



Moment Of Truth

Mandy Magro

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The past she can't remember just won't let her go ...

Alexis Brown was thirteen when her parents were killed, but her memory of anything that happened that night was lost when she hit her head. The police labelled it a murder-suicide, but Alexis has grown up believing her loving father could never have killed her mother. So when, seventeen years later, Alexis receives an anonymous note telling her the police were wrong and her parents were both murdered she's determined to return to Blue Ridge and find out the truth.

Inheriting his grandfather's horse training farm after Charlie is diagnosed with dementia, Ethan King faces hard work to resuscitate the failing Diamond Acres. The farm has been in decline since the violent acts at the cottage created such a scandal.

When Alexis arrives at the newly renovated cottage, hoping to awaken her lost memories. She can't help but notice how strong and handsome her childhood friend has become. But she's not here for love, as soon as the truth is uncovered she has to return to her life, and falling for Ethan would only leave her with a broken heart.

For Ethan getting to know the resilient woman that Alexis has blossomed into leaves his world upside down. But as they spend the days together and with their mutual love for horses, it doesn't take long for Alexis and Ethan to discover their friendship is much more than they'd first thought ... But will it all be threatened by a shocking secret from all those years ago?

Moment Of Truth Details

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From Reader Review Moment Of Truth for online ebook

Deb M says

Moment of Truth is a story about two innocent young girls, growing up with loving parents in a remote area of North Queensland. Their idyllic world is suddenly shattered with the apparent murder/suicide of their parents, an event which will scar the girls for life.

Alexis and Katie were taken to Townsville to live with their grandparents and it is here they have rebuilt their lives. Now in their late 20s, with their busy life of work and friends, their world is turned upside down again with the arrival of a mysterious letter, someone who admits to knowing what really happened to their parents; someone claiming their parents were murdered.

Alexis chooses to investigate this further and heads back to her childhood home, revisiting all of the painful memories, asking the many questions that remain unanswered and at the same time, rekindling old feelings with her childhood friend, Ethan.

This was a very easy and enjoyable read, a definite page turner for me. A good dose of drama, suspense and romance against a beautiful rural Australian backdrop; a perfect blend for this lovely story.

Thank you very much to Beauty & Lace Book Club and Harlequin Mira for the opportunity to read Moment of Truth.

Jessica says

Absolutely loved it!! I couldn't put it down and just had to keep reading until I found out what happened.

Anne Peachey says

I received Moment of Truth by Mandy Magro as a Beauty and Lace Book Club book to read and review.

Moment of Truth is a lovely descriptive novel.

The stunning landscapes, Brumby/Wild Horse rescue and even the inside workings of a hospital Demture Ward makes this a great read.

A shocking tragedy changes 13 yo Alexis Browns entire life.

She does not believe the police findings of murder/suicide of her Parents.

Alexis returns to her childhood home seeking answers.

We follow her blossoming romance with Ethan her childhood friend.

As the romance unfolds we lean of a deadly secret that may drive them apart.

Deb Bodinnar says

Think is almost my favourite novel by Mandy. Being a lover of Crime Fiction loved the fact there was a crime at the beginning of the book. The courage of Alexis to face the the location where she lost her parents was well written and I found the characters quite believable. 3 sitting with this book and it was done, I was grabbed by the story line straight away. Love your work Mandy.

Talking Books says

What a gripping first chapter in what was an outstanding read. Alexis and Ethan's characters were likeable from the start and gripped this reader's attention with their many confrontations and interactions within the story. Moment Of Truth by author Mandy Magro was an all-round enjoyable read.
Review copy received from Harlequin Australia

Zoe Jones says

OH MY GOD!!!
Want a fantastic novel... once I started I couldn't put it down.
From the very first chapter I was hook line and sinker.
I shed so many tears in this novel, from the first novel to the end.
It was written perfectly... well done Mandy Magro.

Suzanne says

One of the best Christmas reads for intrigue, drama and a touch of cowboy romance. Unpacking your parents murder-suicide can't be fun and rediscovering a childhood sweetheart makes it all worthwhile. Love the author's representation in words of the beautiful cottage.

Shannon Mahoney says

Absolutely loved it. couldn't put it down.

Vicki Robe says

Mandy Magro is a magician with words. Yet again another book that I couldn't put down. The storylines are so interesting and are always well worth reading.

Patricia says

I loved this book, which I was fortunate to receive via Beauty and Lace. It was easy to read, beautifully and sensitively written and very satisfying. Although it was relatively predictable in parts that didn't spoil the

story. The first chapter is brilliant, setting the scene for the rest of the book - Alexis, a 13 year old, hears things she can't quite decipher which turn out to be her parents being murdered. She loses her memory of the event after a horrendous fall. Alexis was never able to accept that her father killed her mother and then shot himself and 17 years later she receives an anonymous letter telling her that her parents were murdered. The way the story unfolds is great reading from a wonderful Australian Author.

Rachel says

Another lovely read from Mandy. Moment of Truth is a easy book to read with captivating characters and a mystery to be solved. Alexis is haunted by the death of her parents and is alone in believing it wasn't a murder suicide. Taking brave steps to prove this, she returns to the scenes of her horrific past and finds love with her childhood best friend, a trope that I love.

But it isn't easy for Alexis or Ethan on their road to love as she tries to uncover the truth of her past and this is handled wonderfully in what's a very fun read set in the beautiful North Queensland.

Jenny says

Moment Of Truth is about how two people found each other again after being separated seventeen years ago after a traumatic event. Alexis Brown received a letter that stated her father was murdered and not murdered suicided. Alexis Brown had no memory of that night but wanted to know the truth. With this in mind decided to go back to Blue Ridge to find the answer which would change her life and everyone forever. However, unbeknown to Alexis Brown the owner of the accommodation she rented was Ethan King, her childhood friend. The readers of Moment of Truth will continue to follow Alexis Brown and Ethan King blossoming romance and see if finding out the truth about the death of Alexis's parents will destroy them.

I enjoyed reading Moment of Truth. Mandy Magro does a terrific job in Moment Of Truth to ensure her readers never know what the truth was until the end. I like Mandy Magro portrayal of her characters and the way she intertwines them with the plot and each other. I loved Mandy Magro description of the setting of Moment Of Truth I felt that I was part of the story.

The readers of Moment of Truth will learn about the consequences for everyone involved when you do not tell the truth. Also, the readers of Moment of Truth will discover one of the effects of head injuries is that you can lose your memories. Reading Moment Of Truth you learn about living on a rural farm and the problems that curtail.

I recommend this book.

Claire says

I very much enjoyed this novel. I was sure I knew who the bad guy was but it didn't detract from the story at all. I enjoyed the reunion between Alexis and Ethan and liked the way it played out. These two people had had many losses in their lives and the renewal of their friendship was a bright part of their journey. Plenty of secrets and intrigue and misunderstandings abound in this new novel by Mandy Magro.

#MomentOfTruth #NetGalley

Thank you to Netgally and Harlequin (Australia), TEEN / MIRA for a copy for an honest review

Brenda says

Alexis Brown and her little sister Katie had no idea the night of the terrific thunderstorm would change their lives forever. When Lexi woke around 3am to the sound of her parents fighting; a sound she could hear above the storm, she didn't know she would never see them again. The girls' dash to the neighbours to get help, the subsequent arrival of their grandparents with tragic news - Lexi and Katie were beyond confused and couldn't understand anything of what had happened.

Seventeen years later and Lexi and Katie had made lives for themselves in Townsville, North Queensland, far from their home town of Blue Ridge. When an anonymous letter arrived addressed to the sisters, they were shocked and horrified at what it contained. Lexi needed answers; would returning to Blue Ridge mean she would be able to find them? She had never come to terms with the deaths of her parents – she needed to prove one way or another that it wasn't as the police had concluded...

Ethan King had been best friends with Lexi when they were children – not having had any contact with her since she'd left town seventeen years previously had hurt. But he'd moved on, inherited his grandfather's horse farm, Diamond Acres, and married. But when Lexi arrived back in town, and stayed at the newly renovated cottage on the farm; the cottage which had been her home – he knew his closeness and friendship with Lexi would continue as if they'd never been apart.

Would Lexi find the truth to the events of seventeen years prior? Was it possible for her memory to return or was it the trauma that kept it hidden inside her head? There were long buried secrets which needed unearthing...

Action packed with heartache and terror from the very first page, *Moment of Truth* is an excellent romantic suspense novel by Aussie author Mandy Magro. I could feel the intense Queensland heat, see the beautiful countryside, and the majesty of the horses and brumbies which Ethan trained. A thoroughly enjoyable novel, *Moment of Truth* is one I have no hesitation in recommending.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my digital ARC to read and review.

Michelle says

Mandy Magro is becoming quite a prolific Australian author and I have read quite a few of her books now, I think over half but there are still gaps in my reading.

Moment of Truth is set in North Queensland with much of the action taking place on Diamond Acres Horse Sanctuary, the place Alexis Brown and her sister Katie grew up. Mr Brown worked at Diamond Acres and the family lived in a cottage on the property until the night Mr and Mrs Brown died in a shooting that was ruled a murder-suicide. Alexis and Katie moved to Townsville with their grandparents and never went back, but that didn't mean they stopped looking back. Years of therapy and Alexis still hasn't managed to move on, she still hasn't faltered in her belief that it was not her father who pulled the trigger and she has still lost

all memory of the events of that night.

An anonymous note arrives out of the blue confirming the long held belief that there was someone else there that night and Alexis is determined to track down the sender of the note and find out what they know. But after all these years is she actually ready to return to Blue Ridge?

There is a lot to love about Moment of Truth, the suspense side of the story is well drawn out and there are some pretty interesting twists that I wasn't expecting. I really enjoyed the suspense side of the story and I was hooked, always with the one more chapter to try and find out what was going on; trying to discover if Alexis ever recovered her memory.

I am struggling to find the right words because the romance was sweet, if a little predictable, but it was also very repetitive. I think I heard how they felt and the reactions to each other more than I was made to see and feel their reactions and it seemed a little repetitive to me. I am sure there will be plenty of readers who swoon all over it but it got a little over the top for me. I found myself skimming some scenes with a 'yeah, we get it, you're connected and the crush never went away and the chemistry between you is electric, I've heard it all already just get to the action'. The romance was predictable but I thought it was realistic and I thought it played out in a way that I found completely conceivable.

There are hurdles, as there are with any romance, and there are secrets but some secrets are deal-breakers, and that too was written believably. I think my big issue with the romance was the repetition in the lead up and the predictability but having said that it was still quite a sweet romance and it was one that I couldn't help but cross my fingers for them. Alexis and Ethan have both done it pretty tough in their lives and they deserve their happy ever after, and it's quite clear that now they've found one another again no-one else will ever be enough.

Diamond Acres is a horse sanctuary and this is what really showed the depth of Ethan, early on he rescues a group of brumbies from an abattoir and the way he treats them, the care he shows, is amazing. Brumbies are a majestic animal and they are one that certainly evokes very varied reactions in people. Ethan is one of their champions and he treats them well, the respect he has for them is palpable. I love the idea of brumbies but have never been close to one so reading their stories is always interesting. I love to read of the connection people have with horses, and horses with people too.

Mandy Magro is a prolific Australian author whose work I have read more than 50% of and have enjoyed all of them. The story has definite promise and played out well, the suspense was intriguing and unfolded at a good pace with some great twists but the romance was a little predictable and repetitive. Definitely a book I would recommend and I think fans will be thrilled.
