



## **At Close Range**

*Laura Griffin*

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## At Close Range Laura Griffin

*New York Times* bestselling author Laura Griffin “delivers the goods” (*Publishers Weekly*) again with the eleventh title in the gritty, heart-pounding Tracers series.

When a lakeside tryst ends in a double murder, police detective Daniele Harper arrives on the scene determined to get answers. Clues are everywhere, but nothing adds up. Dani turns to the Delphi Center crime lab for help, but soon regrets it when her secret attraction to their chief firearms examiner threatens to distract her from the most important case of her career.

As a ballistics expert and former Navy SEAL, Scott Black knows firearms, and he knows he can help Dani unravel her case. Scott has managed to hide his interest in his best friend’s younger sister for years, but when her investigation brings them together, the sparks between them quickly get out of control. Scott resolves to keep his hands off Dani and his eyes on the goal—identifying a killer. But when that killer zeroes in on Dani, all bets are off. There isn’t a line Scott won’t cross to convince Dani to trust him so that he can help her take down a ruthless murderer who has her in his sights.

## At Close Range Details

Date : Published January 31st 2017 by Pocket Books

ISBN :

Author : Laura Griffin

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary, Mystery

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# From Reader Review At Close Range for online ebook

## Manda Collins says

Yessssss!!! Scott Black gets his own book!!! Yay!!! (I am maybe more excited about this than I should be!)

And it was as good as I'd hoped. More closer to release date!

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## ♥Rachel♥ says

A couple is found shot and killed in the forest, and Dani finds herself heading the investigation into their deaths. The murders are high profile, but Dani finds more questions than answers as she investigates. Integral to the investigation is the Delphi Center, a forensic specialty center lending its services to the local police in cases where quick, solid answers are necessary. Scott Black, Dani's long time unrequited crush, is the resident expert of ballistics from the Delphi Center assigned to the case throwing Dani and Scott together after an steamy New Year's encounter six months earlier. They shared a drunken, passionate kiss, and since then Scott has been avoiding her. Can they keep things professional tracking down a ruthless killer? I certainly hoped not!

**At Close Range** blended together all the things I love in romantic suspense: lots of action, danger, and a romance full of chemistry! I do love a romance of unrequited love! Scott and Dani's history is full of yearning and denial, setting the romance up for an inevitable collision; something a long time coming! Scott was the best friend of Dani's older brother, and basically for fifteen years Dani has secretly lusted for him. She knows his reputation with women. Never seeing him with the same one twice, Dani's very hesitant to start anything with Scott, even with the explosive chemistry they share. She doesn't want to be another notch in his bedpost and lose their friendship in the process, but at the same time working together they can't resist the insane pull between them:

**"Scott, aren't you worried about everything?"**

**"No."**

**"I am." She eased back and looked at him. "This could ruin our friendship."**

**"I don't want to be your friend anymore, Daniele." He slid a hand up to cup her face. "It's this or nothing for us."**

They spend nights together after barely surviving the attacks thrown their way, and all that pent up attraction boils to the surface making for some pretty heated scenes! It was a, hot, exciting read!

I've only read one other book in the Tracers series, but this didn't hamper my enjoyment at all. **At Close Range** can be read and enjoyed completely as a stand-alone story. Buckle up for an intense ride!

*A copy was kindly provided by Pocket Books via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Jacqueline's Reads says

## 4.25 Suspenseful Stars

This was my first Laura Griffin book and it won't be my last. If you are into suspenseful, totally shocking, didn't see it coming kind of read, then *At Close Range* is for you.

I love suspenseful books, the more mysterious the better in my opinion and *At Close Range* hit all the right spots for me. I felt like I was watching a murder mystery on TV. The book is well written, the characters are very developed and I was just sucked into the plot.

This isn't a super romance book, BUT there is a love story and it's kind of like the added extra bonus, a nice treat. I was mostly interested in solving the case.

The book starts with a bang and instantly you are thrown into some murders. Who killed them? Why? How are they related? So many questions and I couldn't get enough of it.

Dani is the detective on the case and she is good at her job. She has to work extra hard as a female on the force, but she can hold her ground. I really liked her. I liked getting into the mind-set of Dani and figuring out with her. I enjoyed reading her following on each lead.

Scott is the ballistic expert, think CSI and **\*\*gasp\*\*** he and Dani sort of have a thing for each other. I like the Scott and Dani dynamics it was kind of a slow burn relationship and it added something to the book. Scott doesn't do commitment and he doesn't want to start anything with Dani, but he cares for her. When Scott is somehow linked to the case, it kind of brings Dani closer to Scott and things start to happen.

There's so much action, plot and twist jam pack in this book. There was never a dull read. Like I said, if you want a good suspenseful, murder mystery book with a side of romance, then this one is for you.

TBR January 31st

AMAZON

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## Tanja ~ KT Book Reviews says

The Queen of mystery and suspense has done it again!

It's criminal how good Griffin is at creating an atmosphere that not only lasts throughout a book but an entire series! If you haven't had the pleasure of reading this series. Stop. Grab book one and get ready for one of the most amazing binge read sessions you've ever had.

What more can I say? Laura Griffin is writing perfection.

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## **Jay Crownover says**

she's one of my top faves. this is hands down my fave romantic suspense series.

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## **Laura (Kyahgirl) says**

4/5; 4 stars; A-

Laura Griffin usually writes pretty darned good romantic suspense. This one was a good addition to the Tracers series. I was glad to see Scott Black find something to smile about.

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## **Anita says**

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review. Thank you for a wonderful birthday present.

Yeah!! Scott Black, former SEAL and weapons expert, gets his own book, finally. I am so glad he didn't end up with the skank defense attorney from Exposed. I have been waiting for this book. When you follow a supporting character through several books, you think you know them. Well, be prepared to be surprised by the real Scott that we have not seen previously. WOW!!

Dani Harper is the younger sister of Scott Black's best friend and, as far as Scott is concerned, untouchable. Except, all he can think about is the hot kiss they shared on New Year's Eve. Now, 7 months later, they are working the same double murder case and he can't seem to get his feelings for her under control. Dani has to same feelings, except, now Scott is the prime suspect in those murders.

Can anyone spell FRAME UP? That is exactly what is happening here and a not very smart frame up either. A murder weapon is found with Scott's prints all over it. Let's be real here. If Scott Black wanted to murder someone, no trace of that person would ever be found. Scott, former Navy SEAL and weapons expert extraordinaire, is not stupid and leaving fingerprints on a weapon is most stupid. That said, whoever is doing this is spec-ops trained, funded and ruthless. And he wants Dani dead, something Scott is not about to let happen.

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## **Julie says**

At Close Range by Laura Griffin is a 2017 Pocket Books publication.

Oh, yeah! The Tracers, baby!!

While I have enjoyed all of the books in the series that I've read so far, this is one of the best of Griffin's recent releases.

Dani gets her shot at being the lead detective in a double homicide, and she is experiencing a case of the nerves. But, things get even stranger when her brother's best friend, Scott, becomes the prime suspect.

Scott is a former SEAL is adjusting to civilian life and is fighting off a long time attraction to Dani, the sister of his best friend. But, when the ballistics expert is implicated in a double murder, he and Dani are thrown together in a high octane situation and the sparks between fly higher than ever before.

But, it soon becomes apparent that Dani is a target and Scott intends to do everything he can to clear his name and keep Dani safe.

Whew! Scott and Dani have a sizzling hot chemistry between them and I loved that they were friends for a long time before the relationship changed. The romance is super hot and Scott is an almost perfect alpha personality.

But, the murder investigation, which takes up the most real estate in the novel, and rightly so, is very, very interesting and the action is incredibly tense and suspenseful.

This book gets back to the sort of storyline that first attracted me to his series. Griffin rarely disappoints, but this time she's taken things up a notch. If you enjoy this series, I think you're going to love this new chapter. If you are new to the series, you shouldn't have a problem reading this one as a stand alone. So, if you like action packed romantic suspense, I don't think you could ask for more!!

4.5 stars

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## **Saly says**

So, I took a break from RS books and even this series (have missed a couple of books in between) and am so glad I did. I totally loved this book, the characters, the romance, the investigation- all of it and I am so going to go back and read the books I have missed. I do remember Scott from other books and loved reading about Ric and Mia again.

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## **Jonetta says**

Detective Daniele (Dani) Harper catches a high profile double murder and is assigned as lead even though she doesn't have a host of experience. She holds her own and is only thrown off her balance when Delphi

Center firearms expert Scott Black joins the investigation. He's one of her brother's best friends and very much a part of her law enforcement family but six months ago they stumbled out of the friends zone and things have been awkward since.

This was one of those cases where solid investigative and forensic skills were needed because nothing about the murders seemed to make sense on the surface. I really enjoyed the forensic analyses, learning a lot more about firearms, weaponry and sharp shooting than I believed I already knew. Things got really interesting when Scott was compromised and that additional angle made this a stronger story. Dani and Scott's relationship was adeptly developed, fitting into the investigation neatly and messily at the same time. They made a good team on all levels and I liked them both.

I was drawn in from the onset and never could deduce what was going on, which was unusual for me but kept me immersed in the action and the case. Everything about this story worked.

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### Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

So damn good!

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One of my favorite genre's to read is romantic suspense. After all, you get the best of both worlds. Hot guys, sweet love, mystery, intrigue, and suspense that makes your heart pitter patter.

One thing you learn while reading in this genre is who are the authors that can bring the goods. I have read several of Laura Griffin's books and I know she is one author I can count on for an exciting and engaging read.

The first thoughts that come to mind when I think about this book is HOT and Delicious. WOW. This author knows how to combine everything we want from a romance book and everything we want from a police/military action suspense novel.

At Close Range is a beautiful balance of hot and spicy with gritty and raw. You get the best of both worlds. I love how Laura Griffin understands how to blend and balance work and real life feelings. You get the push and pull. You can feel the connections.

Check out the full review <http://amidlifewife.com/at-close-rang...>

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### Melissa says

Each and every book I've read in the Tracers series has been **intense. Gritty. Exciting. Sexy.**

**Unputdownable.** With this latest installment, Laura Griffin has proved to me, once again, she can nail the perfect balance between taut suspense and magnetic chemistry. Each time I'm faced with the same quandary - do I devour the book in a few mere hours or drag it out and savor it? Care to guess what happened this time? To be honest, Daniele and Scott didn't leave me much of a choice.

What I loved most about this one was the history between Dani and Scott. Her older brother's best friend, Dani grew up crushing on Scott. Honestly, who wouldn't? Forced to retire from the military after an injury,

he's incredibly gorgeous and now a top ballistics expert at the Delphi Center.

They end up working a case together, but there's one major problem - Scott becomes the number one suspect. Is everyone around her right? Is their history clouding her judgement? Besides childhood memories, Dani and Scott shared a drunken kiss and have been avoiding each other ever since. She's accepted the fact that he doesn't do relationships and he won't betray his best friend by making a move on his sister.

Let me tell you, Dani and Scott's connection is **INTENSE**. They both have valid reasons for holding back, but when they finally give in it's **EXPLOSIVE**. Both likable characters, they're made even more so with the natural connection they share. I seriously could not get enough of these two. I have read a ton of suspense/police procedurals and romance books, so believe me when I say - this is the perfect mix of both worlds.

***"You're going to be sorry you did this."***

Sometimes, when I see a series that has a lot of books, eleven in this case, it seems daunting to start from the beginning. Don't let the number of books in this series stop you from picking this one up. I assure you, each book can be read as a standalone. I've skipped around and read these completely out of order. Getting glimpses of characters from previous books is always a nice surprise and there are no spoilers of any kind. **If you enjoy thrillers and great love stories - READ THIS SERIES!**

*\*THANK YOU to Gallery/Pocket Books and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **CD {Boulder Blvd} says**

Laura Griffin is one of my favorite authors and I've read almost every single one of her books. I'm now starting to re-read them. Part of why I like her books so much is that she has found a nice balance between providing a well written suspense plot and providing a good group of characters that you like reading about. I love the setting of the Delphi Center and the law enforcement groups working with them.

I was really excited about At Close Range and was really happy when I received the book via the Goodreads give away program. Yeah me!

And this was a 5 star read for me. I really enjoyed reading it.

More to come...

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## **Selene says**

**Genre:** Romantic Suspense

**POV:** Third person, shifting

**Setting:** San Marcos, Texas

**Overall** likability of characters: 5/5

With only four homicide cases under her belt, Daniele "Dani" Harper is appointed as the lead detective on



the latest homicide case to sweep through the San Marcos Police Department. A local university professor and his research assistant have been murdered and Dani plunges herself headfirst into following through with every lead.

Reading this book felt like watching a CSI Miami episode unfold, including a bit of angsty romance thrown in for good measure! The firearms expert, Scott Black, was Dani's romantic interest and he played the moody but thoughtful hero quite well. Overall, this story was well-rounded: there was a bit of action, romance, big brother protectiveness, and a few mysteries to be solved. First time reading this author's work and it's refreshing that this is one of those series where you can jump right into the story without having to read the five or ten books that came before it. Enjoyed!

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## **Anita says**

*Tracers* is one of my favorite crime thriller slash romantic suspense series. While a lot of Laura Griffin's earlier work wasn't to my liking, I found that I slowly started becoming hooked to her *Tracers* series, and before I knew it, I'd read every single book available.

Now I devour each book as they are published and look forward to the next, as well as keeping tabs on other projects Griffin may be creating.

Granted, every so often, one of her books will come off as a regurgitation of something she's already written, with a few switch-ups, I still find myself enjoying them. Because, if it's one thing she knows how to do well, it's being able to reel the reader into a gripping, un-put-down-able suspense that has you turning pages.

And also, it doesn't hurt that her characters aren't hard to relate with.

## **The Story:**

A lakeside tryst turns into a double murder. Select persons of interest turn up dead as Daniele Harper is tasked to lead the investigation. Meanwhile, crucial evidence turns ballistics expert, Scott Black into the police's main suspect. Having grown up with Scott, Dani finds it hard to believe that he would commit murder, especially after finding a solid alibi for Scott's whereabouts during the killings. That means that someone is trying to frame the ex-Navy warrior.

When Dani and her team learn that these killings had been planned months in advance--starting from the selection of Scott as the scapegoat--they also uncover evidence that something much deeper is happening.

And as Dani's investigation leads her closer to the truth of the murders, a professional hit man might also be gunning for her life.

## **My Thoughts:**

As I'd stated, sometimes Laura Griffin books feel like they'd been written before somewhere in her back list.

Fortunately, *At Close Range* feels like an exciting breath of fresh air, despite being another crime thriller and murder mystery in a sea of crime thrillers and murder mysteries. And also despite there being a few elements that Griffin has used before. Because we get to watch and follow very intimately as Dani and Scott uncover one piece of evidence after another, acquiring knowledge that slowly pieces the mystery together.

Granted, the ending twist felt a little far-fetched, and maybe a bit over-dramatic, I still found myself flipping pages until the very end. A little before the mid-point of the book, the story becomes less of a "Whodunnit" and more of a "Why are we killing?" Because a professional hit man is uncovered, but now we need to know who hired him, what connects all of these victims, why are they all dying, and why Dani is in his cross-hairs as well.

Meanwhile, we get introduced to a few new characters whom I believe will probably be featured in Griffin's next *Tracers* novel.

One of the things I appreciate about Laura Griffin is how naturally she incorporates new characters, because the introductions don't ever feel forced for the sake of setting up back story for a new novel. Instead, Sean Byrne pulls his weight quite well as one of the police detectives working with Dani on her case. Brooke Porter, a Delphi Center forensics trace evidence tech might have already been introduced before, but I don't recall for certain.

And then there are the previous characters, also included into the book quite naturally. Of course, I must point out that Ric Santos seems to keep going through partners like a new trend. Throughout the series, I think I've seen him partnered up with at least two other detectives. This is a big town and a big world after all, and I suppose you don't always see the same officers and detectives and forensic scientists, but I'd still like to know what happened to the other guys Ric had worked with previously.

Anyway, back to our main couple and their story...

Daniele is a tough, smart, and resourceful detective who is given her first case as lead detective, which kind of shakes her up a little bit since she's at that "I'm not sure if I'm up for that challenge yet" stage. But that doesn't keep her from doing her job, even if it might rub others the wrong way. So I like that she maintains her level head throughout the case. Of course, except where Scott is concerned, obviously.

Still, she's a great character, even if a little detached.

Scott is a typical alpha male, who, unfortunately turns into a repeat of previously created male characters in Griffin's *Tracers* world. He's ex-military, and somehow has decided to take it upon himself to investigate the case because he doesn't feel like he can trust law enforcement to clear his name. I can understand his concerns since a crucial piece of evidence is pointing arrows at his head, but it also bothered me that Scott seemed a bit contradictory in his way of thinking. And it also bugged me that he purposefully omitted his alibi, thus impeding the investigation, forcing Dani to go on a wild goose chase to find his alibi for him--in the meantime, she could have been following a different lead.

In some of his monologues, he is consistently thinking that Daniele is a great detective and will be able to handle a murder investigation--he even tells her so a couple times. But then he turns around and talks about how he'd be damned to leave this investigation in law enforcement hands because he can't trust that they'd be able to do it properly. In a round about way, that's like telling Dani to her face that he doesn't trust that she knows what she's doing so he's going to do it himself.

So... I kept wondering... he either believes that she can help him by tracking down the real killer, or he doesn't. It seemed kind of frustrating that he couldn't quite make up his mind.

Of course, if he weren't so arrogant about his own superior investigating skills, then we wouldn't get to see Dani and Scott in action together, figuring out significant details of the case.

Meanwhile, Scott also goes a bit caveman on Dani, by pretty much telling her to sit back and let *him* do her job. This is something that seems to come into play a lot with a few other Laura Griffin books, and really bugs me. Daniele is a trained law enforcement officer, and lead detective of the current story line's murder case. It seems rather insulting for Scott to suggest she should "call the cops" to deal with crime, or that she should go hide somewhere while he apprehends a suspect.

For some people, I'm sure it comes off manly and protective. But I simply see it as an insulting gesture wherein he cements his subconscious distrust of Dani's skills as a police detective, even as he tells her aloud that he believes in her. And so I DID like that Dani calls him out at some point in the book, when her house is broken into and she chases after the mysterious suspect. He'd told her she shouldn't have gone after the guy who broke into her home; she snaps back something to the effect of, "Should I have called the cops instead?" clearly trying to point out that she is, after all, a cop.

Because given the same scenario with either of the male detectives in her place, I'm sure Scott wouldn't have bothered suggesting that said *male* detective NOT go after the culprit--probably would have gotten ribbed if he had stayed home obediently and dialed 911 instead. Thus is the social double standard.

And also, Dani DID dial 911 and reported her break-in. She just also went after the guy while she was at it.

Anyway... getting off of my soapbox...

**To conclude:** *At Close Range* is an exciting, page-turning, intensely suspenseful new addition to the *Tracers* series. I look forward to reading the next one.

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I originally wanted to use this book as part of the Romance Bingo 2017 for the **Blown Away** square, trying to connect it with guns and shooting, as well as the explosions that happen in the book... but I decided that that would be stretching it too much.

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