



Mountain Refuge

Sarah Varland

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ALASKAN RESCUER

When someone tries to grab Summer Dawson on a secluded mountain path, she escapes—but soon discovers she's a serial killer's latest target. Her brother's friend, ex-cop Clay Hitchcock, promises she won't become the next victim, though, even if it means putting himself at risk. Clay thought he was done with law enforcement, but after finding Summer running for her life off a mountain trail, he's back in cop mode. Determined to protect her, Clay shadows the brave, beautiful mountain runner. Now if they want to stay alive, Clay and Summer must work together to bring down the crazed killer lurking in the wilderness.

Mountain Refuge Details

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Author : Sarah Varland

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From Reader Review Mountain Refuge for online ebook

Maryann Skaritka says

Mountain runner Summer Dawson becomes the target of a would be killer in this fast paced action packed story.

Former cop Clay Hitchcock arrives in Moose Haven, Alaska ready to help at his friend Tyler's family lodge during the tourist season. Plans are changed when he is asked to protect Summer.

This couple showed that they both had strength and determination. Both had past guilts and griefs to get over. They are drawn to each other very quickly and learn to trust each other during the many attempts on Summer's life.

I enjoyed the page turning gripping action and suspense, the rugged setting, strong characters and faith message of this book.

Jaime Jo Wright says

Sarah Varland should write an even LONGER novel. :) serial killer, Alaska, bear spray, I mean it's a recipe for fun Suspense. While LIS novels tend to follow some fairly consistent suspenseful elements from book to book, Sarah does a great job of making them unique. And I really enjoy how her characters are different from book to book and not cookie cutter. Looking forward to more Sarah Varland novels (and longer ones!) in the future :)

Kav says

I didn't even know that mountain running was a thing until I read Mountain Refuge! And the Alaskan settings adds an overall ambiance to the suspense. Be prepared for an accelerated heart rate the moment you start to read. The gripping opening scene promises spine-chilling perfection.

"There was nothing remarkable about the knife except that it was large, four or five inches. Shiny. Sharp against her skin as he pressed just hard enough to leave the smallest of scratches. 'This is how it begins.'" (p 9) Seriously, cue the creepiest music you can find and turn on every single light in your house and cuddle up under your biggest security blanket before losing yourself in this hair-raising tale.

A perfect balance of romance and suspense that includes some pretty interesting secondary characters. I'm hoping they are going to feature into future stories (Summer has three siblings) even though there's no indication that this is the first in a series. A reader can hope, though, right? Definite must read for the discerning romantic suspense aficionado.

Katrina Epperson says

I absolutely loved this book. The cover gives a glimpse of the suspenseful story enclosed. The characters are strong and well developed. I found myself admiring Summer more with every page turned. Of course the reluctant Clay is just perfect and easy to love. The beautiful imagery brings the setting to life. The plot is fast paced, engaging and keeps you turning the pages until the end. This story has elements of faith, trust, spine tingling suspense and love. It's a book I would recommend to anyone who loves a good story.

I received this book from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Suzie says

Danger and death lurk amid the rugged and majestic beauty of the Alaskan wilderness in Sarah Varland's Mountain Refuge.

When Clay Hitchcock arrives in the small town of Moose Haven the last thing he expects is to be thrust into protection detail for a woman attacked. Yet he can't help but admire Summer Dawson's strength and beauty. As the two race to uncover the identity of a potential serial killer—one who has taken to taunting Summer—they find themselves in the crosshairs of a madman.

With plenty of action to keep the story moving along with sizzling attraction and mutual admiration between the hero and heroine, Mountain Refuge pumps the reader's adrenaline throughout.

I'm hoping we get to spend some more time in Alaska with the Dawson siblings (there are four of them).

Disclosure statement:

I receive complimentary books from publishers, publicists, and/or authors, including NetGalley. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Marilyn Johnson says

I hope this is the start of a series. There is really nothing that says it is part of a series but Summer does have three siblings which would make for a great series, just saying.

This book is full of mystery, suspense and romance. I love the setting, plot and dialogue in this book.

Summer Dawson is an athletic, beautiful woman with problems from her past and now someone is trying to kill her.

Clay Hitchcock is a former cop who is trying to start a new, what better place than Alaska. When he finds he must protect the beautiful sister of one of his friends he may be in for more than he bargained for.

Clay and Summer find themselves in danger on so many levels. I love the sparks that fly between them.

Glenda Parker says

My review today is on the Love Inspired Suspense, Mountain Refuge. I really enjoy Sarah's work and this is an excellent example of her work. This story is well written, action packed, and full of intrigue. Faith is interwoven throughout the story. I know you are going to love this book.

Summer Dawson was a mountain runner, she had become quite famous in her world. A few years ago she had almost destroyed her life and is trying to make it up to her family. Now she doesn't have the time to run competitively but she still trains. She loves to run the mountains. She uses her celebrity status to try to save their family lodge. She's up on the mountain when she is attacked on the trail. She manages to escape and runs up on the highway. She flags down car and jumps in. The man claims to be a friend of her brother, can she really trust this man?

Ex-Police Officer Clay Hitchcock comes to the lodge to work for the summer. Tyler Dawson is giving him a fresh start from his problems at Treasure Point Police Force, but he warns him to keep away from his two sisters. Clay no more than arrives when Tyler sends him out to find his sister, Summer. She's over an hour late from her run. When Clay, Tyler, and Sheriff Noah Dawson find out that she was attacked they believe that it was a serial killer. Clay is elected to keep Summer safe. How can he do that and keep his heart safe at the same time?

A journey of two broken souls trying to keep ahead of a serial killer. God has a plan for these too. A plan of healing, trust, and self-forgiveness. God has a plan for you too, a good plan and not for evil. Give Him your heart and watch Him turn your life around.

Pattie says

Mountain Refuge is a good, suspenseful book with a romance that seems a bit fast, but still believable, due to the fact that the relationship is forged in fire, fear, and fighting against a serial killer.

I really enjoyed this book. It moved quickly, and yet it was paced well. Plenty of crisis moments, faith moments, and conversation to make it all worthwhile.

Books set in Alaska are tricky, and because I've lived there I am overly critical. I can almost always tell if the author has been there or not, just from how they write about Alaska. (I could name names, but that might get me in trouble!)

You can rest easy with anything by Sarah Varland, however--she's the real deal! Her book gives such a sense of place with Alaska. From the strangeness of summer daylight to the feel of hiking in the mountains, she's absolutely captured the essence of Alaskan life.

Highly recommended!

{I received an advanced copy of this book for the purpose of writing an honest review. All opinions are my own.}

J.E. Grace says

Format: Mass Market Paperback

A fast-paced action-packed suspense novel set in the Alaska wilderness. Summer Dawson's family run a lodge and she's a trail guide for the guests. While she is alone on deserted mountain path a serial killer tries to grab her. Luckily, she gets away but then is tormented by his attempts to kill her. Clay Hitchcock, a friend of her brother, is hired to guard her. He tries his best to treat it as just a job but he soon begins to have feelings for her.

The main characters in the story were well-developed and the vivid descriptions of the countryside made me feel like I was there with them. The storyline was packed with suspense. The identity of the killer was a mystery and I was surprised by the ending which was well worth waiting for.

I purchased a copy through The Reader Service.

Connie Tillman says

I love the Love Inspired series. If you are unfamiliar with them, Here is a description from wikipedia: Love Inspired is an imprint of Harlequin Enterprises that is focused on Christian Fiction. The original and largest body of works under the "Love Inspired" name is the romance novels. There are currently 3 categories. Suspense, History and Love Inspired. They all have amazing authors.

Sarah Varland is a new author to me. However, knowing how amazing the suspense category is I knew that I had to read it.

My heart could not stop pounding. I loved the descriptions - I could close my eyes and picture what was going on while I was reading. Summer is strong, while Clay is reluctant. They are a great pair - and I loved reading along.

This book has a great mix of suspense and romance.

I received a copy of this book through the author, all opinions are my own.

Tammy says

I love and SHIP Summer and Clay!!! Great romantic suspense book you could read in a day!!!

Evangeline says

I won this book in a giveaway and was asked to give a review after reading it. Sarah Varland was a new-to-me author, and I thoroughly enjoyed her writing. The book was fast-paced, and I was caught up in the suspense from the beginning. The main character, Summer Dawson, was a strong young woman, who overcame her past. I loved that the characters were strong in their faith and relied on God. I look forward to reading more by this author.

Susan says

Wow, I just love these weekend-read suspense stories! This author did not disappoint at all. From the opening pages – danger abounds and sparks fly between Summer and Clay. Engaging dialogue and well written characters round this out perfectly. You never know what is around the corner as this author keeps you guessing. The landscape descriptions put you into the story and make you feel like you are deep into the Alaskan woods with them! The best reminder in this is that God is with you and in charge. Another bookshelf keeper!

Brooke Fradd says

I haven't read a romance novel in years, probably over a decade. (Insert some mushy comment about finding truly love in real life here.) But when presented with the opportunity to be on the launch team for Mountain Refuge, I jumped at the chance.

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I admit to having preconceived notions about Harlequin novels, but this book proved me wrong with each turn of the page. While I can't claim that the ending had me shocked, the meat of the book certainly did.

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I found myself truly interested in the characters, and the prior events of their lives which led them to who they are in the opening pages of the book.

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The "love inspired" books include faith-centered discussions, and again the author handled the subject without a bit of cheesiness. The conversations between the characters as well as their prayers are indications that Varland lives the faith she writes about.

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The book earns ever one of these:???

The cover is gorgeous, and my hubby and I are contemplating getting copies for our rental cabins. (Think a serial killer in the mountains would scare our guests?)

I also want to buy copies of Varland's other books. Looks like I've found a new must-read author!

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I received an advanced copy of this book for the purpose of writing an honest review. All opinions are my own, my integrity is worth more than the price of a book.

Susan Snodgrass says

Sarah Garland is a new to me author. I truly enjoyed this book, quite a lot of suspense. I will read more of her books.
