



## Girl on the Run

*Daryl Wood Gerber*

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## **Girl on the Run** Daryl Wood Gerber

When a fairytale fantasy night becomes a nightmare, Chessa Paxton must run for her life...but will the truth set her free?

Chessa Paxton, an event planner in Lake Tahoe, celebrates a successful night at the Happily Ever After Ball, but her dream quickly becomes a nightmare when she wakes up beside the body of her dead husband. Nauseous and confused, feeling as if she's been drugged, she can't explain to the sheriff why her princess costume is bloodied. With her father already a convicted murderer, she feels invisible shackles ratcheting onto her wrists and ankles. She runs! But she can't escape vivid flashes of memory: a massacre in a meadow; men and women in fairy tale costumes; Snow White's dead body shielding her from bullets.

Though Chessa is a former costumer and a master of disguise, she quickly learns that hiding while trying to prove herself innocent is the most difficult task imaginable. Especially when the sheriff wants to throw her in jail and the real killer wants to silence her forever.

## **Girl on the Run Details**

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Author : Daryl Wood Gerber

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# From Reader Review *Girl on the Run* for online ebook

## Dawn Frazier says

This is the new suspense novel by Daryl Wood Gerber, fantastic book! Chessa is the girl on the run, after she wakes up next to her dead husband, not remembering what happened. She becomes the prime suspect of course, and due to her past family history, she is unsure if anyone will take her side. So she runs. This book is full of twists and turns, and lots of suspense. I was on the edge of my seat through most of it, I couldn't wait to see what happened! I highly recommend this to anyone, you won't be disappointed. I received an advance copy from the author for my honest opinion.

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## Laurel-Rain says

From the beginning moments of *Girl on the Run*, we are drawn into a world of fantasy, secrets, and ultimate betrayal.

Standing in the midst of a beautiful Happily Ever Ball, Chessa Paxton, our event planner, has the normal fears about how a party will come off, but something else is tugging at her, something that hints that it is only a matter of time until the worst might occur. Chessa's fears about her husband Zach are soon realized, and the blurry, eerie feeling that takes over her will be just the tip of the iceberg.

Did someone drug Chessa's drink? What is the big secret Zach is keeping, and how did Chessa find out that something might be wrong? Who are the frightening characters behind the masks at the ball, and who among them will bring about the ultimate mayhem? Waking up to her dead husband, and learning of a mass murder in a nearby meadow, Chessa slips from the house, eluding the police, and heads out to uncover the truth and to find out who framed her. She knows she is innocent...or is she?

Some of the truths Chessa will discover go back to her childhood when her father was betrayed, and just when we thought we knew all of the secrets, we learn there are more. A "master of disguise," Chessa cleverly changes up her look while trying to stay ahead of the killer or killers.

The cast of characters is large, including Chessa's stepfather, a senator named Jeremiah Wolfe, and an evangelical type minister named Davey Diggs. The primary detective in charge is Marcus Newman, with his sidekick Keegan, and we also see early on that, while he believes Chessa could be guilty, certain facts don't line up with that conclusion, so he is keeping an open mind.

Alternate narrators keep us intrigued as we try to figure out the whodunit as well as the motives behind it all. This suspenseful story that kept me engaged throughout was set in one of my favorite places, Lake Tahoe, so I felt I could have been there with the characters. 4.5 stars.

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## **Joanne says**

Girl On the Run by Agatha Award-winning and bestselling author Daryl Wood Gerber is her premier venture into the realm of the suspense/thriller genre. “Be careful what you wish for, it might come true.” is an example of a powerful oxymoronic and paradoxical idea. It is as central to human thought and/or experience today as it was centuries ago. Since the beginning of civilization, people have dreamed of fame or wealth or other good fortune. Do you believe in Fairy Tales? Fairy Tale Balls? What would you do if you attended a Happily Ever After Ball and everything turned out wrong? Chessa, the lead character, wakes up after the Happily Ever After Ball in her bedroom lying next to her dead husband. Following standard procedure, the police immediately suspect Chessa killed her spouse so she sneaks out of the house and goes on the run so she can attempt to clear her name. In a tightly woven plot with many twists and turns, the dead body count quickly rises. Despite a mix of awful circumstances, Chessa is a young woman with marked resilience, fortitude and determination. As a reader, I couldn’t stop wanting to see vindication for Chessa, willing her to survive and succeed in clearing her name and reputation while, literally, on the run. This is, without a doubt, one of the best suspense novels I have ever read. You will not be able to set this book down and the ending will definitely surprise you.

"Girl on the Run" skillfully combines fantasy, reality; murder, mayhem, and “can’t put the book down” reading enjoyment! Girl on the Run is a detailed chilling tale with a tangled web of National and International intrigue that is riveting. The conniving, convincing, conflicted characters face impossible choices, the tension is real and may be all too close to the truth. I was happy to read a thriller without explicit sex or vile language, yet filled with multiple, unanticipated twists and turns that keep me turning the pages! Daryl Wood Gerber’s first top-notch action suspense thriller is a must read!

Full Disclosure – An advance review copy of this book was sent to me by the author in hopes I would provide an unbiased, honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed in this review are my own. And to be perfectly honest - I LOVED THIS book!!!!

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## **Linda says**

Chessa Paxton is excited to attend the Happily Ever After Ball...an event that she helped plan and which looks to be a success. But her next memory is waking up alongside her husband's dead body, and after calling the police, realizes she can't explain what happened. Feeling like history is repeating itself, with a father sent to jail years earlier for a murder he claims not to have committed, she goes on the run. Unsure of who to trust, she tries to stay free while unraveling her disjointed memories of the previous night, and discover the real murderer. Assigned to her case, detective Marcus Newman is trying to find out what would compel this woman to commit murder...possibly multiple murders when they discover more victims who also attended the ball. Is Chessa involved or an innocent patsy? I really enjoyed this story, action packed from start to finish, with a strong female lead, and enough plot twists to keep the reader guessing. I was already a fan of this author's cozy mystery series, and this story solidifies her role in the suspense mystery category. Disclosure: I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **LORI CASWELL says**

### Dollycas's Thoughts

A fantastic debut into the suspense genre for Daryl Wood Gerber.

Chessa Paxton attends the Happily Ever After Ball with her husband. All her hard work and planning seem to be a great success. Then she wakes up in her home next her husband with blood all over and her husband dead. She realizes quickly she is the prime suspect and with father already a convicted murderer she knows she doesn't have a chance. She knows she has to get out of there and she does. She runs! She has to prove she didn't do it but all she can remember are little snippets of what she thinks happened. With a few disguises and a little help from her friends she tries to find the real killer. While the police are searching for her and not the real killer she finds out that it isn't easy to hide. The police want to arrest her and the killer wants her dead.

I was spellbound from start to finish. The author grabbed my attention and wouldn't let go. I couldn't read and flip the pages fast enough. I was so impressed by Chessa courage to find the truth. She was always thinking and planning, staying at least 1 step ahead of the police. Was she remembering correctly? Why was she still alive? Just so she could be framed for the murder? She doesn't give up. She is determined to find the truth or die trying.

I was so completely engaged by this character and engrossed in the story. Each twist drew me deeper and deeper in, real life around me ceased to exist. The author has written a story with depth and layers full of true mayhem. All the characters are spectacularly written and the situations are so real. I could easily see this book turned into a movie. I had a vivid picture of everyone and everything that happened.

You may know Daryl Wood Gerber, aka Avery Aames for her cozy mystery series'. Let me tell you there is nothing cozy about this story. She has entered the Thriller/Suspense class with a BANG! Drama from page 1 and a story that will give you chills. RUN, don't walk, to purchase this book, heck pre-order it as soon as you can.

### Paradise Rating

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## **Pamela says**

### Girl on the Run

By Daryl Wood Gerber

5 star review ??????????

This is the first suspense novel from best-selling cozy mystery writer, Daryl Wood Gerber. Girl On the Run is a well written thrill-ride that grabbed me from page one. I found myself rooting for Chessa, the girl on the run. There are many exciting twists and turns to find out who or what she is running from. I couldn't wait to find out. I was stunned at the ending. I didn't see it coming. I highly recommend this book.

**\*\*Disclosure:** I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts

& comments included in this review are entirely my own.

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### **Robyn says**

Girl on the Run is a suspense thriller, nail biter, rollercoaster ride that hooked me right away and I could not put it down. When Chessa's world spins out of control, she is determined to find out the truth. Daryl Wood Gerber is a phenomenal author known for her cozy mysteries. This is her first suspense novel and I hope she continues writing this genre. She has a real knack for grabbing hold of your attention, keeping you glued to the edge of your seat, anxiously waiting to see what happens next. I loved this book and wished it didn't have to end. I received a copy of this book in exchange of a fair and honest review.

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### **Lee says**

This is the first book by Daryl Wood Gerber I have read and have to say it was thoroughly enjoyable. Chessa Paxton is an event planner and attends a major event she has organised with her husband, the Happy Ever After Ball. Unfortunately for Chessa, the event turns out to be anything but. Chessa wakes the next morning to find her husband dead beside her and the police asking questions she is unable to answer. Great characterisation, strong story with many twists and turns that kept me captivated till the end.

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### **Diane says**

While this may Daryl Gerber's first foray into 'suspense,' I am hoping it won't be her last. This book is absolutely riveting. A true hold on to your seat suspense! Chessa wakes up after the Happily Ever After Ball in her bedroom, with her dead husband lying next to her. The police immediately suspect her and she sneaks out of the house and goes on the run to try to clear her name. The twists and turns, and dead bodies, mount up and the story just gets better and better. I absolutely could not put it down. Daryl Gerber writing is superb and ranks up there with the best suspense writers! Do yourself a favor and get this book when it comes out April 9. In fact, pre-order it as soon as you can. I was given a pre-release copy for review. It was not required that I give a positive review, but solely to express my own thoughts and opinions of this book, which I have done.

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### **Celia says**

How could a fairy tale go so wrong? Girl on the Run drew me in quickly and did not let go until the very end. The characters are very well developed, complex, and keep you guessing, so that when you're not reading this book, you will be thinking about it. Get ready for a wild ride of twists and turns and be prepared to stay up late -- you won't want to put down this exciting and suspenseful page turner!

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review ~

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### **Rachel Welty says**

What would you do if you woke up next to your dead husband and couldn't remember anything from the night before? That's what happened to Chessa. The police don't believe her and someone is chasing her. She has to find out what happened and quickly.

Daryl Wood Gerber's Chessa is like a female Jason Bourne without the training. She has to use her contacts and intelligence to figure out the truth.

This book delivers a fast pace suspense book. The main character is smart and resourceful. She is also likeable which makes a believable character. I found myself not wanting to put it down until I was finished. I received a copy of this book in exchange for honest feedback.

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### **Taryn says**

Daryl Wood Gerber's new suspense thriller is a fast paced page turner. Her characters are well developed and expertly woven together. Woods really delivered at her first run in the suspense category. Girl on the Run kept me guessing the whole time. I was constantly changing each new theory that I developed. I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review (glad I did because I loved it). All thoughts and comments in this review are my own.

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### **Jenndian says**

I was really excited to receive an advanced e-copy of this book in exchange for a review. I love Daryl Wood Gerber's cozies and how character-driven her books are. I was thrilled to learn she is self-publishing this suspense novel, her first! I must admit the first part was a bit clichè. Woman wakes up next to murdered husband, panics, and runs to clear her name. I was wrong, later there are so many great twists and turns that I couldn't stop reading! Great first suspense, and I hope Daryl can continue writing them!

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### **Sara Grotz says**

I absolutely loved this book. Chessa was a very believable character for me. I liked her as a character because she fought for herself and kept making the best of her situation, horrible as it was. She is a woman with a lot of grit and determination, and I like that. The entire story is very fast moving and was extremely hard to put down. You need to know what the final resolution is, and as quickly as possible. It constantly kept me guessing and the ending itself was a huge surprise. Overall, one of the best suspense novels I have read in a long time. I did receive a copy from the author for my honest review, but all the opinions are mine alone.

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## **Stephanie Hobrock says**

I have not read suspense for years, but Daryl Wood Gerber just got me started again! This was a fantastic read! I sat and read the entire book in one afternoon! That too, is unusual for me. An entire college baseball team preparing to leave for Florida couldn't even distract me from this gripping tale!

I have enjoyed both of this author's cozy series, but this was riveting and just downright gripping without explicit sex, filthy language, and with plenty of twists and turns to keep me turning the pages!

One thing I really enjoyed was the strength and determination of the young lady, Chessa. She was successful, brave, determined, and vulnerable all wrapped up in a neat little package.

This is available right now for pre-order on Amazon, and this cozy reader found it very easy to scoot right on over to suspense without a blink of an eye!

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