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Minutes To Kill (Scarlet Falls Book 2)



Synopsis

From Wall Street Journal bestselling author Melinda Leigh. After corporate attorney Hannah Barrett tries—and fails—to stop a kidnapping in Vegas, she can't shake the haunting image of the terrified young girl she couldn't save. She tells herself that a visit to her hometown in Scarlet Falls could be a welcome distraction. But soon, Hannah realizes the kidnapers have all the info they need to track her every move. And when chilling e-mails about the victim appear in her inbox, it's frighteningly clear what happened in Vegas has followed her home. Eight months after a terrible family tragedy, Hannah turns to Detective Brody McNamara once again. Brody is eager to help, though he's embroiled in the investigation of a brutal murder. But the closer they work together, the stronger their feelings grow—and the more they stand to lose when two seemingly unrelated, but equally deadly, cases collide. *Minutes to Kill* is the pulse-racing second novel in bestselling author Melinda Leigh's Scarlet Falls series. 2015 Golden Leaf Award Finalist 2016 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award Winner

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Customer Reviews

• *Minutes to Kill* is the second book in the Scarlet Falls series by Melinda Leigh. In this series

so far, the stories have centered on the Barrett siblings. The first book dealt with a crushing blow to the family, the murder of one their brother, Lee and his wife Kate, and the family effort to track down their killer. This book is about the second of the remaining three siblings, high power attorney, Hannah Barrett. She is a big city girl with no landing spot but certainly does not plan for a future in Scarlet Falls, the small town of her youth and where the remainder of her family still lives. As she was growing up, Hannah fought for her father to treat her the same as he did her brothers. The Colonel was a strict man who put self reliance and survival skills above all else. Because of what she learned and her struggle to get her father's attention, Hannah has developed a tough exterior and the attitude and skills to survive almost any situation. At a high point in her career, she walks into what seems like an abduction of a teenage girl. Hannah tries to thwart the kidnapping but, instead, ends up injured and with the mental anguish of knowing that the young girl was taken. She goes back to her home town to recover from the physical injuries as well as to spend time with family and to take part in the trial of her brother's murderer. She is also interested in pursuing her acquaintance with the police detective who was instrumental in her brother's case, Detective Brody McNamara. As the story progresses, these two find themselves spending time with one another and finding something special in the process. While the whodunnit in this story is pretty obvious from the beginning, there is a mystery involved.

Melinda Leigh takes her readers back to Scarlet Falls, NY, by way of Las Vegas. Leigh's protagonist, Hannah Barrett is a corporate attorney who is in Vegas for business. Leaving for the airport Hannah witnesses a kidnapping of a young woman. She tries to help the woman and fails, ending up in the hospital with a head injury. The author gives her readers the Barrett family backstory. Reluctantly Hannah returns to Scarlet Falls, NY. to recovery from her head injury. The pace and suspense of Leigh's story increases when readers learn the young woman's kidnappers are in Scarlet Falls. The author introduces her male protagonist Detective Brody McNamara to her readers and his role in the storyline. Leigh builds on the connection between Brody and Hannah, establishing the strong feelings they have for each other. The author skillfully brings MINUTES TO KILL's support characters, both good and bad, into the storyline. She shares the backstory of the key players and their roles in the plot. Leigh keeps adding details to Hannah's history, helping her readers understand her physical and mental toughness in dealing with the danger building in Scarlet Falls. Hannah's goal is to find the missing woman kidnapped in Vegas and help Brody stop the serial killers in Scarlet Falls. Readers find themselves moving through Leigh's MINUTES TO KILL at warp speed experiencing what Hannah or Brody

encounter. They shadow both protagonists' feelings regarding the danger behind the killer's actions. Leigh exposes her readers to the dark underbelly of illegal drugs and human trafficking and throws them a curve ball they never see coming. Every direction change increases the reader's anxiety for Hannah and Brody's safety.

In this second installment in the Scarlett Falls series we get to find out more about the only girl raised in the Barrett family. The Barrett children were raised by a tough Colonel who didn't know what to do with a daughter. Hannah made sure she could do everything her brothers could do growing up which certainly came in handy with a confrontation with a sick human trafficker which was one of my favorite scenes in the book. Due to her childhood though, Hannah has shut down her emotions for the most part. She's a tough corporate attorney who ran from Scarlet Falls and until the death of her older brother had no intentions of coming back. But with the deaths of her brother and his wife it left two small children as orphans which her other brother Grant is now raising the kids (see first book in the series) but has made Hannah realize she needs to be around more. While in Las Vegas for work she stumbles upon a young girl begging for her help. Hannah is not able to save her as the ones after her take her right in front of Hannah after causing her to wreck her car in trying to get away. To heal from her injuries Hannah returns to Scarlett Falls and asks police officer Brody McNamara for his help in trying to find the girl. Brody is not unlike Hannah in the emotionless department due to some demons from his past. But during the case of the murder of her brother the two had become aware of the other which stirred up some feelings in what they considered their cold hearts. Unknown to either of them, the kidnappers had followed Hannah home and leaving a trail of bodies which amps up the suspense and Brody trying to figure out what is going on.

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