



Seconds to Live

Melinda Leigh

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A *Wall Street Journal* bestseller

Wildlife biologist Mac Barrett avoided his hometown of Scarlet Falls for years—too many bad memories. But when he receives the news that his father is dying, he rushes home only to discover he's too late. Shaken, Mac retreats to his remote cabin seeking peace and solace. Instead, he crashes his jeep to narrowly avoid running over the naked body of a woman lying in the road. Even more disturbing, when he regains consciousness, the body is gone.

Police detective Stella Dane wants to believe Mac, even if his story about the vanishing body seems far-fetched. But when Mac's description matches the missing woman she's been searching for, it raises a disturbing question: *How does a dead body disappear?*

Mac and Stella will have to work together to find the answer and catch a psychotic kidnapper—and quickly. The killer has a deadly message to send, and the case is about to become personal...

Seconds to Live Details

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From Reader Review Seconds to Live for online ebook

Hollie says

Steamy and fast paced suspense

This was my first book to read in this series, and I didn't feel like I missed anything by jumping into the middle of it. I'm likely now to go back and read the previously released books. This book really made for a page turner. The plot was action packed and never dull. The characters were solid. It was also a pretty steamy romance which surprised me. I'm glad it was offered as a kindleunlimited and I will definitely check out more of this writers work.

Jennifer says

2.5 stars. One star for the writing, one star for MCs I liked, and half a star for a safe read.

Engagingly written with MCs you can't help but root for, I enjoyed this. The mystery was a little understated, but the multiple povs kept it from becoming boring. I really liked the h who was a good mix of strength and femininity. This story also featured an H who was at a good point in his life. He's ready to move on from his past and become fully adult instead of just running away from his problems. I admired that. There wasn't a whole lot of focus on the romance, which made it seem less gushy and more like a realistic relationship between two adults. I always appreciate that about a Melinda Leigh story. There isn't any angst, hemming and hawing, love triangles, or any OP drama. So refreshing. It was also nice to see the other couples from the previous books and I'm looking forward to starting the Morgan Dane series.

Linda Strong says

Police Detective Stella Dane is investigating the murder of a young woman whose body was found in an alley. It's obvious she was tortured before taking an overdose of heroine. What's worse is that Stella knows the victim personally.

And then a second abduction and another body found, much in the same way as the first one. Wildlife Biologist Mac Barrett arrives back in town to see his dying father, only to find that he is too late. All of his family live in Scarlet Falls, but because of some past history ... and a huge secret that he carries he's been staying away.

Seeing Stella again makes him yearn to set down roots, but first he has to share his secret. Stella has always had a 'thing' for Mac, but because he stays away for months at a time, she's never let herself get too attached to him.

When the killer targets Stella, Mac is determined to protect her.

I have enjoyed this romantic suspense series. Mostly suspense... with just enough romance to add to the

story and not detract. I like watching the relationship between Stella and Mac grow amidst all the danger that surrounds them.

My rating is 5 stars ... both for this story and the series as a whole.

Many thanks to the author / Montlake Romance / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

It would have been a four star read if not for the instalove. The storyline was interesting. The romance played out as an afterthought and might have been better if it wasn't there. The two didn't date. They were together a culmination of a few hours over several days before they said I love you. I didn't feel love between the two. Lust, admiration, a growing attraction outside of the physical, yes to all. But not love.

Mo says

I have enjoyed all the books in this series. New to me author, so I will be checking out more books by her.

Was interested in Mac from the first book. He seemed like a lonely, tortured soul.

Stella works at the local Police Department in Scarlet Falls, Mac's hometown. He returns there from work overseas, due to his father's ill health.

This one kept me guessing until the end. It felt a little bit rushed in the end. I loved catching up with Grant and Hannah, the characters from the first two books. Especially Grant. Loved him.

Mei says

...Stella's boss...

I wanted to make you smile now, because when you start reading this book, you'll not be smiling....

The murderer was really creepy and completely crazy!

Until almost the end I didn't get who it was!!! I thought it was everybody else, but not the right one! LOL

This actually happened!!! OMG!!!

You have to read the book, I'll not spoil it for you!

Apart from the very good mystery, I love the couple here! Mac and Stella were perfect! Even if both have some issues (Mac with his recently departed father and Stella with PTSD from the shooting gone bad), they don't run away from them, but sincerely admit that they need help. There's absolutely no drama! They both act like a normal people! I loved that!!!

Also the romantic (hot, hot) part was well balanced. There's not smexy times during tight situations, or out of contest. It was tastefully done, with a little bit of humor! I appreciated that they were honest with their attraction. There was no *oh, I want him, but I don't want to suffer* or, *I want her, but I'll just break her heart, so I'll leave* stuff and it was refreshing!

All in all a really, really good RS!!!!

Cyndi says

I am on a roll with this author! I really like her writing- the mysteries are good, the heroines are strong and the heroes are solid men (none of them have been manwhores?).

Eve says

I was not so engrossed in SECONDS TO LIVE as with previous books. The more I read it, the more I wanted to finish it and move on to some other story.

The problem was that I could not "get into" the main characters as I like. Storyline was constantly switching between different characters and it felt like none of the characters could hold writer's attention for long. It soon became quite annoying that just when I started to warm up to Mac or Stella, there comes switch of pov and once again I lost interest. Besides I hate it when I'm forced to read villain's POV and their antics! Why spent so much page time on brute who enjoys torture and killing?

Basically this story felt like another re-run of Grant & Ellie and Hannah & Brody, so it may as well have been the same book/s. So it was okay read but sadly nothing special.

***Avonna says**

Seconds To Live by Melinda Leigh has once again pulled me into the lives of the Barrett family of Scarlet Falls and I just don't want it to end. Romantic suspense in this author's hands never fails to entertain!

This is the third Scarlet Falls book and focuses on the youngest of the family, PhD wildlife biologist, Mac Barrett. Mac is the youngest and had the most difficulty getting his personal life on track. He feels guilty over past bad decisions and is more comfortable in the South American jungle than dealing with family, but the call has come that his father is dying and he needs to come home.

Scarlet Falls newly promoted Detective Stella Dane is still dealing with guilt over her firearms performance in book two which she feels led to the deaths of two fellow officers. As she is investigating the dead body of one woman and the disappearance of another, Mac has possibly seen the missing woman. Mac wants in on the investigation and Stella wants that and more.

Mac and Stella both have to deal with guilt and reveal secrets while working together to solve two murders and find their missing friend. Mac also needs to decide on whether he will stay in Scarlet Falls and live the type of life he never thought he wanted.

Once again Ms. Leigh gives the perfect balance of character personal growth, hot romance and suspense that keeps you guessing. These characters pull you right into the story, so while this book can be read as a standalone, this series does have family issues that arc over the three books and is better read in order.

Thanks very much to Montlake Romance and Net Galley for the free copy of this eARC in exchange for an honest review. It was definitely my pleasure!

Vikki Vaught says

My Musings

Wow, just wow! This is a fantastic book. It kept me on the edge of my seat from the beginning to the end. Hated to see this series end. Happy ?reading ?!

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I really liked the start of this story and was immediately pulled into the plot as well as to the characters. This is the first one in this series that I have read and it worked well as a stand-alone. There are references to events that probably happened in prior book(s), but it didn't impact my enjoyment of this book.

I really liked the two lead characters and thought the supporting characters were a good mixture. I really liked Mac and Stella together as well as individuals. Stella is a strong heroine which I adore. This book had a very short time frame - everything happened between when Mac's father died and when he was buried. Due to this short time frame it seemed like Mac and Stella were thinking and saying the "L" word a little too quick. They had met previous to this timeframe, but still it felt a little too "insta".

The serial killer plot was good but I wished that there was more legwork and clues prior to the final scene. It seemed a little too rushed. It didn't feel like they were following up on a couple of people and then Mac is kidnapped and we quickly eliminate suspects and rush to the rescue. There was a little TSTL moment which I was disappointed in, but... I also would have preferred them investigating and discovering the killer and his motivations versus the having the killer due a confessional download. I get tired of the killer doing a monologue.

I liked Melinda Leigh's writing style and intend to go back and read the first two books in this series.

Petra says

This was exactly what an entertaining romantic suspense novel should be like. Part 3 in the Scarlet Falls series, this one focuses on Mac, the baby, and the wild child of the Barrett family, who is returning home to say goodbye to his dying father. Mac meets up again with Detective Stella Dane. These two met in book 2, Minutes to Kill. These books work as stand-alones, but as the same characters keep reappearing I would suggest starting with book 1, Hour of Need. You won't regret it!

Stella is investigating the murder of a young woman, and when a second one disappears, Mac inserts himself in the investigation. This had a really good mix of suspense and relationship dilemmas / personal growth. The Barrett family pulled me into their lives right from book 1 and I love coming back to these characters. There were enough twists to keep the serial killer chase exciting and unpredicted. Great writing, thoroughly enjoyable book/series and solid audiobook narration by Cris Dukehart.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

This right here is what amazing romantic suspense novels are all about for me. Melinda Leigh really did a superb job on this installment in her Scarlet Falls books. There are so many viable suspects here. I made my guess early on. I have to make my guess. Books that have a criminal element to them turn into some sort of a guessing game for me. I even had a slightly plausible motive for the character I picked. I was so completely wrong. The actual psycho here when it was revealed was a complete surprise. His motives made for some intense scenes. The killer was all about finding The One. I even made a guess at who The One would turn out to be and totally got that wrong too. Melinda has filled this book with shockers.

The baby Barrett finally gets his book. Mac is the youngest of the Barrett's. He did the same as his siblings. He left Scarlet Falls, got an education, and didn't look back much less return home. He fled to the Amazon jungles and his love of studying wildlife biology. He also took all the guilt with him of how he failed his family as a teen. At this point in the series it has been a little over fifteen months since they were all called home when one of their siblings was killed. Things have changed, everyone has gotten older, wiser, and now they are choosing to stay, to be a family again. Sadly it is one more death that has Mac returning home.

The newest detective on the Scarlet Falls Police Department's team Stella Dane is tired of dead bodies turning up in her town. She still hasn't fully got past what happened last fall that caused the death of two officers dead and left her with some serious anxiety where her firearm is concerned. Finding out that the very handsome Mac Barrett has possibly seen one of her victims is not what she needs. Her superior has issued his warnings about rogue Barrett's interfering in a police investigation yet Stella like the idea of Mac near her to assist in her search for a killer. She enjoys even more that she is getting to know the man that Mac really is.

Now let's talk about The Colonel for a small second. That man did not raise his children. He trained little soldiers for everything that could possibly ever happen to someone in the military. I could not imagine growing up in the Barrett house. His children are alive due to his methods though. You kind of want to dislike him for the things he put those children through but in the end you simply have to give him a fist bump.

Seconds to Live of course has some page time for Ellie and Grant, and Hannah and Brody. This family is finally getting back together and truly becoming a family thus Leigh gives some pages over to that. In true Barrett fashion though the siblings get out and ban together to bring down the criminal element that has infested their hometown.

CL says

Great author. I have read her other characters stories and this was just as great. This story has so many twists and turns you can't put the book down. Mac comes home to Scarlet Falls because he has been notified his father is dying only to arrive too late. Trying to deal with his father's death he decides he needs time alone so he heads to his cabin only to crash his car trying to avoid the dead woman's naked body in the road. He calls the police, Det Stella Dane shows up, and when she arrives the body has disappeared. Now they try to find this missing body but more bodies start to appear. As they investigate Stella uncovers details that may link the missing body and a murder and Stella's kidnapped missing informant together and couple that with the growing attraction between the two makes for a great read. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Women being killed
She's cop, he's home from jungle
Can they catch killer?

Excellent series
Well written, great characters
Bad guys are real bad
