



Haven

Kay Hooper

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Another nightmare, in the woods this time. Different: She was running. Trying to escape.

But the same ending. Always the same ending. Another dead girl...

Emma Rayburn was born and raised in Baron Hollow, North Carolina, and it was a quiet life. Then came the accident...and the nightmares—each filled with unshakable visions of darkness, blind panic, and desperate women chased toward inevitable death. With no reports of local women missing or found dead, Emma has written it off to troubled imaginings—night after dreaded night. Until her sister arrives.

Jessie Rayburn, psychic investigator for a firm called Haven, has been estranged from Emma for years. Unresolved issues from Jessie's past have not only kept them apart but have been clouding Jessie's unique abilities. A return to her hometown to face a dark and violent incident from years gone by is her chance to regain them. But reconciliation with the past comes with a price. Few people in Baron Hollow are welcoming Jessie back. No one dares to breathe a word. And in this conspiracy of silence, Emma's nightmares are becoming more vivid than ever.

Even with the help of Noah Bishop, head of the FBI Special Crimes Unit and co-founder of Haven, Jessie and Emma soon find themselves outnumbered by the secrets buried in Baron Hollow—and outrunning an evil that has been festering for years, one that's targeting Jessie and Emma one last time.

Haven Details

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From Reader Review Haven for online ebook

Lee Ann says

I can't remember being so disappointed in a book in years. I love Kay Hooper, have been reading her for 30 years beginning with her 2nd Chance at Love series books under the name of Kay Robbins, continuing through her Candlelight Ecstasy and Bantam Loveswept lines as Kay Hooper and everything since. It's been - what? 3 years since the last Bishop book and my anticipation was high...I even reread the series to get all the characters fresh in my mind and was reminded of just how good a storyteller Ms. Hooper is. The characters stick with you, the plots are intriguing, and in the old days when she still included romance in her romantic suspense (i.e. Amanda, After Caroline, Finding Laura, Haunting Rachel, and even the first half of the Bishop books), the romance was deep and lasting.

But I found no sanctuary in the pages of Haven. The two main characters, sisters Jessie and Emma Rayburn just don't connect - with each other or the reader. They're not so much estranged (even though Jessie's been gone for 15 years) as uninvolved with each other, and we're never told why other than the fact that their father was detached and traveled a lot, their mother died when they were young, and we don't even get much feeling from that other than a little story about how their father allowed them each to choose a piece of their mother's jewelry to keep before he gave all her stuff away. And that is only included as a plot device! So, we get it...they're not very emotional. BUT. For two women we're led to believe are successful and intelligent, almost every action of theirs in the book is, well, dumb. Emma suffers from visionary dreams of women being murdered after she suffered a head injury a few years before, but won't believe that the dreams mean anything - even though her sister is psychic! Jessie comes back to discover the truth behind a teenage trauma, finds that it's connected to a possible serial killer in her old hometown - but won't ask for or accept any help even when she finds out that one of her Haven co-workers is there to assist! And even when Jessie asks if there have been any murders in the area, Emma - who dreams of women being tortured and murdered - doesn't tell her sister...and after half the characters in the book go on ad nauseam about how easy it is for hikers to just disappear from the area and no one knows what happens to them!!! Even I wanted to knock the 2 of them around half way through the book, if only to knock some sense into them. And the murderer could only be 1 of a couple of people - we're thrown the bone of a couple of other possibilities, but they're not real suspects as they don't really appear other than being mentioned a few times in passing. That's the whole trouble with the book...everything seems to be at a distance, just in passing, no real connection. Our supposed hero is a hunky ex-military guy who's appeared in at least 1 other book, I think, Nathan Navarro. He's interesting and has an intriguing psychic skill, but his hotness is just thrown away in this story even though we discover, again just in passing, that he and Emma had maybe shared a fling a summer ago, both of them using other names. Again, too little involvement, too little detail. Bishop, Maggie, Hollis, some of the most important people in this series, make cursory appearances, but even they can't save it. Oddly enough, the most affecting passage in the whole book is the prologue where we see Catherine Talbert escaping from her torturer into the woods of the North Carolina mountains. In those few pages, she is fully fleshed out as a character, and we are with her 100 percent as she flees her captor. Too bad the remaining few hundred pages didn't leave us as breathless and emotionally enthralled.

Candace Salima says

Kay Hooper is one of my favorite authors, I'll just put that out there right now. In addition, this series she's been working on for years, The Bishop Series, is one of my favorites. Noah Bishop is the head of an elite,

specialized unit within the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As an off-the-chart psychic himself, Bishop put together a unique team of investigators, all with varying degrees of psychic abilities; and a never-ending series was born. *Haven* is the 13th offering by New York Times bestselling author, Kay Hooper, in The Bishop Series.

Haven is an off-shoot, civilian sister operation to Bishop's FBI Special Crimes Unit. In *Touching Evil* we were introduced to Maggie Barnes and John Garrett. By the end of that book, they had formed the *Haven* organization. So that's enough backstory.

Haven follows operative Jessie Rayburn who heads home, ostensibly to go over her inheritance, but is actually going to remember the horrific event of a night long ago. One of four men, or even all, could be the abusers of that night, but Jessie simply can't remember enough to bring anyone to justice. After that night, Jessie fled her hometown, but the man who committed that long ago crime has become something much, much worse. Now a serial killer, he is on the loose, and hunting in the mountains outside Jessie's hometown. Can she remember before it grows too late? For somehow, her sister Emma is inexplicably tied up in that same nightmare.

Kay Hooper takes us on this twisted journey home, layering the characters, events, and story, keeping us engaged from the opening paragraph of the book: "In the first few minutes of Catherine Talbert's escape, she did her very best to be as quiet as possible. She thought he was gone, but she wasn't all certain of that, and in her terror she just wanted to run."

In essence, Hooper's writing grabs the reader by the throat and she doesn't let go until the last page is turned. There are twists, turns and a stunning surprise, especially for a Kay Hooper novel, near the end of the book. As always, it was a more than satisfying read. Hooper always gets a 5 out of 5 stars from me. She is one of those authors that I watch for the new books and pick them up as quickly as possible upon them hitting the shelves. You just can't wrong with Kay Hooper.

It isn't necessary that you've read the other novels in the series; each, as is proper, stands on its own. But should you desire to pick up those earlier books and become acquainted with all the agents and civilians who fight evil, then pick up *Stealing Shadows* published in September of 2000. That's where it all began.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

3.75 stars

Kay Hooper has been one of my favourite authors for some time now. *HAVEN* is a fun, fast-paced, quick and easy to follow along read with a good plot. Although, the characters weren't as well developed as I would have liked and the psychic aspects of the novel didn't really give me any satisfaction. I needed more of Bishop and his Agents! Usually I get really drawn into the characters and excited with all the different aspects of the supernatural within Kay Hooper novels so that is why it didn't get a 5 star rating from me.

I did like that she added an Agent Bios and Psychic Terms & Abilities to the back of the book which was helpful in refreshing my memory on some of the recurring characters.

I am looking forward to reading the next book in this series as I do love *Haven*, Bishop & his Psychic Agents.

You would easily be able to read this one without reading any of her other novels.

There are some good twists and turns which make it a fairly good suspenseful mystery in not a lot of graphic detail.

Jeanette says

One time I tried the DVD series, Haven. And didn't care for it. Too slow and too weird. Didn't seem at all believable and didn't finish it.

So I was really surprised that this read was not as poor or shallow as that product, IMHO. In fact, I see the very low ratings here for this book and wonder a bit. It's slow, yes. And it has redundant language (not lyrical prose at all), and YES- some of the protagonists seem naïve and a little dippy. BUT- I find that's not all that uncommon in the real workplace at all.

Did you ever hear the old adage "A shoemaker's children have no shoes." That happens. In real life, home/family need may come last for any specialty you sell in a business. Do I know it. Jessie is way off, but that's the very reason that doctors should not treat their own family, for instance.

This was not a bad plot and I think the Psychic FBI associated civilian service aspect is actually quite interesting. And it was a read that kept my interest. Didn't guess the bad guy either. I would think not having read her before made "sameness" of the group and their formula less redundant. I was not at all bored.

Marla says

I enjoyed this book. It does say it is #13 in a series yet she has written it so you don't feel like you have to read other books to understand what is going on. Haven is a group of psychic investigators and Jessie goes home to Baron Hallow and to her younger sister Emma to figure out what she is forgetting about from 15 years ago that is blocking some of her abilities. There is also a serial killer in the small town that could be tied to what happened. Kay did a great job making you wonder who the serial killer is and what really happened 15 years ago up until the very end. I found this an enjoyable read. I will probably read more of her books.

Carmen says

I love the Bishop series but this offering left me confused - lots of characters, most of them not finely drawn, and the plot - gapping holes in places. The author concealed more than she revealed in this novel

synopsis of cover

Emma Rayburn lived a quiet life in the sleepy town of Baron Hollow, North Carolina, until she injured her head in a riding accident. Afterwards, her dreams were full of nameless girls being tortured and murdered, nightmares that didn't seem to have any link with her life...until her estranged sister, Jessie, returned to Baron Hollow. Now an investigator who uses her psychic abilities in her work, Jessie has long been plagued by

something that happened to her as a teen girl, before she ran away from Baron Hollow. She's come back to uncover the truth - and to discover the ones responsible for the deed. Could Emma's nightmares be connected to Jessie's quest? But it isn't just the truth at stake - there's an evil that's haunting the present, an evil that has roots in the darkness of the past and a terrifying violence that neither sister can remember...

Pamela says

I love the Bishop Series written by Kay Hooper. I am always thrilled when a new one comes out. This book was exciting and kept me turning the pages. I love that she puts the paranormal in with her murder investigations. I feel the comments about the sisters not being close enough was all cleared up by the end of the story. I wish the ending could have been different, but it also went with the nature of the character of Jessie. Usually the Haven organization has a more hands on approach, then in this book. Perhaps if it had been that way then there would have been a different outcome and feeling about the story in general. I won't put in any spoilers..so I will just say I love the Bishop Series, and always look forward to the next one.

Sarah says

Love, love, love the Bishop/Special Crimes Unit series, and fans of this fantastic series will not be disappointed with the latest installment. Jessie is a bit of a lone wolf, who has returned to her childhood home to try and remember what happened fifteen years ago, because it was an event so traumatic she has blocked it from her memory almost completely. And when she left her hometown she left her little sister behind as well as her inheritance from their wealthy father. Returning is terrifying to Jessie, but she feels it's time to remember, and that the trauma is blocking her psychic abilities.

Jessie is an interesting heroine. She is smart, capable and independent, but also incredibly selfish and stubborn. She refuses to share anything of the last fifteen years with Emma, and makes no real effort to reestablish a relationship with her sister. Pretty soon she is on the trail of evil itself, a hometown serial killer who may be connected to Jessie's painful past, and instead of sharing this information with Emma, she retreats, heading off into the forest every day to hunt. As an excuse to herself, she believes she is protecting Emma, that what Emma doesn't know won't hurt her. Which has got to be one of the lamest excuses ever. A local man has been hunting and killing people for over fifteen years, and Jessie doesn't think Emma should know? Jessie checks in with Maggie at Haven, but gives her almost no information, either. So Maggie sends in Nathan Navarro undercover to keep an eye on Jessie, and to also use his unique ability, which is finding the dead. Turns out Navarro and Emma had met before and have unfinished business between them, adding a touch of romance to this mystery.

From this point on the book is pure suspense, a story of predator and prey, and Hooper does this better than almost anyone else. The story unfolds in alternating points of view, between the killer, Jessie, and Navarro. The killer's perspective is chilling and scary, as he makes plans to take his next victim and as the reader we know it's coming but can't do anything but keep reading! As with most of these stories, I was never completely sure who the bad guy was until very close to the end. One of the most marvelous aspects of Hooper's writing, at least for me, is her lack of sentimentality when it comes to her characters. People who do stupid things pay for those actions. This heightens the suspense for me as the reader, because there are no guarantees.

Highly recommended - Kay Hooper is a must-read author for me.

Stephanie says

It is well written, but not my kind of book. The author switched characters to tell the story through different views. If I were watching a television show, this would not be a problem, but being a book, in my opinion, it was all over the place too much.

Erin Cataldi says

This was my first and most likely last Kay Hooper book. I didn't realize that it was in the middle of the series until too late, but really I wouldn't have known if not for goodreads. It doesn't matter if this was a standalone or a series, this book sucked. Character development was minimal, the plot was laughably bare, and too much of everything was obvious. I straight up did not care who lived or died in this. Emma Rayburn fled Baron Hollow when she was a teenager and ever since she's been plagued with nightmares and dark visions. Her special crimes unit (full of psychics and shit) sends her back to her hometown to uncover why she really ran away and while there a body turns up. Oh no! Ugh., I can't use anymore brainpower on this one. Soo not a fan!

Paula Phillips says

Always on the lookout for new mystery writers as I am fussy when it comes to the way they are written as when reading a mystery novel, they have to be A) fast-paced , B) exciting and C) non-confusing. So I decided to give Kay Hooper a go with her latest read Haven and I was impressed as I found the book to be to my liking. It was fun and a fast-paced read. I think what I loved most about it though is that the Special Crimes Unit headed up by Bishop is made up of a number of crime fighting justice heroes with one element in common - they all have "special abilities" from telepathy to medium to sensing the dead . In Haven , we meet one of the SPU members Jessie Rayburn , whom fifteen years ago disappeared from her hometown after witnessing something REALLY bad. Now fifteen years later, she has decided in order to move on with her life , she must return home and face the demons she has had locked up. Jessie can not only read thoughts but can also see ghosts and spirits , Jessie once she arrives home will come face to face with the news that a SK is hunting the woods of Baron Hollow and that her younger sister Emma also has pyschic abilities, she has the ability to dream of death -think Patricia Arquette's role on the Medium. Also being introduced in this novel is Nathan Navarro - he has the ability to sense the dead and where they are buried.

With the three of them combining their abilities can they both unlock the mysteries of Baron Hollow and save the town from a Serial Killer before it's too late and the Haven team has to say goodbye to one of their three members ?

I really enjoyed Haven by Kay Hooper and look forward to reading more of her tales in the Bishop/SCU series.

Robin says

Believe it or not I chose this book because I was in a rush and it was the nearest one on the shelf upon

running out of the library. This book takes place in a back woods type of town in the south. One of the towns where everyone really does know your name. The book mixes the past along with the present of sisters that have suffered immensely in this small town. The Rayburn sisters haven't seen each other in years due to a crazy situation that happened to one of them when they were younger, I won't be the one to spoil that! The story goes through the whose its and what's its but also follows the thoughts of the killer. Which lets us know that the killer is someone from that small town. The author does a good job of directing the spotlight on every possible person while leading you to that one that you are thinking to yourself, "I know that's him!" In the end you have an awing twist that makes you sit back and be happy that you gave the book a chance. Haven is like a detective novel with a paranormal twist to it. I was happy that I got it. I recommend this book to anyone who has read a few too many books that has made them cry too much and needs a change. Hope when you read it, you enjoy it. Good Luck!

Alice says

I have read other books in this series and enjoyed the psychic FBI agents. The writing isn't top drawer, but I liked the plots.

The heroine in this story appears to be Jessie, a woman who comes back to her hometown to put to rest nightmares she's had about women who are being tortured and killed.

I'm not going to spell out the plot because I don't want to spoil it for those who follow this series, but there's a phrase used for romantic suspense heroines who deserve to die TSTL--To Stupid To Live. Jessie wears the all-time crown, in my opinion.

This is the last book I'm going to read in this series. It was that bad.

Judy Goodnight says

This year I read all the previous Bishop/Special Crimes Unit novels to prepare myself for the release of Haven. The previous books were so good that I felt let down by this one - the first in a new trilogy by Hooper. Haven is the organization utilizing psychic private investigators who are not a part of the Special Crimes Unit run by Bishop. So strike one - not enough Bishop in the story. Strike two: The lack of involvement between the 2 sisters who are the main characters of the novel and 2.5 hardly any interaction between them and the other Haven agent Nathan Navarro. Strike 3: the overuse of the small town near the Appalachian mountains setting. The series overall began in the Pacific Northwest, then moved to the southeast and seems to have been stuck there. I think that we get the fact that it's easy to be a serial killer there because of the number of people moving through the area & the amount of wilderness.

SCU agents Hollis Templeton & Reese DeMarco get a little face time in the book.

Hooper has been a favorite author for years. I hope the next Haven book picks it up a notch & gets back onto the "I can't put this book down" track.

Lady Lioness says

pokes book *sighs*

I'm not sure how to feel about this one. On the one hand, I pretty much twigged onto the identity of the bad guy right away, but on the other, I wasn't sure I was right because Hooper was throwing out red herrings every which way. Also, I think I went into it expecting romantic suspense and this was a mystery, plain and simple, with a minor romantic element. Even the psychic element wasn't as prevalent as it has been in previous books, random ghosts aside. The question of whether or not the killer had psychic powers as well was also never fully answered either.

As long as you know that this world has psychic law enforcement members, Haven can probably stand-alone. There were cameos for long time readers like Hollis, Bishop, and Tony, but it was easy enough to infer their identities from context.

I guess, bottom-line, if you want a fairly suspenseful mystery that doesn't involve a lot of gore and moves quick, check out Haven, but get it from the library.
