



# This Fallen Prey

*Kelley Armstrong*

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## **This Fallen Prey** Kelley Armstrong

When Casey Duncan first arrived at Rockton, the off-the-grid, isolated community built as a haven for people running from their pasts, she had no idea what to expect. There are no cell phones, no internet, no mail, and no way of getting in or out without the town council's approval. She certainly didn't expect to become the town homicide detective. But, the very last thing she expected was for the council to drop a dangerous criminal into their midst without a plan to keep him imprisoned. And she never thought that she'd have to be responsible for him.

The longer Oliver Brady stays in town, the more people seem to die around him. When evidence begins piling up that someone inside Rockton is working as his accomplice, Casey races to figure out who exactly Brady is and what crimes he's truly responsible for committing.

## **This Fallen Prey Details**

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Author : Kelley Armstrong

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**Download and Read Free Online This Fallen Prey Kelley Armstrong**

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# From Reader Review This Fallen Prey for online ebook

## Fables&Wren says

### WrensReads Review:

This was a great addition to the series.

So you know the big, rich people who make up all the rules and pull people on strings like a puppeteer? Well they decided that they are now going to make Rockton a place where they can hide wanted fugitives! Their first choice is someone who literally just kills **for the fun of it** and they want Rockton to keep him for like six months until his precious island is ready for him to live on!

*Like series, wtf were they thinking?* The people who go to Rockton are hiding from people like that and are dealing with a lot of PTSD. They need to get their heads out of their wallets and into reality where people literally will get killed.

Because guess what? Of course, after a series of unfortunate events, he gets loose and people start killing people and he's all like *but wait, I'm innocent it was the guy who sent me here* and then everyone else is like **wait, who is he and why is he locked up with a gag on** and people die and blah blah blah blah...

It's all really, **really** unfortunate because they have already dealt with two killers; and now to be literally gift-wrapped a third and to not know if he is completely innocent like he says or guilty like the letter that came with him said... I just feel for these people.

The writing is, of course, exquisite because it's Kelley Armstrong and anything she touches turns to gold. Literally I will read anything she writes. Even if it is strictly romance (which **HI I usually HATE STRICTLY ROMANCE BOOKS**, I will be reading it. I am slowly but surely jumping through her collections.

Now, I will say this is the weaker installment of the three so far. But it does leave you on a cliffhanger and now I am made that I have to wait until 2019 to read the fourth book.

WrensReads | Goodreads | Twitter | Instagram

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Okay but the cliff hanger... was it necessary? RTC.

- - -

I want to say "I didn't sign up for animals to be killed in this book" but really, I requested this book as an ARC so I would be lying... but... I'm also crying so at least I rhyme.

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Kelley Armstrong never wastes my time. She just dives right into the grime of things and that's one of the things I love about her. This is going to be so good. A sadistic serial killer sentenced to Rockton for 6 months? What could possibly go wrong?

LITERALLY ANYTHING. JUST LET YOUR MIND WONDER AND YES THAT COULD AND PROBABLY WILL HAPPEN.

I wouldn't be mad about a genre-flip and her werewolves from her other series **Women of the Otherworld** are behind the future killings that are going to happen because it's an Armstrong book.

I'm done. This is the longest update ever. And I'm only 10% in.

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### **Brenda says**

The premise of a secluded rustic small village in the middle of a vast northern forest seems improbable. By rustic, I mean no internet, no computers, no wifi, no phones, no electricity, and small wood cabins with wood heat. Once you accept the premise, though, you'll be able to accept everything that happens in Rockton.

The council who established this village accepts a million dollar payment to keep a serial killer for six months. This with no warning to Dalton, the sheriff, Casey, his deputy, or any other resident. They are all surprised to see an airplane landing on their strip. And, of course, this supposed killer claims he's innocent and he does escape.

The book is filled with action and traipsing about in the forest, where no one is ever allowed to go, but go they must. Casey's 8-month-old Newfoundland puppy, Storm, is very involved in the search. We visit the First Settlement, and we also get to see some hostiles. And we finally meet Phil!

The romance between Dalton and Casey is still going strong, but it's not overly mushy or graphic. There are, however, quite a few deaths. Because of changes in status of some of the residents, things will be quite different in the next visit to Rockton.

Kelley Armstrong has an easygoing writing style that just flows. She includes lots of snappy dialog and humor and sarcasm. This was a very enjoyable read, as is the series, and I'm looking forward to the fourth book.

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### **Nikki says**

2.75 stars rounded up.

This *Fallen Prey* is book #3 in Armstrong's Rockton series. Once again, we find ourselves following Detective Casey Duncan and Sheriff Eric Dalton through the rugged wilderness in hot pursuit of a very dangerous criminal.

Unfortunately, book three did not grab my attention or "wow" me. Armstrong's overall concept is great, and I liked her original idea from the very beginning of the series. However, given that Rockton is a small, off-

the-grid town with a very limited population, there is only so much that can be done with the storyline. I felt that I was reading a lot of the same stuff over again from books one and two.

I have read other books/series by Armstrong, and I think she is a very good writer. I think the overall concept of this particular series is very unique and intriguing, but I wonder if it would have been more effective if it had been presented in a stand alone book as opposed to a series?

**\*\*This was a Traveling Sisters read, and I enjoyed exploring this series with everyone.**

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

The Casey Duncan series is set in Rockton, a town off the grid, a refuge town for those trying to escape something in life like a stalker, abusive mate, or punishment from a crime. Supposedly residents are pre-screened for violent behavior, however Eric and Casey, Rockton's Sheriff and Detective, are finding out that many of the residents are not as their paperwork has presented them. We've found out the hard way that there are very dangerous people in Rockton, but Casey and Eric are determined to keep the residents of this little town safe. Both Casey and Eric love their life, limited and imperfect as it is, they've found a place to belong, safe and fulfilled with each other.

In this newest installment, all is threatened when the council decides to admit a man, Oliver Brady, who's accused of horrendous crimes. His stepfather paid a hefty price to have him secured there, but Casey and Eric are given no advance notice of his arrival and are completely unprepared to deal with such a prisoner, and there's immediate chaos. Half the town feel sorry for Oliver and the other half are ready to exact justice. Of course, according to Oliver, he's innocent, wrongly accused and being framed. Who to believe?

Man, this installment had so many twists and turns! Just when I thought things would settle down, a new fresh threat would pop up, so I was on the edge of my seat the entire book! I love Casey's quick, logical thinking. She had an intelligent, deductive mind working every angle, but that didn't keep her out of harm's way, even so. Still, she's a force to be reckoned with, both mentally and physically! I just love a woman with moves, able to kick some ass! LOVE Eric as well! He's smart, courageous, and protective; they made an impressive team! It's a delight to see their relationship continue to grow and solidify. They're just *it* for each other.

There's a few twists with some of the regular cast of characters that had me gasping in surprise! Danger, thrills, and action at every turn. On top of that these characters are so very interesting with many layers! I'm totally invested in Eric and Casey's story, of course, but the secondary characters are captivating as well. I'm hoping we see more with Nicole and Eric's brother, Jacob. Jen and Diana are just two pieces of work; love to hate them! Mathias, Val, Tyrone, Petra, and Isabel each have their own piece of the story as well.

The story was just sooooo good! Can I just say I love this series?! If you haven't given it a try yet, you are missing out! Even though every installment is its own mystery, and wraps up by the end, I do recommend reading in order.

*A copy was kindly provided by Minotaur Books via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

This review is also posted at The Readers Den.

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## Holly B says

This is the third book in the Casey Duncan series and I thought it was the best. It takes place in Rockton, the secret town for people who need to hide. Casey is the town's detective and her boyfriend Eric, is the town sheriff.

The pace is quick from the start as the city council has negotiated for a dangerous and conniving criminal named Oliver Brady. They were offered \$1 million to keep him safe and imprisoned for 6 months. Casey and Eric are caught off guard as a helicopter has delivered him and taken off before they could refuse delivery. Rockton isn't really equipped to house a criminal like Oliver.

Oliver starts scheming and may have someone to close for comfort aiding him. What crimes was he accused of will Casey and Eric be able to keep him in jail for 6 months?

I enjoyed this action filled story which had several heart pounding moments. The setting and the woods people make it very creepy and unpredictable.

Thanks to Minotaur Books and NetGalley for my copy to review.

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## Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I've loved this series from the very first book, from the rawness of it right down to the crazy residents that reside in Rockton and after reading book three, I can say without a doubt, that this series is just getting even more awesome as it goes.

From a fast paced mystery to the slow burn of romance to the unusual setting and the even more unusual characters that make up Rockton, this series stand out and not only shines, but blinds.

I loved this latest installment even more than the others, and with five star ratings for the other two books, that is saying something.

Casey, Eric, Will, they are all just more that ever before. More fleshed out, more lovable, more crazy and even more outstanding. Mathias, Petra, Diana, Jacob, Val...heck all of the characters are just ones that are unforgettable and with that hint of never quite knowing who you can trust, this series is hard to put down and even harder to stop thinking about once you've picked it up. I simultaneously want to devour the books and make them last forever.

So very much happens in this. More backgrounds are revealed and exposed, more trust is broken, more friendships are made, and more than ever it is getting harder and harder to know the good guys from the bad guys.

And while the big mystery was solved at the end, even smaller ones are just beginning and are unraveling and that makes this installment even more exciting and even harder to wait for the next. Armstrong is one author that will continue to be on my auto-buy list and one I can continuously count on not to disappoint.

\*ARC was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.\*

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## **Susanne Strong says**

3 Stars.

You remember Casey Duncan right? She's the Detective who decided to live off the grid in Rockton, the town in the Canadian mountains where people go to hide from something and live new lives. Where there is no electricity, no internet and no cellphones. Sounds kind of perfect right? Except for Casey and her Sheriff boyfriend Eric Dalton, Rockton is far from perfect. Crime happens, even in the most perfect of places.

This time, the council has decided that Rockton is the perfect place to "hide" a serial killer. Yeah, you heard that right. The council and the town, are being paid a lot of money to take in Oliver Brady. The council is sure that no one will get hurt and that Casey, Eric and Will can keep him secure. What a laugh riot. Of course they can't! Things slowly go from bad to bat sh&t for Casey and Dalton and Oliver escapes leaving people dead in his wake. Now its up to Casey and Dalton to find him before all hell breaks loose. This time they encounter Hostiles and people from the First Settlement and their chances of survival well, they get even worse.

"This Fallen Prey" is the 3rd book in the Casey Duncan series by Kelley Armstrong and though I found the storyline to be stalling a little this time around, I truly enjoyed the idea of a town like Rockton (minus all of the crime of course!).

This was a traveling sister read. Glad we read this together!.

Thank you to NetGalley, St. Martin's Press and Kelley Armstrong for an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley and Goodreads on 3.11.18.

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## **Marialyce says**

This is the third of the Rockton series by Kelly Armstrong. It again "stars" the characters of Detective Casey and Sheriff Eric Dalton and their ability to keep the residents of the off the grid town of Rockton safe.

However, a plane lands in this desolate Yukon and a prisoner is taken off. He is no ordinary prisoner but one who is a serial killer and Casey and Eric are tasked to keep him contained in a town that has only one jail cell, no electricity and no internet. Needless to say things do not go well and as this team springs into action there is murder and mayhem that follows.

This book and its predecessors have followed an interesting theme, that of placing those who need to escape

detection, away from the civilized world. Living off the grid provides a place where people can find an escape for the right price from their former lives, many of which have been unsavory to say the least. In *This Fallen Prey* we see the most unsavory of them all. However, there is a level of doubt as some of the primary characters from the previous novels interact with Brady Oliver, their now supposed resident serial killer.

This book as well as the other two have lots of action and suspense as we follow the clues to the book's conclusion. It is a fun read and offers an escape as we travel to the wilds of Rockton and once again meet the strange and sometimes evil people who live there. Thank goodness the dog, Storm, survives all the mayhem!

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### **Veronica says**

With the secluded, secret town of Rockton as a setting (population around 200), one might think that it would start to get difficult for the author to come up with new ideas to sustain this mystery/suspense series. But when the population is ever-changing (most residents can only stay two years) and the great Yukon forest is itself populated with Settlers and Hostiles AND the town is financially supported by a Council that carries out its own agenda, well, there's no shortage of opportunities for misadventure.

When the Council drops a sadistic serial killer into Rockton's lap with no forewarning – all motivated by a very high payoff – and with instructions to hold him for six months, Sheriff Eric Dalton and Detective Casey Butler find themselves scrambling to ensure the safety of Rockton's residents. It doesn't help matters when the killer's pleas of innocence only highlight the mistrust and suspicion both Eric and Casey have for the Council. It doesn't take long though for things to go wrong and for tragedy to strike... but are things what they seem to be? This is the question that dogs both Eric and Casey as they set about trying to bring safety and order back to Rockton.

Kelly Armstrong has delivered another solid entry into this series. I won't give away any spoilers so I'll only say that I kept jumping back and forth about what the truth was and even up to almost the very end I wasn't sure enough about what was happening to make a definitive call. The ending brought closure in some aspects but, frustratingly, not in others. One thing seems certain, and that's that both Rockton and the Council appear poised for some changes. These changes will necessarily affect Eric and Casey and I'm very anxious to see how things move forward from here.

I can't help but think these books would make a great tv series, with the Canadian Yukon territory as a gorgeous backdrop. *\*fingers crossed\**

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### **Kacey - Traveling Sister says**

**3\***

This is book 3 in the Casey Duncan series from Kelley Armstrong. While good by itself, I would still suggest starting at the beginning with *City of the Lost* to get the complete picture and absorb the most from this series.

Rockton, a small community off the grid in Northern Canada. Where clients can go (for the right price) to



disappear for a brief time. People come here for all sorts of reasons – some more innocent than others! When Oliver Brady is dropped off as the newest addition of Rockton, the orders are to keep him under lock and key for six months. Hmmm...that doesn't sound good! Is he truly guilty of the crimes they are accusing him of? Or is there an ulterior motive to his confinement.

Well, now that we have come this far in the series I was hoping for something different. The premise for the series is great, though the progression of the storyline is lacking a bit. I'm hopeful that with book four (in the works?) it will spur this series in a new direction!

A traveling sister read with Brenda, Susanne, Marialyce and Nikki?

Thank you to NetGalley St Martin's Press and Kelley Armstrong for an ARC to read in exchange for an honest review.

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**Jessica ❀ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says**

**Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

Last year, when we discovered that amongst the residents of Rockton lived a serial rapist who would abduct a woman, fake her death (by dressing and strategically positioning the mauled and thus hard to identify corpse of another woman of roughly the same dimensions in the clothes the abductee was last seen in), hold her captive for months (more than a YEAR in one case), raping and torturing her until she died (for real this time) before choosing a new victim and beginning his twisted cycle all over again, I thought Armstrong had peaked.

Not that the series itself had peaked, but that future installments would need to seek out alternative avenues to continue the Bigger and Badder trend a series is wont to pursue. The creep factor had topped out.

**Armstrong:** SILLY HUMAN, I AM KELLEY ARMSTRONG. I DO NOT PEAK. \*laughs maniacally\*  
\*twirls mustache\*

**Me:**

**You:** What is creepier than diabolical serial rapist guy!?

**Me:** Thrill-seeking equal opportunity serial killer guy.

Which is exactly what Rockton gets when an unscheduled plane lands and discards:

*"... a thrill killer," I say. "He murders because he enjoys it. Tortures and kills. Five victims in Georgia. Two men. Two women. And one fourteen-year-old boy... Oliver Brady is a killer motivated by nothing more than sadism... An unrelentingly opportunistic psychopath."*

**You:** Okay, I know we learned the "council" could be a bit sketch on the residents' backstories in A

DARKNESS ABSOLUTE, but a serial killer? Really??

**Me:** YEP. But he's not actually meant to be a "resident" this time—more of a temporary prisoner—and at least they're told up front that this dude is a serial killer . . .

. . . Or *is* he?

\*laughs maniacally\* \*twirls mustache\*

But regardless of whether or not Oliver Brady is what he's accused of being, his presence wrecks havoc on the town created for those who need to disappear. Numerous well-liked citizens are placed on the chopping block, leaving you with decimated fingernails as you frantically read to learn their fate.

It is b/c of this personally experienced terror that I'm going to—for the first time ever—offer you an unnecessary spoiler. In the spirit of **doesthedogdie.com** :

(view spoiler)

BUT. Despite Armstrong clearly not having peaked, I had a couple of minor issues that kept this installment from the 4.5 - 5.0 star ratings of its predecessors.

**1. The council threatening to oust Dalton if he doesn't walk the line is getting effing tiresome.**

There's only so many time you can use a specific threat before it starts to lose its effectiveness, and I reached that point in the last book.

*Shut up*, Phil. You're not sending him anywhere. And if you do, he'll make a new and improved Rockton elsewhere and be happier for it.

**2. There are suddenly a LOT of various "others" in the *alleged* Yukon wilderness.**

More than I could countenance. Especially considering the convenience of some of their identities.

**3. Despite the soundness of her reasoning . . .**

(view spoiler)

**4. All those bombs dropped in the final pages.**

(view spoiler)

All of that being said, **THIS FALLEN PREY** is still a stellar read in a series of exceptional reads. Armstrong cleanly laid the groundwork for multiple future developments, including some of Casey's ongoing

suspensions concerning the evolution of a “hostile.”

Dalton was his delightful self:

*Shortly after we installed the bell someone rang it in the middle of the night. Drunk, obviously. Rang it and ran . . . leaving boot prints in the snow, which I matched to a perpetrator, whom Dalton then sentenced to go to each and every person in town and say, “I’m the fucking idiot who rang the fucking bell at two in the fucking morning. I’m sorry.” No one has touched the bell since.*

Casey continues to wrestle with her darker nature:

*I want justification for my rage. I do want to see Brady gutshot for this. Gutshot and left in the forest. And that scares me. It’s the sort of thing Mathias would do, and I tiptoe around the truth of what Mathias is, alternately repelled and . . . Not attracted. Definitely not. **But there’s part of me that thinks of what he does and nods in satisfaction.***

YAS.

In THIS FALLEN PREY, Armstrong keeps you guessing right up to the end about the true nature of Rockton’s newest (sort of) inhabitant, and when you finally get the full story, I can almost guarantee it won’t be what you expected. I don’t know what the future holds for this settlement and its occupants, but once again, I’ll be impatiently waiting to find out. Still very much recommended.

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## Jilly says

I love the premise of this series - a town in the middle of nowhere that is for supposed victims to hide-out and live peacefully. Our heroine, Casey, entered this world a couple of books ago and works as a cop in this town. Unfortunately, she soon learned that not everyone there is a victim or witness, some of them are the perpetrators of crime and are hiding from the law. And, see, that seems like a flaw in this town's structure to me. Call me crazy, but it seems like an obvious mistake.

To make things worse, the people in charge decide to send our town a serial killer. They are supposed to house him for six months. No problem, right? Oh, and he's a sadistic, manipulative serial killer who looks like an innocent college kid and is telling everyone that he was set-up and is innocent. He's rich, so he can try to bribe people with money. He's good-looking, so he can try to manipulate women with flirtation.

The fish should have been right. It's a fun idea.

What it lacked in was execution.

Okay, so in our last book, Casey gets a puppy. The dog is 8 months old now and Casey has been training her. So far, that's fine. Cute dog in a story - cool. But, no. Not cool. The damn dog becomes such a focal point in the book that it's ridiculous. There is one scene where the dog runs off and Casey is chasing it. That scene lasts for like a hundred thousand pages. Just relentless page after page of the dog running and her thinking about all of the mistakes she might have made in training it, and worrying about what might happen to it. I started considering gouging my eyes out to stop reading about something so fucking boring and stupid.

And, yes, I know there have been many successful books in the past about the special bond between dog and owner, but *that is NOT what this book is supposed to be about!*

What I wanted: **More serial killer. Less dog.**

Just like Becca, the author didn't know when it was enough already.

I have to think that if I, a dog lover, got sick to death of the dog stuff in this book, how much worse would it be for cat people? I think they might just set themselves on fire to get away from this book.

## **WORST BOOK EVER.**

Still, I like the town and idea of the book, so I enjoyed the non-dog portion of the story.  
Is it worth it? Only if you really liked the first two.

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## **Selene says**

Rockton is a secluded town. There's one sheriff, one deputy, one homicide detective, and one jail cell. A council decides who gets access to this unique town devoid of internet or electricity and there's one person in Rockton who has direct access to the council. Communication to people outside of the town is extremely limited and the residents prefer it that way.

So who are some of the residents? ~~Some are criminals with fat bank accounts who fund Rockton's police department and overall economy.~~ The latest to arrive in Rockton is a suspected serial killer whose stepfather has paid a million dollars upfront for a six-month stay. Neither Sheriff Dalton nor Detective Butler is happy about the council's decision to allow this new person into their sheltered circle and it's not long before their suspicions of impending disaster become a reality.

? This book was not for me.

*I tried!* Ultimately, it was the writing style that I disliked most. I loved the premise and the opening pages really intrigued me, but the narrator became increasingly boring (after the twenty percent mark) and I got tired of her mentioning that she and Dalton were lovers. She just kept mentioning it *over* and *over* and *over* and *over* again...

Essentially, there were *a bunch* of uninteresting side characters, *flat* main characters, and a great attempt to harness that small-town atmosphere, but I had trouble buying *any* of it. The cliffhanger ending only made me feel more frustrated with this story.

**\*NetGalley ARC kindly provided by St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review.**

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## **Diane S ? says**

3.5 Once again we return to Rockton, that off the grid community where people are given a second chance. On the run from their parts this community is supposed to offer safety, but it sometimes doesn't seem that way. In this offering, Casey and Eric are not offered the choice, when a man is unceremoniously dropped in their midst. The council rules, and a great deal of money is on offer, an offer they have no intention of refusing. This man, and his past crimes will place this small community in danger.

I am fascinated by these novels, the idea of such a place hidden in the Yukons, the different people that come here, and the many reasons they come. Enjoy the back stories of these characters and their varied personalities. The new life Casey and Eric are trying to forge together, along with their new tracking pup in training, Storm.

I didn't rate this one as highly as the previous two in series, though I did enjoy the reading. Felt there was almost too much going on by book end, hard to keep track of who was doing what to who and why. Too much danger from too many different elements. I did though, like the very end when a person who definitely needed a comeuppance, got one. Looking forward to seeing where that goes. So a good read, but a little too cluttered for this reader.

ARC from Netgalley.

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## **Maureen Carden says**

Let me get this right out in front, Sheriff Eric Dalton and Detective Casey Duncan are two of my favorite romantic characters in almost fifty years of reading. Plus, Kelly Armstrong is known for some famously romantic characters in her several paranormal series.

Unlike all of her other series, the Casey Duncan series is a hardcore police procedural, but set in a most unusual location. Armstrong is famous for her supernatural world building, but I think this series far surpasses those worlds.

Rockton is supposed to be a little off-the-grid town of last resort, set within the boundaries of a huge boreal forest in the Yukon. People are granted sanctuary-for a price- for reasons ranging from avoiding a wrongful criminal conviction to escaping an abusive partner and everything in between.

But the investors in Rockton have gotten greedy. First they started sneaking in white collar criminals who pay hefty fees. Then the mysterious investors/council tried sneaking really unsavory people into Rockton unbeknownst to Eric and Casey.

Entering into Rockton means the residents are isolated from just about every modern convenience, surrounded by a forest uncaring about their continuing existence. The even more primitive communities of settlers who left Rockton years ago and hostiles who revert back to a barely recognizable life form are extremely threatening complications to the citizens of Rockton. That's why rule number one in Rockton is

don't go into the forest alone.

So the above should catch readers up on what Rockton is all about if they haven't read the previous two books. So it is fine to read *This Fallen Prey* as a standalone, but I highly suggest going back and reading the other two for the pure d. pleasure.

One afternoon while training Casey's puppy, Eric, Casey, and Deputy Will Anders hear the buzz of a small plane. This is an almost impossible occurrence since Rockton is protected from discovery by high tech and sophisticated physical means.

The small plane lands and delivers a bound and gagged man. A thrill killer, a serial killer, named Oliver Brady is sent by his extremely rich step-father to Rockton as a way for Oliver to avoid prison. Turning Rockton into a prison would be a huge new source of income for the investors, but a major danger for the residents of Rockton as it is not equipped to function as a high security jail. People who find Rockton come for their safety. Not to be serial killer fodder.

It won't come as a shock that Oliver proclaims his innocence, saying his step-father is setting him up. Nor will it be a shock that with the help of an accomplice, Oliver escapes into the forest.

Eric and Casey have to go after Brady because a serial killer could pose a severe danger to those living in the forest and the wild apex predators can't be depended upon to take him out.

The atmospheric forest with its predators, settlers and hostiles does its best to kill Eric and Casey, and puppy Storm during their search for Oliver; with the 80 pounds of Newfoundland puppy seeming to be the major target of the forest.

As much as I love this series I did have a few complaints. The forest starred more than Rockton, and I missed Rockton. Other than Oliver, there were not any new Rockton residents introduced for more than a quick appearance. Many favorite long time residents only made cameo appearances, albeit in shocking ways for some.

Armstrong has always been a master of dialogue, either sharp or amusing. Taking bets on what will kill Oliver if he makes a run for it upon his arrival in Rockton:

"Fine, rabbits"

"But the rabbits haven't killed anyone yet."

"Yet."

The story is action-packed edge of the seat reading. At one point Casey is shocked to find out it is only 3p.m. So is the reader.

I mentioned at the beginning that Eric and Casey were favored romantic characters. They would die for one another but instead do their very best to live for one another. How hot is that?

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

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