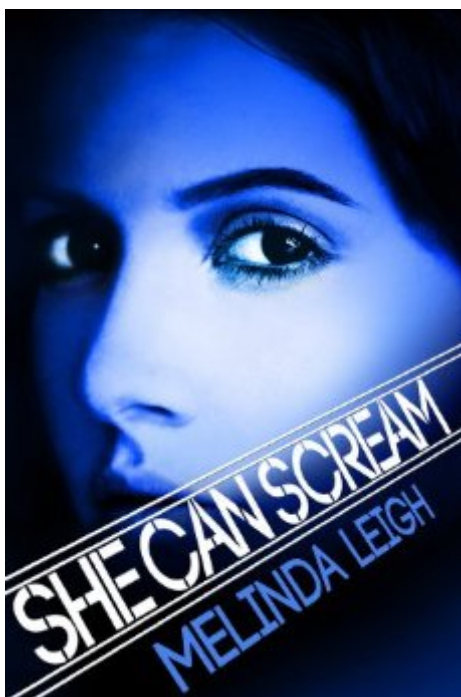


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She Can Scream (She Can Series, Book 3)



Synopsis

Winner of the 2014 Golden Leaf Award In one moment, high school teacher and single mother Brooke Davenport interrupts a vicious assault, saves a young woman's life, and attracts the attention of a serial killer. Sixteen years ago, Brooke lost her roommate to a brutal murder. Now she teaches women's self-defense, still trying to heal from the guilt and grief that plague her. Convinced the predator knows his victims and is stalking his prey online, she is determined to find him before he strikes again. Her brother's friend, Luke has the computer expertise to help. But Brooke's unexpected desire for Luke complicates her investigation, and her fixation with the case provokes a deadly reaction from the killer. Injured in terrorist bombing overseas, computer expert Luke Holloway is still haunted by flashbacks of his young assistant's death in the explosion. But Luke can't refuse the request of a deployed friend to look after his sister, Brooke. Taking on responsibility for Brooke's safety threatens Luke's tenuous recovery, especially after he develops feelings for her that transcend a promise to a friend. When Brooke saves a young girl from a brutal assault and becomes a killer's obsession, Luke vows to protect her at all costs.

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Customer Reviews

This is my third read in the 'She Can' series, and I love them all equally. For those of you who read the previous two books (She Can Run & She Can Tell), this book features police chief Mike O'Connell and then later in the story, retired homicide detective Jack O'Malley. And although it is nice to hear a familiar character's name, each installment works perfectly as a stand alone book as well. The main character in 'She Can Scream' is Brooke, a thirty something woman who experienced the murder of Karen, her best friend and roommate many years before. Due to survivor's guilt, Brooke immerses herself in the study of rape/murder cases, learns self defense, then dedicates much of her spare time towards teaching other women how to protect themselves. A secondary main character is Luke, a good friend of Brooke's brother who has made a promise to protect Brooke. He has gone through his own tragedies and is as emotionally scarred as Brooke, so it is interesting as well as gratifying to see them go through things together. The story starts, when due to a one-time scheduling conflict of one of Brooke's self defense classes, she finishes the session later than her normal time. As she is leaving the building, she is within earshot of the screams of a woman (Maddie) being attacked. Of course, the killer does not expect his well planned attack to be thwarted, so when Brooke intervenes she then also becomes a target. As the killer closes in on his prey (both Maddie and Brooke), he is cunning enough to send very effective 'reminders' that it is only a matter of time before he has them in his grasp. Some of these reminders involve new unexpected victims. The killer's profile is interesting.

She Can Scream is the fourth Melinda Leigh novel I have read. Somehow I missed Midnight Sacrifice, so I ordered it today. Normally, my wife and I have a very different taste in reading material--not so when it comes to author Melinda Leigh's novels. When I bring home one of her books, it is a crap shoot for which one of us gets to read it first. While the publisher lists Leigh as a Romance writer, my wife categorizes her books as murder mysteries with an undercurrent of romance. I, on the other hand think of her books as strong suspense thrillers that contain some romantic erotica. That's my story and I am sticking by it. Regardless of how this author's work is labeled, her writing skills are first rate. She grabs the reader from the onset with vivid and mesmerizing action creating twists and turns that grips readers and keeps them guessing. She Can Scream is a 365-page roller coaster ride that kept me glued to my reading chair and made my face flush from time to time. The main character, Brooke Davenport, is a high school mathematics teacher in Westbury, Pennsylvania. She and her ex-husband, Ian, live over a hundred miles apart after Ian chose his life style over her and their children, Haley their 15 year old daughter and Chris their 14 year old son. After finding her roommate, Karen viciously murdered, Brooke made it her

mission in life to teach women's self-defense classes for the past 16 years as self-imposed punishment, blaming herself for Karen's murder. Brook's younger brother, Wade and her friend Abby Foster and others would like to see her find love and marry again and they are not shy about trying to fix her up.

She had just finished teaching her class and was loading her equipment in her car when she heard it..."A distant scream cut through her thoughts. Its raw tone and the way it cut off mid-wail disturbed the hair on Brooke's nape."She listened a second more, but was unwilling to just ignore it.

Fortunately, a guard was still in the building, grabbed flashlights and followed. A fresh scream, quickly cut off came and then they could hear the attacker. Brooke dialed 911, ended the call and ran. Brooke interrupted the attack but the man only stood and stared at her. Then he quickly took off but Brooke fell over a limb while following. Then she quickly called 911 again and gave them an update on where he was heading, along with a description. He got away that day, but Brooke had saved a young girl named Maddie! And now the media wanted her to become the known hero...Not! Especially since the police did not catch the assailant! Brooke was a divorcee with two children, Chris, 14 and Haley, 15. Wade, her younger brother was the only adult she could call to come get her, but he was already scheduled to leave for a tour in Afghanistan...That's how Brooke came to be the responsibility of Luke, a friend of Wade's...Of course, that was not what Brooke wanted! Brooke and Luke had one thing in common--good and bad. They both felt responsible for the death of a friend that had happened years ago. Neither could get rid of the guilt...But after all this is romantic suspense so you'll enjoy watching these two as they skirt a budding relationship...The important thing, though, is that Brooke really did need Luke's protection--because she had kicked off a rage in the killer that could no longer be stopped.

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