

Into the Blackness

Norma Jeanne Karlsson

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Cease being everything you're trained to be in order to find who you're meant to be...with.

Nick Cooper is many things in life. He's a vicious enforcer for a crime family. He's a monster that tortures with a smirk tattooed on his lips. He's an olive-skinned god, mysterious and captivating. He's the best undercover field agent in the Domestic Crime Agency. He's my partner for the next year. I have to play his wife which will test my abilities as an agent. Nick isn't the type of man I'm used to dealing with. He'll push me, tempt me, hurt me and eventually end up on the business end of a weapon I'm wielding. This mission will change everything I've ever known about people and myself. I can only hope I'll survive it.

Katherine Russell is many things in life. She's a chameleon, able to change and adapt to any situation. She's lethal...as lethal as me. She's a golden-haired ray of sunshine. She's the best field agent the Domestic Crime Agency has ever had. She's my partner for the next year. No, she's my wife. There are worse things in life than sharing a fake marital bed with a gorgeous woman for a year. Trust me. Kat's more than a beautiful woman though, and I have the feeling she's going to challenge me, battle me, infuriate me and test all the walls I've spent a lifetime building around myself. Our mission is to find and eliminate a human trafficking kingpin. It'll be child's play compared to the journey my new partner is going to take me on. If I can manage to shed the monster of my past I'll no longer be pulled into the blackness. I'll be able to bask in the light that glows from every pore of Katherine Russell.

If only it were that simple.

Into the Blackness Details


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From Reader Review Into the Blackness for online ebook

Deb says

Holy Hotness!!! This series is for *CONTEMPORARY* *FICTION* *READERS*

Gorgeous Alpha men & strong sexy women, mostly who are Irish-American, what's not to love!!! ... This is another 5 star must read as were books 1,2 and 3 in this fantastic series :) ... I have NEVER before found a new author that I had become addicted to right from the beginning of the first book of hers that I had ever read :o ... Each book is just as good as the previous one if not better :) ... *I do strongly recommend *reading them in order* to know the back story and to keep up with the reappearing characters & relationships that you will wish you could actually be a part of!... This 4th book was just as fresh and riveting as Books 1,2 & 3 :) ... Each book was never repetitive or predictable like other series I've read before and had so many twists & turns to keep you invested and the pages turning!!... I am anxiously (and impatiently ;) awaiting book #5 in the Fall!!

PS- I recommend this series be read in order :) Only for avid fans of:
CONTEMPORARY *FICTION* *READERS*

This book & series is Romantic Suspense at it's best! - Nothing is based on real life and should not be compared to real life... I read FICTION to escape real life :)

Karen Szakelyhidi says

Was given this for a review was a little lost as I hadn't read the other books but was easy to figure it out, really enjoyed this book will be getting the others to start from the beginning after Christmas. This book was really good!!

Nick Cooper is many things in life. He's a vicious enforcer for a crime family. He's a monster that tortures with a smirk tattooed on his lips. He's an olive-skinned god, mysterious and captivating. He's the best undercover field agent in the Domestic Crime Agency. He's my partner for the next year. I have to play his wife which will test my abilities as an agent. Nick isn't the type of man I'm used to dealing with. He'll push me, tempt me, hurt me and eventually end up on the business end of a weapon I'm wielding. This mission will change everything I've ever known about people and myself. I can only hope I'll survive it.

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Jennifer Hines says

I received this book free from the author in exchange for an honest review

Kat's a chameleon, always having her mask in place when needed, problem is her new partners can see every time she wears it and he doesn't like it one bit. Nick wants to see the real her, not the face she hides behind.

"Katherine Russell is stunning, smart, funny, deadly and getting' ready to share a bed with you for the foreseeable future. You got nothing to say about that other than she's good at her job? Either you're gay or blind," Jakes says pointedly.

Kat is scary good at turning off her emotions to get the job done, but when she's introduced to her "nephew" and then he brings home a few "strays" her mask disappears, the ice surrounding her hearts melts, and all she can think about is how much she loves and wants to protect those boys.

Nick had one love, he lost her when he was but a boy, only to find her again many years later under the cruelest of conditions, though Shannon Kelly has her own knight in shining armor, but that doesn't mean they aren't still the closest of friends. It's time for him to find his own happiness and damn if he doesn't find it in his new partner, Kat.

"I've broken my favorite new toy from playing with it too much like an over eager five-year-old on Christmas."

Undercover and unable to keep their personal emotions at bay Kat and Nick will learn the meaning of family. They will do damn near anything to protect the new family they've created, even if it jeopardized the op. Something's are just more important.

"Please don't call me Aunt Kat. It sounds like the name of some old lady's dead cat that she's had stuffed after it died and still shares her meals with," Kat explains seriously.

I really enjoyed how protective the boys were of Kat and Nick. Jake, Dane, Cole, and Sawyer not only stand up for each other, but also their parents. Their stories are sad and every mothering instinct I have tells me I would have done the same thing as Kat in every scenario.

Into the Blackness was a fantastic read. I absolutely love this series. For anyone who wants to be pulled into a story with corruption, greed, torture, heroes who never back down from a fight, family, humor, and sex this is the series for you.

My Favorite Laughable Moments: I loved every time Dylan "Kel" did or said something to Kat to get even with Nick. Payback can be hilarious when it involves two very jealous alpha men. It's even funnier when all of Shannon's boys get in on it.

"You're gonna lose that fuckin' arm, O'Sullivan," Nick growls from behind us.

"Just keepin' her warm for you," he purrs back suggestively, causing me to roll my eyes dramatically.
"Dangerous thing leavin' a pretty single woman like this around."

My Favorite Moment: There are so many great moments in this book. I absolutely loved it when Kat avenges what was done to Sawyer. But my all-time favorite has to be the ending. A special surprise that'll pull at your heartstrings.

Eva (Romance2Review.com) says

There were a lot of things about this novel I really liked. The dialogue was well written, and the character development was outstanding. I really felt like you knew all the characters on a personal level. The plot however, was a little scattered. It just didn't feel realistic. I liked the original foundation of the plot. Two clandestine operatives are assigned on an undercover op, they fall in love, ect... The progression was where it hit a speed bump for me with the illogical turn of events.

As for the main characters I loved Nick even though he had a bad habit of putting his foot in his mouth at the worst possible times. I have a certain affection for dark haired, blue eyed hunks. Kat Russell was also likable if not a little overly dramatic at times. She was fierce and protective of those she loved while also able to show some vulnerability. Jake was probably one of my favorite characters of the book, and I kept wishing for a little more of him. I guess I will have to read his story next.

This is the first Norma Jeanne Karlsson novel I've read and I enjoyed it. Was it one of my favorites? No. But I will probably surf around and read a couple more of her novels. I tend to read some series in my own sort of order. Usually starting with the one with the most intriguing plot. I would definitely recommend this book because overall I liked it.

Check out more of my reviews on my blog romance2review.com

Sparkymom says

Absolutely loved it!

This series gets better and better as each book comes along. I have loved Nick throughout the series and was hoping to see him get a chance to prove his worthiness to be a part of Shannon's family. He certainly did that with this book. I can't believe how perfectly Kat matched just what he needed. I loved her super hard softness. As always in this series, the blackness was there in spades. I sometimes can't believe the directions these stories take. I love never knowing what to expect.

Kat and Nick are thrown together as strangers playing husband and wife on a long term op. They also take Jake, a new 18 year old recruit, with them as their fake nephew. After Jake's first day back in high school, the couple acquire 3 more teens who have basically been abandoned. They begin to form a very close if non-traditional family while waiting on their very slow moving op to develop any leads. Along the way, Kat reveals both her emotional teary side and her fierce mother bear inside. Nick finds his inner caveman and screws things up but also uses it to protect the family he grows to love and wants to keep despite how it affects his career. When events in the teens lives and events on the op begin to heat up, the family is tested to its limits. Can I just say that was a price of glory but ingenious writing. I'd love to give more details, but I'm not a fan of spoilers. Read it and see. It was amazing!

J says

DNF at 77%. This book started off great. An undercover op against human trafficking where the two main characters are posing as a married couple and then actually fall in love in real life. But then it takes quite a dark turn and now we have our lead characters tearing finger nails off suspects. Sorry, I don't need to read in my romance books what I'm beginning to see every day on my TV screen. Plus there were a few things that happened that just seemed implausible so I have given up. Sorry.

Pam says

Nick has done a lot of bad things in his life. He has a darkness inside him that he can't let go of. His newest assignment is to bring down a human trafficking kingpin. He is going undercover with a fake wife. While he is the best Domestic Crime Agency undercover field agent, he is paired up with Katherine who is the best female field agent. This is the best undercover act they have had. She is used to playing a sexy woman who has to use her body to get close to a mark. He is used to being a dark person who has had to do horrible things to get what he needed. As they play as a married couple that part should be easy. However as they live together and get to know each other it's hard to keep it just an act. She may be the one woman who can bring him what he needs. He may be the best thing that every happened to her. Between the danger they face on the mission and mistakes he sometimes makes it may be to much for them to work out.

Nick has a lot of dark and danger lurking in him. he calls his self a monster and doesn't get to close to many people. He doesn't think he deserves anything good. He is tough, sexy and just doesn't see what is deep down inside him. What is deep down inside him is a man who will protect those he cares about. He has one close friend and he would move mountains for her. Kat is a amazing at playing a different person than who she is. She keeps her heart closed and this mission changes her. She let's Nick and others in. She isn't afraid of danger and like Nick if she loves you nothing will stand in her way of protecting you.

This series has become one of my favorites along with the author who is a must buy for me. I have loved all the other books so far so I knew I would this one. I just didn't think I would enjoy it as much as I did. Kid is a female in the other books and she plays a part in this one as well. I didn't think any woman would ever top my love of her. I believe Kat did. She isn't as hardcore but when she takes in strays as some may call them that did it for me. She is so amazing and I think I have a crush on her now. She is the perfect woman for Nick and she mostly puts up with the crap he pulls. With Nick it was nice seeing him become more open. He learns what it is to care for someone and need them in his life. He has to see he isn't a monster and he deserves happiness. There is lots of danger in this book as in the others in this series. There is love, lust and what a family bond really is. the author is a master at making characters seem real and getting you to fall in love with them. At times reading this I felt like my heart was being ripped from my chest. I fell in love not with just the two main characters but four other new ones as well. I love how it all seems to come back around in the end and getting to see the characters I already know and love. I would tell and beg everyone to read this series. It has hard scenes so if your looking for fluff this book isn't for you. I can not wait for the next book.

Fiona says

4 stars

There was a lot I loved about this book and yet there were some aspects that didn't really gel for me. This is the 4th book in the Blackness series and only my second read from this author (so far). I read and loved the previous book (Shrouded in Blackness, book 3) and although I really liked this book it didn't make as much of an impact as book 3. Unlike the previous book, it took me a few chapters to really get into the story. The lengths Kat took to secure her mark didn't sit well with me but the author did a good job of weaving this into the romance. Both MC's were very likable and I was rooting for them throughout the book. I do love this authors writing style! It's very engaging with a lot of humor and witty dialogue. I have to say that Ms Karlsson knows how to write some great secondary characters too! I fell in love with the secondary characters just as much as I did the MC's - a ragtag group of friends who ultimately became one big happy family. There were times when I thought situations were a bit far fetched, both MC's were agents undercover as husband and wife with another teen agent playing their nephew. It seemed to me like they all settled into to their role a bit too quickly and the line between reality and play acting was blurred, and for two of the greatest agents in the DCA it should have been easier to distinguish between real feelings and those felt due to constant contact in close vicinity. This wasn't a major problem, the writing style was awesome enough that I found it believable. There were some issues that were resolved way too conveniently, such as the boys adoption and solving their undercover op - I wish these were a little bit more fleshed out. This book was written well, a definite improvement from the last book, POV's were easier to follow and the timeline was clearer. There was some drama (I love a groveling H), some suspense/action and a lot of HOTness during the smexy scenes. I loved that there were some cameos from previous MC's especially from Kieran. Ultimately a great and enjoyable read and I can't wait to read Jakes (& hopefully Caras) story - expected winter 2014. I highly recommend this book (series) to those who love a possessive alpha male, a strong heroine, awesome secondary characters and HEA. Standalone. No cheating. Looking forward to the next Blackness release out in a few weeks!

Dora Koutsoukou says

4,5 ?????s ?!!!!!!!

Nerdy Chic says

Into the Blackness is Book 4 in The Blackness series and actually the first book I read by this author and the series. After having finished the book, I'm definitely one clicking the rest. I also had to remind myself while reading this that the agency they work for has their own set of rules that they play by and nothing gets in the way of what needs to be done.

Katherine "Kat" Russell and Nick Cooper work for the Domestic Crime Agency (DCA) and are two of their top agents. They are assigned to pose as a married couple, raising their nephew Jake (another DCA Agent), to infiltrate a human trafficking organization that is being run out of a suburban neighborhood called Maybelle. Seems easy enough until they learn how long the operation itself might take and how deep undercover they must go.

As Kat and Nick integrate their lives into Maybelle and Jake pretends to be high school student, he makes friends with some of the boys in the neighborhood. They quickly realize that the kids are emotionally and physically abandoned by their parents and take them into their own home, essentially adopting them. Kat and Nick begin to love the kids as their own and start having feelings for one another.

"Group hug," Cole bellows and runs into the room followed closely by Dane and Jake. The three take the remaining open parts of her body and squeeze the hell out of her until she giggles.

Human trafficking takes a little bit of a step back and the story focuses on them becoming a family for about half the book. This didn't really bother me because I started falling in love with the family dynamic of the story. We get a bit of Nick's back story of how he believed himself in love once to his now best friend, how Jake has had trauma in his past that made him join the DCA straight out of High School and how Kat's last Ops have hurt her.

This was a fun, sexy, sweet, touching and towards the end, quite thrilling read and I can't wait to read more. I'm so looking forward to Jake's story.

Lisa Zeigler says

This is the 4th book of The Blackness Series. Kat Russell is an excellent field agent for the Domestic Crime Agency and has just ended an op that was a soul crusher. She has had to use her mind and body too much on her missions. When she returns to the office for her next op, she meets Nick Cooper. We first saw Nick in Blackness Awaits, who knew Shannon for a short time in her childhood, and again when she needs rescuing 22 years later. He spent ten years as an enforcer for his Uncle, well known for his cruelty in obtaining information, all the while as an undercover agent.

Nick and Kat are instructed to work as a husband and wife team to find some human traffickers. Jake, new to the agency and to the training, is selected to act as their teenage nephew. They move to a small town, where most of the women act as if they are 'Stepford Wives'.

As Jake starts school, he becomes friends with Sawyer, Dane and Cole and invites them home. Kat takes on Jake and the boys as if they are her own, feeding and supporting them, and showing them all a love they've never known. The three boys come from wealthy families who leave them with staff and don't even contact them for long periods of time. Kat finds this repugnant and lets the boys live with her, Jake, and Nick.

The interactions between the four boys, Kat, and Nick are such a wonderful part of the story. They spend time with each other, and they all adore 'Aunt' Kat. Nick finds himself slowly losing part of the harshness from his life and becoming more caring. The boys offer Nick and Kat sunshine, after living with such darkness, but having any personal emotions on an op make it more dangerous.

We see that Jake has horrible screaming nightmares but can't talk about his childhood and what causes such terror. I saw his name mentioned for book #6, so I'm sure that one is going to be a tear-jerker when we find out his history.

We get to see Shannon again from the first books, and she's as kick-ass as usual. She jumps right in to help and doesn't hesitate to tell Nicky or the others when they are messing up.

Nick tells Kat that he runs things for the mission and she will have to follow his orders. She's not happy with this aspect since she has worked on her own for so long. She has lived with a mask to cover her real thoughts and emotions when working on ops and Nick is furious when she won't give him all of her, without the mask. These two spend a lot of time in the story being close and then Nick makes Kat furious. Nick has loved his friend Shannon for so long but now finds that Kat has a place in his heart and needs her sweetness and softness in his life. He tells Kat, "If we do this, it's my way and I don't f@ckin' share. You're mine. I don't think I need to explain this to you, but I need to know you get how I work. I know that's intense, but that's me."

This op is expected to take a year due to trying to fit in with the town inhabitants and determine who could be a part of the human trafficking ring. Kat, who is used to being active, finds herself at loose ends. They are provided with an enormous house, expensive clothes with specific directions on when to wear, and all Kat wants is some loose comfortable clothes. She does love to cook so she keeps Nick and the boys happy with all of the amazing meals. They joke about trying to keep four teenage boys fed.

The story is riveting from so many directions, finding more bits of information about the traffickers, along with guns, torture, killings, and more. Nick feels the monster within beginning to wake and he feels the need to torture after finding the first person involved with the trafficking. I could see Shannon offering to deal with the person but Kat surprised me with the intensity of her skills to obtain information. I could just visualize the things done and they fit the storyline. Nick lets the monster out one more time to tie up some loose ends with some horrible criminals and I was happy with the outcome! I've seen local news stories on people that have lived undercover for long time periods and also read other books prior to this one. I can't imagine how the people manage to keep themselves sane with the way they have to live. I would imagine that the longer the time undercover, the harder they become. It's unfortunate that some crimes can only be handled by such actions. I feel for the police and agents in this capacity, which is similar to the military dealing with stress in their environments.

There is also so much love and laughter with the boys, and sweet and sexy times between Kat and Nick. This book covers a wide range of emotions and I went from teary to laughing throughout the story. When a young girl has escaped and Kat finds her, the boys provide her with comfort and stay with her. The story is reminiscent of when Kavy, Sully, and Cally protected Shannon/Kid when she was assaulted after they first met.

After an amazing, emotional story, Nick realizes that Kat provides him with a light that he was afraid to live in and now can't live without. "There's no blackness defining me anymore, only light that I've found and built on."

As with the other stories in this series, my Kindle was almost on fire as I swiped quickly to read each new page. Ms. Karlsson takes you on a ride and all you can do is hang on, laughing, cheering, and sometimes crying all the way. You continue to find in this series that family isn't only through blood, but family of the heart.

I look forward to more of this series and the characters that continue to become a part of my life. Ms. Karlsson has again written a captivating story and while parts are definitely dark, there is plenty of love and light to enjoy.

Michele(mluker) Luker says

Can the Blackness series get any better? Ah, yeah. It's mind boggling how it is even possible, but this is one series that keeps growing with intensity with each new member of Shannon aka Kid's family.

Nick Cooper has a special spot in Shannon's heart. He is the only tie left to her childhood. Into the Blackness is Nick's story.

Masters in their field, Nick and Kat are thrown together for a year long mission for the DCA to take down a human trafficking ring. Both have experience in being undercover for long periods of time for nailing their targets, however Nick has the longest run of ten years undercover. They pose as a family, with Jake, a DCA rookie, posing as their fifteen year old son.

I can't shout out enough to the universe how much I love this series. Each character is strong, bad-ass and loving hard. Nick has a blackness around his heart, however, with Shannon's unconditional love and friendship, she has gradually started to pick it away, with Kat coming in with a jack hammer to destroy it to the ground.

This story really threw me, I never expected the direction it went. It is just another example how a family can form without the blood ties normally considered for that family bond. I truly think that is what has totally drawn me to this series. It sure wouldn't be the hot and steamy scenes. (wink-wink)The attraction between Nicky and Kat are undeniable, even when they are mad at each other. hmmm, which makes the make-up SO much better. Of course, our favorite characters keep making their appearance, it wouldn't seem the same without them, however it doesn't draw attention away from Nicky and Kat at all.

Of course the plot is amazing, with tons of action and twists. You will fly through this story, and will be frustrated in a good way for the next novel to make its appearance. Good thing you can always reread!

READ THIS SERIES! If you want strong women, hot guys, and amazing plots, look no farther. It's all right here.

Leslie Clifford says

Katherine Kat Russell and Nick Cooper were working for the Domestic Crime Agency better known as the DCA. Their assignment should be easy. Pose as husband and wife and infiltrate a human trafficking organization that is being run out of a suburban neighborhood. Along with Jake, another DCA officer, posing as their nephew, Kat and Nick begin to fit in with the neighbors but discover that while everything appears perfect on the surface there are several neglected kids that live in the neighborhood. They invite these boys to live with them. Being a mom brings out the softer side of Kat and the protective side of Nick. Their assignment has now become not so easy or strictly professional either. Kat and Nick begin to develop real feelings for each other and attempt to turn this fake family into a real one. When a request from the DCA aimed at Kat is discovered then all bets are off. Kat feels betrayed and pulls away from everyone including Nick. Can they go back to working together for the sake of the assignment or has the DCA finally asked for too much? This is my favorite book in the Blackness series. The story was full of drama and suspense and you might think you know how it is going to turn out but you cannot imagine the twists and turns. I hope there are several more stories to come in this series.

Kyla Quinn says

I was gifted this book for an honest review. I've not read the other 3 books that came out before this one. So I had no idea what this series was about before reading this, but I will say it did not disappoint! You will be a little lost from the back story but the author does a good job filling in the blanks so you know what's happening and can kinda piece it together for yourself.

Kat and Nic work for the Domestic Crime Agency. Kat has finished an assignment where she had to use her body to help her get further in her mission. Nic was on an assignment and undercover for his family for years. But now both assignments are done they are now going on an assignment together as a married couple while looking for a human trafficking ring. Kat has to become a Stepford Wife. And they have a son as well, a pretend son. Jake, who is also a field agent that looks alot younger than he is is enrolled in the local high school.

As they start to interact together all 3 become close. Jake makes friends at school who have problems with there own parents. Parent's who can't be bothered to even be in their children's lives! Kat and Nic fall in love with the boys as well and decide they want to adopt them.

This story is really well written and keeps your attention. I honestly can't wait to read the other books! Especially the next one about Jake!

Jamie C says

Loved it!!
