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The Target Details

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TJ says

3.5/5.0

Very good romantic suspense. I just couldn't jump the believability chasm with a few of the plot devices. That didn't stop me from devouring every page, though!

Darcy says

I really liked this book, I think a large part of it was due to Emma. What a doll this little girl was!

When the story first starts out we meet this randome man off in the wilds of Colorado and I wasn't sure where exactly this story was going to go. As Ramsey was chopping wood, he heard this god awful sound and goes to check it out. He quickly finds out that this horrible sound was that of a little girl, lying on the ground very obviously beated and sexually abused. He quickly scoops her up, a decision that changes the course of his life. Ramsey is a federal judge and knows how the system works, so to protect this wounded child he decides to take care of her himself.

The next few days are those that will break your heart, reading about this bright girl who was brutalized, but still has some spunk left in her. This gentle man does a great job of drawing her out and starting the healing process. While I hate to read about anything like this happeneing to anyone, much less a child, I will say that I loved this part, watching this little girl start to trust again.

Things change again for this duo when her mother finds them and jumps to the conclusion that all of us would, that Ramsey is the bad guy. In a tense situation where so much could go wrong it is up to the little girl to let her Momma know just what is going on.

It is at this point that the story changes again, from a little girls fight back to life, to a group of people developing into a family, one that none of them saw coming. You can see where both of the adults are going to end up with each other, but that is ok, be cause the journey to get there is the fun as the two are so clueless.

I hope in future books we get to check in with these characters as I want to know how they are doing.

Kelly says

I actually picked this up without knowing it was part of a series, so maybe I would have enjoyed some of the characters who popped in from previous books a little more if I'd read the first two prior to this one. I thought it was a reasonable suspense novel, with some good twists, actions, and developments, but it got a little slow at points. It was hard to read at times because the premise began with a girl who is kidnapped and sexually assaulted, and one of the villains of the story is a child molester. Not really something I wanted to ponder in my leisure reading time, but once I started I was hooked and wanted to at least get far enough in to witness the girl's progress towards recovery (if such a thing is possible.) Not bad, not great. I think I'd prefer a Harlan Coben.

Shelley says

Synopsis: Judge Ramsey Hunt has fled to recuperate after being forced to shoot a man during a melee in his courtroom. But his dream of peace and quiet is shattered when he discovers an unconscious, beaten, and sexually abused little girl who is too traumatized to speak. Reluctant to subject her to any more terror, Ramsey refrains from going to the authorities and cares for her himself. But once again, violence intrudes, first when two gunmen attempt to take the girl, and then when her mother, Molly, appears, ready to kill the man she believes is the kidnapper. Miraculously, Emma regains her voice in the nick of time, so Molly and Ramsey join forces and attempt to solve the mystery of her abduction. Emma is a target for any of a number of reasons--her father is a famous rock star with a gambling problem, and her grandfather is a Chicago Mob boss.

Review** Series favs Savich and Sherlock do make an appearance with Sherlock being pregnant and having an interesting version of morning sickness, but it's a minor role. The story is about Emma, Ramsey and Molly Santera, Emma's mother. Emma's character was probably the most intriguing, and painfully read. Her abuse was just awful. Of course, the romance angle is between Molly and Ramsey.

Marla says

Hoping to escape unwanted celebrity in the aftermath of a notorious incident, Ramsey Hunt settles in the Rockies, determined to bury himself in the safety of a solitary existence. But his isolation is shattered when he stumbles upon a small girl unconscious in the high-altitude forest. When strangers pursue Ramsey to his private meadow in an attempt to kill him and the girl, he's mystified that anyone would wish her harm. And the child can't shed any light on the subject: she's mute.

Molly Santana, the girl's mother, catches up with Ramsey and her daughter, mistaking her daughter's savior for a kidnapper. But soon Ramsey's real role becomes clear. With the strangers in pursuit, the trio flee to Chicago for sanctuary. Even there, however, the child's enemies prove as relentless as their motives are baffling.

With an unexpected assist from FBI agents Dillon Savich and Lacey Sherlock (last seen in *The Maze*), Molly and Ramsey begin to unravel the clues, and in the process they make an astonishing discovery as to the true nature of the target.

I really enjoyed this book. Emma is an endearing little girl who trusts Ramsey with her life and that of her mother Molly.

Dotti Elrick says

Judge Ramsey Hunt has hidden himself away in the mountains of Colorado. He is recovering from an incident involving an attempted breakout of drug dealers in his courtroom. He needed to get away from all the publicity. Weeks into his stay he finds a child in the forest behind his cabin. She appears to be around 5

years old. Shes been beaten and abused. When she finally regains conscientious she is unable to speak. He cares for her and she slowly begins to trust him.

Her mother, Molly shows up thinking Ramsey is the one who has kidnapped her daughter. When Molly threatens to shoot him the child, Emma, jumps in front of him and pleads with her mother not to shoot him. Molly tells the story of Emma being taken from a park. The local police and FBI are no help, they think she is somehow involved.

As Ramsey learns more about Molly and Emma, he realizes danger is coming at them from all sides. Molly's father is a mob boss in Chicago. Emma's father is a struggling rock star who owes a ton of money to a mobster in Las Vegas. The Vegas mobster has a history with Molly's father. They don't know who they can trust, so far the local cops have been no help. Ramsey turns to his old friend Dillon Savich and his partner/wife Sherlock.

As it turns out the threat is a lot closer than any ever imagined.

Great story, I love this series.

Vfields Don't touch my happy! says

This is much better than the first in the series for me.

I'm of the belief Coulter male characters are stronger characters than her female characters.

The kid was not annoying. For me, that's special.

The action is easy to follow.

Far from perfect but enjoyable

Debbie says

Federal Judge Ramsey Hunt needed time away, his time in a cabin in the Rockie Mountains was anything but relaxing. After finding a little girl in the woods that had obviously been abused, men show up shooting at them and then the child's mom finally shows up accusing him of kidnapping. Molly Santera had been all over Colorado looking for her precious Emma and after finding her safe with Judge Hunt, the nightmares begin.

This was not much in the way of a romance, it was very easy to fall for the little girl who had been through so much. The action of the book was spaced out, nothing real exciting, just a basic crime thriller. A few unexpected twists in the plot, but mostly very predictable. Happy ending, I would be interested in seeing the Judge in a later book. Overall just a basic read to get your mind of normal everyday boredom, and make yourself feel lucky you don't have a 'godfather' in the family.

Barbara says

After some dramatic courtroom heroics Federal Judge Ramsey Hunt - needing a break from the paparazzi - takes time off to relax in an isolated cabin in the mountains of Colorado. While there Ramsey finds a six-year-old child, Emma, who escaped from an abusive abductor. The child doesn't speak and Ramsey, believing the girl would be further traumatized by police and doctors, contacts no one. Instead he cares for the child himself. Before long people try to kill both Ramsey and the girl, so their situation is clearly perilous.

Skip ahead a few days and the girl's mother, Molly, shows up. Molly decided the cops and FBI searching for Emma were haughty and useless; thus she set out to find Emma herself. At first Molly thinks Ramsey is the kidnapper and almost kills him. Things are soon straightened out though, and Ramsey, Emma, and Molly become a trio - working together to evade the would-be killers and find out what's going on.

It turns out Molly's ex-husband (and Emma's absentee dad) is a famous singer with a huge gambling problem and Molly's father is a big-time Chicago mobster. Could all this be connected to Emma's abduction somehow? A number of deaths follow and Ramsey, Emma, and Molly are apparently in constant danger. To help resolve the situation Ramsey contacts his friends, FBI agents (and married couple) Dillon Savich and Lacey Sherlock for assistance.

I'd say this book is roughly half thriller, half romance and has the expected features of those genres. That is, people fall in love super quick, there's a lot of risk, and so on. In the end the motives of the various bad guys' stretch credulity and the resolution of the story isn't totally satisfying. In addition, the idea of a federal judge harboring a kidnapped child without attempting to contact authorities or her parents is beyond belief.

For me this book was just okay but I think readers who are big fans of romantic suspense would probably like this book.

You can follow my reviews at <http://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot.com/>

Jill says

OMG, this was terrible! I can't believe I wasted 10 hours listening to this--luckily, I was in the car, so I was getting *something* accomplished! There are just too many implausible things happening in this for it to be believable. I should have stopped listening after the first disk when Ramsey, a federal judge no less, finds a 6 year old girl in the woods who has been beaten and molested and he not only doesn't take her to the authorities, but cleans her up. Um, evidence?! Of course, they don't need evidence, because this 6 year old, who doesn't know her letters until Ramsey starts teaching them to her, is later able to give a police sketch artist enough detail (after only seeing his face briefly after a 2nd kidnap attempt--he wore a disguise the 1st time she was with him) for the authorities to identify him. Really? And then there is the reason for the kidnap attempt in the 1st place--so her father, a famous singer will go out with a mob boss' daughter. huh? Add to the mix, Molly (the 6 yr old's mother, her father who is another mobster and you have a whole lot of chaos. That doesn't make any sense. Then there is the marriage proposal that happens before they've even kissed each other. And at the end, Molly bam! figures out who is behind the attempts on her father's life and is able to conveniently get a confession (which we don't ever hear, it's just told to us.)

This is definitely not what I expect out of Catherine Coulter--maybe I should go back to her historicals?

Khutala says

I started the book and almost stopped after the first 20 pages of so because it was so ridiculous. A federal judge finds an injured and abused girl and doesn't try to let her parents know she is okay at the very least! What he did was highly illegal, and as someone in the justice system, he would have been very well aware of that fact. I saw that people on Goodreads gave this book such high reviews, so I thought I would keep reading to see if it got better. I'm probably 2/3rds the way through, and I just can't take it anymore. I would like to know how it ends so she obviously did a good job peaking my curiosity. So, if anyone wants to write

an ending spoiler for me, I would appreciate it. But knowing how it ends isn't worth it anymore. The dialog and behaviors of people in the book feel very old-fashioned. They remind me of a Katherine Hepburn movie in the 60s or something. This oddity just adds to the inauthentic and unrealistic feeling I got through the whole book.

Stefania says

I loved it. Every time I would be so curious for what is next

Deanna says

I received this book from a Goodreads Giveaway in exchange for a honest review.

It finished up better than I thought.

It's a somewhat fast paced FBI thriller that also had a romantic story woven in. There was action, there was suspense, there were big reveals (well, sort of big, I had a feeling...) There was a cute little girl who was hurt and a handsome stranger who finds her, then there's her feisty mother who mistakenly thinks the "hero" is actually the "villain". Then when everything is cleared up, there's the REAL problem to take care of.

I think this book was a little longer than it needed to be, it could have been tightened up a bit. But in it's defense, I think I just read it at a bad time - when four books I've been waiting forever for finally are out (or are about to be released). I will read it again at a later date so I can give it fair chance and possibly change my rating.

It was still an interesting read, I'd definitely give it a chance if you like Suspense/ FBI Thrillers with a little bit of romance thrown in.

Caroline says

I found this book in our beach house, left behind by (I imagine) a disgruntled reader who had been renting the house. I have to believe no one in my family would have purchased this book and then left it for others to read. This was **terrible**. Again, I bitterly read to the end and promptly threw the book in the garbage, so no future tenants would fall into the trap of beginning what looks like an entertaining beach read only to be horrified by the terrible writing and unbelievable plot lines.

Joe Young says

A Judge who is schooled in martial arts has AK-47 armed invaders attack his court to free defendants but, he leaps into action and kills or subdues the attackers saving numerous innocent parties an foiling the great escape attempt. He becomes an instant celebrity but, life that is constantly interrupted by photographers and

others seeking to cash in on his moment of fame. He finds himself constantly angered and in danger of exploding and using some of his martial skills against jerks rather than actual bad guys. He takes a leave of absence and retires to a friend's small cabin deep in the Rocky Mountains woods. He is far from population, with no phones, press or other interruptions from civilization. He is slowly living the quiet life and winding down from the tense burning that had become his recent life. Just when he believes things are becoming normal, he hears a small whimper from the forest while out chopping wood. He looks about and finds a young girl barefoot and clothed in a dirty shirt with welts and scratches covering her body. When he tries to pick her up, she shrinks away and whimpers more. By moving slowly, he is able to take her back to the cabin. He slowly tries to draw out a story but the young girl doesn't respond and appears mute. He takes it upon himself to do what he can to settle her, giving her warm food and being gentle with her. He treats her wounds with antiseptic cream and cleans her up as she allows. His gentle manner soothes her until she is able to sleep without nightmares and doesn't shrink into a corner unless he moves suddenly and frightens her. As her self confidence develops he takes her out to fly a kite in a near meadow. She knows how to fly kites and is able to cause it to do tricks but, as it is flying, someone shoots it out of the sky. The judge and girl move back to the cabin where he takes up his pistol and confronts the men. A firefight ensues and the judge wounds one of the men and they run off but, remain a unknown threat. The judge is also wounded in the leg but can still walk with pain. He does what he can to reassure the young girl and does what he can to dress his wound. He secures the cabin as best he can but, doesn't lock the front door. An attractive young woman bursts into the cabin with a very large gun and mistakenly threatens to shoot the judge thinking him a pervert who kidnapped her daughter from a Denver park. The young girl speaks out and tells her mother not to shoot the judge as he had been the one who had befriended her and kept her from further harm. Together they set off for civilization only to be hunted and haunted by a number of bad guys. Together, they fight their way back to their homes but, it seems that someone is taking everything apart just in front of them. Several more attempts are made to abduct the young girl but they are thwarted by either the judge or the girl's mother. The story takes many strange twists but leads to a happy solution after severely testing the participants. The suspense, action and obvious affection between characters makes this a great read!
