



## Traces of Kara

*Melissa Foster*

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## Traces of Kara Melissa Foster

Kara Knight can't wait to leave her hometown for the promise of nursing school and a fresh start on her future--leaving behind an over protective mother, a broken heart and painful memories. However, twenty-five miles away, the brother she doesn't know is determined to be reunited with the sister he cannot forget.

Kara is abducted and thrown into her obsessive captor's delusional world. As the past she thought she knew unravels around her, Kara struggles to make sense of the memories that come creeping back, threatening her sanity and her safety. Meanwhile, Kara's mother races against time to save the daughter she fears she will lose when a long-held secret is revealed. The hours tick away as Roland plays out his plan--to take Kara with him into death at the exact moment of their birth, never to be separated again.

TRACES OF KARA is an action packed, pulse pounding psychological thriller/suspense novel that features a determined killer who slowly loses his grip on reality as his carefully detailed plan starts to fall apart and a heroine determined to move forward with her life who now must reconcile everything she believed to be true about her family with the reality of their tragic past.

## Traces of Kara Details

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Author : Melissa Foster

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## From Reader Review Traces of Kara for online ebook

### Laurie Carlson says

When Melissa Foster asked me to read and review this new book she had just finished, "Traces of Kara", of course I JUMPED at the opportunity! I've read and reviewed her last three books, (ALL of her books, including this new one, are all stand-alone books) and they are all pure excellence! Now, having read this fourth book, it, too, is pure excellence! I LOVE her writing!

I've been waiting (impatiently!) for this, her next book which is her fourth, which felt like forever between books this time, and finally, here it is! (No, it hasn't been that long, it just felt like it to me because I LOVE her writing!) Yes, like her other books, this book, as well, does not disappoint! In fact, I believe this one is the BEST yet! I would put her writing of this book up against any other Psychological Thriller author and believe me when I say she will outshine ANY of them with this book!

I started reading this book only knowing that it was supposed to be a lot darker than her others, but that was all I knew. I had no idea what to expect, no details, not even the genre. In my opinion, when you have a favorite author you love to read, there is nothing like going into their new book not knowing what to expect! This is a thrill itself! This book is a different genre than her other books, but one of my favorites! A Psychological Thriller! I happen to love this genre of books, and I was in my glory!

This book starts off with a deranged man named Roland. He says one thing - Marissa, and that they will be reunited. He repeats this name over and over again, obsessively. He wants Marissa and looks forward to their 'reunion' on their birthday. He happens to have an old photo of her as a young girl. He rubs his thumb over and over the image of her in this photo, so much so, that the image is almost invisible now. He's been stalking a young woman for a while, as his goal is to be reunited with Marissa. He is stalking a woman, and has in his head this woman is Marissa.

We meet a young woman whose name is Kara, (not Marissa). Kara lives with her mother, and her step-father Ted, and she is getting ready to go into Nursing School, which is her dream.

Things drastically change for her.

So how does 'Marissa' fit in all of this?

This is just the very beginning of the story! Hold on! You've got a long ride ahead of you full of twists and turns so unexpected, you'll never know what's coming, or what hit you!

Melissa Foster pens this 'intense' Psychological Thriller leaving you on the edge of your seat flipping the pages as fast as you can. (Many people will say this about a lot of books, but please believe me when I say that about this book as I really 'do' mean it.) You cannot second-guess Foster's writing as to what's going to happen next, where Roland will pop up next, what he's going to do, nor can you guess where the plot is headed. I learned this in her book, "Come Back to Me". I knew I was not going to be able to second-guess what was going to happen. I just read and read, and read, and read!

The suspense is so profound, the next time you find yourself having to go outside at 2:00am to get your dog because her leash got stuck, and you are home alone because your husband works afternoons and they are on 12-hour shifts, and the dog is crying for you, YES! You'll find yourself NOT wanting to go out alone, even having the dog with you! LOL! You go to get her, but find yourself looking over your shoulder and all around, and you cannot get back into the house fast enough, nor lock that door behind you quick enough either! Then you worry if the deadbolt is strong enough!

Melissa Foster is the 'ONLY' author who has been able to break through and reach my emotions. I really did cry in her previous books, or in this book (several times) it made me jump and/or look over my shoulder inside and outside of my own home, and I am NOT one to scare easily! (You never knew where Roland is/was, or where he's going to pop up next!) This just does not happen to me, and no other author has been able to do this to me from any book, except for Melissa's writing! She has a special talent with her writing, because it is so real and believable. This really 'can' happen.

Her writing is also very meticulous as every "i" is dotted, and every "t" is crossed. The plot is thought out from start to finish and you do not doubt what is happening and will not be able to guess what will happen next in her books as they are so realistic.

This is one book you will NOT soon forget. It will stay with you, especially If you enjoy Psychological Thrillers, I HIGHLY recommend this book for you.

I received this book for FREE directly from the author, Melissa Foster, in exchange to read and write a review about it. It is NOT required for this review to be either positive or negative, but of my own honest opinion. "Free" means I was provided with ZERO MONIES to read this book nor to write this review, but to enjoy the pure pleasure of reading it. I am disclosing this information in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255, <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/wa...>

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## **Tu?çe Gök?rmak says**

<http://tugceninkitapligi.com> da yay?mlanm??t?r.

Melissa Foster'ın yeni roman? Traces of Kara, elinizden b?rakamayaca??n?z, nabz?n?z? artt?ran, t?rnak kemirten cinsten karanl?k bir gerilim.

Kara Knight, kendisini aldatan kocas? Daryl'den yeni ayr?lm?? ve bir yandan yaralar?n? sararken, bir yandan da yeni bir ba?lang?ç umut etmektedir. K?sa bir süre sonra kapanacak olan çal??t??? elektrik santral?ndaki i?inin bitece?i ve dedikodu kayna?? oldu?u kasabadan gidece?i günü iple çekmektedir; hem?irelik okuluna gidecektir. Annesi ve üvey babas? ile de ili?kisi oldukça mesafelidir. Ama i?ler umdu?u gibi gitmez, birisi onu takip etmektedir.

Roland'ın akl? dengesi yerinde de?ildir ya da ben öyle oldu?una inanmak istiyorum; birlikte do?duk, birlikte ölece?iz tak?nt?s?yla, dokuz y?ld?r arad??? Marissa'y? nihayet bulmu?tur; Marland'de bir elektrik santralinde... Roland'ın sorunlu geçmi?i ve Kara'n?n ?imdiki zaman? kesi?ir. Ve Kara için hiç bilmedi?i s?rlar, güvenli?ini ve akli dengesini zorlamaya ba?lar...

Peki Kara'n?n annesi Mimi, onu vaktinde bulup, geçmi?ten gelen bir s?rlar? ve bu kabusu durdurabilecek mi?

Roman gerilim olunca, hakk?nda fazla bir ?ey yazmaya gelmiyor; spoiler vermek hikayeyi bitirmek demek olunca, insan ayr? bir tedirgin oluyor, bu nedenle hikayeye dair fazla bir ?ey yazm?yorum. Yazar?n zekice seçilmi? kelimeleri ve son derece canl? anlat?m? tüm hikayede hakim, gizem ve suç ortaya ç?kt?kça ürkütücü sahnelerde gözlerinizin önünde, adeta canlan?yor. Farkl? aç?lardan anlat?lan k?sa ve h?zl? bölümler, gerilimi çabucak artt?r?yor ve yan karakterlerin sonuca bir türlü ula?amamas? sizi diken üzerinde tutuyor.

Baz? noktalarda hikayenin hafif sallanmas? ya da karakterlerin iç sesleri ile temponun dü?ü?ü söz konusu, ayr?ca baz? unsurlarda tahmin edilebiliyor, fakat yine de bunlar? kolayca gözard? etmenizi sa?layacak yeterli ?a??rtma ve sizi ask?da tutan gerilim genele yay?l?yor ve gayet kolay bir okuma sunuyor. Yazar?n karakter geli?imindeki becerisi ve onlar? karanl?kta tutmas? da kitaptaki tansiyonun yüksek kalmas?n? sa?l?yor... Ayr?ca gözünüzün önünde sahneler tüm canl?l??? ile olu?sada ve kan da tabii ki olsa da, yazar ?iddetin dozunu okuru rahats?z etmeyecek noktada ayarlam??.

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### **Stacy Eaton says**

From the moment I read the first words of this book, I was engrossed. Melissa Foster has a way of pulling you into her stories quickly and keeping you there. This book was no exception.

This plot line is much darker than her other books, and if you like suspense and intrigue, then this is a book for you. It is not for the faint of heart, as death is a major factor. While there are no sexual scenes in this book, the language might not be for everyone. In my opinion, the language and the violence that are written about in this novel, make it all the more real and in depth. This is real life written into a fictional story that could be all together true. Life is not always pretty, and this story shows you the mind and actions of a mentally disturbed person.

The characters all have deep stories behind their initial meeting. At first, I didn't like Kara's mom, Mimi, but as the story went on, I came to like and respect her far more. Kara and Roland are the major players in this book, and the action and conversation that takes place between them will keep you prisoner to what will happen next.

The story itself is very well written, with a very intense plot. The characters have depth that many authors have trouble portraying, but not Melissa Foster. If you are looking for an intense read, set in a place that you could only imagine your nightmares coming to life, then this book is something you will want to read.

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### **Rachelle Ayala says**

Traces of Kara is a heart-rending, emotional and thrilling drama with the backdrop of horror.

All Kara ever wanted to do was to lead a normal life, go to nursing school, and get away from her cheating husband. But an overprotective mother, a sinister stalker, and secrets with deep roots combine to throw Kara into a shadowy nightmare of real and implanted memories.

The setting of an aging coal plant, sealed off tunnels and graveyards of outdated machinery create a horrifying atmosphere where blood, bodies and suspicious odors lurk around every corner. The story reeled me in from the start and I could not let go of it, no matter how scary. A movie ran through my mind, complete with sound effects, creepy music, and the shuffling of the villain, raspy breathing, and that voice calling in the dark. Yet, love and devotion shone deep inside the chamber of horrors. The characters were realistic and admitted things to themselves that most people hid or denied. They were scared, not heroic, but loved and cared deeply enough to do the unthinkable, and at the end made themselves admirable and heroic.

I never thought I'd enjoy a story that would leave nightmares, but this one sucked me in and spit me out thrilled, chilled, and congealed. It was just so good, and yes, I'll never think about a coal plant the same way ever again or take a tour of one. It was SO-O scary, but had a touching mother-daughter story and plenty of relationship drama intertwined into it. Gosh, I'm still reeling. It is so rich, so multi-faceted and a story I'll never forget. It's like Hannibal Lector, Freddie Kruger and the Tami Hoag villains combined with the emotional bond of Jody Picoult, Jane Fitch, and Steel Magnolia. Expect the unexpected. The ending was

perfect and realistic. Not tied with a plastic ribbon, but satisfying at a deeper level.

I was given an ARC by the author and enjoyed it thoroughly.

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### **Sharon Martin says**

A psychological thriller which you will find hard to put down and will want to read from cover to cover.

When Kara is abducted her life is turned upside down when she realises who her kidnapper is and what secrets he holds about them both. Not only is Kara's life affected but also her mother's. In the search for Kara her mother has to turn to the police for help before even consulting her husband, which endangers their marriage.

The atmosphere that the author creates is first class as Kara discovers more about her past you feel her emotion. The tension and fears that the next of kin feel is exceptional in the search to find where Kara is and who has taken her. This story will keep you on the edge of your seat and makes you believe you are there watching and noting everything that is going on, bringing the book to life. This story will make you ask questions about any gaps or things you cannot remember in your own past.

An extraordinary theme to a book where the kidnapped victim finds out things about herself which in her deep conscious she already knew. Whilst on the other side her mother has to reveal the truth which she thought she would never have to, not knowing how much will this damage them now and in the future.

Expertly written and a real page turner which keeps the reader entranced and I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good psychological thriller.

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### **Sheila says**

Kara's had a tough enough life already but she's moving on. Separated from a husband she knows betrayed her, though all her friends and even her mother say she's imagining it; struggling with a dead-end job because she put her dreams on hold to help the betraying husband; estranged from her mother because she doesn't get on with her father-in-law; what more could go wrong? But just as everything might go right, the past catches up with her.

Roland's had a tough life too, with cops watching his every move for all that he hasn't put a single foot wrong in years—well, he's never been caught putting a foot wrong anyway. Separated from the twin he loved, he dreams of one day finding her, and he has the technology and the tenacity to make his dream come true.

Dreams soon turn to nightmares in classic horror style—dark corridors, rolling thunder, scary secrets, saviors who insist on walking alone... Author Melissa Foster brings the world of a coal-fired power plant to vivid life as Kara goes about her everyday job. But suddenly a much more scary world is revealed. Kidnapped and

powerless, she doesn't even know why her attacker gives her a different name. And the slow reappearance of forgotten memories doesn't improve her confidence. Just how many people have lied to her?

The paragraphs are sometimes choppy, reflecting the character's conflicted and multi-directional thoughts. Repeated analysis of what's real and why she's here make the tension rise slowly, and rise it does. Meanwhile everyone does what everyone thinks is best, keeping secrets, telling lies, and laying the groundwork for tragedy.

In the end the question of who's to blame matters less than the chance to build and rebuild relationships. We all make mistakes and nothing's perfect. But moving on means moving together and the story draws its characters into a pleasing conclusion as troubled Kara steps forward, rewriting her plot.

Scary, haunting and haunted, *Traces of Kara* is a chilling suspense with great characters, great locations, and a made-for-TV plotline that's sure to intrigue.

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Disclosure: The author generously allowed me to read an e-ARC of this novel before it was released.

### **David Burnett says**

The author draws you in to the story and you're quickly hooked. Suspense builds, page by page. As soon as you think you know what is really happening, once you decide how the story will play out, a new complication arises. Read this book. You will love it!

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### **Mishael says**

I first became acquainted with Melissa Foster's writing when I won a copy of her book, *Chasing Amanda*. I read that book and loved it, so when the opportunity came to read this book and review it, I grabbed it!

As other reviewers have stated, I had trouble putting this one down, and even when I had to, I found myself still thinking about it and wondering what was going to happen next. Melissa's writing just has a way of doing that to a person. It was one of the things I liked so much about *Chasing Amanda*.

So why did I give this four stars instead of five? Well, here are a few reasons.

- 1) The action is fast-paced, but it might have been a little too fast-paced for me. I found myself getting lost sometimes and having to go back and reread some things just to get clear on them.
- 2) The scene changes weren't chronological. Sometimes, when a scene changed, you would actually go slightly back in time, which made me wonder how far back in time the action was taking place...Or maybe I was just over-thinking it.
- 3) All things considered, this was a really violent little book, and I'm not a big fan of violence. I mean, I

understood that it was necessary within the context of the book. It's just not really my "cup of tea", and I found myself wishing that there wasn't so much of it. Chasing Amanda, by contrast, was a much sweeter, tamer book...Well, in a sense, anyway.

4) At least one of the plot points felt unresolved. Did Marissa's dad leave because he wanted to escape her mom, or did he leave to be there for Roland and protect Marissa? I don't suppose it's all that important, but both possibilities came up within the course of the story, so it's one of those things that nagged at me (and still does).

All in all, though, this is another great book from someone who is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. If you like Lifetime movies (I happen to be one of those people who do) and don't mind a little added violence, you'll love this book. Why not give it a try?

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### **Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says**

The book starts off by introducing us to Kara and Roland, two seemingly unconnected people residing miles apart from each other. Kara, recovering from the ordeal of divorce, is planning to join Nursing school. Things are complicated as her mother doesn't really understand her decisions and wants her to get back with her ex-husband. Roland on the other hand, is a disfigured man with a past. He is being closely watched by the local police even though he hasn't toed the line in some time now. But little do they know that he is biding his time and planning his way to be reunited with his sister. As the story progresses we find out surprising connections and history between the two protagonists. Past revisited and secrets are revealed.

When I read Chasing Amanda by the same author, I felt like a third person watching the whole story play out as I couldn't really connect with the characters. But in this book, I felt a bit more connected to each character as they developed through the story. It was a mixed experience of sadness, horror and sympathy as author gave us insight to each character. No one is really what they seem to be at first glance and as a reader it was a rollercoaster journey to find out the complete truth in the end.

The plot itself is amazing with twists and secrets revealed every now and then. It's a full-fledged psychological thriller that will not fail to give you goosebumps at some point. This tale of love and deception will have you on the edge right till the end. The pace of the story and the style of narration are good. The characters as portrayed by the author, compliment the plot and when put together 'Traces of Kara' turned out to be an unputdownable page-turner.

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### **K.C. Sprayberry says**

Kara Knight has separated from her husband, been accepted to a dental college in another state, and is trying to get her mom, Mimi, to stop smothering her. Roland Greer is a man with a vision, a man scarred inside and out, a man suffering from mental disease and an obsession. Roland searches for his fraternal twin, determined to remain with her forever. Kara runs into him one night, and her life hangs by a thread for a long past separation she doesn't even remember. Can Kara escape Roland's nefarious plans? Can she overcome her anger at having a terrifying past hidden from her? Can she survive?

Melissa Foster's story of a mentally challenged man attempting to reunite with his fraternal twin, who doesn't

remember him has the reader hanging onto every word. All this happens within a twenty-four hour period, as the reader finds themselves hanging onto every word in an effort to discover what will happen next. I held my breath in several places, and cried out in others, but was unable to stop until I reached the last word, which left me wondering if there will be more. Foster takes the reader through the darkness of mental illness beginning at a young age, through a woman's decision to make something of a life stalled in a small town, to where the future is assured for most, but not without scars.

Traces of Kara is a book I'll definitely go back to more times. I definitely recommend this for lovers of suspense.

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### **Stephanie says**

What a gifted writer Melissa is. The characters will lock you into their world and are truly believable. Kara starts off her day as any other day as she is dealing with the separation from her husband who she believes cheated on her although her mother thinks otherwise. Kara lives in a small town where everyone knows and gossips about everything. She works at the power plant and is just itching to get out of that town and become a nurse. Anyone who has ever lived in a small town knows the feeling of wanting to leave, especially when life handed you lemons and everyone watched as your life falls apart. Kara heads off to work the same way she normally would not realizing that someone is watching her and has been for awhile. She is told she will be training someone new on her shift but thinks nothing of it. In no time the normal day turns terrible when the person who has been watching her takes her hostage in her own place of employment and starts calling her by the wrong name and is telling her things about her life and how they are connected. He swears that she is his long lost twin sister who he was only trying to protect but the authorities wouldn't let him. Kara is put into a night of twists and turns that she would have never expected and is left wondering if she is going to make it to see sunlight.

Melissa has a true knack for making you see the world she has created in her novels. In this particular one I not only imagine it I know exactly where she is talking about because I live near the town in which this story took place. Melissa describes the scenes at great length and as I have drove by noticed where she was talking about. This novel is yet another piece of art!!

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### **Lisa Kilcoin says**

This is Melissa Foster's 4th book, which is soon to be published. Having read her other three books and enjoying the real and vivid characters, the sensitive and truly moving story lines, I was very honored to be able to enjoy an advance reading copy of her newest book "Traces of Kara".

From the very first page, "Traces of Kara" was riveting and hard to put down. Kara Knight is a young woman from the small town of Williamsport, Maryland. She is recently separated and hoping to be accepted to nursing school. She works the night shift at the power plant in town, biding her time until her dream of becoming a nurse becomes a reality.

Kara has no idea of the demon who is stalking her and watching her every move. She reports for her shift one evening and expects to find the new hire, who is due to report. She mistakenly takes the man she sees in the plant as the new employee and begins to describe what he needs to do to help her clear the coal chute. Kara quickly finds out that this man is not who he appears to be. He immediately refers to her as 'Marissa'

and professes his love for her and expects the same from her. What happens next, as Melissa Foster spins her truly gifted and talented web of suspense, will keep you on the edge of your seat and guessing until the end. This story has characters that are strong and real. Even they do not realize their true strength until they are up against the demon that is set on killing 'Marissa' and himself at the exact time of their twin birth. The life that Kara knows and remembers may not be as she recalls it and the people in her life will surprise her with their true strength and love when she needs it most.

I have truly enjoyed each of Melissa Foster's books and this book is no exception. She is a true artist with words and her stories are moving and more vivid with each work of art she shares with us, her loyal readers and fans.

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### **Pat says**

This is the fourth novel by internationally best selling author Melissa Foster. Her novels defy shelving into a certain genre. She writes beautiful stories sometimes with a little magic, sometimes with some heartbreak, and as with *Traces of Kara* a frightening tale of obsession and madness. They always have strong characters and voices.

Roland Greer is a mentally and physically scarred man we learn is searching for his sister Marissa. They were separated as young children for an as yet unnamed reason but the reader gets the impression it was a frightening perhaps dangerous event.

Kara Knight is a young beautiful woman who has survived a disastrous marriage, divorce, and a mother who still believes the marriage could be saved if Kara would just listen to Daryl her ex. She has just received an acceptance to the University of North Carolina's nursing school program. It is a dream come true. Her life is finally taking the direction she wants, she can leave her job at the local power plant, and move from Maryland to North Carolina. Everything seems perfect.

This novel is a roller coaster of emotion. Suspense, fear, anger and death. The characters you thought you knew, change before your eyes. It's impossible to tell more details without spoilers. I could not put this book down, other than when the fright and emotions became so strong I had to get up and walk away for some breathing time!

I highly recommend this exciting novel to lovers of suspense and danger. I do suggest you not be alone while your reading this!!!

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### **Sheryl says**

#### **Traces of Kara**

Unfortunately, I don't have much great to say about this book.

I liked it, fine and it was certainly a page turner. I was interested enough in the characters to want to keep going. The most fascinating part of the story is the back story of when Kara/Marissa and her twin brother Roland were children, however there wasn't a whole lot of it. I needed more of the back story to be able to

empathize with what was going on in the current situation.

It was lacking suspense. The "who dun it" is pretty much confirmed right off the bat and maybe Melissa wasn't going for that anyway, but it needed more surprise and suspense.

I also felt like she wrote this for a group of middle schoolers. Her writing style is very plain and simple.

I have only read one other book by Melissa Foster called *Have No Shame*. It was absolutely amazing. So good. I reviewed that one, as well, if you want to see what I had to say about it.

My suggestion is, if you have been wanting to read something by Melissa, I wouldn't start with *Traces of Kara*, as I am afraid you won't want to go back for seconds with this author. That being said, I can't wait to check out some of her other books. :)

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### **Liz Terek says**

What if you suddenly found out that everything you thought you knew was a lie?

Kara's life is definitely not what she envisioned it would be. Working a menial job, separated from her husband, fighting with her mom & stepdad, she goes on about her days while dreaming of a better life. Roland is on a mission. Finding his lost twin sister consumes every waking moment. Disfigured & branded as troubled, he tries to stay under the radar from the prying eyes of the town. Though trying to appear normal, he never forgets the mission at hand.

These two, seemingly different lives, are about to intersect. Kara has never met Roland, but Roland is certain he's met her. Believing her to be the one he seeks, he'll stop at nothing to be reunited with her.

Unfortunately, he'll also decimate anything or anyone who gets in his way. Secrets will be uncovered & lives forever altered. Can Kara get through to him before he eliminates everyone near to her?

Melissa Foster has created one incredible story. Kara is a tough cookie & her stubborn will to live will make every reader care about her. Her supporting cast of characters is all very believable & necessary. There aren't any cast-off characters.

The plot has depth & kept me guessing for quite some time. Even the villainous Roland has moments where the reader will want to care for him, though we know we shouldn't. Each aspect is as unique as the characters. Hang on for the twists & turns. The action is fast-paced without being too quick to keep up on. Honestly, I read it in one night. I simply had to know how it ended & boy, was I glad I did!

Suspenseful & creepy, with a good old-fashioned mystery swirled in, I loved every minute of it. Sure to be a best seller, it's by far a 5 out of 5 star novel.

I was provided 1 eBook copy to write the review without further compensation. All opinions are mine.

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