



## Brilliant Prey

*Brenda Wallace*

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## **Brilliant Prey** Brenda Wallace

Even a genius can be played for a pawn by a cunning and deadly manipulator.

Lauren James is a former psychiatrist, still reeling from her husband's suicide and the subsequent miscarriage that swept away her tidy life the year before. On the anniversary of his death, she opens what she hopes to be a "Welcome to Mensa" envelope and pulls out a threatening puzzle along with the identical suicide note she had burned the previous year.

Unraveling the twisted clues, Lauren embarks on a harrowing journey drawn in by a child's neglected grave, a professor from the island of St. Croix, and a U.S. Supreme Court nominee. When Lauren discovers the reason behind her husband's shocking death, she must struggle with her deepest convictions and whether killing is acceptable if it saves more lives.

## **Brilliant Prey Details**

Date : Published July 17th 2011 by Wallace Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Brenda Wallace

Format : Kindle Edition 240 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Brilliant Prey for online ebook

### Rebecca Graf says

I try to never read other reviews before I write my own on a book or other product. But I caved in after a quarter of the way through the story. I had to see if I was the only one experiencing the issues I found. Apparently not. I found many others who felt the same way I did.

The synopsis of this story was great. I was looking forward to reading it. But as I read, the more my forehead creased and not in a good way.

Let me start with the fact that the main character was very hard to relate to. Considering the trauma she had endured, her actions were not 'normal'. She didn't act how I would expect her to. She was too stiff and distant from the experiences around her. Anything she did was abnormal to the situation around her. Just didn't fit the character. That was a big struggle for me.

As the story progressed, the plot became disjointed. I had to reread sections to understand what was happening and even that didn't always work.

Over all, I have to say the story was very disappointing. I cannot see where it was edited or the story would have flowed smoother and kept the characters...well in character.

Note: This book was part of a free download day and reviewed with no expectation of a positive review.

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### Donna says

This story had great potential... it just seemed that the story didn't follow through... scenes seemed to be written with no depth - just out of the blue, so to speak... One thing that really drove me nuts was the dialogue. Caleb was educated, but kept calling his mother, 'mudda?' WTH?? and 'Padna?' for Lauren? He spoke intelligently, with no accent or slang, except for a few line with these words... Sorry, Brenda, but they just brought me out of the story. And, there are scenes that are skipped... Just says 'so and so happened'.... Show, not tell... the ending was abrupt and unnecessarily gross... There are good moments, but not enough for 3 stars...

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### Sue says

"Brilliant Prey" by Brenda Wallace was an amazing psychological thriller that you just can't put down. I started this book today, and couldn't put it down till I had finished it. Lauren James is a former psychiatrist, still affected from her husband's suicide, one year ago, and the subsequent miscarriage that changed her life completely. On the anniversary of his death, she opens what she hopes to be a "Welcome to Mensa" envelope and pulls out a threatening puzzle along with the identical suicide note she had burned the previous year. She then is forced to unravel the twisted clues. Lauren embarks on a journey drawn in by a child's neglected grave, a professor from the island of St. Croix, and a U.S. Supreme Court nominee. When Lauren discovers the reason behind her husband's shocking death, she must struggle with her deepest convictions. This book has you totally absorbed in trying to figure out the puzzle, till the picture becomes clear. An enjoyable read.

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### **A.B. Shepherd says**

You can read my review here:

<http://abshepherdsreinventedreader.bl...>

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### **Katy says**

Lauren's husband committed suicide a year ago. She has been grieving so long; now she feels like she needs to get out and get involved in some activities. She applies to Mensa; shortly before the first meeting she attends, she receives an odd note in the mail. On the front is what looks like drops of blood in a strange pattern – on the back are hangman puzzles. This is just the first of many puzzling letters and emails that she receives – can she solve the puzzles and learn what it is she is expected to do in time?

This was a fast-paced novel, and I really enjoyed the characters. Wallace did a good job of creating unique characters. The only real complaint I had about it was that it is difficult to figure out time-lines because there is no real note taken of time spent or time between scenes – sometimes it seems like the plot has jumped ahead several weeks from one paragraph to another with no break or acknowledgment of that time. It became rather confusing at times. There are some definitely disturbing issues raised in the story, but I was wholly satisfied with the outcome. Fans of mystery/thrillers should definitely check this book out.

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### **Your Need To Read says**

Full review here

<http://www.yourneedtoread.blogspot.co...>

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### **Michele says**

#### **Great story**

Well written with twists. I hesitated over the stars due to my frustration over the behavior of the female protagonist. But you will have to read it to see what I mean.

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### **Wayne says**

Originally started reading because I thought it was a different "Prey" book...I follow the "Prey" novels by John Stanford. I have one word to describe this book "Disturbed"! Great story about overcoming adverse situations and the stigmatism of being abused by another, all I can say is they got what they deserved.

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### **Connie Suttle says**

A year after her husband's suicide, Lauren receives the first of several mysterious messages. As she struggles to decipher the puzzles sent to her and identify the anonymous sender, Lauren will meet two men who wish to become more than friends. Eventually, she solves the riddles in the letters and is faced with the terrible reality behind her husband's death. Now, someone connected to her husband's suicide threatens Lauren's reputation as she comes closer to the truth, and will stop at nothing to destroy her in order to further his own depraved agenda. In the end, Lauren is forced to make a terrible choice to prevent a greater evil from taking root and growing out of control.

With more twists and turns than the best roller coaster, Brilliant Prey kept me guessing until the very end!

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### **Coral says**

Listen/read my review here - <http://alchemyofscrawl.wordpress.com/...>

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### **Nicole says**

I really would give this 3.5 stars. This was a puzzling; page turner but there was a dark underlying edge to the storyline that never really was explained. So at the end of the story you were left feeling like something was missing.

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### **Rebecca says**

BRILLIANT IS RIGHT!

I highly recommend you read this brilliant novel. After reading all of the rave reviews for this great read, I see many people agree with me.

I agree with other reviewers' praise: Brilliantly plotted, smart, gripping read, suspenseful and an intelligent thriller. I especially like one reviewer's description of this novel: Brain candy.

This novel contains mystery, romance, suspense and ultimately horror. I especially praise Brenda Wallace

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for her doing such a great job of researching various subject matters.

This novel will capture your attention from beginning to end and keep you guessing.

I look forward to reading more works by Brenda Wallace. She is a very talented author and I can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

Rebecca Scarberry with Kindle Book Review

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### **J.C. Andrijeski says**

A very difficult book to read in some ways, in terms of the subject matter, but one I feel will stay with me and is on a subject that certainly needs more awareness and understanding. Still, it is tough subject matter for me (child sexual abuse) so I recommend with that caution to any who really can't go there. The premise involves Lauren, a new MENSAs member who is pulled into a mystery not long after being inducted into her local chapter. In the process, she meets a very charming astronomer from St. Croix who is a very likeable character that adds a lot of heart and warmth to the book. Lauren and the astronomer, Caleb, are left a string of clues that bring them from a pauper's cemetery in Oklahoma to a cruise ship to witness a full solar eclipse, to the Supreme Court of the United States, trying to unravel a complex set of clues left in constellation maps and riddles and blood-spattered notes. I was gripped with the mystery all the way to the end, so would definitely recommend for people who love mystery and suspense and surprises. I will definitely be looking for more of this author's work.

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### **Chryse Wymer says**

Lauren's husband has died the year before under a dark cloud of unusual circumstances, and a life-or-death chain of events is set off when she receives a letter from MENSAs...a puzzle, which contains something "more" than just a standard MENSAs puzzle. This is a wonderful story full of cyphers, cat-and-mouse, with just the right dose of romance that had my eyes opening wide in amazement until the end.

While this story certainly has some basic similarities to cipher stories like Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code (and I think fans of that book would love this story), it is meatier. It raises philosophical questions that cannot be answered. But it's great brain candy, too. Amazing book.

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### **Jack says**

Starts off as a puzzle mystery and develops into a dark uncovering of paedophilia. But on the way there are some story elements that are so far fetched they are ludicrous.

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### **Jessie Knite says**

Just, wow. I originally didn't have much time to read this book. With everything I had going on I thought I'd perhaps find a few minutes to read. But I never expected to stop everything I was doing just to finish.

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I really don't want to give spoilers, this book was so fantastic I don't wanna ruin it for anyone. Brenda Wallace write with a voice that has the essence of Dan Brown and even a little Stephen King, with a whole lot of her own. I'm not used to reading psychological thrillers for a reason: I just don't like the mundane feel of them. But Brilliant Prey captured and held my attention. I felt like I was on an emotional rollercoaster that kept me guessing until the very end. The characters are believable and thrilling to read about. A must read!

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### **Pauline Ross says**

The pundits say that the opening of a book is the most important part to captivate the reader, and I suppose it's just as important as a way of losing the reader, too. So it is with this book. I had only got to page 2 and I was floored by a simple puzzle. Our heroine receives a letter which contains six hangman puzzles, which she and her sister proceed to solve in no time - all by themselves. Forgive me for being stupid, but isn't hangman a game where both sides, originator and guesser, have to participate? It's not like a cryptic crossword puzzle, where the whole point is to deduce the answer by yourself.

So that set me off on the wrong foot straight away. Then there were a bunch of new characters introduced, a lot of brand-name dropping (do we need to know the heroine has a Gateway computer?) and then more puzzles... And I couldn't get interested because half my mind was still trying to get past the hangman incident. Now maybe there's some ingenious way to play a one-sided game that I don't know about, and if someone explains it to me I'll give this book another go, but for now it's just too off-putting for me to concentrate on the rest of it. Lots of people seem to like this, so I guess it's just me. One star for a DNF.

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### **Donna Brown says**

Brilliant Prey is an excellent read full of puzzles, twists and turns.

The main character, Lauren, is picking up the pieces of her life following her husband's suicide a year before and a tragic miscarriage that followed soon after. Having applied to Mensa, more to distract her than anything else, she finds herself faced with macabre puzzles that are of a much more disturbing tone than befits the organisation. Could it be that someone is trying to reach her for more sinister reasons?

This intriguing mystery/thriller follows Lauren as she attempts to put the pieces of the puzzle together, whilst trying to cope her with own emotions as she faces up to her own tragedies.

Wallace has received criticism for some complex aspects of the novel and the introduction of too many characters. On the contrary, I feel these things only add to the story. Brilliant Prey is like a stubborn ball of knots that must be worked at bit by bit. Just as you think you have begun to reach the centre, you stumble across a whole new set of problems. That's the nature of Brilliant Prey: a difficult novel, with some complex characters and absolutely satisfying to work through.

Did I solve the puzzles? I'm afraid that's between me and my copy of Brilliant Prey.

*Note: I received a copy of Brilliant Prey from the author in exchange for my fair and honest review: I did not receive any additional compensation. All views are my own.*

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