



The Gifts

Linda S. Prather

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Tortured. . . raped. . . executed. . .

No matter how much he drank, Gavin McAllister couldn't get the headline out of his head. Just words. He was a writer, made his living with words. The impact of the words directly correlated to the emotions of the reader. Words could be twisted, knives to open up wounds long hidden. Maneuvered to evoke buried nightmares. Bare the soul, expose the wound, and you had a best seller. Make them laugh. Make them cry. Above all, make them feel something. He was an expert at manipulating words for emotion.

But he'd seen the body.

It wasn't a story this time. This time it was personal. The demon of his nightmares had no name, but now he knew where to look for him. Glade Springs had secrets. And no one uncovered secrets better than Jacody ives.

The Gifts Details

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Author : Linda S. Prather

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From Reader Review The Gifts for online ebook

Gail Bagniet says

The premise of this novel left me a bit shaken. The supernatural gifts of the title were so well rendered as to appear natural, making me a believer that anyone consciously aware of their surroundings and attuned to the workings of the universe could develop these same gifts. Of course, making me a believer is a sign of a talented writer, one who phrases her words to build suspense. The simple repetition of a statement, one that claims failure on the part of its recipient, causes the reader to react as one does to the first audio notes of the "Jaws" theme.

Linda S. Prather built tension into the opening scenes of The Gifts, A Jacody Ives Mystery. She kept the action taut with solid characters moving the story, and the reader, effortlessly forward to the satisfying climax.

Linda Strong says

Gavin McAllister is a haunted man. He's been hunting a serial killer for 5 years and hasn't found him yet. It seems he's always just a few steps behind, just a little too late. He knows this because his nightmares speak to him. He sees the future and hears a voice who speaks to him.

Someone ... or something ... is telling him to go .. he must protect her.

But who is he supposed to be protecting? And once he knows, will he be too late again?

This was a captivating story. The characters are well defined. Most have 'gifts' of one kind or another. The killer is well hidden until the very end. I love a good mystery with a touch of the paranormal and this author knows how to combine the two to make a compelling read. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader totally engaged in this story.

Many thanks to the author for the digital copy of THE GIFTS. Opinions expressed here are unsolicited, unbiased, and entirely my own.

Anita Blower says

Spooky

I have very recently started reading this author and I find her writing entertaining in a different way from the norm. Her storylines are interesting, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad but always interesting.

L.C. Evans says

A little girl and her mother are in danger. The main character Gavin McAllister has to find the killer before it's too late. Gavin has psychic dreams of horror to come, but he's always been too late to save anyone. A couple of the other characters also have psychic flashes or dreams and they, too, know there's terrible danger ahead and yet they feel helpless. Ms. Prather masterfully builds the suspense and just when you think the mystery is finally solved and the killer found, she takes us down yet another path where her characters are right back in jeopardy.

I loved the fast pace and the action packed scenes. The supernatural aspects are sprinkled throughout the book, but serve to add drama and tension and are not overdone. If you like thrillers, you can't go wrong with this book.

Mary says

I picked this book up immediately after Sacred Secrets, the prequel to this one. It starts out with a horrific murder and Rob, Carl and Gavin hunting a serial killer they have been after for years. This time, he has hit close to home in more than one way. Gavin goes one way, searching for clues in a tiny town, while Rob and Carl go another way, searching in their own way. They all end up in danger, of course. The people Gavin meets in Glade Springs are all so interesting and all seem to have deep secrets. It makes for a great who-done-it as any one of them have things to hide and you never know who is going to come after Gavin and his new love, Sarah and her adorable little girl Nikki. This is another one of Prather's psychic thriller mysteries and I loved it. Some of it was a little sappy (and I know a lot of people don't like that kind of thing in their thrillers) but it fit in with the storyline really well. I would love to read more of Gavin and Sarah's story, if Ms. Prather has more plans for them (hint, hint!).

Sandra Heptinstall says

If you love a good mystery mixed with the supernatural, and suspense, then this is the book for you. It is a thriller that has you thinking one way, and then within the next few pages you are on a journey that will keep you going until the end. It is like being on a roller coaster. You slowly make your way up to the top, all the time watching how high you are going. Then as you reach the top you say to yourself, "What was I thinking?" Yet it is too late to get off. This book is like a roller coaster.

Once you start reading it, there is no turning back. The book will draw you into the story and the characters. I thought I had it figured out half way through the book, and then sure as shoot I found out I was lost. This is a great read.

I rate this book PG 13 for language and violence

Jane Blanchard says

I read The Gifts by Linda S Prather as part of the Deadly Dozen: 12 Mysteries/Thrillers set. It is also part A Jacody Ives Mystery.

Corrine Larson is dying, but she denies her murderer the pleasure of hearing her scream. Instead with her dying thoughts she sends out a psychic warning, "He's coming Sarah. He wants to destroy you."

I loved this book. It was my favorite of the Deadly Dozen collection. Right from the beginner, I was glued, turning the pages as fast as I could, yet wanting to slow down to savor the craft.

There are multiple murders, in additions to Corrine's. Rob Walker and Carl Jackson, FBI, search for the serial murderer of young girls who leaves pink cards near the bodies. Gavin McAllister is probing his sister's death. As Sheriff Sarah Burns investigates the suspicious automobile accident, more bodies are found. Are all these deaths connected?

Gavin McAllister is a writer with the alter ego Jacody Ives. Jacody has a talent for entering a town and digging out its secrets. What secrets does he uncover?

Ghost help the investigations. Some of the investigators have psychic abilities, but don't always understand what they see. Will they be able to use their gifts catch the killer(s)?

I highly recommend this book.

M.A. Comley says

This is the third book of Linda's I've had the pleasure of reading and to be honest it's hard to choose which one I like the best.

Right from the very first page I was hooked by this story. An excellent supernatural thriller.

The suspenseful story revolves around Gavin McAllister who has to use his psychic abilities/dreams to save a girl and her mother.

I've come to learn that as far as characters and suspenseful plotting are concerned Linda really has her finger on the pulse. You'll find your pulse rate escalating during this fast-paced thriller.

Can't wait for the next book Linda.

Jacqueline Hopkins says

This was a mystery that kept me wanting to read it to find out who did it and I was drawn into the main character's life. This was the first book I have read by this author and I will probably read others.

I rated this a four star because there was part of the book I was confused about and that was I didn't feel there was a reason to have the preacher and his wife in the story. I did not see or nor could I figure out what connection they had to the story. I kind of felt like they were added as maybe a red herring to throw us off, but I think they could be have been left out and we wouldn't have missed anything.

There were some words left out, some added in and therefore, I think this book could have done with one more read by another pair of eyes, be that a beta reader or a copy editor, so another reason for my 4star review.

Sheila Ryals says

I won this book in a blog hop! This was apparently the third book in the series. Going in I had no idea there were others. I was able to read this book and fall right into the storyline. I became attached to all the characters. You will need some tissues at the beginning of the book and a bit at the end. A great paranormal read with mystery and thrills and a really big twist. This book was a real gift! Glad I won this book I will be getting the rest in the series and checking out more of her work!

Linda says

Corrine Lawson knew he would kill her after he had beaten and raped her, her only thought was to a mental message to wan Sarah that he was coming for her.....

Six tears ago, Sarah Burns, came to Glade Springs pregnant and alone to flee the partner she put in jail when he raped a street walker. Now five years later, she was sheriff and raised her little girl. She had the gift to feel what others felt and she knew there was more to a routine accident than what was thought. She had nightmares about being warned that a killer was coming for her daughter and it shook her. She had secrets to hide and kept a close eye out on strangers. Then renowned mystery writer Gavin McAllister came to town stirring up trouble.....

Gavin McAllister often had nightmares and often week off the grid until he could figure out his dreams, his twin sister was marrying his adopted brother in a few weeks and he worked with Rob an FBI agent tracking the Mother's Day killer. Cory came to him in a shimmering light to plead for his help in protecting a little girl from the monster that had killed her.....

DOUBLE WOW! Hold on to your seats as Ms. Prather takes you on a twisting, bumpy ride for your life!!

Jeri Stallard says

I loved this book. It hooked me from the first chapter.

Michelle Baldwin says

this book truly is a gift ... I read two books by Linda s Prather and they both are really good read..... I done my rating and then I received an email from linda s Prather thanking me for my review (it's always nice when an author emails how they take the time to reply) and she sent me a GIFT.... her book called the GIFT... It was a really nice read I smiled loads and got choked up too that's when you know you have read a fantastic book this was her first book and I'm glad she is doing more....
better get book two in the series now..... hope they will be more to follow
Michelle baldwin xxx

Debra Martin says

Gavin McAllister is a lost tortured soul, some say the very definition of a writer, but with a twist, evil knows him. The demons raging inside him send him gruesome dreams of rape, torture and murder, always with the same message. "You're too late McAllister." His only weapon to save his sanity is to write the stories down using his alter-ego Jacody Ives, to uncover the secrets and solve the crime. He is a best-selling author. He has the Gift.

Call it psychic, intuition or gut feelings, Gavin is also determined to use his ability to help the FBI, specifically, his step-brother Rob and his partner Carl, catch bad guys. But there is one twisted sick murderer that they haven't been able to catch for five years--The Mother's Day killer. The killer always leaves a calling card at the scene of the murders taunting the FBI and Gavin has made it his mission to catch this guy.

From the opening scene of the book, the author does a fantastic job of reeling you into this paranormal mystery, keeping you on the edge of your seat while the story unfolds with one twist after another. Ms. Prather is a master storyteller slowly filling in Gavin's backstory--he is a twin who was separated at a young age-- and when Rob introduces Gavin to his girl, a piece of the puzzle clicks into place for him. Cory Larson is his long lost twin, adopted one day ahead of him. Now she's back in his life and Gavin feels a modicum of peace, that is, until Cory becomes the Mother's Day killer's next victim. Now catching the sicko is personal.

Clues of Cory's last known whereabouts lead Gavin to a seemingly peaceful town of Glade Springs. Every town has its secrets and Glade Springs is no different. Gavin is determined to uncover every last one of them if he has to, much to the displeasure of Sheriff Sarah Burns. The dreams are worse than ever and time is running out, but there's a difference. This time Gavin knows the killer's next intended target, but will it help him get there in time?

The tension and suspense in this book are definitely high-octane and will keep you up late at night turning the pages as fast as you can to find out what happens. Just when you think it's safe to stop, another explosive scene is a page click away. Highly recommended.

Joleene Naylor says

All small towns have secrets, so when Gavin McAllister, a man who's reputed to be good at uncovering those secrets, shows up, few are happy to see him. But not everyone wants him to leave. The parents of a dead teenager want his help and, though she doesn't know it yet, Sarah, the town's Sheriff, needs him to stay.

But, will his presence only make things worse? Or will he be able to silence the voices and finally put to rest a case that has dragged on for far too long and cost him far too much?

Well written and fast paced, this is a great mystery that kept me guessing! Just when I thought I'd solved it, Ms. Prather would throw in a new twist that kept me guessing.
