to leave. His behavior escalates and so does the suspense of what will happen next. Before Eryn can blink, she's thrust into a world where men would kill her to take their revenge on her military commander father and if she wants to live, the game is on.

The author masterfully combines her knowledge of the military with the emotions of what havoc war can wreak on even the most gentle of souls, including her hero Ike Calhoun. Ike has come home from the war on terror with a lot of demons. He's trying to forget everything he's seen and done, but gets pulled into Eryn's predicament because of a favor he owes to her father. The author really pushes the reader beyond empathy with Ike's story and what happened to him and his *SEAL* team. I found Ike to be a compelling tortured hero and loved his interactions with Eryn.

With a great setting, can't-put-it-down plot, and characters that pull at your emotions, *The Protector* was a story that is more than entertainment. It really made me think about our men and women in uniform and the issues they face once they are home. My only complaint was that the villain seemed a bit on the stereotypical side and, for my more gentle readers, I must caution that there were a few sex scenes and some language in this book that could make you uncomfortable, (if it were a movie it would definitely be an R). But those sorts of scenes aren't long and drawn out and can be skipped over without hurting the story. There were also a few typos that were mildly distracting, but the plotline more than made up for that.

All in all, for better or for worse, I think Ms. Melton made the decision that was right for her in her self-publishing foray, and her readers will not be disappointed with her debut self-published novel.

Originally reviewed on my blog <http://ldswritermom.blogspot.com>

Ani's Reviews says

First time reading this author and I loved this book. I love discovering new authors and this was just sweet, dangerous, and a perfect book for me. I love these kind of books and I enjoyed it so much. Amazing. Well deserved five stars definitely!!!

Mary Gramlich says

THE PROTECTOR by Marliss Melton
07/11 – Published by CreateSpace - Paperback, 240 pages

Is it the person or the act that makes one a hero?

Eryn McClellan has traveled the world as her family gladly follower her father's military career. She admires him, respects and the military choices he has had to make even though those choices have made her a target for a terrorist group that wants her head literally on a silver platter. The only person her father trusts to keep her safe is Isaac "Ike" Calhoun, a retired SEAL that knows all the places you can hide someone because that is what he has been doing since he left his military career behind. Ike blames himself for a choice that cost soldiers' lives even though he felt it was the right decision. Guilt drove him to where he is now and obligation to the man he served for will have him take care of Eryn.

Ike doesn't want the job but he would never say no to the man that filled the family gap that Ike desperately needed. So he goes in and literally picks Eryn and her dog up and takes her to his remote mountain hideaway. The problem is the FBI wants to keep her safe despite their loose definition of safe from using her as bait. Ike is having none of this idea and his house is safe and the security strong. No one is getting in without Ike knowing about it but the problem is not perimeter safety it is the attraction to Eryn that might get through the wall around his heart.

Ike keeps everything in check, that is how you stay alive but with Eryn's gentle ways and trusting nature he appears to be softening that stance. One touch turns to a kiss which becomes a caress and before Ike knows what has happened he finds himself risking his life and his heart to make sure no one touches her but him.

When the chase begins to identify the bad guys from the less than honorable Eryn has already picked her hero and knows that Ike may not have allot to say but the few words he expresses are genuine and true.

This is a great adventure book mixed with the perfect addition of suspense to romance which keeps you wondering what will happen next. I would have liked more in depth about Ike's family angst but everything else is exceptional.

Petya says

I think this story had potential but sadly for me it didn't work. Dialog was wierd, forced. I just didn't get in the story kind of like watching cartoon character trying to look real.
I forced myself to read it to the end.
So ... not my type of book.

Delta says

2.5 Skip-it Stars

Lots of stereotypes.

Flat, black-hat villains.

Heroine is a damsel in distress with some too-stupid-to-live moments and little control of her destiny.

Some awkward word choices in the sex scenes (her *chasm*, for example), and I never felt the chemistry between the H and h.

Frequent need to suspend reality.

All of which is a shame because basics of the plot are quite good and would make a great action movie or story if the characters were more believable.

This series ends here for me.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

I got this for a great price on my Nook. I'm always looking for new authors and this looked interesting.

If you are looking for a book with a little bit of romance, a good story plot, fair character development, this may work for you. It has a military twist, so if you don't like this type of story - you may not like this. A terrorist plot is throughout the story.

Overall, not bad. I would give it 3.5 to 4 stars. I will try another by this author.

Happy Reading!
