



# Laurel Heights

*Denise Moncrief*

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## **Laurel Heights** Denise Moncrief

Book One of an exciting new series filled with paranormal activity, delicious romance, and plenty of suspense.

A dark cloud of deceit hovers over her family tree...

Left an estate by an aunt she's never met, Laurel Standridge takes possession of Laurel Heights, hoping it will be the safe haven she needs to recuperate from her ill-fated relationship with Rand Peterson. Secrets long buried rise to the surface when her cousin James is murdered and dumped on the highway just outside the gates of Laurel Heights.

Her past trails her to the mountains of Arkansas...

Caught in an obligation Chase Peterson feels he cannot ignore, he agrees to help his brother Rand take back the property he believes Laurel stole from him, but Chase remains at Laurel Heights after he discovers Laurel took nothing of Rand's away with her except nightmares, fading bruises, and a broken rib.

Unexplained disturbances shatter her hopes of a normal life...

Are the strange bumps, thumps, and bangs reverberating through the night caused by the murderer of Laurel's cousin James, someone Rand has sent to exact his revenge, or a disturbed soul existing in another dimension, trying to communicate with the living? Drawn together by the intrigue surrounding Laurel Heights, Chase and Laurel become hopelessly entangled in a relationship that goes deeper than mere physical attraction. Can their love survive the haunting of Laurel Heights?

## **Laurel Heights Details**

Date : Published September 25th 2014 by Denise Moncrief (first published September 1st 2014)

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Author : Denise Moncrief

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense

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# From Reader Review Laurel Heights for online ebook

## Rayne says

2.5stars

It was ok. A good mix of paranormal and crime, with a splash of romance. It did get a little dark in places. With many books I am left with a feeling of accomplishment when I finish but unfortunately with this book I'm left with the of 'finally I've finished' Not always a good thing.

This book felt unpolished and a bit one dimensional.

The storyline and so much promise. In some parts the descriptions used and conversations led me to believe that there is more to our MC .

Maybe this may develop in future books.

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## Auria Jourdain says

This was my first paranormal romance novel, and I was pleasantly surprised. Denise Moncrief is an excellent writer, and she does a wonderful job describing the many eerie things that happen at Laurel Heights. The mystery behind the mansion and the twists and turns along the way kept me wanting to come back for more. After running from her deranged ex, Laurel finds herself inheriting her dead aunt's property, Laurel Heights, in Arkansas. However, she isn't alone there, and she hasn't slept soundly since she moved in. Laurel hires a carpenter, Chase, to help her with some repairs; but Chase isn't all he seems to be, either. Laurel's ex's half-brother, he was sent to Arkansas to find her and the flash drive that holds her ex's financial codes. A hardened ex-cop, Chase doesn't believe in the paranormal; however, Laurel begs him to stay with her in the old house as she's deathly afraid of being alone at night. Soon, Chase finds out for himself that his half-brother's opinions of Laurel are all wrong, and he is attracted to the "strange", "crazy" girl. She feels safe with him there, however with the help of the resident ghost, they soon unravel decades of secrets and the truth hidden behind the walls of Laurel Heights.

This was a fast read, action-packed and full of suspense. I like Denise's writing style, very descriptive. At times, I felt as if I were there with Chase and Laurel as I read, and the suspenseful ending is well-worth the read.

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## Shannon says

I received this book for an honest review.

This is my very first book to review, so here we go!

I liked the premise of the book. I could compare the story line to Kristen Ashley and her Ghosts and Reincarnation series, with the house that comes furnished with ghosts and secrets.

At times I felt that some of the internal dialog could have been shortened. I want to lead to the conclusion, not told about it a couple of different times in varying ways. Having the reader come up with their own conclusions through out the read is half the fun.

As I was reading along, it surprised me that all of sudden that Laurel and Chase had feelings for each other. I was taken aback at the level of possessiveness of Chase so early in the book.

Laurel has gone through hell, that is apparent, but her willingness to let her walls down so easily around Chase, (Rand's brother), not knowing the connection, subjected to neglect and abuse at the hands of the people that should have protected her, left me confused.

There are many questions that are left unanswered by the end of the book. I would have like to know how Laurel and Rand got together. What is going to happen to the house? Is Rand involved in the murder of Angie? What about the bank codes? Will the bad guys get to Rand in jail, or is he available to act out his revenge from the comfort of a cell? Chase still owes his brother, I am sure this thought was not lost on Rand. At the end of the book all the branches of Laurel's family tree are revealed. Can someone just turn their back, without the possibility of knowing the other's side of the story. What about Celeste's story? Why was James kept and not Laurel?

Laurel and Chase were on the run before they met, they will continue to run, until their pasts' catch up with them. Maybe all the loose strings will work their way into the second book, but in the end the boy got the girl. The questions left hanging are not enough to make me feel the need to read the second book in the series.

Good luck to the sequel! I hope that it will nail down some of those lost details that would have made the first book a very good read, instead of being a okay read.

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### **Stephanie Allen says**

I received this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

The story was nicely written and was full of suspense. Laurel inherits an old, possibly haunted, house from an Aunt she never knew she had. Laurel is emotionally vulnerable having escaped from a very abusive relationship.

There is a very quick love at first sight relationship which can kinda throw you off, but if you love a good romantic story then this will fit the bill.

Laurel Heights was a nice read! Exciting, spooky, and a touch a romance to keep you involved :)

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### **Sarah Reads "Reading in Sarah's Corner" says**

Mysterious! Fun! And full of surprises is how I would describe this story. You better strap on your seatbelt and prepare for a fun and mysterious roller-coaster ride. This book will suck you in and keep you engaged the entire time.

Author Denise Moncrief kept us on our toes from the moment this book starts. I was holding my breath the opening chapter right along with Laurel. I absolutely loved all of the twists and turns that filled this book. Some cause me to go wide-eyed when I linked things together.

The entire book I was trying to figure out what all what haunting Laurel Standridge. The house completely had me paranoid for her as I read. I wanted to tell her to stay put or to run more than once. It was as if I was

right there beside her as the story unfolded.

Laurel is such a stubborn woman in this book. I was shaking my head at her more than once. I loved her chemistry with Chase.

Then the mysterious and sexy Chase Peterson enters the picture and I could not decide for over half the book if I loved him or hated him. Guess what?! I absolutely loved this man. He kept the story flowing as it all unfolded around Laurel.

I won't give too much away. But I will say the ending to this book was absolutely fantastic. Denise Moncrief did such a fantastic job with this story. I cannot wait to start book two tonight!

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## **Kathy says**

Laurel Heights by Denise Moncrief

Laurel Standbridge had left an abusive relationship in which it had landed her in the hospital and her ex-boyfriend in prison. Laurel wanted to leave California behind and head north to Oregon. Instead, a lawyer from a relative of hers that she wasn't aware of told her she was the heir to her aunt's home. So Laurel headed onto to Arkansas to take ownership of her new home. Something wasn't quite right with the house. Laurel could swear that she was seeing things in the dark. She saw what was to be perceived to be paranormal and then she saw lights bobbing around at her garage in which she could see from bedroom window. Laurel had wanted to turn her home into a Bed and Breakfast. Noone in town wanted to take the offer of fixing up her place. They claimed it was haunted and wanted nothing to do with the place. Laurel had hired out a drifter named Chase. Chase was a peculiar man but was willing to help Laurel with the renovations. Chase had also begun to experience the paranormal activity in Laurels home as well as human activity. Both Lauren and Chase work together to solve the mystery behind the old home and to see who or what wants her out so badly.

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## **Dianne says**

If you like to coast across genres, then this suspenseful, romantic, paranormal read should keep you smiling! **Laurel Heights** by Denise Moncrief doesn't race along at the speed of light, you will feel every moment the characters are living, from things that go bump in the night to the awkward beginning of a new love that should be forbidden to the shock of truths buried long ago, like skeletons in the old family closet.

Laurel was running from her past, from a terrifying childhood to a dangerous boyfriend whose shady business dealings could cost her her life. As if destined, an aunt she never knew leaves her an old, rundown

home outside a small town who claims the house is haunted. Is it or is someone out to fill a contract she fears her incarcerated ex has placed on her. How did he find her?

A hired handyman who doesn't believe the town's ghost stories is almost too good to be true, private, not much of a talker, he doesn't ask questions Laurel doesn't want to answer. Is that because he hides his own secrets? When a man is killed near her home, the police take a particular interest in Laurel and possibly Chase as the murderer, which makes no sense, until his identity is revealed. Meanwhile there are thumps and bumps and creaks at night, is it the just the old bones of an old home, or is there something or someone else in the house with Laurel? But can you bump into a ghost? Who should laurel fear most, the ghost, the police or Chase?

Denise Moncrief has piled layer upon layer of twists, turns and revelations into this eerie love story, all while keeping a dark veil of impending danger cleverly hiding the answers. Ms. Moncrief hasn't given us a super heroine, she has created a true to life woman who has been beaten, battered and is mentally and emotionally played out. Laurel's reserves are running low and she is terrified and not far from going over the edge. Chase comes across in the beginning as harsh, distant and a bit rough around the edges, but as the story progresses, he seems to file down his spikes and soften, just a little. This is fiction, a product of the author's imagination and wow, Denise Moncrief has a lot going on in her head that she packages up in a perfect Halloween type read, even for you romance lovers !

I received this copy from Denise Moncrief in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Chantel Rhondeau says**

I've read several books by this author now, but this is by far my favorite! The creep factor of the haunted house mixed in with Laurel's horrible past and all the things she's running from while trying to rebuild her life. It is a compelling read that left me pouring over my Kindle well into the night.

I liked Laurel from the start, identifying with her introverted ways, while sympathizing with what her jerk of an ex did to her. Of course, Chase makes great hero material. Who doesn't like a sexy handyman? So much was happening throughout the book with a great mystery underlying it all, but I enjoyed the paranormal aspects most of all.

If you like mysteries, romance, or a great paranormal read, don't miss this one! Five stars!!

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## **Mary says**

I received this book from the author for free through the Choosy Bookworm in exchange for my honest opinion.

The story was well written and kept me in suspense. Laurel inherits an old (haunted?) house from an Auntie she never knew she had. Laurel is emotionally fragile having escaped from an abusive and nearly deadly relationship. Toss in a hot "handyman", retaliation from her ex, a couple of cops who apparently moonlight as ghost hunters, and angry spectres that wreak havoc on Laurel Heights.

My only criticism, and it's just cause I don't happen to believe in "love at first sight" (you thought I was going to say "ghosts", didn't you?) was how quickly and completely these 2 fell for each other. I caught myself rolling my eyes at first, but I realize there are many readers who like a good romance, and this should satisfy them.

Laurel Heights was a good read. Exciting, spooky, tender. Makes me wish an old Auntie would leave me a spooky old house...

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## **Monsterella Reviews says**

Laurel has lived a very trying life. Never having luck with any man, starting with her father. She has been through and experienced things that only appear on crime scene shows and in horror movies. After escaping her ex-boyfriend she moves to a home left to her in the will of an aunt she never knew, ready to start over. Ready to escape the horror and mental manipulations of her past.

Laurel had dreams to renovate her new home, named Laurel Heights by her aunt, into a bed and breakfast. But it seems that the task may not be as easy as she originally thought. Almost instantly the noises of the house start rattling her nerves and she could swear there was someone else on the property besides her. The stories about the house being haunted circulating around town making it difficult for Laurel to find a handy man to help with the renovations. She fears help may never come.

One day a man shows up to the house looking for work. And since Laurel has had so much difficulty she decides to take him on. Though this may not be the brightest of ideas seeing that her ex wants her to pay for what he thinks she took from him and is willing to go to any length necessary to achieve his goals.

Will Laurel's ex figure out where she is and send someone after her? Does Laurel need to great for her life? Is there someone sneaking around her new home or is it just the sounds an old house makes? Can Laurel put together all the colors before it's too late?

I was given an ARC in exchange for an honest review. And I feel that this story has great potential, I give it a four out of five stars because our doors need some polishing. But overall the plot and characters are well developed and the pace is steady with a lot of emotional impact. If you enjoy paranormal, CSI, corruption, danger, and emotion then you will enjoy reading Laurel Heights.

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## **Maghon Thomas says**

I'm gunna call this one paranormal suspense. Laurel inherited a haunted old house from an Aunt that she didn't know existed. Laurel is not in a happy place. Coming from an abusive, almost lethal, relationship, she just wants to escape. She is having some troubles acclimating. Oh and there's a really hot handy man that comes with the old house :) Oh and cops that are like supernatural hunters. And some not so happy Spirits. Laurel is having some troubles alright :) With extra suspense added to keep you on your toes on the side of romance, this one can appeal to several genre readers.

So with Laurel trying to figure things out, and someone is killed near her home she is starting to freak. Is it the haunted house or is it her ex putting a hit out on her. And well, it was just awesome because the author added every creep factor. I will say, I got chills. Every little noise, creek, shadow, it made me wanna be scared. :) And though I don't do insta love, it was well written here. And I must say, there was definitely some twists, and I did NOT see that coming with the revelations. I look forward to seeing where this will go in the future :) 4.5 PAWS!!

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## **Granny says**

### **No good ghosts**

Very dark book, not entertaining so much as scary. Not bad if you like horror stories. Good ending but a lot of confusion to get to it.

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## **Linda Page says**

Laurel is running from her past and ends up in a house named after her. Chase also finds himself to Laurel Heights with his own agenda. The house appears haunted with lots of noises and creepy feelings. Overall, I enjoyed the story. I thought it was a little slow to get started, but once I got into it, I couldn't put it down. Both Laurel and Chase have their own problems, but they have to learn to trust each other to solve the mystery. I thought the blossoming chemistry between the two was possible and was glad these two virtual strangers didn't take it too far.

The only distracting thing was the detective was sometimes called Grayson and sometimes just Gray. I received an ARC for an honest review.

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## **Michelle says**

This story is about Laurel escaping an abusive and dangerous past through a somewhat mysterious inheritance.

There is a lot going on in this story. The opening scene captured my attention. Although I've never been in a similar situation, you feel the pain Laurel is being subjected to. I was hooked in the first few chapters. Fast forward to Laurel Heights. Creepy. Very creepy. You never know when the ghost will strike. In the end the plot twists were not something I saw coming. That's a good thing. The budding romance was sweet and secondary to poor Laurel's life. This is a great read for the upcoming holidays, Halloween that is. The mystery behind Laurel Heights will keep your turning the pages.

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**Stephen M. Theriault says**

Excellent ghost story and romance. Characters were well-developed.

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