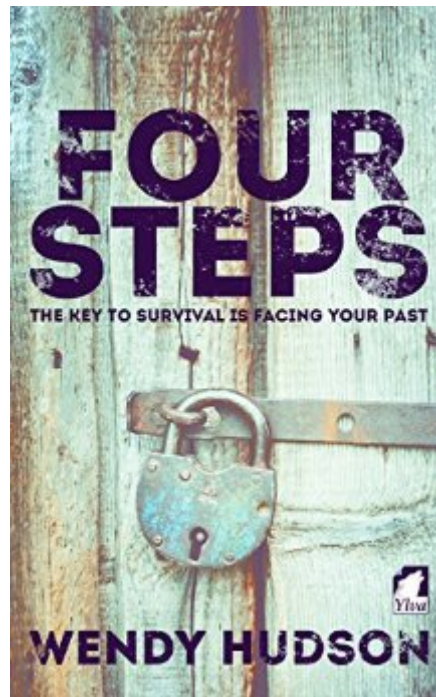


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# Four Steps



## Synopsis

Alex Ryan lives a simple life. She has her farm in the Scottish countryside, and the self-imposed seclusion suits her until a crime that has haunted her for years tears through the calm and shatters the fragile peace sheâ€™d finally managed to find. Lori Hunterâ€™s greatest love is the mountains. Theyâ€™re her escape from the constant hustle and bustle of everyday life. Growing up was neither traditional nor easy for Lori, but now sheâ€™s beginning to realise sheâ€™s settled for both. A dead-end relationship and little to look forward to. Her solution when the suffocation sets in? Run for the hills. A chance encounter in the mountains of the Scottish Highlands leads Alex and Lori into a whirlwind of heartache and a fight for survival as they build a formidable bond that will be tested to its ultimate limits.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was a great book. I knew from the cover and the writerâ€™s style that I was going to like it (having previously read an excerpt), but I didnâ€™t know just how much it was going to take me away with it. I could see the mountains in Scotland, hear the horses, and even feel the emotions of

the characters in my own gut. It was masterfully written and the plot was excellently executed. Wendy Hudson writes like a veteran author, comfortable with her story and her characters. This was the first time reading a book that I actually wished I could show up at their party and join in on the drinks and the laughs. The characters are fleshed out well and we are fed pieces of information about them in perfect pacing. From the very first interaction with Alex and Lori, Hudson builds just the right amount of tension, and I even laughed out loud at some of the clever dialogue both between Alex and Lori and also from their friends. Four Steps pulled me in immediately, and I read it every spare moment I could over just a few days. I could have kept on reading about Alex and Lori for hundreds of more pages. That being said, by the end, it felt like I had gone on such a long, wonderful adventure with them that it's hard to comprehend that the book really only covered a month or two in time. I was thoroughly impressed with the story, the writing style, the character development, and the dialogue. Hudson had me hooked from page one, and I would recommend this book to anyone who just wants to read a good piece of fiction. I am really looking forward to seeing what Hudson comes up with next. A 5-star novel through and through.

This is a truly wonderful book and I can't quite believe it's a first novel. The writing is so accomplished and I could not put it down. The story of Lori and Alex, who meet in a bothy in the Scottish Highlands while out walking the mountains, is part heart-achingly beautiful romance, part thriller. I loved both of the main characters and so wanted them to become a couple. Lori is getting over a failed romance with a control freak boyfriend and Alex is finally getting over a breakup. Both have complex background stories and we slowly find out exactly what that means to the present and to their future together. Their family backgrounds have huge implications for them and how their relationship develops. The romance element was tender and loving and drew me in. These two were so meant for each other and I didn't want anyone or anything to get in the way. The thriller part of the story was at times violent and scary and the tension was palpable. I can't recommend this novel highly enough and I hope Wendy Hudson has another one on the go for next year. I was given this ARC free by Ylva Publishing in return for an honest review.

Wow, the prologue, what an entree! It has me immediately on the edge of my seat. This is an amazing story with a bone chilling thriller. Set in a beautiful Scottish surrounding. I kept turning pages, curious and scared of what would happen next. It has intriguing twists and turns. I enjoyed this fast moving story immensely. A romantic thriller with colorful characters and an awesome love story. A book you won't be able to put down until the last gripping page. I'm really impressed with

this first book and I'm looking forward to more books by Wendy Hudson.

I loved this book, the author has a very beautiful and descriptive writing style to the point I almost want to go hiking in the Scottish Hills and start sampling whisky. I really liked both the main characters and if I win the lottery want to build myself a home like Alex's just so I can have parties like hers! I really like the rest of the characters in the book also and am hoping maybe one day the author will write stories about their backgrounds so we can find out more about them and have little updates on Alex and Lori also. This book was very easy to read and kept me turning the pages to a great ending, I can't wait to see what the author does in the future. I highly recommend this book.

Four Steps is a different kind of romance. We watch our two leads meet, spend time together, and build a romance. However, intersected in their romance is the story of the tragedy that occurred with one of the leads during childhood. Those parts of the book gave it mystery and added the thriller aspect. For myself, I like my romance separate from my thriller unless it's done in a way that includes the characters in the present setting of the book. Think "The Killing Room" by Gerri Hill or the Casey Cain series by Ali Vali. Those kind of romantic thrillers are more my speed. I in no way want to diminish Four Steps; it's a good solid book, just not my kind of book. I would recommend it though to someone who really enjoys thriller and romance. When the point of view shifts back and forth between characters, and time, it throws me off my reading groove. That kind of happens in Four Steps.

There's nothing more exciting than finding a new author that you love, and that is exactly what I have found here in Wendy Hudson's debut novel. I was drawn in from the first chapter of this book, and that's not an easy feat with me. Hudson does a wonderful job of bringing the characters to life and making them feel like real people – people you want to hang out with! I was so impressed with the natural feel to the dialogue she created, and actually found myself laughing out loud at some of the jokes and comments being made throughout the novel, which was a delightful treat, as I more often find myself rolling my eyes at an author's attempt at humour. This book brought me into the story with the perfect amount of scenic and character detail. I was fully immersed in the world of Alex and Lori and was sad when my journey with them came to an end. I ABSOLUTELY recommend Four Steps, and I eagerly await Hudson's sophomore novel.

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