



## The Hidden Son

*Dianna T. Benson*

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## **The Hidden Son** Dianna T. Benson

When U.S. DEA Special Agent Lelisa Desmond refuses to follow an order to bury evidence in a high profile case, her superior inexplicably hires a hit man to kill her. Lelisa barely survives the first attempt on her life, but someone close to her is mistakenly murdered in her place.

She sets off on a daring mission to bring down the man who ordered her execution. A man in a high position, with powerful friends. A man who will stop at nothing to protect his son.

Can she take him down, before he sends someone else to silence her forever?

## **The Hidden Son Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2013 by Ellechor House

ISBN : 9781937844899

Author : Dianna T. Benson

Format : Paperback 335 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Mystery, Suspense, Contemporary, Adult, Thriller

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## From Reader Review The Hidden Son for online ebook

### Jan Miller says

This book was so good!!! I loved the unexpected twists in this book. I was totally surprised with the ending and never saw it coming. I hate giving away spoilers in reviews and will not in this review other than this book ended so well. I will definitely listen to more books by this author and narrator. I was voluntarily provided with this review copy audiobook at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator. My review is not a synopsis of the book, but rather my opinion of.

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### Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Hidden Son (The Cayman Island Trilogy)

Author: Dianna T. Benson

Pages: 340

Year: 2013

Publisher: Ellechor Publishing House, LLC

Did you ever look at a picture that was so captivating and inviting you wished you could lose yourself in it? How about watching a movie or theatre performance after which instead of just clapping, words like “bravo” and “encore” should be shouted? Well be prepared to do both with this novel in all seriousness. What drew me to the novel was the picture on the cover and the title that I figured was a purposeful play on words. The novel grabs a hold from the first chapter till the last. The suspense was intense! I wanted to continue reading it straight through once I started, but my eyes didn’t agree. So the next day I would start where I had left off, and lost all sense of time. I couldn’t have asked for a better story to get lost in.

It is more than an apparent murder mystery or a well done framing of an excellent DEA agent. There are more twists and turns in the pages than a climbing ivy vine. Alec had been on the Florida Police Department when his life took a turn he thought he would never recover from...his only child, who was also his best friend, goes missing. They shared a love for many things including scuba diving. Now, on the Cayman Islands, he is an inspector who continues to try and solve his missing offspring’s case. Alec prayed for closure in whatever way it came. LeLisa is a top notch DEA agent on Cayman Island for a supposed vacation, one which she never chose, but was forced to take. During her dive one morning, her diving buddy dies. No matter how hard she tries to come to terms with it, she just can’t seem to understand. More than anything else she wants answers as to why it happened.

Two souls lost in grief; Alec’s grief is almost two years old, and LeLisa is just starting the process. Two people who build walls around their hearts in order to do their jobs and not be hurt deeply again by losing someone they love or care about. Now, the tragedy has brought them together, but this is just the beginning of action and adventure as they search for answers. Someone wants LeLisa dead, now Alec too since he is in the way and getting too close to finding answers.

Believe it or not Hidden Son is the author’s debut novel and it is fantastic. I cannot wait for the sequel! The characters, scenes, action, and faith-based novel will probably keep you turning pages and losing track of time too. The plot was rich as well as entertaining; I wanted to see the David in this book slay the Goliath with every page I turned. The suspense kept building as I prepared myself with what I saw would be a breakthrough or victory for the characters only to have the writer throw a curve ball and get me thinking about the plot’s direction all over again! Don’t miss this one!

My rating is 5+ stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review

are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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### **Dora Hiers says**

My summary~

When Special Agent Lelisa Desmond disobeys a direct command, her supervisor orders her to take a vacation to the Caribbean with her partner and long-time friend. During a dive, her scuba buddy turns up dead. Alec Dyer, Inspector for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, plagued by his daughter's unsolved disappearance almost two years ago and pestered by his ex-wife, isn't sure he believes Lelisa's claims of innocence, especially when crucial evidence she claims to possess disappears.

What I liked...

First off, what an awesome cover, don't you think? It sums up the tone for the story. The author kept me biting my nails with an intense forward motion, a well-developed plot, and towards the end, a totally unexpected twist. Each character was unique, flavorful and realistic. This is one of those books that will stick with me for a long time.

and not so much...

At times, the technical jargon was a bit overwhelming, heavier than I generally prefer to read, but I willingly waded through because I enjoyed everything else about the book. Take my advice and keep going. You'll be glad you did.

I felt the spiritual aspect of The Hidden Son was lacking and somewhat forced, almost like an afterthought. It didn't contain cuss words or bedroom scenes, but if you're a strict CBA reader, you may find this book tends to be a bit on the "fringe."

Overall...

A great debut novel by Dianna T. Benson! According to the author's website, she calls herself a "Thriller/ Adventure/ Suspense Author." I believe she delivered on all counts with The Hidden Son, and I look forward to reading the second book in the trilogy, Persephone's Fugitive, due out in July 2014.

Disclaimer: I purchased my copy of The Hidden Son from an author book signing event. The opinions expressed in this review are my own, and I received no monetary compensation.

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### **Chelsea Reid says**

It's easy to see how Dianna Benson's experience as an EMT carries over into The Hidden Son the constant adrenaline and never knowing what will come next have infused themselves into the style of her writing. She writes with an expertise of weathering suspense that can only come from one who is used to the peaks and

valleys of adrenaline rushes associated with emergency situations. She puts her characters through a lot, but in the end it's worth it to create such a thrilling novel.

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### **Shirley Brown says**

#### **Good Book**

Good book with a different story line. The story was very good, but I have to take off one star for the editing. Lots of errors in it.

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### **Donna (More Than a Review) says**

I immediately downloaded The Hidden Son after reading Final Trimester. I was not disappointed. It is a must-read for any avid suspense reader. I was hooked from the opening scene. My heart was beating fast—I felt myself dive into the story and couldn't put it down. Although The Hidden Son is Dianna Benson's debut book, you would not realize it from the engaging storyline, the details in the writing, or the edge-of-your seat suspense. Lelisa is a U.S. DEA agent who suspects her boss is trying to kill her because she will not bury evidence in a high-profile case. When her friend dies while they are vacationing on the Cayman Islands, Alec the local detective gets involved. Alec is not sure what to think of Lelisa and he knows she is not sharing everything she knows. Both characters are very likable. You want her to trust him but you totally understand why she doesn't after all that's happened. The secondary storyline of Alec's missing daughter of two years adds to the already fast-paced and intense drama. My favorite scene was when he found her magazine and her notes in it. There were at least two scenes where I was holding my breath from the intensity. Another reason I recommend this book for a book club discussion is the book's interesting discussion about what parents will do to protect their children and to what lengths they will go. I recommend reading The Hidden Son and Third Trimester in order to get the full impact of the characters. I highly recommend this book if you like action and suspense with a subtle dose of inspiration.

You can see my full review at More Than a Review dot com where I rate the level of sex, violence, language and drug/alcohol use in books.

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### **Vera Godley says**

My thoughts: I am simply amazed that a first published novel can be so enthralling, engrossing, engaging, and exciting as The Hidden Son is. Dianna T. Benson has taken us from the beauty of the Cayman Isles to the depths (pun intended) of diving into the devious and destructive world of murder and mayhem. We're speaking of hit men who are law enforcement officers and who are working at the beck and call of real power players in law enforcement.

Agent Lelisa is on the run to preserve her life and tagging along, much to her consternation, is Cayman Isles Inspector Alex. Who can Lelisa trust? Who can Alex trust? Can they trust each other? Where does all this murder and mayhem originate? Who is behind it all? What is behind it all?

Attempts on Lelisa's life get her running from the Caymans back to home in Raleigh, North Carolina. But is isn't easy. Trouble is following her and pursuing her. There is intense action in The Hidden Son and the story

is multi-layered. Inspector Alex is grieving the loss of his 16 year old daughter who went missing two years prior on his watch as detective at the FLPD. When he was removed from the force and the case he moved to the Caymans. Lelisa is grieving the loss of her friend and (sometime) boyfriend, Rick, who died in the diving accident at the beginning of the story.

This is a faith based story that does not preach. In crisis, Alex shares prayer and faith in God with Lelisa in a limited way. But it is effective. And then I especially enjoyed the EMT action in the story and know that the author is writing from her personal experience as an EMT herself. Benson has created believable characters and dialogue that smacks right at the heart of the story.

Since I'm from North Carolina, when they were running around Raleigh, Durham, and I-40 and I-440 I could envision the neighborhoods. I've shopped in Raleigh, worked and shopped in Durham. I could mentally visualize the chase. I've been to the hospital and walked its corridors. The author wrote beautifully of the Caymans and of North Carolina. (And yes, as Alex observes, North Carolina has lots of trees and flowers!)

I anticipate reading more from Dianna T. Benson as the other two books in this Cayman Islands Trilogy are released. It has been a pleasure to read this book and review it. I hope to be a reviewer for Dianna T. Benson in the future!

**DISCLOSURE:** I was provided an uncorrected ARC of *The Hidden Son* in exchange for my honest review. Opinions expressed are solely my own.

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### **Dee Mcrae says**

North Carolina is an unusual setting for books, but I thought that Dianna hit her descriptions spot on. The descriptions of the local scenery were highly accurate and I knew exactly where things were taking place-I'm still expecting to walk down the street and see Lelisa coming toward me any day now. The book itself was amazing, but I'm just blown away by the fact that Dianna seemed to capture my world and put people into it. This book is proof that the old advice "write what you know" really works, because she portrayed these communities perfectly.

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### **LLona Cunningham says**

Through the first half of the book I was thinking 5-star for the story and its characters -- Lelisa the DEA Special Agent mourning the death of her dive partner and suffering decompression sickness from trying to save him, and the handsome Royal Cayman Island Police Inspector Alec Dyer who sees Lelisa as a prime suspect. Early development of their characters and the potential relationship between them was great reading. But when the villain became more aggressive and the chase accelerated, the story seemed to lose control. Too much happened that didn't feel necessary (could have been a second book easily with further development of these characters).

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### **Suzanna says**

Received this book as a give away from GoodReads. Plot sounded good but there were issues with use of

proper tense in sentences, the believability of the scenarios and the almost passing reference to the power of prayer and belief in God that was tacked onto the end of the book. Author is familiar with EMT work but needs to do more research into Law Enforcement and what happens when an officer is removed from the job.

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### **Barbara Mason says**

When U.S. DEA Special Agent Lelisa Desmond refuses to follow an order to bury evidence in a high profile case, her superior inexplicably hires a hit man to kill her. Lelisa barely survives the first attempt on her life, but someone close to her is mistakenly murdered in her place.

I downloaded the book after reading the reviews and thought I was getting a good read. That didn't happen. It wasn't just the horrible editing, which had missing words, some half words, tons of power words that made no sense, punctuation marks in wrong places and the list goes on. A lot of words seemed to only be there as a filler. And religion popped up at weird points in the book. That was bad enough. The story was not believable, things happened that would not happen within a police force or government. One such incident without doing a spoiler: A rookie cop with a history of brain damage. They would have failed the physiological test alone. The characters were also not believable. One second they vow to totally trust the other, the next their thinking the other is betraying them. Short attraction scenes happened at unlikely times. I am truly trying to think of something good to say about this read, but it is hard. The first chapter was interesting but the story went downhill from there.

This could have been a good story, but it just did not happen.

If you can get past the bad writing, you might like the story but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone. I could not connect with this book at all. This is my personal take on the book. I would not put this Author in my list of people to read.

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### **Sam says**

In The Hidden Son, Dianna Benson has found a way to do something that many others cannot...she has found a way to create characters that are believable, because she portrays them as people would act in real life. The mindsets, actions, thoughts...everything is spot on and makes people understand what it's like to be each of these people. Benson captures her characters in a natural light...overall, a great read. I feel like I know these people!

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### **Cynthia says**

Since I listened to this and did not read it I didn't have the issues some posted about. The author may have fixed the issues they talked about. For me it was a very enjoyable audio filled with mystery, excitement and danger. Believable hum I am not sure some parts yes and others maybe not but it does give you a page turner full of excitement. I do not think I have ever seen a hitman with such bad luck lol.

I thought Mr. Hempel's narration was very good, his voice holds the emotion as the characters go through their day to day lives from fear to excitement. I had no trouble hearing Lelisa's fear of the unknown not knowing who to trust, where to go or what to do next. His male and female voices were very enjoyable. I do believe there was one place where the volume changed but there are no repeats of wording and no background noises. I thought he carried off each character and their demeanors very well. He really adds and

brings a lot to the story delivering a very clean and clean audio. I really enjoyed listening to Mr. Hempel's work and look forward to listening to more of it in the future.

I thought the author did a really good job in laying out the plot with excitement, danger, thrills and a few chilling scenes. When those you trust turn against you it is hard to put your trust in anyone. Finding out your friends, co workers want you dead is very shocking. Finding the man you have been dating, one that you trust for a long time died in your place is devastating as it goes on you wonder if he is in on bring you down. My mind is blowin away when you know you must get home to clear your name with a hit man hot on your kneels wanting you dead and a cop who wants answers and wants to know what you are hiding what is a girl to do but run for her life. At some point Lelisa going to have to trust someone but who? The cop from the islands is hiding something he isn't being up front, could he be out to killer her too? This was a fun and exciting read from the danger to the romance. Alec is one hot cop who has been to hell and back and will most likely revisit it before this story is over. The author gives you a story inside a story that really pulls you in with its mystery as well. The answer comes to you about the same time it does to Lelisa leaving you in shock wondering how anyone could be so cruel. The ending is wonderful maybe not so believable. It does leave you shocked and smiling at the same time. There are twists after twists in a dangerous game of hide and seek. Some will end up dead others will wish they were. All in all this was a very exciting read that holds your attention giving you a page turner you can't put down.

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### **Christina says**

Writers and aspiring writers alike will be green with envy at Dianna Benson's debut novel. The thrilling suspense that pulls readers through her pages like a magnet and keeps them guessing is prominent throughout the novel. The picturesque scenes flowed into one another, rivaling those in even some of the most polished authors' novels on the market today. The characters were brilliant and original, and their journey through an expertly-crafted world made *The Hidden Son* a joy to read.

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### **Kelly says**

I was given the audiobook free in exchange for an honest review.

I quite enjoyed the story, liked the twists and turns as it unfolded. From the Cayman Islands to Florida, to North Carolina and back again, this story was fast paced, intriguing and interesting.

I enjoyed the narrator's voice and delivery. I thought the characters were well developed. This is book one of a trilogy an I hope the next one is released soon.

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