



Scared To Death

Wendy Corsi Staub

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Elsa Cavalon—petrified that the nightmare from fifteen years earlier is beginning all over again

...

Marin Quinn—hiding with her daughters in their concrete fortress, her storybook marriage over

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Perfect strangers whose once-perfect lives were cruelly shattered, they're bound by a long-lost child, a fragile strand of newfound maternal hope—and mutual loneliness. Yet Elsa and Marin are never truly alone. Someone is always nearby, watching them and their children. Someone driven by vengeance and the simple poetry of nursery rhymes . . . Someone who must satisfy a dark need with innocent blood. And now time is running out for two mothers stalked by a cunning mastermind who wants to leave them . . .

Scared to death

Scared To Death Details

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From Reader Review Scared To Death for online ebook

Anastacia Perez says

Better flow than the first book, not a lot of wasted space, which is great. There was a lot going on all the time to keep you sucked in. A definite, who done it, book. It could have been tidied up nicely after this book, and ended, so I'm curious what the third book has to offer. Hopefully not just a long drawn out, where are they now, segment. But we shall see.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

2.5 STARS

" Elsa Cavalon—petrified that the nightmare from fifteen years earlier is beginning all over again . . .

Marin Quinn—hiding with her daughters in their concrete fortress, her storybook marriage over . . .

Perfect strangers whose once-perfect lives were cruelly shattered, they're bound by a long-lost child, a fragile strand of newfound maternal hope—and mutual loneliness. Yet Elsa and Marin are never truly alone. Someone is always nearby, watching them and their children. Someone driven by vengeance and the simple poetry of nursery rhymes . . . Someone who must satisfy a dark need with innocent blood. And now time is running out for two mothers stalked by a cunning mastermind who wants to leave them . . ." (From Amazon)

This novel did not give much information about the previous book so I was lost (I did read the first but did not remember a thing as it was awhile ago)! The conclusion was pretty obvious

Patricia says

When Elsa Cavalon is awakened from a sound sleep by someone calling "Mommy" she immediately thinks of Jeremy but Elsa and Brett Cavalon lost Jeremy, their adopted son. Jeremy was taken from the Cavalon's and recently they were told that Jeremy had been murdered. Now they have a new daughter and hope to adopt Renny soon. It is Renny crying out to her mother and Elsa finds a window open in Renny's room, a window that Elsa knows she locked before going to bed. Not only is the window open but so is the screen. So begins Elsa's new nightmare.

Jeremy wasn't a perfect child but he was loved and when he disappeared Elsa almost lost her mind. Brett and Elsa hired a private detective, Mike Fantoni, to search for Jeremy when the authorities had given up. Now Elsa and Brett turn to Mike to help solve the new threat that has come into their lives.

Meanwhile Jeremy's birth mother is living her own nightmare. Marin Hartwell Quinn is starting over since Garvey Quinn, her politician husband, was arrested. The Quinn's have two daughters, Caroline and Annie. Although Garvey Quinn was arrested for another crime, Marin knows that Garvey was responsible for the kidnapping of Jeremy.

Now someone is watching both families. Could Mike Fantoni have made a mistake and Jeremy is really alive? Or has someone else decided to bring even more tragedy to the two families who have already lived through enough.

Lauren Walsh and her three children are the third family discussed in this novel. Evidently Lauren's husband Nick lost his life after becoming entangled in the Garvey Quinn web but exactly how was never made clear to this reader. Lauren and Marin have become friends since the tragedy in both their lives.

Scared to Death is full of suspense and keeps the reader guessing. Wendy Corsi Staub's previous novel Live To Tell is another book that keeps the reader guessing. Both books take a little while for the reader to get adjusted to Staub's style of writing but both are exciting books.

Kristin says

Quick, psychological thriller. A lot happens in this book at a very quick pace. Crazy ending.

Erin says

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Coming off of the last book (Live to Tell) The Cavalon's have adopted a daughter named Renny and the Quinn family is dealing with the aftermath of their husband/father being in prison for a terrible crime.

The book opens with Jeremy Cavalon alive and in a hospital in Tex

Sheila says

Kind of convoluted until you get into the story, which I guess many books are. It didn't hold my attention like some books. I see her next book uses some of the same characters which are in this book. I think some of these characters were in her other book too. A young man was abducted as a small boy from his adopted mother's back yard. The man who abducted him was his birth father. He was taken to India where the mistress of the man was to get rid of him. She chose to take him down to a busy street where she purposely lost him. He was picked up by a pedophile and returned to the U.S. He suffered years of abuse until his new father died. Now he is back looking for redemption. He partners with a young woman who he attacked in a fit of rage as a small boy. Three women are also in the picture, his birth mother, his adopted mother who is going through the process of adopting a little girl and a friend of his birth mother.

George Hancock says

An excellent novel. A very good story.

April says

Wow, what an amazing and crazy ride! Full review coming soon!

If twists, turns and pulsating plots are what you are craving, than look no further than Wendy Corsi Staub and her newest release, *Scared to Death*.

Upon receiving *Scared to Death*, I was anxious and thrilled to get started. Just the cover and title evoke images of suspense and edge-of-your-seat thrills. Often, when I have such high hopes for a book, it may fall short of those expectations, however *Scared to Death* topped all hopes that I had before cracking open the binding and diving in.

Scared to Death is the second in a trilogy by Wendy Corsi Staub. The first being *Live to Tell*, previously released February 2010, *Scared to Death*, the newest release, and the third, *Hell to Pay* coming in 2011. I have to be honest and say that I have not yet read *Live to Tell*, however, after finishing *Scared to Death*, I will be doing so very soon. A very tight story, *Scared to Death* can easily be a stand alone book, in and of itself. However the back story that is provided throughout the book, really and truly makes the reader ache to read the previous story, to find out exactly how things played out before the current happenings - which proves what a talented author Wendy Corsi Staub is, in my opinion.

In *Scared to Death*, Elsa Cavalon and her husband, Brett, are in the process of adopting Renny, a sweet little girl, who has a horrendous fear of enclosed spaces. For the Cavalons, dealing with claustrophobia is a drop in the hat compared to what they had gone through fifteen years ago, with the kidnapping of their little boy, Jeremy. With the discovery of Jeremy's death, a year ago, Elsa is able to bring some closure to that part of her life and move forward with Renny and their lives together as a family. What Elsa doesn't expect is for her nightmare to come racing back to her, leaving her running for Renny's life and perhaps even her own. How can such a horror possibly strike twice?

Also entwined within *Scared to Death* are Marin Quinn and Lauren Walsh. It is Marin's husband who was behind the kidnapping and death of Jeremy, so long ago. That discovery has left Marin blindsided and horrified, trying to cope with life and her two teenage daughters. When an apparent threat is thrust unto her unruly daughter, Caroline, Marin must decide if her daughter is only acting out for attention, or if there really and truly is a threat. Lauren, whose story is the central focus in *Live to Tell*, plays a supporting role and appearance in *Scared to Death*. It is Lauren who Marin turns to for help and an ear to listen. Their unlikely friendship has become one that sheds a slight beam of light on an otherwise black hole in their lives.

Wendy Corsi Staub does a magnificent job of switching character perspectives throughout the entire story. One paragraph is told from one character's point of view, then will be switched and told from another character's point of view. This is done in such a seamless manner that it adds a completely new dynamic to the story itself. There is never a lapse in action or suspense and the surprise ending is rather a shock - at least it was for me. The characterization is done in such a way, that each and every character is quickly and easily brought to life upon the pages - even the most secondary of character plays an important role to the overall telling and plot of the story.

Though I have read a few books penned by Wendy Corsi Staub and have enjoyed her work, *Scared to Death* is, by far, my favorite. The plot twists and turns are endless, the suspense is spine-tingling and the shock

value of the ending is incredible. I highly recommend *Scared to Death* by Wendy Corsi Staub to anyone who loves an excellent suspense-packed story that will leave you enraptured from start to finish.

Caryol Lynn says

The ending is so unrealistic and utter nonsense. Come on - really? Jeremy just clicks?

Beth Lechman says

This one will keep you guessing with an explosive ending you don't see coming.

Suspense Magazine says

Staub steps back into the frayed lives of the families torn apart by one man's ruthless obsession in the much-anticipated follow up to "Live to Tell" with the emotionally charged release of "Scared to Death".

Marin Quinn is a woman adrift in uncertainty and guilt in the wake of her husband's greed and deception. The family's very public fall from grace and her inability to overcome the personal mortification she feels, has become a catalyst to justify the isolation she's forced on herself and children. But she soon learns that separation from society doesn't necessarily mean you can successfully hide.

Elsa Cavalon has finally begun pulling the pieces of her fractured life together. After the devastating kidnapping of her adopted son years before and the mental break that followed, she and her husband are working toward adopting a young girl. For Elsa, nothing matters more than motherhood and she's vowed to protect this child fiercely. She won't turn her back again.

This should be a period of healing, but for some the price paid for past misdeeds hasn't been sufficient and it's time for Marin and Elsa to pay the piper. Teaspoonfuls of terror are the ideal beginning to help them fully understand they'll never be free.

The outcome initially appears obvious, but that just wouldn't be Staub's style. Each twist and turn is methodical, meant to build anxiety as she cleverly yanks the rug out from underneath.

Reviewed by Suspense Magazine

Meg says

I'm disappointed with this series. I think the overarching story has a lot of potential and the character development is good, but it all falls so flat for me. I feel like either we shouldn't get the perspective of the killer at all, or we should just know who it is and develop the suspense from there. I feel like getting the perspective the way it is, is just really lacking and it is so obviously trying to point us toward a particular person that the reader has to believe it can't actually be that person. I also dislike the fact that we get no answers as to why the killer did the things they did. Why kill certain people, but given the chance, not kill other people? It's inconsistent. I hoped that this second book would have fixed some of the issues that

bothered me about the first book, but unfortunately it is just more of the same. It's a shame. I'm not going to bother reading the third.

Marie says

If I could, I would have rated this book 3 1/2 stars rather than a full 4 stars. I am basing that on the fact that I found the first half of this book both confusing and somewhat dull. It is second in a trilogy, the third not yet being out on the market yet. The author makes vague references to the first book/storyline, but I am not so adept at recalling all the details of past books. I read far too many books to keep track of intricate storylines from books read so far in the past. So this book was, therefore, a rather confusing read for a while until the author finally let more and more details of the first book trickle into this 2nd one. Shortly before I reached 200 pages, the pace of the story picked up and was not quite so dull and I finally felt like I knew and understood all the vague references. From this point on, I felt like the author totally redeemed herself and I was hooked. If only the first half could have been as thrilling.

Marilyn says

This 2nd book in the trilogy picks up right where book 1 left off, which I like. Very suspenseful, good mystery. I'm ready for book 3!

Lee Yahnker says

The characters are difficult to keep straight, and the story drags on and on. I'd say this book goes nowhere fast.
