



## Concealed

*Victoria Michaels*

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## Concealed Victoria Michaels

Life has been complicated for Sydney Ross. Desperate for a new start, she leaves home but, during her travels, witnesses something that will forever alter the path of her life. On the run for the last six years, Sydney finds herself living the life of a nomad until she one day stumbles into a small town and hopes she's finally found a place to put down roots. With a good job in a local diner and, for the first time ever, friends who feel like family, things start looking up for Sydney. The biggest shock of all is catching the eye of the town's most eligible bachelor, the sexy sheriff, Wade Jenkins.

Sparks fly between them, and it's not long before Sydney believes Elton, Missouri could be the home she's always wished for. But Sydney's past and her secrets have a way of catching up with her. When a brutal murder shakes the small town, Sydney is terrified that the countdown has begun on her time in Elton.

Have the shadows from her past found her again? The people who mean the most want her to stay, but that would put everyone, including her daughter, at risk. Can Sydney put her faith in Wade or will she keep running from a danger that even she doesn't fully understand?

## Concealed Details

Date : Published December 10th 2013 by Crazy-Bee Press (first published December 9th 2013)

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Author : Victoria Michaels

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## From Reader Review Concealed for online ebook

### Michelle Kannan says

#### MICHELLE'S REVIEW

Dear. Sweet. Lord.

This book was so not what I was expecting it to be but it was SO DAMN GOOD.

This is definitely what I would classify as a romantic mystery and suspense novel.

There was some great moments of romance. You've got a wonderful Alpha male in Wade- the town sheriff and resident hottie. He's silent and brooding and just sex on a stick. And he's clearly interested in Sydney.

We meet Sydney in the prologue which starts right off the bat with a huge crazy scene. There is no way you won't get sucked in to this book.

But we don't really know where Sydney is coming from or what she's running from for that matter so she and her situation really remains a mystery.

Wade and Sydney both hold secrets. It's something they recognize in each other and see in each other and it seems to bind them. There are some sexy moments but really this book is more about their connection to one another and it's hard not to get swept up in it.

And then there is Faith, Sydney's adorable daughter. She is impossible not to fall in love with and I love the relationship she has with Wade.

When their small town starts to get shaken to the core by a series of murders, Wade gets over any reservations he has and makes sure Sydney knows she is getting his protection.

While their relationship grows, the mystery unfolds and there is no way you will ever expect half the things that happened. I literally spent the last 20% of the book like this:

And then when shit really hit the fan:

Just so so good.

There's just nothing about this book I didn't like. I loved all of the supporting cast. I thought the story was interesting from start to finish. I literally had no idea what to expect and every idea I had was totally wrong. It was just awesome.

I love these types of book and if you're like me and love a book that has equal parts romance and mystery then you really want to grab this one.

The epilogue was PERFECT. It was 100% realistic but it worked so damn well that I just wanted to stand up and cheer for the author!

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### **Lisa says**

What an edge of your seat kind of read. This is by far the best suspense/mystery/romance book I've read. I'm a huge fan of Victoria Michaels, and I have to say this book went and outdid the other two books she has published!!

The characters were perfection and amazing. I fell head over heels in love with Sydney, Agnes, Faith, Wade, and every other character who were a huge part of this story. Each character showed us how lucky Sydney was to have them in, not only her life, but Faiths as well.

The romance, suspense, and mystery in this story were outstanding! It made you constantly second guess yourself. It made you feel every emotion and fear that grabbed ahold of the characters. I think I may have gotten whiplash trying to decipher what would happen next. And that's what made me love this story oh so much.

I cannot wait to read more about all of the characters in this book. They made a home in my heart. Do yourself a favor and grab this golden token of a story up, and decor it like I did! 5 perfectly bright stars!!!

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### **Evette says**

Romance-check!

Suspense-check!

Beautiful woman with secrets-check!

Gorgeous law man-check!

Amazing, nosy friends-check!!!

This is my first book by Victoria Michaels and I am hooked.

Sydney is 18 years old when we meet her. On her own and terrified she has to make a split second decision. One that changes her entire life and starts her life on the run.

She lands in Elton, a very small town and quickly finds a home there. Her daughter Faith has a great school, and Syd's job allows her the flexibility needed to be a single mom. Once bodies start showing up Syd is sure she has to once again pick up and run. This time it is going to be hard to run. She has friends, her own made family and a new love in Wade the town's sheriff. She has a support system that she's never had or could have imagined. I definitely related to her mama bear protective nature for Faith. All of her decisions center on Faith. To be able to have safety and love is more than she believes she will have, so again and again she chooses safety.

Tara completely sucked- that is all.

Wade is swoon worthy. He goes against what he has always believed to get to the bottom of Syd's issues-falling so in love with her. Cause really – how much pie can one man eat?!?! Even better he falls for Faith and the ending was just so sweet.

Well written, had a brisk pace and truly romantic wrap up.

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## All Romance says

### MICHELLE'S REVIEW

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### **Lindsey says**

I've been a big fan of Victoria Michaels' writing for quite some time, so I was thrilled to hear that she was writing a third book! Her books *Boycotts and Barflies* and *Trust in Advertising* are two of my favorite books, and *Concealed* did not disappoint.

The cast of characters was such a fun one, and I enjoyed the antics and matchmaking of the townspeople of heroine Sydney and hero Wade. Elton sounds like such a great town with such great people, and it's the kind of town I'd love to live in.

Though *Concealed* has some wonderfully humorous and warm moments, at the heart is a romantic suspense/mystery.

I loved the relationship between the two main characters and the heroine's daughter. Wade was such a strong character, which I love to read about in books. He's not necessarily the most verbose of people, but you can definitely feel his strength of character in Michaels' writing. He's protective and patient and loving, and I thought he was the perfect complement to Sydney and her daughter. Sydney was such a great mother, and Faith, her little girl, was a sweetheart! She was definitely a scene-stealer, and I very much enjoyed reading about her.

The suspense/mystery of the story was very well written. I was so engrossed in what was happening that I wasn't able to put down the book, instead reading straight through to the end. The climax of the story was a complete twist that I didn't expect at all, which is always a great thing. I was on the edge of my seat and nervous and excited to see what would happen! The author did a great job of fleshing out the story and executed it very, very well.

This is a five star book to me, one I will surely be re-reading again and again; I definitely need to get myself a paperback copy to go on my bookshelf with the author's two other books!

I'd recommend *Concealed* to people who love a good romantic suspense book. There are threads of humor woven into the story as well, so those who like a bit of comedy should try it out. I think *Concealed* is a bit of a psychological thriller, too, so with so many different elements in this story, I think fans of really any genre would find this a great read.

This is just book one in a new series by Victoria Michaels, and I very much look forward to reading many more books by her in the future. Her books will always be an automatic buy for me.

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## **CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says**

This book started out really good, then the story just dragged on, then the end, for moi, was just okay.

It had me at the start, Sydney's character was easy to like. She has a mysterious past and she will do everything to protect Faith, her daughter. Trying to live a normal life until she feels a threat coming and she'll have to run again. I like Sydney, I get that she was young and she didn't know what to do but she did good with Faith. Crushing with the town sherriff, Wade, was cute!

Wade was a bit mysterious to start with, but when his mystery unravelled, I don't find it such a biggy really. But I find his showing interest and pursuing Sydney funny and hot.

I love Faith, the things a child would say, it was really funny. For me, she is an added bonus in the story.

The story really got me from the start. It's too bad I feel like it dragged after to lose my interest. The plot was interesting. The romantic factor was funny with all their friends helping them out. The little twist in the end was good but.....

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## **Lady Heather says**

2.5 Stars

The story/story-line was really good and I loved the twist at the end of the story (*didn't see that coming*), but unfortunately the writing was.. mheh.

A couple of times I was going to just put this book down because the author just kept repeating what the main characters (Wade and Sydney) were feeling and thinking ..*and it was always the same thing*.

I've mentioned this before in my reviews, but this is kinda a pet peeve of mine.

This story had a lot of potential, but I'm sad to say that it just wasn't my cuppa

and

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### **Jillian Stein says**

You can also find my review on my blog:

<http://www.read-love-blog.com/2014/02/02/concealed-by-victoria-michaels-review-blog-tour-stop/>

Concealed is the first book in author Victoria Michaels' Hidden series and a title I actually stumbled upon after a blog tour invite and it is truly a hidden gem and am SO glad I found it. I absolutely loved this book. Loved, loved, LOVED!

Sydney Ross has been on the run and looking over her shoulder for six years now and hasn't ever had a moment to feel at home. That was until she came here, to Elton Missouri. She has finally found somewhere where she can picture herself staying for the long term. People who treat her like family and that have embraced her. Her job at the local diner has given her friends she knows she would be able to count on when the chips are down. Her job has also given her the treat of seeing the sexy sheriff, Wade Jenkins, each and every day. Man, what Sydney wouldn't do for a chance with a guy like him. She knows it's safer for both of them to stay away from him but when the whole town points out that he has been coming to the diner for her, not just her pie, she starts to wonder if it could possibly work between them. Maybe she could finally leave her past in the past and get a chance to enjoy Wade and all he has to offer. After making her decision and just when things really heat up between them, her past comes slamming into her present with a murder and a clear message that she was in serious trouble. Would she ask the town of Elton, Wade, and her friends to risk everything to help her or would she pack up and run? Never has the decision been harder and never had so much been at stake.

Ok, so there's a big giant piece of this story that I cannot give away in this review and one that the whole story hinges upon....one that makes this story so freaking amazingly good. Sydney left home at a young age and hasn't looked back since. She hasn't been able to. She's a determined and strong willed gal with a smart head on her shoulders and a huge heart. I admired the steps she has taken to keep herself safe and somewhat happy. I was a nervous wreck for this poor gal for almost the entire book and felt as if I was right there next to her, looking over my shoulder as well. Luckily, she has sheriff Wade. Delicious, sexy, brooding, loyal sheriff Wade. I've read a whole lot of book guys and he ranks up there with my favorite. There is just something about him that had me swooning from the very beginning. He ends up being even more amazing than I could have imagined and the very end of this book had my crying happy tears.

The rest of the cast of characters is just as fantastic. The kind and caring diner owners, the feisty neighbor, Sydney's best friend....all of them played an important role and I so wish this was a town I wish I could go and visit.

The mystery surrounding Sydney is quite a doozy and I haven't read anything like it before. It made this story intense, emotional and nerve wracking and when I got to the end, oh so satisfying. Concealed is a story that will be staying with me for quite some time, it was that good.

Thank you, Ms. Michaels, for an amazing story. I will be eagerly awaiting the next chapter in this series!

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### **Tiffany says**

I was BEYOND THRILLED when I found out Victoria Michaels was going to write another book! ESPECIALLY because it was going to be a brand new genre for her! It did NOT disappoint. I mean, really! VM writes stories that keep you hooked from the very start! These characters pulled at my heart strings and the storyline took me for a loop! Lots of mystery, lots of secrets,...and plot twists! OH DAMN! I thought I was watching a movie rather than reading a book! LOVED! \*bows down\*

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## **Literati Literature Lovers says**

### Rosette's Review

Watch out world! Victoria Michaels has just written a gripping new thriller laced with a sizzling sweet romance worthy of a bestseller. She has dipped her pen into an ink bowl swimming in this dual genre, and she has clearly made her mark. I really am hoping that she continues this path in her writing career because I firmly believe that this is where her true strength lies. Don't get me wrong, I absolutely adored her past works. But the way she weaves a suspenseful thriller is unlike any of her past achievements.

The author instantly slams you into Sydney's world. She is running away from what the reader deduces to be a traumatic past, although the reader knows nothing about it at this point. Within the cornstalks that hails along the sides of the road there emerges a grizzly scene. Sydney steps out of her car to help a woman drenched in blood; her life, forever changed by the bundle the woman offers her as she lays on the ground bleeding. Inside the bundle is an infant. The woman appears almost crazed and insistent that Sydney leave with her child, because danger is close behind. Off in the distance a man is screaming, and Sydney realizes what she needs to do.

And this is just in the prologue!

Fast forward, several years later, and she is in a perfect little town. She dreams of finally taking root and never having to run away again. She aches for long lasting friendships, and perhaps even finding love. She wants to believe it all can happen in the small town of Elton. But her sole priority is protecting her child, even at the cost of her own happiness.

I highly recommend this book. Aside from the intriguing plot there lies secondary characters that are warm, yet full of mettle. Friends who have come to know Sydney have, within a few months, come to see her and her daughter as family. The story will twist and turn, and just when you think you know what's going to happen, the author slaps you with a killer ending.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the beautiful cover. It is both chaotic and curious, and out of the ordinary. Much like Sydney's life. I love the fact that the cover does not follow the trend of current covers. It shows how art can be displayed quite nicely in front of a novel.

Make sure to follow this new venture by Victoria Michaels. It's a wild ride you won't want to miss.

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## **GraceMyBookSnack says**

**Keeps your heart racing from beginning to end!**

WOW!!! I have enjoyed Victoria Michaels' contemporary romances. I've been waiting for her to release something new, and I was ecstatic to find out *Concealed* is a romantic-suspense/thriller, which is one of my favorite genres. *Concealed* absolutely gripped me! I was pulled in immediately in the prologue, and my heart kept racing until the very end!

I love how the romance in *Concealed* is slow, simmering, and butterfly-producing. Sydney finds herself smitten with the small town of Elton with its handsome sheriff smitten with her! The connection between Sydney and Wade is written with charm and ease. Just thinking of their first kiss makes me all giddy! I love it when an author makes me feel that way, don't you?

*Concealed* has everything that I want in a mystery thriller. There's a good reason why Sydney has been on the run, and the suspense kept my rapt attention page after page. The characters are all so likeable and well developed. The people Sydney works with are sincere and fun. Her neighbor is just full of awesome. Sydney's daughter is the cutest little thing. I ended up caring about them all! Plus, the pacing of the story is perfect and there were twists that I didn't see coming...goodness!

If you're looking for a nail-biting, romantic thriller, I highly recommend *Concealed*. I consider this Victoria Michaels' BEST work thus far!

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### **Margreet Asselbergs says**

<http://ripeforreader.blogspot.ca/2014...>

My rating: 4 of 5 ??

Sydney has had to transition from teen into adult at a moment's notice, and has managed pretty well, considering she has had no one to turn to or lean on. But she is living in a constant state of fear, always poised to run at the slightest sign of danger. That's why she is slow to make connections, it's a miracle she has lasted as long as she has in Elton. But she loves it there, loves working at the diner for the couple that has taken her in without too many questions. She also has no objection to the almost daily visits from the town's favorite eye-candy - Sheriff Wade Jenkins - even though he turns her into a rambling fool. No, she really doesn't want to have to pack up and go again this time.....it wouldn't just break her heart, but her daughter's as well.

Wade has been observing Sydney's movements around the diner for quite a while and it isn't just her looks that draw him in. She seems open and happy, easily socializing with the customers while carrying out her job, making everyone feel welcome. He can tell she has a story though, she is jumpy at times and is obsessively protective of her daughter. After having been burned some years back, Wade has made it a point to keep any dating to a minimum, and even then to take it outside the reach of the town's grapevine. The insistent matchmaking of a mutual friend finally dissolves Wade's hesitance to approach Sydney, but just as he is making some headway getting to know her a little better, his full attention is needed on his job.

The small town of Elton is reeling with the news of the violent murder that took place, but no one is as

terrified as Sydney. When the investigation turns up some evidence that may well link back to her, she is convinced that somehow her past has caught up with her and she is primed to run once again. But Wade catches on and before she has a chance to take off, he needs her to come clean about her past. It is the only way he can keep her safe and bring the killer to justice. It is up to Sydney to either put her faith in Wade for whom she has developed feelings, or whether to spend the rest of her life on the run.....

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I'm excited!! A new romantic suspense series with some steamy heat?? Hell yeah...I'm all in!

Not necessarily Victoria Michaels' regular fare, she does a fabulous job on this genre. The Prologue immediately sucks you completely in... It's quite a jump from there to Chapter one, about five years, but an understandable leap when you take in the entire story. From the rather shocking prologue, we move into a much slower pace, slowly getting to know the two main characters and their supporting 'cast' while also getting a feel for some underlying unease that is slowly bubbling to the surface. The story builds toward an action-filled climax with an interesting and unexpected twist at the end.

Paranoia rules Sydney's life and although understandable, it is also not something she can keep up forever. Still, it is a little frustrating to see how difficult it is for her to open up to people who have done nothing but show their support without asking her for any explanations, trusting HER at face value. For someone so young, she has been very resilient, dealing with what she has been through all these years. A strong character.

Sadness clings to Wade, and he has allowed it to become a bit of a wall for him. His feelings for Sydney seem to be the one thing that has prompted him to stand up for himself a bit in terms of his past. A rather private man who doesn't seem to share much of himself, stays primarily in his professional role. Sydney seems to be able to bring him out of his shell.

The entire middle 'courtship' phase of the story could have moved a little more. It seemed to drag a bit in comparison to the beginning and the end of the story, and it felt a bit like shifting from high to low, straight back into high gear, skipping middle all the way through.

Nonetheless, a book I would recommend as a good, solid and compelling read, with suspense, action, romance and some steamy moments, later in the story.

?A stirring, clever and sultry tale with a chilling twist.?

\*\*ARC provided in return for an honest review.\*\*

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## **Court says**

I reviewed this at MustReadBooksOrDie with my friend Shelley!

Shel: I am thrilled that we created space in our calendar for this book. We both knew that we liked Victoria Michaels from the other two works she's published and the synopsis for this book sounded way too good to pass up. Trust us...DO NOT PASS THIS UP. Court: I think it says a lot that we are 3/3 reading for her + loving it. So, if that isn't a good endorsement then I just don't have anything, lol.

Shel: The prologue grabs your interest and then you arrive 6 years later and begin to piece together Sydney's story through her viewpoint, Wade's viewpoint and the ever wise and funny commentary from Agnes, Cara and Pete. Before you can really get the full story of how Sydney arrives in Elton, you find yourself sucked into the flirty and awkward moments between Wade and Sydney. You find yourself rooting for them to talk, go on a date...ANYTHING because it just seems like it would be awesome between these two. Court: It went from "OMG, what" to seriously adorable banter and back and forth between Sydney and Wade. He is the written definition of hottie in a uniform, and she has her reasons for not admitting that she likes him...but I was so ready for them to get together! The story progresses really well, and like Shel said, it did not take long for the hooks to get in us for this one!

Shel: The thing that makes this novel different from your standard romance is the events that cause Sydney, Wade, and the entire town to be on high alert. Bad things happen. Things get tense. Sydney gets nervous and you just want her to tell Wade or Agnes or someone her secret so that she can get help. EEEEP! Court: She is a VAULT! (Omigosh, she can compete with Shel on that front =P lol.) I was impressed by the thriller element to this story as well as the lighter romance (sexual tension, anybody...the wait may almost kill you!) and I spent the majority of the book wondering how on earth she was going to pull it off. I can say that she 98% did...there are only a couple of questions that I am left with at this point, but I didn't get detailed by that too much.

Shel: I was interested from start to finish in this novel. The details come out in drips and drabs and so you keep turning pages to find out what you'll discover next. I was not disappointed and cannot wait to see where she takes this series. Court: I am very interested too...I wonder what will come next!

Shelley: 4 Stars

Courtney: 4 Stars

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### ♥?Melanie says

5 Fan-fucking-fastic Stars \*\*\*\*\*

Victoria Michaels has written a beautiful, thrilling, captivating and amazing book. Once I started reading this book, I could not put it down. I loved all the characters and their parts in the story. Wade and Syd at perfect for each other. This book had everything in it from humor, romance, sexiness to revenge, murder and action. This book is a must read.

I am so looking forward to more books from Victoria Michaels soon I hope. Love all her books!!

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### Emily says

Sydney Ross has lived through more than someone at her age should. Now fleeing and trying to find a new life, she ends up in a situation no one would ever believe. On the run for six years she has relocated to a small town in Missouri with her young daughter. For once Sydney feels safe and has caught the eye of Sheriff Wade Jenkins.

If there is one thing Wade can't tolerate it is liars. He knows Sydney is hiding something, but what? When it

appears Sydney is at the center of a mystery he is trying to solve he pushes her for the truth, will Sydney's admission tear them apart?

This had quite a few turns to it. I loved her neighbor, she is a bit of a handful and teaches Sydney's daughter quite a few things. Sydney is an innocent, she is attracted to Wade but is not quite sure how to act on it plus she is harboring a secret that could have him hating her in return. Great read.

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