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Missing (Sins Of The Past Collection)



Synopsis

Three Novellas from Bestselling Authors
In Dee Henderson's "Missing," a Wyoming sheriff is called to Chicago when his elderly mother goes missing. Paired with a savvy Chicago cop, the two realize her disappearance is no accident, and a race against the clock begins. Dani Pettrey returns to Alaska with "Shadowed," introducing readers to the parents of her beloved McKenna clan. Adventure, romance, and danger collide when a young fisherman nets the body of an open-water swimming competitor who may actually be a possible Russian defector. Lynette Eason's "Blackout" delivers the story of a woman once implicated in a robbery gone wrong. The loot has never been found--but her memory of that night has always been unreliable. Can she remember enough to find her way to safety when the true culprit comes after her?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My thoughts: First up is Missing by Dee Henderson. This is the first novella in the collection and while I know I was reading a rough advanced reader's copy, I have to admit that I was rather disappointed in this story. The story started right in the middle of the action, which is great, and the

plot had a lot of promise. As soon as they started talking about suspects, I knew who had done it, so spending the rest of the novella shaking my head at two seasoned cops who couldn't figure it out made me less intrigued. However, if the characters were three-dimensional, this wouldn't have been an issue at all. The characters kept referring to one another by name, sometimes multiple times in a conversation. I do hope that will be taken care of before it goes to final print, but it was rather distracting—not something that happens in a real conversation. However, I was more disappointed in the quality of the characters. They felt flat—almost monotonous—and the romance truly felt forced. I didn't feel any sparks between the two, so when John, the hero, asked Sharon, the heroine, about the pull between the two of them, I was caught off guard. It was abrupt, in my opinion. I'm normally a Dee Henderson fan and truly don't like giving a negative review, but this is not a novella I'd read again. However, there may be editorial changes made before the book comes out, so don't not read this one based on my review. Next is *Shadowed* by Dani Pettrey. Oh, it was so good to read a prequel to Dani's Alaskan Courage series! To read how the siblings' parents (Ben and Libby) met and how their relationship developed. It was like coming home. Dani didn't disappoint with regards to her writing style.

Officially my first poolside read of 2016, *Sins of the Past* was a wonderful way to kick off my Summer Reading. This is only the second novella I've ever read. The novella concept is growing on me for a variety of reasons: The lure of familiar authors introduces me to an unfamiliar ones. Single serving stories are great for short intense bursts of reading. With so much concentrated action, I wasn't tempted to set my book aside when my reading was interrupted by a "Hey Mom, watch this!" Unlike the first novella that I read where all of the stories intertwined, *Sins of the Past* is made up of three romantic suspense novels that are entirely unrelated. *MISSING*, by new-to-me author Dee Henderson, kicked off this romantic suspense collection. It unfolds in present day Chicago after an elderly woman disappears from an assisted living center. Her son, Wyoming sheriff John Graham, is met at the airport by Lieutenant Sharon Noble. The two waste no time theorizing and trying to pin down the events that lead up to Martha's disappearance. Around chapter 7 I realized that I didn't have a clear idea in my head of what these main characters looked like. I liked how, up to this point, the author chose to base their mutual attraction solely on personality and mutual respect. *Missing* wasn't exactly a nail-biter for me, but I'll read more from Dee Henderson in the future. *SHADOWED* gave me a healthy dose of the fast-paced, high adventure fiction which always endears me to its author. Veteran Pettrey fans and new readers alike will be enchanted by boat captain Ben McKenna's affections for the mermaid-esque competitive swimmer Libby Jennings.

Missing, by Dee Henderson There's nothing missing from this novella! Dee is at the top of her game with this police procedural suspense. I love the way a Dee Henderson story evolves from her carefully laid out recounting of events, in this case the disappearance of Martha Graham, the mother of Wyoming police chief, John Graham. From the first page I was swept up in the search for Martha and all the amazing police efforts to track her whereabouts and activities leading up to her disappearance from her Chicago retirement village. The interaction between John and Lt. Sharon Noble, the officer in charge of the case, slowly builds in personal attraction in classic Dee Henderson style, with the suspense the primary focus while the romantic relationship slips in more subtly. I enjoyed the intriguing twist that the answer to the case didn't turn out to be "black and white", with a lot of grey area that doesn't usually appear in criminal or police issue, providing excellent insight to the many reasons people make the choices they make. First class, brilliantly told, page-turning suspense, reminiscent of Dee's abduction stories told in Taken and Unspoken. I can't wait to read her next book, *Traces of Guilt*, already on my kindle. *Shadowed*, by Dani Pettrey To say I was thrilled when I learned Dani Pettrey would be telling Libby and Ben McKenna's story in this prequel to her Alaskan Courage series, would be an understatement. I absolutely loved her telling of the five McKenna siblings, Cole, Piper, Gage, Kayden and Reef's, stories. The unique Alaskan setting for Dani's stories, with all its adventurous challenges, combined with dramatic suspenseful situations were so good I didn't want the series to end.

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