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Midnight Obsession (The Midnight Series Book 4)



Synopsis

In Wall Street Journal bestselling author Melinda Leigh's edgy new thriller, Louisa Hancock thought she was safe—but there's a new killer in town. When a mysterious package lands on Louisa Hancock's doorstep, the Philadelphia museum curator can hardly anticipate the nightmare that's about to envelop her. The package is addressed to her father—an expert in Viking culture—and inside is a ninth-century sword, a chilling thank-you note, and photos of two dead bodies in a tableau evoking a Nordic funeral. The gruesome images match a recent crime scene. But before the police can investigate the killer's connection to Louisa's father, Ward Hancock vanishes. Sports bar owner Conor Sullivan wants nothing more than to spend his life with Louisa. Devoted and protective, he refuses to leave her side after her father's disappearance. When a troubled young boxer he's been coaching is suspected of the murders, Conor is pulled in even deeper. Desperate, Louisa and Conor take it upon themselves to find her father, but soon another ritualistic slaying makes it clear there's a Viking-obsessed serial killer on the loose. And he has a new target: Louisa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

MIDNIGHT OBSESSION is a fast moving romantic suspense story. Murder and kidnapping are at the center of the storyline. Melinda Leigh skillfully describes the strong family relationships of Louis Hancock and Conor Sullivan. She shares details of the Sullivan brothers in earlier books. The author also began developing the romance of Louisa and Conor in MIDNIGHT BETRAYAL, and she continues building on their family relationship throughout the storyline of her new book. Events unfold quickly when Louisa Hancock, curator at the Philadelphia Museum receives a package addressed to her father, Ward Hancock. Neither Louisa nor Ward could have known how the package contents would turn their lives upside down. Before Conor and Louisa can get the police to investigate how the Viking Sword, a cryptic message, and the package photo of two dead bodies connects to Ward Hancock he vanishes. The author increases the pace of the storyline when the police investigation connects the package photo to bodies found at a crime scene. When another ritualistic murder occurs, the police determine they are dealing with a serial killer. Soon afterward the police focus on a young boxer friend of Conor's as a person of interest. When Conor and Louisa provide help and protection for the young man and his family, Sullivan's bar and restaurant is attacked by a local gang. Leigh keeps her story moving forward nurturing the romance between Louisa and Conor. She increases suspense in her developing story. Conor seeks to protect Louisa and his family while searching for her missing father. The pace of the plot never slows down as Leigh unveils clues leading to a list of suspects of the murders and kidnapper of Louisa's father. Leigh's fans won't guess the motive or the identity of the murderer and kidnapper until the last page. MIDNIGHT OBSESSION delivers an unpredictable ending surprising everyone.

That was a fantastic incredible ride. I love her books but this one may take the cake to date. First of all the plot was very complex and kept me on the edge of my seat trying to figure out who? what? where? when? And how this was going to progress and be resolved. Fantastic! Yes the love story was wonderful and the characters suck you in immediately at the same time I kept wondering if somewhere I missed a book so I am off to find out. Bravo Melinda another fantastic ride. Can't wait for the next one.

Who is killing fighters and posing them with dead prostitutes? Who is sending Viking artifacts to a museum curator? Who kidnapped a Viking scholar? Why is a gang targeting two young men and their family? The answers are skillfully woven into the story. I couldn't put it down!

I can't get enough of Melinda Leigh's books. Every time I think that she can't get any better, she surpasses my expectations. This is the 4th book of a series and you can, of course, read this book as a stand alone but in my opinion you'll get more out of it if you read this as part of the series. It's so much fun watching familiar characters grow. One of my favorite things is the fact Melinda writes strong female characters. They don't spend a lot of time whining, wringing their hands, or waiting around for the hero to save the day. They are smart and underneath it all, they have a core of tempered steel. This book reaches out and grabs you from the beginning. It starts with a ritualistic killing, and a mysterious package addressed to Dr Ward Hancock but delivered to his daughter Louisa Hancock at the museum. This is just the start of a roller coaster ride of suspense. I am usually pretty good at guessing the bad guy, or unknown but familiar looking victim, but time after time I was wrong and never would have guessed the ultimate villain. If you are tempted, I say buy this book. It kept me up reading past my bed time and made me want to go back and re-read the previous three books in the series.

This time around the Sullivan clan finds themselves up against a man who is performing Viking death rituals. Poor Conor is still feeling guilty about not being able to protect Louisa from the killer from the last book. Even though he has been keeping her close both her and her father end up embroiled with a killer again. Each book in this series is like a history lesson. The killer is using the burial customs of Viking Age North Germanic Norsemen as his professed way of killing his victims. Seems the Vikings not only lived life brutally but they also took those customs to death with them. The author has two suspense story lines running simultaneously. One being the Viking killer and the other a ruthless gang war that involves a teenage that Conor and Louisa have been mentoring. It ends up being a bit of a surprise at what ties these two things together. All of the Sullivan's and their significant others were back but the oldest sibling Pat (who hasn't had a book of his own) has more page time in this one. Even though each book in this series has featured a Sullivan sibling these last two books have been more about Louisa coming to terms with her childhood and the insecure lasting feelings it left her with regarding family. The Sullivan's are a tight knit and their love finally penetrates her wall and by the end leave her feeling the joys of what having a family really means.

I chose 4 stars because this book did not grab my attention early. However, I love the Sullivan's, and was hoping that Conor and Louisa could finally find time for just the two of them. Louisa proved that she could take care of herself physically and could also take care of the ones she loved. I figured out

who the bad guy was, so no surprise there. I have read all of Melinda Leigh's books to date, and appreciate the work involved in research for her novels. My two big surprises with Midnight Obsession were Lillian and Detective Ianelli! And, hopefully, Yvonne and her boys will find a safe haven! I am hoping this series will continue!

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