



## **Hidden in the Dark (Harper Flagg Book 1)**

*Alyson Larrabee*

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## **Hidden in the Dark (Harper Flagg Book 1) Alyson Larrabee**

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO HE MURDERED HER MOTHER AND NOW HE'S STALKING HER. He kills quickly and ruthlessly. He's been getting away with it for years. How has he kept his identity a secret? What will it take to stop him? No one knows. He hides in plain sight, and his current obsession is high school golden girl, Harper Flagg. When she was two years old Harper was the only witness to her mother's murder. She's eighteen now, and she's no ordinary teenager. She has spent the past sixteen years preparing for a confrontation with her mother's killer. And her wish is about to come true. "Wow, this book had me biting my nails and obsessively turning the pages to see who and what the killer was. It had a Silence of the Lambs feel to it." -Emmie "A different type serial killer story that will keep you awake at night." - Fran

## **Hidden in the Dark (Harper Flagg Book 1) Details**

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Author : Alyson Larrabee

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Hidden in the Dark (Harper Flagg Book 1) for online ebook**

### **Rebecca says**

This was a really good book. It's tense and keeps you wanting to read on without stopping. The writing was great, and the characters well-developed. It has some interesting twists to the story. It would have been 5 stars, but there were a few instances of repeated information--some of it told from the perspective of different characters and some where a character repeats thoughts in various parts of the story (and even one instance with information is repeated a couple paragraphs later).

I received a copy of this book through the Kindle Scout program.

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### **Georgia Pistorio says**

#### **Thrilling**

Wow, could not put this book down. I was immersed in the characters and not once did I feel that this book lacked anything. Looking forward to a continuing saga of Book 1. Read the book, you won't be disappointed.

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### **Renea Greathouse says**

#### **Great read!**

This book was hard to put down. The words flowed like water until the projection screen in my mind's eye was playing at full tilt. 5 stars!!

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### **Shelia J Kenfield says**

#### **Very good!**

I would recommend this to anyone that likes thrillers. This is a very spellbinding book! I could hardly stop reading until it was over and then I wanted more!

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### **Jaksen says**

Excellent, suspenseful read.

Harper Flagg lost her mother to serial killer, the 'Bad Guy' when she was two years old; sixteen years later the Bad Guy's back on a killing spree and close by. Harper's father, a state police detective, has brought up

Harper to protect herself - and more. She's a runner, a fighter, tough and smart and stubborn, but underneath it all she's a girl who loves books as much as she does running. Set up this scenario: tough girl with tough dad against a wily, somewhat-brilliant and charming (or deranged?) killer and you've got a good story.

This is a mystery - what's this 'Bad Guy' all about, why does he target young mothers, but leave their babies or young children alone? It's also a thriller - what happens if/when/why Harper and the killer meet? Can she stay safe from him? Is anyone safe from him? And it's also a psychological look into the head of a young woman who refuses to be beaten. I mean, who is Harper, really? Is she really the strong, disciplined girl, dead set on catching or punishing the man who killed her mother? Does she have a weakness, does the killer? And can the Bad Guy outwit her? Can she outwit him?

No spoilers here, just an overview of a quick-paced, complex story set in a small town in MA. I enjoyed, read it in two days, and I do expect a sequel, yes I do...

Five stars.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Hidden in the Dark (Harper Flagg Book 1) by Alyson Larrabee is another book I picked up for the horror of October. This was a pretty good read. I don't normally like serial killers, who does right? But it is the gross factor that I don't want to hear about. I was a nurse all my life and I had enough, so I would rather have a serial killer where most of the action, mystery, and thrills are in the form of the psychological part. I think this one fits this bill. All serial killer books are going to have descriptions of death and mayhem but I don't want a blow by blow account. This would-be victim is not as easy as the Bad Guy planned on which also makes it more interesting.

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### **Helen says**

#### **Into the minds of a killer and a different kind of victim.**

Only gave it a 4 because it reads as a young adult book to me, and maybe it is and I didn't notice the notation. I did really like the story though, and found the narrow focus on the serial killer and his future victim worked in this book.

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### **Debbie Higgins says**

#### **A real page turner!**

This is the first book i have read by Alyson Larrabee and I look forward to reading more. I thought this was good read with enough suspense to finish the book in one seating. Twists and turns that kept me guessing throughout it. A must

read for those who love thrillers!

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### **Emmie says**

Wow, this book had me biting my nails and obsessively turning the pages to see who and what the killer was. Did that come as a surprise. It sort of had a Silence of the Lambs feel to it. And I am so happy to see that it the first in a series. Can't wait to read more about Harper and Gideon!

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### **Misty says**

#### **My interest was held**

While I enjoyed the idea behind this story and Harper's character I found myself getting annoyed at little things. Harper's emotions jump to quickly and issues that arise during her kidnapping resolve touchy and are hardly mentioned after the fact. The scene where she is more focused on the music than escaping bugged me....I mean come on priorities here. scenes that made it into the book that weren't really necessary in my opinion include the basketball game and washing the hellcat.

There were other things that bugged me but I don't want to reveal too much detail. All in all this was an okay read that aside from certain character developmental issues and quirks was able to hold my attention. I did nominate this on Kindle Scout and after its selection received a complimentary copy.

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### **brenda wilson says**

#### **Hidden in the Dark**

This is one of the best that I have read in some time. I hope there is more books about Harper Flagg

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### **Steve says**

I like a well-written thriller with a strong protagonist. The characters weren't quite believable for me, but the story survived just fine.

The mysterious aspects of this book kept me going for sure. Some mysteries are just too obvious, but this is not one of those. I loved the character development and the detail given to their actions. The less-believable part for me was related to the maturity and attitudes of some of the younger characters.

All things considered, I enjoyed this book because of the characters. Although not all believable or likable, the author did really well at familiarizing the reader with them and making them feel real. Real but unbelievable? Is that even possible? I wouldn't have said so before reading this book, but I don't know how else to describe it.

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## **Literati Literature Lovers says**

### **Here's Why It's Not Five Stars**

Hidden in the Dark is a very good suspenseful read. It had me turning the pages, long after I should have been in bed. At its heart it's a psychological thriller and a character study of both victim and killer. Yes I think this book is a nice little gem, but it has a few problems.

First, the author has the killer mock a woman about poor punctuation. Don't have a character in a book mock poor punctuation, if your the book the character is in has grammatical errors. (Note to the editor, spell and grammar check are out; reading the entire manuscript is the way to edit)

Second, the book has some continuity errors. Really Harper Flagg was reading college level at four, but the first instances of collage level reading is given at about age eight. (Note to editor, read the entire book)

Third, police officer father is a moron. Yes you can teach your kid to be a ninja, but you don't have outside cameras recording. Idiot. I live in the sticks and have outside security cameras and a serial killer is no after my kid.

Yes there are some minor problems with this book, but I still highly recommend it despite its problems. Why because the authors usage of descriptive language made my experience every intense moment of both the victim and the chilling moments of the killer stalking his prey. It is a book that isn't easily shaken off, and will be one that I ponder long after the book ended.

Read via Kindle Unlimited.

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## **Ronald Keeler says**

There are several mysteries in this novel. They are set in the context of a serial killer's exploits. Why does he kill? How does he choose his victims? The answer to the second question is of interest to the police, especially since it seems he initially committed three murders, then quit for sixteen years but now is back. The answer to the first question is more of interest to the psychiatrist but to find a true answer we have to talk to the killer. Detective Thomas Flagg is willing to talk to the killer; he has been waiting sixteen years to do so. His wife was the killer's first victim. The only witness to the kidnapping that preceded his wife's killing was his then two-year-old daughter Harper. She is older now and it seems the killer has come back and is looking for Harper. Detective Flagg does not intend to lose a second woman to the maniac.

Hidden in the Dark by Alyson Larrabee is a 320-page thriller. I nominated this book through the Kindle Scout program, it was accepted for publication, and I got a free advanced copy which looks as if it is treated as a verified purchase by Amazon. I think it is important for authors to get reviews on Amazon that are verified purchases. This is just one of the myriad administrative things that have not spurred my curiosity to further investigate. I just like to read books.

I was surprised at the fast pace of the novel and the number of complex stories that the author was able to weave together in only 320 pages. I read it in one session; luckily I chose to start on a Saturday afternoon so the next day's work did not suffer. All principal characters are well developed, even Harper's grandmother

who has a minor role but still has well-developed background information.

Gabriel, the Bad Guy, has a character that will alternately appall readers and elicit sympathy. On many popular crime TV dramas as well as in much of the crime literature genre, we hear the abused childhood defense asserted and many times dismissed by the general public as legal trickery. No one is going to dismiss Gabriel's background as other than deeply disturbed. Even Gabriel admits it. That doesn't stop him from applying a high level of cunning and great financial independence to indulge his twisted desires. His rationale? He only did it for the children.

Gabriel's reason for the first round of killing, one involving three deaths, is very complex and shows an almost genius mind that went perverted. I would have never guessed the reason and it is one of the first huge surprises of the novel. The reason for the second round of killing is similar, the complex nature of it is also well presented but there is a question about why an old man was killed. This was a singular occurrence, all other victims were women. The reason is one of the instances of dark humor that I felt was well placed to jerk the reader's attention back to normality for a bit.

Harper, the teenage object of Gabriel's (non-sexual) desire, is well developed as a character. Perhaps a bit over the top but still believable. A high school honor student, elite cross country runner, almost expert marksman due to dad's training, skill in martial arts, are all parts of her resume. But her skill in surviving lengthy captivity impressed me. I can't guess at the amount of research the author had to do to present such an accurate account of survival.

The writing is so good in this novel that even when the writer describes things I really don't care about, like basketball, I felt compelled to read the account. And it captured my attention. For approximately 10 Kindle pages (loc 2017-2063) there is a basketball one-on-one session between Shane (romantic interest) and Harper (bad-ass main protagonist). I don't like descriptions of any type of sport but this was good writing that captured my attention.

This entire novel is written without sex or even outrageous violence. This is an interesting trick when we are reading about murder, kidnapping, and an older male with an unhealthy fixation for at least one teenage girl.

Reserve a chunk of time to read this one. You won't want to stop once you begin reading.

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### **Beth Brackett says**

#### **Loved it**

I loved this book. It was an intriguing story that held my interest from start to finish. The author wrote a story that made me care about the killer as well as the victims.

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