



Against All Odds

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For FBI Hostage Rescue Team member Evan Cooper and his partner, dignitary protection duty should have been a piece of cake. Unfortunately, Monica Callahan isn't making it easy. Estranged from her diplomat father--who is involved in a sensitive hostage situation in the Middle East--she refuses to be intimidated by a related terrorist threat back in the States. That is, until a chilling warning convinces her that the danger is very real--and escalating.

As Coop and his partner do their best to keep her safe, Monica's father triggers an abduction that puts his daughter's life at risk. And with every second that ticks by, Coop knows that the odds of saving the only woman who has ever breached the walls around his heart are dropping. After all, terrorists aren't known for their patience--or their mercy.

Book one in the Heroes of Quantico series, this suspense-filled novel will whisk readers along for the thrilling ride.

Against All Odds Details

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Author : Irene Hannon

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PepperP0t says

3star read

This light Christian Contemporary Romantic Suspense novel wasn't bad but could have been better. My feeling is more disappointed that it wasn't better. I did have some issues with it – let's get those out of the way.

Mainly it seemed as if the God/Faith mantra was a little much. Originally it was implied that this would have a place in the story but as a secondary storyline it had too much prominence. That one of the central characters was very religious made this aspect important – but as it bled into other aspects of the story it was a bit much. Secondly the romance portion was going steady – then switched gears – then wrapped up. I felt it was a little disjointed. What there was of the romance was good but it should have been more consistent. Finally the typesetting was off so that some sentences were duplicated or partially duplicated.

The good things included the characters although not deeply drawn were likable, the overall plot & storyline were good but not necessarily strong. The complexity of Monica's character made her interesting but made Evan's character seem dull in contrast – however it also portrays some real couples

Joan says

I df'd when the churchy-preachy stuff became impossible to skim over. The only character I was really interested in was the father. A predictable story.

Dora Hiers says

FBI Hostage Rescue Team Member Evan Cooper is content to work hard and party even harder, and with plenty of available, attractive women, he avoids commitments and emotional entanglements...until he's assigned to protect Monica Callahan. Monica's gentle prodding breaks down the barriers he's erected since his mother's death and father's subsequent emotional withdrawal.

Estranged from her father after his abandonment to pursue his diplomatic ambitions, Monica overcame hurt and betrayal, earning a PhD in communications and forging a successful career. If she ever commits to a relationship, she intends it to be with a man who communicates well, someone who doesn't put his career first. Not Coop. But, she finds herself drawn to the quiet, determined-to-protect-her man.

I like how Monica, a believer, struggles with the issue of forgiveness towards her absentee father. Considering forgiveness a tenet for Christianity, Coop doesn't understand, and calls her on it. She admits that's her biggest failing, and in doing so, opens the door for several conversations. I found her honesty refreshing and their discussions on faith realistic.

Monica's father attempts to reconcile his moral principle of not negotiating with terrorists with his desire to save his daughter. He's never told his daughter he loves her, yet now she hears his unspoken message. I love

how this unfolds during the story.

Wow! With a fast paced, action-packed, nail-biting plot, you might be tempted to sail through this book in a few hours. But I'd recommend against that. This book is flavored with spiritual and moral issues, juicy nuggets I preferred to chew on for a few days. Although it lacks the physical intensity (um, more displays of affection) I generally prefer, Against All Odds more than compensates in emotional and spiritual depth as love and forgiveness transform Monica and Coop. Action, suspense, a tender romance~this book has it all! Definitely a keeper!

Disclaimer: I purchased this book. No monies were received in exchange for my fair and unbiased review, and all opinions expressed are my own.

Seawood says

Just...no. Which is such a shame because it starts out well and I was looking forward to a good thriller - I liked the characters initially and the set-up was interesting, but before I got 1/3rd of the way through the massive religious agenda was so offputting I had to delete it off my Kindle. It really didn't add anything to the story, and having flicked through the other reviews I'm glad I didn't continue to waste my time. As the saying goes, having a religion is like having a penis - it's great to be proud of it but don't shove it down my throat unless I ask you to.

Stefanie says

Irene Hannon is a wizard with suspense. I loved book one of the Heroes of Quantico series and I can't wait to read the rest!
Coop and Monica were such relatable characters and I could feel the suspense and tension with every turning of the page. Great read!

Sarah says

I liked parts of this book but there were a few moments in it that weren't so great. I might try another book by this author.

Jeremy says

A second book that I read because it was a free giveaway on Kindle, I was only aware of the 'suspense' part of the 'Christian romantic suspense' descriptor for its genre when I began reading. The Christian aspects are certainly present, but well-handled (even as a non-Christian reader, I didn't find them overbearing.) The romance, on the other hand, was rather heavy handed, though there was no sex. The main characters were constantly noticing how attractive the other was, and how they'd never felt like this about anyone before. Instant physical attraction and emotional bonds forming between people is something that really shakes my suspension of disbelief in a story -- I prefer to see relationships developing over the course of time, so I found that aspect rather jarring.

The author has clearly done some research, though she still suffers from some errors like three million dollars cash fitting into a backpack (it would not) and referring to Afghanistan as part of the Middle East and Afghans as being of Middle Eastern descent (to be fair, there are definitions of the Greater Middle East that do include Afghanistan, but the typical eastern border of the region is Iran.)

It would also have been nice to see an Afghan who wasn't a terrorist as an actual character -- I believe there's exactly one of those in the book, and he's basically just a name. Combined with bad guys who are essentially cardboard cutouts who are there to be evil, it's probably for the best that there's not a single mention of Islam to be found.

All in all, probably better for the romance fan who likes a little suspense mixed in.

Joleen says

David Callahan was a dignitary in a very high position for the United States. Terrorists holding citizens hostage were demanding things from him before the hostages would be released. Usually this goes unheeded, because giving in to terrorists' demands only means it works, and they will continue to use that tactic, creating even more terror. Callahan had to stick to this resolve, except now they are threatening to kill his daughter, Monica, who, unbeknownst to them, has been estranged from her father for many years. But he still loves her and sees to it a group of FBI agents are assembled to protect her.

Coop and Mark are those FBI agents who have the task of informing her of life threatening danger, and to try to get her to a safe house. She is resistant because she's an author and has speaking engagements.

But as things begin to happen even in her own house, she's left with no choice but to go to this safe house.

This doesn't stop the terrorists from their plot to kidnap her and use her as another hostage. But Coop and Mark both have taken their job seriously and have even become fond of her. Their determination to save her knows no bounds.

I liked this book a lot, and I don't believe I've ever been disappointed in anything Ms. Hannon has written. Great intrigue, surprising vulnerability in a man whose trained to be stoic and who needs a solitary life. Satisfying growing feelings between Monica and one of the agents.

My only disappointment was how the romance wrapped up so easily, and how neatly the agent set aside his lifelong non-feelings about faith, and need for a solitary life. Yes, there was conflict discussed about it, but he changed too easily into a church-going sweet guy, when before he looked forward to weekends where he could go to bars, get drunk and pick up chicks. It just needed more development, in my humble opinion. But, that aside, it was really well done.

The FBI tactics and terrorists involvement aspects were well researched and if I didn't know Ms. Hannon's life was far removed from this sort of life, I would have thought I was reading words from an expert.

Staci says

I've read several Irene Hannon novels written in the past few years. Against All Odds was her first suspense novel. While I enjoy her more recent work better, Against All Odds was a good romantic suspense novel.

Tamara Tilley says

WOW! I can't believe I found an author I like as much as Dee Henderson. AGAINST ALL ODDS has everything anyone who likes Christian/Romance/Suspense is looking for.

When Evan "Coop" Cooper, a member of the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, is assigned to protect Monica Callahan-a woman who doesn't want anyone interfering in her life-sparks fly. Those sparks ignite something deep inside Coop. But with Monica's safety on the line, he ignores his personal feelings even though he knows he is falling in love with Monica.

Monica, estranged from her father, is angered that her world has been turned upside down. But when she realizes the threat against her life is for real, she relies on Coop to keep her safe. What she's not ready for is the way Coop has invaded every part of her world, including her heart.

Irene Hannon has masterfully weaved a story filled with intriguing suspense and dramatic romance. Her characters are rich and warm, and the banter between them as they try to deny their feelings for each other is what keeps you turning page after page. AGAINST ALL ODDS will definitely be cataloged as one of my favorites.

Hannah says

Hmmm. I know I read this for the May challenge, but somehow I managed to not rate or review it. Horrors!

Monica is a very spunky and memorable character. I love how she's determined not to let this rude interruption into her life get her down or defeat her. She's a go-getter, even when she's in danger and feels terrible. I'm always drawn to a heroine with such a plucky attitude toward life and hardships.

The Christian element of the story is also very well shared; both Monica and her fearless protector have some serious forgiveness issues from their childhoods, and Coop is drawn to her faith by the way he sees her struggle with her need to forgive her father.

I've quickly decided that I love Irene Hannon's books, and this is one of the best of hers that I've read so far.

Sarita says

This is my second book from Irene Hannon and all of her books are now top of my list to read.

If you are a romantic suspense lover, you need to read her books. The suspense was good and the detail of the FBI was well researched. Her characters are also written in a like-able way. The build up of the romance is also done in a non-overbearing cheesy way.

Monica's father is a hostage negotiator in Afghanistan. Now the terrorists issued a threat against Monica and two HRT operatives, Coop and Mark, is assigned to Monica's protection detail. Something went wrong and Monica's is kidnapped.

The way the kidnapping was executed was well researched and came across as possible. I liked Monica, she is an independent strong women but not without her issues. I really like the interaction between her and Coop and loved Coop's partner, Mark and looking forward to read more about him in book two.

The lesson of forgiving and reconcile relationships when you still have time came across strongly.

I enjoyed this book a lot and recommend it for all romantic suspense readers.

Patrice says

This is a story for our time. It deals with extremists and terrorists. Three Americans are taken hostage in Afghanistan and it's up to diplomat negotiator David Callahan to get them released. He's followed the United States' stance on not giving into to demands from hostage takers. Then in a twist, David is informed by the terrorists that should he not meet their demands, his daughter, Monica Callahan, would become a fourth hostage. More unfortunate is that he and his daughter have been estranged for the better part of 20 years. She wants nothing to do with him and won't take his calls. This leads to David Callahan to use everything at his disposal to protect his daughter.

A directive from the White House to the FBI Hostage Rescue Team (HRT) is called in. Evan Cooper, "Coop", and his partner, Mark Sanders, are brought in to handle the situation. This should be a relatively straight forward assignment, but there is nothing easy in dealing with Monica. She feels that her father is being over-dramatic and that it's "too little, too late". She is a published author of self-help books and a professor at the local University in Washington D.C. She refuses to be intimidated by a threat from terrorists in the Middle East and wants the HRT to disrupt her life as little as possible. Coop is finding Ms. Callahan too much of a distraction and can't figure out what it is about this woman that has him thinking about things he has tried to keep buried in his past and making him question some of his choices in life.

Then a very personal warning is left for her and she realizes how much danger she is really in. After that it takes all their know-how and the help of the local FBI officers to keep her safe. They follow all the standard procedures and know they are doing their best, but the terrorist kidnapers seem to be a step ahead of them at each turn. Will David Callahan give in to the terrorist demands? Will the HRT and Coop be able to keep Monica safe? What will happen to the hostages? Will Coop do anything about his new realizations about himself and what part Monica Callahan plays in them?

Byron Ridlen says

Fun read little slow at times but kept my attention.

Sarah Grace says

RTC
