



Blinded

Lyz Kelley

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Mara Dijocomo's dreams died the night a drunk driver killed her parents and sister, and left her permanently wounded. After months of therapy, she's finally adjusting to her new reality while working to save her mother's floral business. When the first boy she ever loved walks back into her life, she wonders if she and Joey are getting a second chance to find love.

As Joey and Mara's love blooms, the evidence becomes clear the local deputies are either ill-equipped to comprehend what's happening, or someone's covering up a crime. Joey and Mara fight to balance between their careers, family, and their renewed love until the FBI contacts Joey ultimately tipping the scales.

If you like a steamy romance, deep emotional topics, a thread of mystery, and a cozy happy ending then BLINDED is for you. The first book in the ELKRIDGE SERIES debuts a quirky cast of characters and begins introducing evidence to solve Sheriff Sam's murder.

Blinded Details

Date : Published February 6th 2017 by Belvitri Services, LLC (first published December 27th 2016)

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Author : Lyz Kelley

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Suspense

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From Reader Review Blinded for online ebook

Joan says

Maybe I am wrong, but I can't believe in a woman who is totally blind working as a florist. It doesn't make any sense to me. And therefore I can't get invested in the story. It also irks me that she was in a horrific car crash, loses her sight and has no other injuries. Nah.

Dnf at 8%

Kim says

I received this free e-book from Amazon and I am voluntarily writing an honest review. This is the first I have read of this author and I was mesmerized by her amazing talent and ability to tell a story that draws the reader in and holds them captive.

Jennifer Pierson says

Mara Dyocomo's life was never the same after a drunk driver killed her parents, and sister, while leaving her permanently disabled, and alone. She's finally moving forward in her new reality, when her first love walks back into her life. Big city Detective, Joey Gaccione has returned home to Colorado, to attend his murdered brother's funeral, and he already knows that he'll be talked into helping to find the killer. His gut is screaming that his brother's murder is part of a bigger plot, so he knows that the Elkridge Deputies won't be able to handle alone. The one bright spot is a second chance at his first love, Mara. But will Joey be able to balance catching a murderer, and renewing their love, without anyone else getting hurt?

WOW! What an exciting story that has all the feels! I couldn't believe it when I saw that Blinded is Lyz Kelley's debut book, as her very talented writing style came off like she's been putting out best sellers for years. I was instantly captivated from the very beginning, and my heart raced cover to cover. Her diabolical twists and turns kept me on my toes, while screaming f-bombs throughout. Mara and Joey simmering chemistry boiled over into serious steamy sexy scene goodness that I couldn't get enough of, while the emotional topics had all of my dramatic girly girl emotions flying everywhere. I absolutely CANNOT WAIT to read the next book, so I'll end with HIGHLY HIGHLY HIGHLY RECOMMENDING this amazing start to a new series!

Paula Radell says

I'm excited to introduce you to Lyz Kelley and her new release, Blinded. It's a heartwarming, sweet, life-affirming, sexy, suspenseful read that sucks you in from page one with one of the most gripping prologues I've ever read. It's a story of tremendous loss; but also of resilience, of triumph over adversity, with an undercurrent of hope that will stir your soul. And, while its primary plot involves a bittersweet second-chance romance, it's so much more than that. It's a story of family and friendship, with a gripping murder

mystery and a sub-plot hinting at crime and corruption that runs deep beneath the streets of small-town Colorado.

You can't help but fall in love with the two principal characters in *Blinded* - Mara, who was left blind in the wake of a family tragedy; and Joey, a detective from Seattle who returns home to mourn the untimely, mysterious death of his brother, the town's sheriff. You might assume that the title "Blinded" refers to Mara's condition - and it does - but you'll soon recognize that blindness presents in many other subtle, insidious ways. We can be blinded by hate, jealousy, greed, power, anger, lust, addiction, fear, guilt, regret, and a host of other human frailties -- many of which come into play as this compelling story unfolds.

This is book 1 of the new Elkridge series, and it can easily be read as a standalone; but you won't want it to end just yet. Lyz Kelley has left a few, important unanswered questions that will make you want the rest of the series yesterday. But there's NO cliffhanger, and there's a happy ever after ending that will keep you satisfied as Ms. Kelley slowly unravels the threads she's so skillfully placed along the way. Who murdered Joey's brother, Sam, and why? Who's stalking Mara, and why? Is anyone else in danger? How high up does the corruption go? You may think you've got it figured out - but you'll find red-herrings and misdirects that will keep you guessing and leave you wanting more.

The author has a deeply personal connection to this story, and it shows in her writing voice. You will walk in Mara's darkness, feeling her fears and doubts, while admiring the strength of her character, her intelligence, her resilience and her capacity to love. You'll feel Joey's struggle as he tries to reconcile his past with the present, come to terms with his own vulnerabilities, mourn for his brother, and recognize the ties that still bind him to Elkridge - including the woman destined to be the love of his life.

Blinded delivers all the feels - you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll ache - and you'll nearly combust when Mara and Joey finally give in to their desire for each other. So sit back and enjoy the ride. There's more to come and I can hardly wait.

Tracey says

A book that will draw you in, right off the bat.

I love how this book just pulls you in and doesn't let you go until the very end. It was deeply emotional and yet sizzling and funny too. It also deals with some tough issues. It is not a light read but it is so well written you have to finish it to see what all happens.

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (1/25/2018)! ?

Blurb:

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Nancy Bodie says

This was my first book by this author it was so good! It is action packed, engaging storyline. I love the complex characters. While this couple gets their HEA the story continues, and I can't wait!

A Book Lover's Emporium Book Blog says

4.5 STARS

I enjoyed this book and read it in two sittings. The author writes well, but each chapter left me wanting more so it was almost impossible to put down, I love that in a book.

The story centres on Joey and Mara. From a far, they have both been each other's admirers since high school; with neither of them acting on it. When Joey comes home for the first time in 10 years, he meets with Mara and falls in love all over again. Is he man enough to be able to tell her this time?

Mara is blind, having been involved in a horrific car accident that killed her parents and younger sister; she is lucky to be alive. When Joey returns, all her feelings surface but would he really want to be burdened with a blind woman, when he can have whoever he wants? Mara soon discovers that Joey wants every part of her.

This was an enjoyable story with romance, love and crime involved. Both characters were lovely but each has obstacles they need to overcome before they can move on with life.

Pat says

Well written storyline with well developed characters that pulled me into the story from the very first page and kept me hooked until the turn of the last page! I look forward to reading more from Lyz Kelley.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

Nicola says

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Read on behalf of a Book Lovers Emporium.

Cynthia says

Strength

Joey has to come home because his brother who was Sheriff was murdered. When he stops in the flower shop to get flowers for his mom he runs into a friend's little sister and someone he helped tutor, and had a bit of a crush on. It's been 10 years since he was home. She lost her parents, sister and sight in a car accident. Can he find love while figuring out who killed his brother.

Luv2read says

****Free today 1/25/2018 on Amazon****

Kristi Hudecek-Ashwill says

"...money doesn't separate people, it's how you face your challenges that defines you."

~Mrs. Gaccione

Such a profound statement that struck home and hit the theme of this book dead on.

Mara Dijocomo was in an accident that killed her parents and one of her siblings, and left her blind and sometimes in pain. I. Loved. This. Character. She was fiercely independent, ran a flower shop with her surviving brother, Tony, and loved banana cream pie for breakfast. She doesn't really have a self-esteem problem, but thinks she's not a forever kind of girl because of her lack of sight.

Joey Gaccione grew up with Mara. He knew her before the accident. He remembered her being a cheerleader while he was on the high school soccer team. He'd had a crush on her. He'd heard back in high school that she'd had a crush on him, too. Things happen and they don't get it together for over ten years.

Joey is now a police detective in Seattle. His brother, Sam, the sheriff in Elkridge, is shot and killed by an unknown assailant. When Joey comes home for the funeral, he does a little investigating on his own and discovers that either the sheriff's department really is inept or that they're trying to cover something up.

When Joey arrives in town, his first stop is at the flower shop to buy his mom some flowers. He was amazed to see Mara working there and realizes that he still has feelings for her.

This is a high-charged romantic suspense that will keep you turning pages. The plot is steady with a few "oh no" moments. The characters are well-developed and easy to care about. I found myself cheering for them and even getting mad at them. I was drawn into the story and drawn into their lives. I love it when a book does that.

Be sure to read the Author's Note at the end of the book. When I read books, I read every single page, especially the Author's Note page. At this time, I wish to extend my condolences to the author. Writing this book was a beautiful tribute.

I'm most excited to read the next book in the series.

Alphas Do It Better Book Blog says

4.5 Awesome-Sauce Stars!

Okay, so truthfully, I went into this book blind. The ONLY thing I knew about it was that there was a detective in the story. (I have a bit of a soft spot for police officers!) The prologue pulled me in deep! I found myself not wanting to put this book down.

At first we meet Joey Gaccione, a detective from Seattle. He is in town because his brother, the Sheriff his hometown of Elkridge, has been murdered. He is in town for the funeral, but can't stay away from the investigation. Between his Dad and half of the town begging him to look into the investigation, and his own curiosity, he has to get involved.

Mara Dijocomo is part-owner of the local florist. She has always had a crush on Joey but she never acted on it. Since her accident left her broken and blind, she thinks no one could ever fall in love with her.

When these two get back together, you swoon with how romantic Joey is. I really enjoyed reading the story of Joey and Mara. I LOVE the second chance they have been given of love and life. Add in the dog aspect

and the crazy friends/family and it just makes this story perfect!

I can't wait for the next book in the Elkridge Series!

Thanks for such a great book Lyz!!!

Review by Michelle S

DJ Sakata says

My Rating:

4.5

Favorite Quotes:

My mom didn't care what my grades were as long as I kept my knees locked together.

Kym attracted men who were betta fish, those colorful little creatures that look gorgeous, but lived alone because they tended to be territorial, aggressive, and pick fights with anything walking by their fish bowl.

Burritos, beer, beans...I'll be smelling something all right.

"A catch?" Typical ma. "She makes me sound like a piece of salmon."

"She better be thinking about losing weight," Kym chimed in. "Look at all those headstones. I don't think her fat butt is gonna fit... If it were me, I think I'd prefer to be cremated. I wouldn't want to deal with a mother who weighed as much as a cow lying on my chest for eternity."

At least she hadn't married him before discovering his inability to handle sickness. Which, she realized later, also meant it was highly unlikely that he'd be able to stick around through health, either.

My Review:

I enjoyed this sweet and sexy story and was surprised to see it was the author's debut work. The plot was intriguing and the writing was relevant, insightful, observant, and well-paced. I adored both main characters and found them adorable, admirable, and highly relatable, although their families were rather toxic and obnoxious. Blinded was a genre hybrid of women's fiction, suspense, small town family drama, and adult second-chance romance. I relished the wry humor and steamy bits tucked in between and sometimes right inside the more serious scenes. I plan to peruse my way through this entire series.
