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As far as Christmas packages went, Brandon Thomas was one tall drink of water. And at the moment he was in over his too-handsome head. He'd showed up at the Colby offices covered in blood and desperate for help unraveling a mystery of murder. Luckily for Brandon, Merri Walters was a determined investigator not about to let an innocent bystander get railroaded—especially so close to Christmas.

With careful coaxing, Merri learned that Brandon unknowingly possessed information high-level people wanted to keep secret. Now, the only challenge was keeping Brandon at arm's length in order to make sure they both stayed alive to see the New Year.

First Night Details

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From Reader Review First Night for online ebook

Rosemary says

A quick, easy-read mystery from Harlequin. Interesting twists on the hidden vulnerabilities (which seem required in modern romances), but otherwise a pretty prosaic "too pretty to be believed" PI heroine and her hapless client/soon-to-be love interest.

Again, this appears part of a series whose earlier installments I haven't read. Set in Chicago, with private investigators...hmmm. I think I'll stick to Sara Paretsky.

Dawn Kunda says

This romantic suspense novella held a lot of intrigue and creative conflicts. An exciting read to find out how the accused and the investigator help one another and create romance.

Stephanie Hein says

I judge books I have physically read by how easy it is to keep up with the characters, how entertaining the story is, and whether or not I can put them down.

While I enjoyed the setting (Chicago and surrounding areas) and the characters and their short comings (especially being different than the normal jilted lovers), life kept intruding on my reading during spring-like weather. I enjoy the Colby Agency series in general and have already started another one.

rm2h says

This is more of a suspense rather than a romance. I did not see how the hero and heroine fell in love with each other.

Paula says

Brandon's best friend is murdered and Brandon becomes the number one suspect. He goes to the Colby Agency for help. Most everyone has already left for Christmas but new investigator, Merri. Merri decides to help Brandon because she believes in his innocence. Merri is deaf and she hides this from Brandon since she is good at lip-reading. She is out to prove that she is as good and capable of being an investigator as anyone else.

The story was okay, and while I could admire Merri and her determination to prove she could do the job as well as anyone, I thought she let this get in the way of the investigation and the safety of her client. Her choices weren't always the wisest or smartest and lead to unnecessary risks. This caused me not to like her so much. Since the story took place in only a couple of days, the romance wasn't focused on much and Merri

and Brandon's love at the end wasn't really convincing.
