



One Scream Away

Kate Brady

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Killer Chevy Bankes is a master of disguise, and just paroled, he's coming after the woman who sent him to jail, the beautiful antiques expert Beth Denison. A set of antique dolls brings Beth into his sight, and inspire Chevy's disturbing crimes as he draws closer to Beth and her young daughter. Chevy sends the dolls to Beth one-by-one and she soon realizes that these antiques carry the same marks as his victims, signaling that the final piece in his collection will be for her.

Neil Sheridan gave up his FBI shield five years ago, but his best friend Rick, a cop, pulls him in as a consultant on a case involving a serial killer who is eerily similar to a murderer Neil encountered in the past. The investigation leads Neil to Beth's doorstep, and he is certain she isn't telling him the truth. Neil is the only one who can get through Beth's defenses and, as they grow closer, discover the secrets that Beth is hiding about her fateful night with Chevy.

One Scream Away Details

Date : Published July 1st 2009 by Grand Central Publishing (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9780446541527

Author : Kate Brady

Format : Paperback 423 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Thriller, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review One Scream Away for online ebook

◆ Anna's ??????g\$ ◆ says

2.5 STARS

Cheryl says

Years ago, Elizabeth Denison came in contact with her worst nightmare. She became the victim and obsession of serial killer Chevy Bankes. She survived...if you can call always being on alert and scared a better alternative. Bankes was caught and sentenced to prison. He is now out and ready to pick up where he left off.

Former FBI special agent Neil Sheridan has been asked by his best friend, Rick, who is a cop to help him on a murder case. At first Neil has no interest. That all changes when Neil learns that the murder victim's face was cut up to look like a doll; in addition to being raped and shot to death. The case brings back bad memories for Neil. When he was still active, he had caught and killed a serial killer. He believed that the killer was dead but now it seems he might have killed the wrong man.

Elizabeth Denison receives a phone call one day. The caller is none other than Bankes. He tells her that he is out and he hopes to hear her scream once more for him. Beth fears for her and her daughter's lives but she keeps her mouth shut about the phone call. The police discover that the murder victim's cell phone was used. The last call made on it was to a Beth Denison. Beth plans to take out Bankes herself but will her silence be deadly?

One Scream Away is what I call a good time. I just about read this book in one sitting. Both my eyes and hands were glued to the book. The sparks that Beth and Neil shared were really good. I liked that that the story line didn't veer too far from the murderer and the characters and head more into a romance between Neil and Beth. While I do enjoy romantic suspenses; I like when they are evenly balanced. I scream for more Kate Brady!

Emily says

The past few years has not been kind to Neil Sheridan, spending most of his time with the bottle instead of finding something to live for. When his old friend shows up and needs his help on a case he had worked on and believed to be solved, he finds he web of betrayal stretches farther than he can reach.

Beth Denison has moved on with her life, she has a beautiful daughter and has filled her home with love, as well as made sure she trains daily to protect herself from any threat that may come her way. She knows killer Chevy Bankes may not be done with her, but she plans to fight to the death if he ever gets close.

Neil is sent to see what he can find out what the link between Chevy and Beth is, but finds that one reason he has been looking for to get his act together instead, Beth. Something about her and Abby draws him into

instant protection mode and he doesn't plan to let go.

A spine chilling read. I was on the edge of my seat reading this roller coaster ride of a novel, as Chevy has his target in mind and plans to cause a lot of chaos on the way to retrieve it. The beginning is a bit confusing because there are so many players in this book, but by chapter 2 it all makes sense, tons of surprises add to the intensity of this read.

Katrin says

4.5 Sterne

Shawna says

4 ½ stars – Romantic Suspense/Thriller

Kathleen says

I LOVED this book! There was never a dull moment. The heroine went through a lot in this book and totally held it together. The hero was so caring and protective but he had his problems too. They worked them out fine by the end of the book for a totally HEA. The romance part of the book was well done but the heat was low. Those of you who know me know that I love my book's with lots of heat. Despite the fact of the very mild heat in this book, I loved it anyway's. The villain in this book was smart, scary gave me chills and was a total nut case. He was one of the most evil villains I have read to date. The story was so well done with twists and turns that kept me turning the pages. I know I will be reading the next book in this series, Last To Die, in the very near future.

Kelly Moran says

Kate Brady has won or been a finalist in many writing contests, including the Golden Heart from the Romance Writers of America, the Maggies, and the Suzannah. One Scream Away is her debut novel. After a previous case goes horribly wrong, Neil Sheridan leaves the FBI behind and embarks on a quest to drown out his sorrows in alcohol and woman whose names he can't even recall. Now working for a private security organization, the scars from his past emerge when an old colleague and friend knocks on his door about a case which is eerily similar to a disturbing one from his past. Across the country, one by one, women are brutally murdered in comparable means to resemble antique dolls. The connection- Beth Denison- a single mother who is receiving calls from the killer and at one time has researched the dolls. A beautiful woman with a secret she'll do anything to keep. After Beth surrenders to Neil, both in his embrace and in his protection, Neil discovers that seven years ago Beth was attacked by the killer named Chevy Banks. Beth created a new life for herself, far removed from the tragedy of that night. But now Banks is out of prison and after her, killing women in prelude to his real desire- her. It may just be too late for her and her daughter when the truth comes out. Neil knows Beth isn't telling him everything, like why Banks really wants her screaming, or why she'll consider the unthinkable- facing Banks alone.

The only real fault I have with the book was the secret Beth was keeping. I figured it out very early on. Then again, the author may have written it or wanted it this way. I didn't feel it ruined the story either. I think, in a story like this, where there is so much trauma from the past, Kate Brady did a remarkable job of understanding her characters and reactions from them. This wasn't just a romantic suspense, but a delve into the psyche of human nature and how we rebound from heartbreak and previous experience. This may be a bit too deep of a statement for a fiction book, but from a writers perspective, it made the plot flow well and engages the reader without them understanding why. I felt it was worth mention because a great author does this well. This book is well worth the read for the characters alone, both antagonist and protagonist, you walk away, or close the book, without questions and with truly feeling what made them tick. I was particularly pleased with the ending. Without having to put up a spoiler alert, this wasn't a quick, wham-bam-thank-you, Mam finish. The suspense slowly built until the last page. As previously stated, the plot flowed well, was well spaced, and there weren't any areas where I lost interest. One Scream Away, by Kate Brady, is one heck of a break-out book from a talented emerging author.

Kelly Moran,
Author and Reviewer

Mrs. Badass says

I really wanted to love this book. But I didn't. I enjoy reading romantic suspense and thrillers and for some reason this book fell for me.

For one, I thought it was too long and drawn out. The romance wasn't really there. I didn't feel it. Sure there was some chemistry, but it felt more based on adrenaline and fear then love.

For the most part it was predictable to me, maybe because I read a lot in this genre. Half way through I figured out the whole Jenny thing. Still the ending was a wee bit suprising. Enough to keep me intrested in the series as a hole.

Both Beth and Neil's characters were pretty well realized, and I wasn't as irritated with beth as some readers. However, If I were her I wouldn't go running half cocked into the fray. But as a mother, I may have made the same choices that she did regarding Abby.

It was OK. Not great. I'll probably stick with Gerad and Rose and J.D Robb when I need this type of read though.

Kathrynn says

Enjoyed this easy to read, modern, romantic suspense-thriller set in 2009. Most of the book takes place in Virginia, but other places are also mentioned throughout the U.S. as the serial killer moves in on his target (Beth Denison) to extract his revenge. The killer's name is given right away, so there is no guessing as to "who-done-it." The suspense came from the "messages" he left along with a trail of bodies, clues, and phone calls that led former FBI agent Neil Sheridan to Beth's doorstep.

Warning! There is one sick and twisted killer tucked between the pages. The author graphically detailed the killings, but not the rapes that also occurred.

The romance was all PG-13 and except for the graphic killings this would be suitable for teenagers.

Nicely written and I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this series.

4 1/2 Stars

jenjn79 says

Rating: 4.5 / 5

I'm always a little wary of trying new authors since I have no idea what I'm going to get, but this book was definitely a winner. Top-notch romantic suspense...which is my favorite romance sub-genre. So I was pleased all around.

Summary:

In *One Scream Away*, Beth Denison is an antiques expert living in Arlington, Virginia with her young daughter, trying to forget the horrible events of the past and the secrets that she kept. She'd kept quiet on a murder she'd witnessed, feeling guilt that she was partly to blame for what happened. But now, the man guilty of the murder is out of jail and coming for Beth. She believes he wants revenge solely on her for ruining his plans and for a dark secret she is keeping.

Neil Sheridan is an ex-FBI agent hitting rock bottom. Tragedy has caused him to turn off his emotions completely. Then he learns that a suspected murderer he'd killed in the line of duty may have actually been innocent (of that crime) because another body has turned up with eerie similarities. He's asked to consult with local authorities on the new, growing string of murders.

The authorities learn that their unknown serial killer has some connection to Beth, but she keeps denying it. She can't let anyone know her secrets. No matter how sexy she thinks Neil is, no matter how safe he makes her feel with his protective ways, she won't tell. At least, not until she learns that the man she thought was coming just for her is actually killing other women along the way and sending her antique dolls after each murder. Beth knows she can't keep her secrets any longer, that she needs to tell all that happened so the police can put the man away. That doesn't mean she won't be ready for him when he comes for her...which she knows he still is. She'll do anything to protect her daughter and save herself. But Neil isn't about to let her face him alone. He'll do everything to keep her safe.

Review:

I read on the author's website that she started out writing suspense, playing around with writing in general before deciding to try out romantic suspense with this book. And it shows in the writing. The suspense aspect of the story is definitely the stronger part. There's still a pretty solid romance for the most part, but the suspense is top-notch.

The catching-a-serial-killer deal is by far not a new story idea. It's quite a popular one, but I thought author

Kate Brady did an excellent job making the story unique, creative and engaging. The whole thing with the dolls was excellently done and really added a great dimension to the story.

There's not really a whodunit in the story; you know from the start who the bad guy is, but you don't know why everything is happening. The book is basically what will happen next and what's the reason for it all. And I thought it all flowed together nicely and the reasons for it all were interesting and fit perfectly with the story Brady created.

Overall, the suspense plot just really sucked me in and had me wanting to keep reading. It reminded me quite a bit of a Karen Rose book. It's not as darkly creepy...or rather it is really creepy, it just didn't have as much of a feeling dire darkness. But for you Karen Rose fans, I think you'd enjoy this book.

As for the romance...like I said above, there is definitely a romantic angle to the story, enough so that the romance fans should be satisfied, but it was an aspect I thought could have been better written. I didn't entirely feel the chemistry between Neil and Beth. Something about the way Brady wrote the romance felt like it forced them together just for the sake of having a romance in the book. The romance needed more build-up, more passion, and a more natural flow. But even so, the romance didn't suck. I didn't mind it, I just wasn't fully engaged in it. And for you fans of steamy sex...this book ranks more on the PG--PG-13 scale. It's pretty tame, but I didn't mind, really.

Hmm...what else to say. The book did frustrate me some in the beginning, first because the writing early on is a little choppy. But that improved as the book moved on. Then I got a little annoyed with the heroine and her secret keeping and refusing to clue the police in on what she knew. I wanted to bonk her on the head and tell her to spill it already. And I admit that the character of Beth on the whole was at times frustrating. She's an odd combination of super strong, independent woman, and borderline TSTL at times. I liked her, but I wouldn't ever list her as a favorite heroine of all the books I've read.

Neil, on the other hand...liked him a lot. His character could have been a little more developed emotionally, but he was a good character to read about. That poor man deserves to be happy.

There was one other thing that annoyed me a little, and that was how casually the death of a supporting character was treated. I just thought much more should have been made of it. Instead, it felt like a sidenote, which was disappointing for the character who died.

I also had conflicting feelings on the Epilogue, which does not feature the H/H but instead deals with a...well, I'll say a certain character. I wasn't sure what Brady's purpose was in writing the epilogue. Whether it was to answer a few final questions, or leave an opening for a future story. If it was to answer questions, then it did that well. Although if you aren't paying close enough attention, you can easily miss a crucial detail. I almost missed it. But if it was to leave an opening for another storyline...then I admit it would leave me grumbling, not wanting to wait for a later book.

All in all, even though there were a few aspects of the book that could have been better, they didn't really knock down my overall opinion of the book that much. They were mostly little things that kept me from absolutely LOVING this book. I did love it, but it just wasn't perfect.

If you're a fan of romantic suspense where there is a really strong suspense part of the story then I'd definitely recommend giving this book a try. I'm glad I picked it up randomly. It was well worth reading. I'm definitely looking forward to the second book in the series, featuring Neil's brother Mitch.

Mojca says

This was one heck of a book. It had everything I look for in a thriller.

Beth Denison's world falls apart (again). Chevy Banks, the man who "let her get away" seven years ago is out of prison and is holding a grudge. Starting in Seattle, he's killing women, sending Beth dolls as testimony of his crimes. Moving closer to her with each kill.

Neil Sheridan, former FBI, is called on board when the Seattle murder rings enough bells to be similar to a case Neil'd been working on nine years prior. He'd shot the murderer then, but with each case more and more doubts arise. Did he get the wrong man?

Beth Denison seems to hold the main clue. Unfortunately, the woman won't cooperate and it's up to Neil to make her see the light. As Chevy slowly draws near, Beth and Neil have to work together, revealing dark secrets and painful pasts in hope of catching him.

Okay, so the summary sucks, but the book was wonderful. The suspense held from start to finish, slowly turning this romantic suspense novel into a true thriller.

The killer's identity is known from the first page, but that sure doesn't kill the suspense. Because with Chevy Banks the author created a wonderfully rounded character, twisted and creepy, yes, but also incredibly intelligent and resourceful, with a terrible childhood experience that shaped him into the strapping guy (notice the sarcasm) he is today. At times the reader finds it hard not to feel compassion toward him, which makes it for an even more exciting ride.

The other two leading characters (yes, you could call this one a threesome with the villain sharing equal on-screen time as the two leads) are greatly developed as well. Beth with her inner-strength, fueled by fear for her daughter, fear for her secret to be exposed, and bitter anger for what happened seven years ago, is wonderful. Though she may appear inconsistent at times, going from being strong, tough-as-nails, not needing anyone to a clingy, cowering mess of a woman, it still is consistent with what happened to her and the profile of abuse she's been through. She truly was a remarkable character.

Neil Sheridan is definitely on my top-heroes list. Scarred in and out, jaded and with his fuck-the-world attitude he seemed quite unlikely to slay Beth's dragons at first with all his doubts as to what side she was on. But as soon as she opened up, bam, he slapped his figurative armor on, pulled his figurative steed out of the figurative stable, and he was on a roll.

I loved the fact Ms. Brady didn't make him your regular knight in shining armor, the first time we meet him he's dead-drunk, fondling a woman who's name he doesn't know. Oh, he's a gem all right. But thanks to his friend and his deep-buried honor to see things through, to avenge the girl (first murdered girl) he presumably failed, he bounces back and shows us why he'd been the best in the Bureau.

And when he finally reveals his secret, the hints of which are sprinkled throughout the story, it's utterly heartbreaking and it justifies everything he's said or done and explains his dogged determination to do his damndest to protect Beth and her daughter, Abby.

There was a line, something his former colleague said to him, in the book that pretty much summed it all up. Nine years ago the Bureau lost one of its best agents, but now, after all is finished, after all the demons (Neil's and Beth's) are slain, the Bureau might get its agent back. The author wrote in much better, though.

The romance was wonderfully subtle. Just a few heated kisses, bare hints to anything more, yet utterly "in

character", consistent with the two characters. Anything more and the whole thing would go to posh. Kudos to the author for knowing how to maintain that fragile balance. Really masterfully executed.

What I loved most, though, was the sick little mouse-and-cat game between Chevy and the good guys. He was always a step ahead of everyone, almost as if he read their minds, knew what they'd do and anticipate them all. It was twisted, but it was marvelous to read, trying to guess what he'd do next, what plan he's devised. And to finally learn just who the heck "Jenny" was. We did, and let me tell you, I didn't see that one coming.

This was truly a wonderful debut novel. Major kudos to Kate Brady for thinking of this story and managing to keep it all in line. The characters were wonderful, the plot nicely-flowing, the suspense great...What more could you want. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

P.S. I can't wait for the next one.

Book-O-Holic says

I thought this book was a pretty good read. Definitely a thriller. 3.5 stars. the story is a little drawn out and couple of times i just kind of skimmed through the pages to get the general idea until a big scene came up. The shagging scenes where grayed out though so, no action really, but I suppose it would have been a little difficult to pull it off, going from a gruesome crime scene to adults getting down and dirty. I've seen it done in other thriller books though and played out pretty well. I gave it 3.5 stars though because I really enjoyed the plot and the cat & mouse games that the killer, Chevy, played. There was an awesome twist in about 60% of the book, that I kind of saw coming. Still, when I read it, wow.

Judi says

Loved this book when I read it in 2009. I recommended it to all my friends at that time and it immediately put Kate Brady on my auto-buy author list.

Although it's been a few years since I read this book, it's one that I still remember. Those are the kind of books that I rate as 5 stars.

I was just looking at her new release coming out later in Nov 2012 an decided to mark this one as read since it was before I joined Goodreads.

Mo says

I think it was Kathleen's review of this book that brought it to my attention. I absolutely loved it. It had me on my toes all the time. Great main characters. The bad guy was a fucking psycho of the highest order. The romance or smexy times? Not a lot but I didn't care. I was gripped by the story from the word go and let it take me and my emotions with it to the end.

This was my first time reading this author. It sure won't be my last but I think I need something lighter for my next read.

Neil was sexy, smart and handsome. At a bit of a crossroads in his life. A former FBI agent, he left the force some years back after something happened.

I have absolutely nothing negative to say about this book. The plot, the writing, the characters were spot on for me.

I would have liked an epilogue with Beth and Neil but the epilogue that was there was interesting. Look forward to reading the next in the series.

Mei says

WOW!!!

It took me long to read this book because the villain was really creepy. I read a few chapters and had to stop because I was holding my breath and chewing my nails so suspenseful it was! :)

Since the very beginning we know who the villain is, but still nobody can catch him. He's incredibly intelligent and full of clever ideas to evade the law! It was fascinating in a creepy way!

The romantic aspect of the story was so and so, but I really didn't care about that so good the mystery, suspense part was!

So, if you want a really good suspense book with a trace of romance (where romance is almost insta-love...) this one is perfect!
