



Sleep with the Lights On

Maggie Shayne

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Through the eyes of a killer...

Rachel de Luca has found incredible success writing self-help books. But her own blindness and the fact that her troubled brother has gone missing have convinced her that positive thinking is nothing but bull.

Her cynicism wavers when a cornea transplant restores her sight. The new eyes seem to give her new life, until they prove too good to be true and she starts seeing terrifying visions of brutal murders - crimes she soon learns are all too real.

Detective Mason Brown's own brother recently died, leaving behind a horrific secret. In atonement, Mason donated his brother's organs, though he's kept the fact quiet. Now he wants to help Rachel find her brother, but when he discovers the shocking connection between her visions and his own brother, he suddenly has to do everything in his power to save her from a predator who is somehow still hunting from beyond the grave.

Sleep with the Lights On Details

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From Reader Review Sleep with the Lights On for online ebook

Tristyn says

Okay, look. I am clearly working from a certain bias, because I work in eye surgery. But if you also work in eyes? Don't read this.

I'm 25% of the way in, and I just can't any more. I managed to swallow the "unwrapping the layers of gauze from the eyes" bit (after a DSEK you get plastic patches taped on over gauze pads, there's no movie-drama moment there). I ignored that she was sitting up in bed the next morning, waiting for said gauze to be removed (...no. With DSEK, there's an air bubble injected to physically push the Descemet's layer against your own corneal tissue, and you have to lay flat as possible for a few DAYS to keep the air bubble pushing in the right place).

But chapter 5, I'm done. It starts with "I'd been seeing twenty-twenty for a solid six weeks." Like, pretty much right after the surgery. And she has a car, because she drives now. After being blind since age 12. No. No, no, no. Corneal transplants are not magic. You don't get one and soon get to 20/20. You don't just get a driver's license right away (if you ever do) after being blind since you were a preteen.

(And finally, it is so rare for an organ/tissue recipient to meet the donor family, because of all the HIPAA hurdles. But here it's presented like it's no big deal at all.)

Charity Costa says

*ARC received from Author in exchange for an honest review

I have been a longtime fan of Maggie Shayne and I have had the pleasure of having a social online friendship with her as well, and I thought I knew what to expect from her as an author but that was all blow out of the water when I got my hands on Sleep with the Light On!!!!

I promise there will be no spoilers in this review BUT I cannot promise it won't be a little lengthy, there is just no way for me to keep it short when this book deserves all the words and dedication I can pour into this review. I have this overwhelming need to share with the people reading this how I felt on while on the roller coaster this book took me on especially after the most emotional year of my life, it's probably going to be my most personal review ever.

I don't usually read thriller/mystery genre based books; I am more drawn to Paranormal which is where my love for Maggie started. Let's be honest and I'll allow myself a fan girl moment here, I'd read anything Maggie wrote, be it a fictional series or a line of cook books, I love her writing style and I feel a connection to any words she lets escape that magical mind of hers.

The last week I have been a walking zombie, depressed, unfeeling, a shell of what I usually am. Thinking nothing could break me free and have me feel anything but depression until I checked my mail and saw that I had a package from Maggie. I opened it to see her new and upcoming 1st book in her series almost a month before release. I immediately thought to myself "if anyone's magic can bring me out of this and help me to feel anything its Maggie's Magic."

So I settled in my usually routine of starting a new book and INSTANTLY felt a spark as I read the prologue. The next thing I knew I was 50 pages in and jumping up running to tell my husband all that had happened in the book in just 50 short pages. I was jumping up and down and excited!! I was excited; I felt something for the first time in a week!! That's it I was not moving from my bed till I had it finished, I need this roller coaster of emotion that goes along with reading a book so well written that you can't help but feel like you watching it on a big screen. My heart was racing at some points, I was talking to myself, making guesses about what was going to happen next, I WAS ENTHRALLED AND LOVING EVERY SECOND OF IT!!!

Maggie never forgets the little things when she is writing a book, things you don't realize a book or a story needed to make it complete. Somehow all the little things make it a real story. A story that connects you to the book and the writer. My favorite part is the moment when the title makes sense.

Rachel De Luca is by no means a fragile woman even if she is blind. You know from the second she is introduced that she is a force to be reckoned with. Mason Brown is like most men, stubborn. But is one hell of a cop with a very level head. But what do you think happens to a level headed man when he is faced with something that would rock the most solid man to his core? What do you do when you are faced with something bordering on supernatural? How do you accept something that cannot be explained? These are the things that both Rachel and Mason have to face as they get rocketed through this suspenseful story filled with twists and turns.

I have to mention Myrtle, this little (ok not so little) character is one of those things I'm talking about when I say, you don't realize a story needs something like this until you read it and realize this book would not be complete without it. Myrtle is a bulldog and I'll bet everything that Maggie got the inspiration from her very own furrbaby and knowing that makes her come alive even more.

As fast paced as this book is, I found myself getting frustrated while in the middle ONLY BECAUSE as a reader you know what's going on and your just waiting for the characters to catch up and the story goes on. I'll compare it to this so that people get what I'm trying to say about the frustration. When you are watching a scary movie and you know the bad guy is waiting in the kitchen for the girl to walk in there and the girl knows there is someone in the house and you start screaming at the TV saying "Why are you walking through the house?!?!? Run outside!! OH MY, don't go in the kitchen HE IS IN THERE!!!" but the whole time you're thinking well if she doesn't go in there than it wouldn't be a good movie right? That's what I mean when I say frustrating. It's that intense of a read!!

Maggie has a way of wrapping up a book, even in a series, in a nice little bow that has you thinking all is well...until you remember there is a sequel on its way and then all of a sudden you realize THERE'S MORE!!!!

I am first and foremost grateful for this book and for Maggie's magic that brought me out of my funk, but I am overwhelmed by her unending talent. I give Sleep with the Lights On, 5 out of 5, and recommend it to...well EVERYONE!!! I am waiting on the edge of my seat for book 2!! I can't wait to be able to ask Maggie a few questions about this one, like why does Myrtle need baby wipes?? LOL

Thank you for taking the time to read my review I still feel like I didn't give this book to justice it deserves with my words but I really do hope that it has encouraged you to go get your copy ASAP, it's a must read!! As Always, Happy Reading Everyone!!

LibraryCin says

Rachel has been blind since she was a teenager, and now she's receiving a cornea transplant that finally "takes". She has no idea what she's in for. She received the corneas of a serial killer and is now having terrifying visions. And the killing continues...

I really liked this one. It kept me wanting to read. I did guess at the mystery very shortly before it was revealed, but I still really enjoyed the story to get there. Apparently, it is a series, and I do plan to continue.

Dianne says

Wow! Just Wow! Real review to follow.

This was a heart stopping, nail-biting, edge-of-your seat book and I am very glad to have found and read it!

It consists of a mix of genres –horror, speculative fiction, suspense and lastly –romance. However, romance takes a full back seat to the other aspects of this novel.

What would you do if the cornea transplant you thought would never work suddenly did? But with these cornea's comes a little 'gift' shall we say. This gift is not a happy shiny gift; oh my no it is not. It is a full on horror story for our protagonist Rachel. Rachel is an acerbic, witty, somewhat @itchy protagonist that just somehow writes what some call "airy-fairy" self-help books. Rachel does NOT practice what she preaches. One day while still blind, she is hit by a police detective Mason who is running to find out what is wrong with his brother. Let us just say that Mason's brother dies and Mason helps his family to donate organ IF the cornea's can go to the person he hit with his car.

This is where the fun of this book really begins! Can you suspend your disbelief enough to imagine that the DNA from a donated organ can somehow manifest itself in the recipients' body; somehow change that recipient into what kind of person the donor was? Because if you can then this is going to be one thrilling ride for you, like it was for me.

The story was engaging to the point that I just had to buy a copy of this book and send it to my sister. The characters are full and well written. While you ARE asked to suspend disbelief quite often; the author's style and voice makes it easy for you to do so without sacrificing any of the pleasure of the novel. The plot is well written, fast paced with no huge info dumps or filler and the mystery aspect really keeps you guessing.

I hate to sound trite or clichéd but if I could, I would have given this book more stars than just 5 of them!

Yvonne says

Awesome suspense/romance (heavier on the suspense). Loved it!

Jonetta says

The set up

Rachel Mason went blind when she was 12-years old. A chance encounter with Detective Mason Brown led to her receiving his dead brother's corneas. What first seems like an incredible gift turns into a nightmare when Rachel begins having disturbing visions. Mason is keeping a terrible secret about his brother and has a tough choice to make as he realizes there's a connection between the organ donation and Rachel's visions.

What works about this story

Connections between recipients of organ transplants and their donors have been written about before but this one has a slightly different twist to make it a standout. On top of that, Rachel's snarky humor and clever banter made this story a fun, though macabre read. Shifts between her first-person narrative and others' points of view were transitioned pretty smoothly and I liked having the multiple perspectives. It wasn't terribly mysterious but it was suspenseful and a little bizarre. Oh, and Rachel has a dog named Myrtle that steals just about every scene she's in.

The romance

Rachel and Mason's relationship seemed to just evolve without much depth. While I liked both, I never felt a strong bond between the two and it was the one weakness of the story. If you approach this story as a paranormal mystery with romantic elements, I think it will better meet your expectations. Their romance was just never a significant aspect of the book as they seemed more like partners.

The bottom line

I really enjoyed this book in spite of the tepid romance. The paranormal aspects are creepy in a really good way and Rachel's sense of humor adds to the quirky tempo. I'm glad this is a series because I want more of her and this weird phenomena.

Sue says

I won a copy of "Wake To Darkness" by Maggie Shayne through the Goodreads Giveaway Contest, and decided to purchase the first installment in the series, "Sleep With The Lights On". This is my review of "Sleep With The Lights On". This is a psychological thriller, romantic suspense that will have you gripped turning the pages late into the night.

Deep in the Adirondack Mountains in the predawn, a killer had rowed his boat across the lake, to dump a body. Eric had never been right...but to do this? He was a cold-blooded serial killer! And to make matters worse, Eric's brother, Mason was a Homicide detective.

When his brother suicides in Mason's apartment, leaving a note of confession and a stack of licenses of his victims, Mason makes a fast decision to cover up the truth and his unsolved cases, by removing the evidence. Mason decides to donate his brother's organs, and maybe make up for the bad that he did.

Rachel de Luca was a big celeb on TV, a blind author with a cane, that had written self-help books. Her path crosses with Mason when she shows up at the police station, to follow up on her missing brother. She has no problem speaking up for herself! But when she left, Mason ran over her at the police station. So after twenty

years of blindness, Rachel becomes the recipient of the corneal transplant...but this will be just the start of all her problems.

Then at home the nightmares came,blood and gore and visions of the killings. Time to sleep with the lights on. Rachel felt like she was with the killer, inside his body, looking through his eyes, and feeling his emotions, as the killer committed these terrible acts. It makes Rachel wonder just what sort of person her donor had been...how much does the cop know?

Mason is certain that the serial killer, "The Wraith" is dead. But when there is another victim, and Rachel seems to know things about the crime...Rachel becomes the focal point for solving the mystery.

The POV shifts between Rachel's first person and a third person focusing on Mason and the killer.

If you enjoy reading serial killer psychological suspense, with an element of paranormal romance, this novel will appeal to you. Definitely check it out. For someone that has had cornea transplant surgery, I have a greater respect for this novel.I now plan to read the second instalment, "Wake To Darkness".

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

This was a great beginning to a good romantic suspense story. This first book doesn't really have much in the way of romance but its building up in the background. The suspense element was strong though.

I enjoyed the kids and the dog as secondary characters, they really made it work for me.

If you like Laura Griffin or Leslie Parrish you will probably like this one.

Michelle Leah Olson says

Our Review, by LITERAL ADDICTION's Pack Alpha - Michelle L. Olson:

*eARC Received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Maggie Shayne's Sleep With the Lights On was a darkly seductive psychological thriller with a heroine you cannot help but love, a hero that immediate grows on you and who you both feel for and root for, a story that sucks you in immediately and allows you to be utterly immersed in the unfolding arc of the tale, a unique villain that inspires roiling in the gut, and an ending with a surprise worthy of the best murder mysteries.

O.K, now that I enticed you with that lovely run-on sentence, let me try to break it down. :)

Rachel DeLuca is, by far, one of the best heroines I've encountered! She's so very 'real'; one of those no holds barred ladies who says what's on her mind no matter what. A beautiful,intelligent, independent, strong,

and sassy alpha-female who isn't afraid to just 'be'. And if that wasn't enough, Maggie, as Rachel in her POV, will have you laughing out loud in the first handful of pages.

Mason is a stubborn cop, a loyal family man, and a slightly damaged soul. The things Maggie puts him through in only the first 1/4 of the book are enough to break anyone, but he rebounds with grace and ends up being one of those subtle alpha males who you just want to give a big hug to.

The brilliant and unique premise - latent evil being transferred to multiple hosts via the receipt of an organ donation - is one that begs for attention! You can't help but be sucked in by it and set your mind racing with the 'what ifs' and 'what's nexts'. It's an epidemically spread case of evil, but through a means of infection that is utterly benign, thus making it even more disturbing. And the fact that one organ donor can affect up to 50 people makes this book, and ultimate series, one that has limitless potential.

I adored this book. I have been a Maggie Shayne fan for longer than I can remember, but this new side of Maggie is absolutely ingenious and made me have even more respect for her astounding talent and ability to capture the hearts and minds of her readers. I cannot wait for more DeLuca and Brown!

Mo says

3.5.

I enjoyed it. Finished it a few days ago. Busy few days since so no time to review.

Cindy Reifel says

I was fortunate enough to receive an ARC of this book and I have to tell you that if you love mysteries &/or thrillers, you REALLY need to get this book as soon as it comes out!

I have read and loved Maggie Shayne's books for years. Hers are the types of books that you re and re-read because they are so fascinating and just purely enjoyable.

Sleep With the Lights on is a book about a serial killer, organ donation and the possibilities therein. Having been an RN for 37 years it was even more terrifying for me because I, strangely, have no problems wrapping my mind around the premise of this book.

Trust me when I tell you that you will want to sleep with the lights on for quite a while after you read this book!

Buy it. It's MOST DEFINITELY worth the money!

It comes out September 24th!

Cindy R.

Cyndi Delia says

I was able to read an ARC e-book of Sleep With the Lights On. At first I wasn't sure if I would like the mixed POV's- heroine Rachel is first person, Mason/the rest of the novel is third person but because the book was not a romance, it worked for me and I was surprised that I liked the mix. I was happy to discover that the upcoming December book by Ms. Shayne also will feature these characters because both characters are deeply flawed and I'm curious to see if things I felt weren't wrapped up will be addressed. This book was well written and fast paced and I couldn't put it down. Although a bit predictable in some regards that was okay with me. I'm also a sucker for books with dogs in them. I have a bulldog, and Myrtle is spot on! Ms. Shayne has developed a book with characters I want to continue reading about. There are a few creepy parts- Ms. Shayne has cinematic style that may have some of you sleeping with the lights on long after you turn the last page.

Kathy Martin says

This romantic suspense title was heavier on the suspense than the romance. Rachel de Luca lost her sight when she was twelve and now makes her living as an author of self-help books with a positive message. Rachel is really a positive person herself. She is sharp-tongued and rather cranky. When she gets a chance to have a cornea transplant to restore her sight, she is first hesitant. Previous operations had not been successful. This one works remarkably well. At least it does until she starts have dreams and visions of murder and starts to believe that she is seeing through the eyes of a serial killer.

Mason Brown is a police detective. His brother has recently committed suicide and left notes and evidence that he was the serial killer who caused the disappearance of thirteen young men - among them Rachel's brother. Mason decides to cover up his brother's confession to protect his brother's wife who is expecting a baby and his two young sons. Mason decides to donate his brother's organs in some attempt to make up for his brother's crimes and to ease his own conscience. Rachel is one of the recipients.

Rachel and Mason meet when she goes to the police station to put pressure on them to keep investigating her brother's disappearance. Still blind, she steps out into traffic and Mason hits her with his car.

I had some trouble with this story because of the large number of coincidences. I mean, cop's brother is serial killer; heroine's brother is one of his victims; heroine gets tissue from killer and starts having visions. Mason is put in charge of the investigation to track down the serial killer. Mason knows who the killer was but things change when the killings start again. He doesn't believe that she is seeing things when she first tells him but gradually becomes convinced.

My favorite character in the book is Rachel's newly-adopted, blind, elderly bulldog. I loved it each time Myrtle appeared in the story. I loved how much of a softy Rachel became around Myrtle. I could just see her with her car goggles and yellow scarf around her neck sitting in the passenger seat while Rachel drove her classic yellow Thunderbird.

While I could believe that they were attracted to each other, I had more difficulty believing that they could overcome the obstacles to any sort of relationship. Neither one of them seemed ready to begin a new relationship. Since this is the first book in a series, I am eager to see how their relationship plays out.

Dina says

[Rachel accepted Mason's covering up his brother's crimes too easily - especially considering that her brother was one of the victims (hide spoiler)]

Mei says

I received this book from Netgalley for my honest review.

WOW!!! What a great book!

I loved, loved Rachel! She's such a great character. I loved her at the beginning, when she was blind, and I loved her after when she got her sight back!

She's incredible! Her joie de vivre is fantastic! One could think that she's bitter because she's so sarcastic, but I didn't feel it that way. I felt that her sarcasm was an expression of her will to live her life fully and completely.

She made me laugh with her inner musings and they were so to the point! Her capability to *read* persons was also great! Her interaction with her sister, with her assistant, with her friend (view spoiler) and with Mason was fantastic! I was awed by her strength and her spirit!

Mason was a great guy too. I completely understood his actions, even if they were not very ethical. But he was acting with good and very selfless intentions, so it was impossible for me to blame him. His love for his family was shining through and it was lovely to read.

The story was unusual and unusually written too. The flow was impeccable and every sentence was great!

There's almost no sex scenes but the sensual heat was there and it was delicious and sometimes funny too!

I would have loved if the reasons (view spoiler) were more deeply investigated and explained. I would have liked to know more about the theory behind them. But still what we find out are explanations enough to make the story credible taking into consideration that this is **fiction!** ... at least I hope it is! *wink*

I enjoyed very much the dog: Myrtle! I loved the relationship Rachel has with her. Just perfect and wonderful!

The whole book is a jewel and each page is a joy to read!
