



Tempting Evil

Allison Brennan

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BIG DIE COUNTRY

Joanna Sutton can cope with the fierce winter storm bearing down on the small rural community of Centennial Valley, Montana; the popular romance writer has survived much worse in life. Haunted by the loss of her husband and child, Jo has found refuge at her family's secluded lodge, but her haven soon becomes a hell. During the ferocious blizzard, a local Boy Scout troop is stranded in the wilderness, compelling Jo to spearhead a desperate rescue mission, aided by a newly arrived stranger with an unknown agenda.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Tyler McBride hears that three escaped convicts are fast approaching Big Sky Country. Hoping to warn Jo, he faxes over the men's mug shots. But they never reach their intended recipient. Then Tyler makes a shocking discovery: Two people are dead, and a killer is among the group, along with the woman Tyler loves, searching for his lost son.

More than one innocent life is at stake. For the sake of those Jo cares about most, and for her own survival, she'll need all the cunning, courage, and passion she can muster to survive the mounting terror.

From the Paperback edition.

Tempting Evil Details

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From Reader Review Tempting Evil for online ebook

Gisela says

3.5 stars

Robin says

After the murder of her husband and son, Joanna Sutton moved back home to Montana to live with her Grandfather and help run the family lodge. Normally a snow storm wouldn't bother her, but a boy scout was injured while camping and is stranded with his troop a few miles away. The local Sheriff asks Joanna to help with the rescue by snowmobile when the storm lifts. He also informs her that a couple of escaped convicts may be heading their way. Sheriff Tyler McBride doesn't want to scare Joanna by telling her she may be the target of one of the convicts. He cares about her and knows she has been through a terrible ordeal in the past. Tyler faxes photographs of the convicts to the lodge, but they are intercepted by a man who is a guest at the lodge.

This is the second book in Allison Brennan's Prison Break series. First of all, I loved the setting of this book. I hate extreme temperatures (hot or cold) and can't imagine being caught in a blizzard with a killer and not being able to escape. I also liked that there were so many things going on...a blizzard, an injured scout, an avalanche that has blocked the road, and a convict that is obsessed with Joanna to the point that he believes she is in love with him. Both convicts are seriously scary.

One thing I didn't like is the fact that over half of the story is told in flashback. We learn in flashback about the killer's childhood, the murder of Joanna's family, Tyler and Joanna's first meeting, and their relationship up to this point. The fact that the couple does not actually have a scene together (in the present) until the middle of the book really hurt the romance portion of the story. But the suspense was top-notch. My rating: 4 Stars.

Anna Mcfadden says

After the death of her husband and child Joanna Sutton went home to her family's secluded lodge to help run it and continue to write her popular romance novels. But with a fierce winter storm baring down on them, a local Scout troop lead by Wyatt McBride is stranded with an injured member, and she has to lead a team out to rescue them. meanwhile Wyatt's younger brother, Chief of police, Tyler McBride gets info about 2 prisoners are heading to Jo's families lodge . Tyler has to get to the lodge before the prisoners arrive and start killing those he love,

Margaret Yelton says

Another excellent book from this author. I enjoy how she tied the books together using a lot of the same characters in the books. I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys suspense/thrillers.

Samantha says

This is the second book in the Prison Break Trilogy. You need to read the first book in the series, Killing Fear first. It sets the stage about how the prisoners got out and what they want to do. This book tells about an author who moved to Montana after her husband and son were murder. She has a prisoner that is obsessed with her and when he escapes wants to be with her. I thought this was a good book, however it definitely needed an editor. It was very stilted and repetitive in parts. The storyline wasn't as crisp as it could have been. The killer kept outwitting everyone even though he's supposedly not that smart. It was like he had nine lives. I enjoyed the interactions between the killer and all the other characters though. I was hoping that Quinn Peterson would have a bigger part or that Hans Vigo would. Both are in the book, but don't come into play in a major way like you would expect in a book of this size by Ms. Brennan. If you are looking for a romance book then this isn't it. If you are looking for a romantic suspense book then I'm not sure this is what you are looking for either. Tempting Evil is more of an action suspense book with very little romance. It's not enough to bother anyone that doesn't read "romance" books per se. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Allison Brennan and if you have never read her before then pick up her Prey series first. It's a lot better.

Nurse Lisa In Ohio (PRN Book Reviews) says

5-big ole disturbed stars! Lol. Seriously, yet another FAB story by one of my FAVORITE authors!

Loved it!!!!

Kristen says

Tempting Evil is a romantic suspense novel and certainly lived up to the genre. Yes it is similar to others I've read, but the characters are so well written that I just love reading these books. Joanna Sutton and Tyler McBride are the main characters. Aaron Doherty and Hans Vigo are secondary characters. For me the characters couldn't get any more real. Aaron is convinced that Joanna loves him because she has written romance novels that he feels were only for him. When in reality she doesn't know he even exists. He will do anything to get her to come with him. I really liked Tyler, I'm a sucker for strong yet understanding men. Tyler stops at nothing to save Joanna, but at the same time is willing to wait until she is ready for their relationship to move to the next level. I liked Joanna, she was willing to do anything for the people she cared about.

For me Romance Novels, no matter what specific kind they are, all have an underlying point that love conquers all. If your love is true and strong you can handle anything. I love a happy ending. :) It was really hard for me to spend so much time in Aaron's head. Experiencing his convoluted sense of what is actually going on. I think that could have been one of the reasons why it took me so long to read. Allison Brennan's writing style is really clear and always enjoyable to read. I wasn't really emotional during this book. Sometimes a little frustration crept up in regards to Aaron, but he is written as a character your not supposed to like. This books is part of the **Prison Break Series** and I will be continuing on to the next book. I would recommend this to anyone that enjoys "Cop Thrillers".

Angela Blanco says

JoAnna Sutton is a published author who has in recent years lost her husband and son when they were murdered at the hands of her sister's husband. She moved back to the Valley where the remainder of her family lived and found another love in her life, no matter how hard she tried to fight it.

However, life in the Valley for JoAnna was about to change dramatically. She soon found out that an escaped convict is on the loose and obsessed with her. Aaron Doherty knows JoAnna loves him because he believes she wrote all her books for him. He knows how hurt she has been so he decides to get vengeance for her by killing the man who murdered her husband and son. Aaron needs to prove to JoAnna how much he really loves her.

Aaron ends up kidnapping JoAnna and her sister Trixie, who Aaron believes to have been at fault for JoAnna's husband and son's murder. Aaron kills Trixie for JoAnna as well. JoAnna finally gets away from him and begins her new life with her new love and his son after Aaron gets himself killed trying to get back at JoAnna for what he believed was her betraying him.

I loved this book and would highly recommend it to anyone who likes reading about murder, suspense, thrillers, etc... Brennan managed to keep the action going fairly steadily throughout the whole book without losing pace. Better yet, Brennan brought the action into the story early on, catching my attention right from the beginning.

Meigan says

This was just OK to me. It is the second installment in the Prison Break trilogy. I liked how it continued on where the first book left off. An earthquake made it possible for a number of inmates to escape from San Quentin. Some were caught, others were not. The bad guys in this one were ones (obviously) that were not apprehended.

The trio of inmates travel from California to Montana because the main bad guy, Aaron Doherty, is obsessed with Joanna Sutton, a romance novelist. She helps run the family business, a lodge. He is warped and thinks she loves him and writes solely for and about him. He thinks it is their destiny to be together. He checks in to the lodge under an alias. What seems like 32 feet of snow falls and complicates things for the authorities. They are trying their damndest to get to these guys to capture them, and the neverending snow really throws a wrench in things. The bad guys almost get caught, then they get away. They do this numerous times, which actually started to get on my nerves. Ineptitude is never a fine quality for law enforcement to possess.

Normally, I don't mind violence. I look forward to it when I read. EXCEPT when violence involves children. There were too many tragic things that happened to kids. Some kids lost parents, one kid died (that's not a spoiler, it's on the back cover), and one kid had 2 tragic things happen. And the sheep! WHY? They were innocent! But I understand. Aaron Doherty was insane. Even sheep wouldn't be safe around him.

I will definitely finish out the trilogy. I have some questions about one of the bad guys that weren't answered, and I am hoping he reappears in the next book. Maybe he will, maybe he won't. We shall see...

Gina says

It actually didn't take that long to read this one. I had started it on Friday, but because I picked up my copy of Acheron, that one was more important. However, when I finally picked this one back up on Monday, it was damn near unputdownable!

Brennan has a way of writing in descriptions: whether scenery or character development, you get a complete picture of it all.

Joanna still hasn't gotten over the death of her husband and nine-year-old son four years earlier. While she shows a brave front for her grandfather, sister and niece, she aches daily at the loss. Now she's staying with her family at their lodge, working everyday and writing. A successful author, she loves writing the stories that touch and warm so many lives.

Tyler wants Joanna with all his being. He's fallen in love, but is heartbroken when his marriage proposal doesn't receive the answer he had wanted. Still, he pines for her, waiting for her. He's raising his son, Jason, alone after his ex-wife dies of cancer, and moved them to Centennial Valley to be closer to his brother, hoping to reclaim the friendship they had in their youth.

Tyler receives an anonymous call... two escaped convicts are headed his way - one infatuated with a woman he cut out of a magazine article. The description fits Jo, and with his son stuck in the wilderness with his brother and their Boy Scout troupe, tension and suspense are pushed to the forefront.

And rightly so - for one convict, Aaron Doherty, believes he's in love with Joanna and that she returns his affection. His mental process becomes the header of the novel, and his delusions grow frighteningly. The way Aaron's mind works (the way Brennan wrote it) is enough to give the reader chills and hope that it never happens to them. In some ways, Doherty is even scarier than the second convict, Chapman, a sadistic killer, who was following Doherty.

Action scenes are great - you see them play out in your mind while reading them. The scenery paints a perfect picture, leaving the reader chilled while reading about a storm howling outside the lodge/cabin. While the love scenes are nice, I felt that there could have been a bigger connection between Tyler and Jo than there was. But what pins the reader is Aaron and his delusions - I don't think I've read a character quite that delusional before.

And after reading the excerpt for *Playing Dead*, the final book in the trilogy, I sooooo can't wait to get my hands on it. September 30th can't come fast enough!

Keri says

This was a very solid romantic suspense. The suspense was well done. It did drag a bit there at the end, but only because I was ready for the bad guy to get his in the end. The romance was there and was a common thread throughout the book, but stayed in the background except right there in the end. It was still good, but more satisfied my want for a suspense more than it did for romance. This is a part of the trilogy, but I think the books are more connected to the title than anything to do with the books. It felt like a standalone to me.

Lauren says

Maybe I've read too many Allison Brennan books this year, maybe I just couldn't get into our hero and heroine. I don't know.

So far Aaron is the most whiny and pathetic villain of any of her books. Usually they're so diabolical or fatally flawed, or inhumanly murderous. Aaron was just a pathetic loser. Usually I'm stoked on the perversity of their actions. Not so with this one.

Add in the underwhelming (for me) romantic plot and I found myself right in the middle of the road.

Annie B says

Billed as suspense but was really a romance novel.

Pamela says

I've read a few of Brennan's books and they can be hits or misses. This one leans more towards the latter. First off, I have to mention that the hero and heroine were really dull as they had little to no chemistry. The romance between the two (what little there was) was a yawn-fest. I was ready to hurl if I had to read once more about how his kid was growing up to be a "young man." The story itself sounded really good but as I kept reading, I found it to be repetitive, especially when it came to the so-called "bad guy." The repetition of the same thoughts, and flashbacks of his previous killings - how and why he became the person he is - was interesting at first but then became boring as it was overdone quite a few times. I ended up skimming the flashbacks halfway thru as it was repeated enough times already. There was way too much going on and a lot of flashbacks with quite a few of the other characters. The most disappointing aspect of the book was the ending. I've read some really bad endings and this one is no exception. I couldn't believe the way it ended. It was like the author got tired of writing or just didn't know how to end it. In the end, it was an okay read; not suspenseful and definitely not romantic.

Cheryl Meares says

I tell ya, I really like Tyler and Jo's story. Jo is still grieving the loss of her son and husband from 4 years ago and that has been a wall between her and Tyler. An escaped convict is tracking Jo and is desperate to make her his and in an attempt to save Jo, Tyler will have to make some life changing decisions....lives will be lost and love will be found.

This is a great series, I can't wait for the next one.
