



How Secrets Die

Marta Perry

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As Laurel Ridge embraces a stranger hungry for answers, a sinister truth is awakened

A hard-hitting reporter, Kate Beaumont unearths the deepest lies and brings harsh truths to light. But the story that lures her to the gentle town of Laurel Ridge, Pennsylvania, is closer to her heart than anyone knows. The details of her half brother's sudden death have never made sense. She owes him justice, yet the one man who can help her is the stubborn sheriff she can't stand.

Protecting his town is Mac Whiting's top priority. Everything else—including pacifying a beautiful crusader on a mission best left resting in peace—is secondary. But as Kate's search embeds her in his world and attracts a skilled criminal, she needs Mac's protection. Drawn together by deadly secrets, they must find a way to trust each other before a killer silences them both.

How Secrets Die Details

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Author : Marta Perry

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From Reader Review How Secrets Die for online ebook

Pamela Tracy says

I picked this one up at a convention; otherwise, I'd never have read book three because I always read in order, but hats off to Marta Perry because she did a good job of making it a stand alone as well as convincing as a reader that I need to go back and read books one and two.

I like the idea of a big sister taking the time to hunt for the truth concerning her little brother. And, I like how Perry made the small town welcoming yet dangerous. I liked the details and the pace.

As a journalist, I wondered why she didn't do a little more research into the town's people, but there was enough going on with the cop that it didn't stop me.

I figured out the bad guy early on.

Nicole says

I tried to listen to this on CD while I drove and after five of eight discs I couldn't take it anymore and gave it back to the library. I found the mystery slow and after a while didn't care what happened... had it been a book I might have flicked to the end but didn't bother to listen to the end disc. Most annoying to me was the two main characters of whom we constantly got to listen to their inner voice which was repetitive. The attraction was written full of lines like 'their eyes tangled' making my eyes roll.... needed to stop before I crashed.

Donna Hulsey says

This was a pretty good story. Kate Beaumont's half brother supposedly kills himself with a deadly cocktail of prescription painkillers and alcohol. She goes to where he died to investigate. Because of their close relationship she can't believe he killed himself. He had been clean and sober for 3 years.

When she starts asking questions, attempts are made on her life. Of course, there's a romance involved too. Anyway, the actual culprit was a surprise to me. Her brother was murdered by someone in the company where he was an intern.

Kristina says

I thought that this was a good book. it's the last of the series and I'll say that I'm a little sad to see everyone go. I like all of the characters. I look forward to reading more books by this author. I would recommend this book to others.

Mandi Schreiner says

I liked the small town feel and the cop hero and the mystery was okay too. Didn't love the heroine.

Review to come

Hilary says

[And the official (police officer) was not in denial, nor did he feel the urge to cover up any issues. (hide spoiler)]

Tina Watson says

"How Secrets Die" by Marta Perry, third book in the series, House of Secrets, I gave three stars because I felt the story didn't hold my attention like the other two books in this series did. The mystery unfolding as you read the story with victims falling at the hand of the predator.

Yes, this mystery story was different because this story the deceased had been buried for a year. Life events happened after Jason Reilley's suicide, now Kate Beaumont is in Laurel Ridge to get answers about her half-brother's death.

Will the small town of Laurel Ridge be able to give up its secrets?
Or will Kate fall victim herself?

"How Secrets Die" was easy to read. Marta Perry develops characters that come alive as you read the pages to her book. The details of the area the story takes place comes alive in your imagination. I liked how Marta approached the topic of suicide; it's not an easy subject to write about. Well done.

I received a free copy from NetGalley with the only request to write an honest review about the book. No money was exchanged. This is my review written in my own words.

Letia says

4.5 stars

Clare O'Beara says

Another interesting romantic suspense set in a town in Amish farm country, with a big house converted to a

craft centre at the focal point.

A man who was supposed to be a reformed addict but died of an overdose may have not died accidentally - that's what his journalist sister thinks. The town cop thinks she is just being nosy and trying to make her brother look better. But maybe there is more going on here than meets the eye. The mix of Amish and English characters is good and several interesting contrasts arise.

I downloaded a copy from Net Galley and I wrote an unbiased review.

Maureen Timerman says

Kate Beaumont does not believe her beloved brother committed suicide and has gone to Laurel Ridge, Pennsylvania, where his heart last beat, and try to put some meaning to his sudden death. This is the third book in the Laurel Ridge series, and it definitely can be read alone, but we are reunited with many of the characters that we grew to know from the previous books.

This story also focuses on Nat's brother Mac the Chief of Police, and we find out just how much he loves his hometown, maybe more than his growing feeling for Kate? Things rather go South for Kat, when she becomes a target, and it seems that someone wants her to leave town, or maybe more sinister, they want to kill her.

She is digging up secrets that some people in this town want left buried, and will do everything they can to make it so. Whom can Kate trust? It seems every time she goes someone or to meet someone something happens.

If you enjoy a good suspenseful mystery this one is right up your alley, a great summer read.

I received this book from the Publisher HQN books, and was not required to give a positive review.

Kav says

I could not put this book down! I was rabidly compulsive about reading to the end! And then I was frustrated when it was all over. LOL There's no pleasing a reader sometimes. How Secrets Die is the third and final book in the Laurel Ridge series and that fact right there makes me sad. :-(Luckily I'm still basking in the afterglow of a tale well told. And no worries if you haven't read the other two books, each works very well as a standalone. Mind you, I found it so much fun to be back visiting familiar characters in Laurel Ridge so that was an added bonus.

The romance is sensational. Tension explodes from the first time Mac and Kate meet -- and oh what a memorable scene that is! They are at odds with each other, often working at cross purposes as they strive to solve a mystery for different personal reasons. Mac is infuriated by Kate's stubborn determination. Kate is affronted by Mac's take-charge attitude. Their wary truce isn't always peaceful but the dynamics between these two is so much fun to read. And stew over.

Perry knows how to draw out a suspenseful plot. I thrilled every time I picked up on something I thought was significant and then writhed with anxious anticipation to see if I was right. A thrilling read from beginning to end.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

I just plain liked this book. I think it may have been a case of the right book at the right time, but I definitely found myself slipping into the book, and the world of Laurel Ridge, very easily. And I say this in spite of this book being the author's third trip to Laurel Ridge, after *Where Secrets Sleep* and *When Secrets Strike*, which I have not read and did not miss having read for the purpose of getting into *How Secrets Die*.

But I enjoyed this book so much that I plan to go back and read the first two.

How Secrets Die is a lovely small-town romantic suspense story. Reporter Kate Beaumont comes to Laurel Ridge to investigate the death of her brother the previous year. The local cops dismissed the case as an accidental death – a former drug addict who slipped off the wagon to an untimely end.

But Kate can't let it go. Her brother Jason had had some trouble, but he had been clean and sober for years, and was doing well in college and seemed to be doing well at his internship at a local financial firm. Kate is certain that something must have gone seriously wrong to drive Jason back to his old, bad habits.

After endless viewings of Jason's somewhat cryptic video journal, Kate just doesn't see what drove him off the rails and to his death. So she comes to Laurel Ridge to search for herself, and runs right into the local police chief, Mac Whiting.

Kate blames Mac for the quick dismissal of her brother's case. Mac is, at first, worried that Kate is just there to stir up trouble. But when that trouble strikes, Mac finds that he is just plain worried about Kate. And guilty that he didn't look deeper into the case at the time. Because when the attacks on Kate escalate, it becomes clear that there must be something he overlooked.

If the case were as open and shut as it initially appeared to be, no one would feel threatened by Kate's presence in town. But someone obviously is. And they'll stop at nothing to make sure that whatever secret Jason uncovered, it stays dead with him. And if necessary, with Kate.

Escape Rating B: As I said at the top, I just plain liked this book. I was in the mood for a relatively familiar type of story, one with likable characters and a few interesting twists, and *How Secrets Die* fit the bill.

And although the romance is quite lovely, this is a surprisingly clean book. The author does a good job of portraying the heat between Kate and Mac while giving them plenty of logical reason for not indulging in that spark at first, second or even subsequent involvement. This is a story where postponing the romantic payoff until the very end made sense. Also you might see this book billed as "Inspirational". After reading it, I can say that it does not fall into that genre. *How Secrets Die* falls squarely into romantic suspense.

Kate and Mac certainly have one thing in common – they are both dealing with a load of survivor's guilt. Kate's is pretty obvious from the outset – she feels guilty that she didn't notice her brother's cry for help. It isn't until well into her investigation that she starts to realize that she didn't respond because there wasn't one. He never knew how much trouble he was in until it was far too late.

Mac's heavy dose of guilt is both recent and long-term. As Kate shakes things up in Laurel Ridge, she often accuses him of being too protective of the local citizens to dive into things that need to be dove into. And she's right. He dismissed Jason's case much too easily, even though there were a whole bunch of loose ends that he never tied down. He knew too many people too well to question them the way he should have.

He also lives with an overwhelming need to protect his community, because he feels that he let so many people who depended on him down when he served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The people that he couldn't save haunt him.

Kate and Mac do not start from a position of trust. Kate doesn't much like cops – her stepfather was one and was a rigid taskmaster who insisted that his many rules be followed to the letter. While there was no abuse, there was also no love or respect. Instead, Kate found herself raising her younger half-brother, and trying to protect his very quirky nature from his by-the-book father.

While we never hear if Jason was diagnosed with anything in particular, it sounds like he might have been somewhere on the Asperger spectrum.

So the story in this romantic suspense story is Kate moving to Laurel Ridge to find out what happened to her brother. Along the way she falls for the police chief, who is tied to the community, while Kate plans to leave when her quest is over. Along the way they trip over several secrets that the owners would rather remain buried, and who would be happy to bury Kate right along with them.

At the end, the perpetrator finally reveals themselves in an attempt to kill Kate and cover their tracks one more time. And once we discover who it is, we see that it was obvious all along, but hidden just as well from the reader as from the community.

Heather Fineisen says

I like my mysteries with a little more grit to them. This was a perfectly good cozy mystery that kept me reading to the end. Although I did figure out the bad guy pretty quick, Perry develops her characters and leaves many to choose from without making it hard to keep up. This can be read as a stand alone but there are characters from the series who make appearances so knowing the history might enhance the enjoyment of reading this novel. There is a recipe for readers at the end. A success as a cozy mystery entry.

Provided by publisher

Pattisue says

Complex characters, mystery, intrigue, and danger kept my attention. Kate Beaumont returns to Laurel Ridge to learn the truth of her brother's death. Suspicion mounts as Kate searches for clues. Chief of Police, McKinley Whiting has his hands full trying to "keep Kate safe, keep the peace, and find the truth." Their romance builds gradually. "He maintained a careful balance between the grief and pain of the past and the duties of the present." This story discusses the topics of drug addiction and suicide. "After suicide...the victim ends his pain. But for the survivors, the pain is just beginning."

*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are uniquely my own.

Debbie West says

really enjoyed this series
