



Deep Down

Karen Harper

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As a child, Jessie Lockwood spent many hours helping her mother, Mariah, count the endangered ginseng plants hidden in the local woods of Deep Down, Kentucky. There she learned to appreciate the tiny Appalachian town--and ginseng's healing powers. Now a PhD, she's made her home in Lexington, even though that meant leaving Deep Down and her beloved mother--and Sheriff Drew Webb, the man she secretly loved.

When Jessie is notified that her mother never returned from her last walk in the woods, she comes home to Deep Down--and to Drew. As Jessie and Drew race to find her mother, several suspects emerge: an agent for those who market the herb for its life-giving properties; Mariah's disgruntled suitor; and an old Cherokee desperate to protect the sacred tribal herb.

In the mist of legend and fear, only two things make sense to Jessie. At any cost, she is desperate to find her mother. And she can't help falling desperately in love with Drew all over again.

Deep Down Details

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Author : Karen Harper

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From Reader Review Deep Down for online ebook

Cheri says

My first book by this author. It was okay but not great. I have to admit I went back and forth with who I thought was the killer. A little hoaky at times but overall okay.

Wendy says

You know what really urks me ... when proof readers cannot do their jobs. This book has so many mistakes. I've notice the same about many MIRA books. They really need new proof readers. It makes these books very unenjoyable.

Linda C says

Jessie Lockwood, cancer researcher, is called home to eastern Kentucky when her mother goes missing. Her former lover, Drew is now Sheriff and he needs her help finding the ginseng patches her mother might have been counting in the forest, in hopes they will lead to finding her. As they work together in the search and the subsequent investigation they uncover a group of suspects that would like to keep Mariah Lockwood's count unpublished. The book had a lot on the uses, scarcity and value of wild ginseng. It also gave an interesting perspective on the lives of those living in small Appalachian areas. My problem with the book was the way the villain takes the time at the climax to narrate his reasons for murder and his relationships with the victims, while in the process of attempting to murder Jessie. It fell apart for me at the end.

Deb says

This was an good mystery/romance set in rural Kentucky. Jessie Lockwood, born and raised in Deep Down, KY returns home from a scientific conference in Hong Kong when her mother is reported missing. Mariah Lockwood counts ginseng (or "sang") for the government, and several people are pressuring her to pad her counts so as not to limit the ginseng harvest. The sheriff in charge of the search for Mariah is Jessie's secret love, and as the two search for her mother their relationship is rekindled. I found the information about ginseng and the legal (and illegal) trading of it quite interesting.

Amber says

I normally dont review a book. I got halfway in and got tired of the sang talk, and herbal storyline. IT was obvious what the tall thing was and what it was made of. I figured out who did it about halfway in , sooo... obvious. So i skipped to the end only to prove to myself that my prediction was spot on. It was entirely too long for a predictable outcome. I skipped half the book. I gave it 2 stars because it actually kept me reading until halfway, otherwise it would have been 1 star for originality, (the sang storyline)

Debfiddle says

As a child, Jessie Lockwood spent many hours helping her mother, Mariah, count the endangered ginseng plants hidden in the local woods of Deep Down, Kentucky. There she learned to appreciate the tiny Appalachian town and ginseng's healing powers. Now a PhD, she's made her home in Lexington, even though that meant leaving Deep Down and her beloved mother and Sheriff Drew Webb, the man she secretly loved. When Jessie is notified that her mother never returned from her last walk in the woods, she comes home to Deep Down and to Drew. As Jessie and Drew race to find her mother, several suspects emerge: an agent for those who market the herb for its life-giving properties; Mariah's disgruntled suitor, Vern; and an old Cherokee, Seth, desperate to protect the sacred tribal herb.

In the mist of legend and fear, only two things make sense to Jessie. At any cost, she is desperate to find her mother. And she can't help falling desperately in love with Drew all over again.

Ryan, masquerading as with the Department of Transportation, kills Mariah, the lady with the ginseng drink. He dresses in a costume looking like a monster from Cherokee legend.

He's really with a lumber company and wants to cut all the timber in the area and has to make it look like there is not a lot of ginseng to harvest so that the local people will not object to selling their timber. He's also the father of Cassie's baby Pearl, who he rejected after Cassie became pregnant. Cassie ended up shooting and killing him as he was trying to kill Jessie.

Susan says

I found the use of the "Appalachian" accent distracting. It is not what I've experienced and found it offensive. I had to stop reading after the first couple chapters. I couldn't take one more "reckon"

Crystal Karre says

A very good story filled with character and mystery right up to the end

Lindig says

Not too bad, overall. The most unrealistic part of the book is the romantic relationship between the sheriff and the scientist (hero and heroine). Set in the Kentucky hills and centering on "sang" (ginseng), the author maintains a non-condescending tone when discussing "hillbillies" (I'm from western NC so I'm always alert for snobbery).

Even though I found the story interesting in its details, I never felt any visceral thrill or fear. The villain was given short shrift in explaining his motives or why he chose his particular method. It was just a little too tidy and quick. It feels as though the author really just wanted to write a book about the hills and the "sang," and threw in the murder stuff as it's what's expected in her books.

Kathy Ryan says

Ginseng intrigue meets high school sweethearts in Kentucky. Who knew that ginseng was a thing worth killing for in Kentucky?

Kendra /Books Complete Me says

Unlike the other books, I have read by Karen Harper, I had a hard time getting through this one. The background was interesting: Appalachia, ginseng, etc, but the story itself didn't grab me in.

Kim says

was very good and was interesting

Rochelle says

Murder mystery in the Appalachian Mountains. Very interesting, about the gen-seng trade, the history and culture surrounding it. This was my first Karen Harper book, and will read others by her. This story kept my interest and was a fast read.

Sheri says

Deep Down (Karen Harper)
Romantic/Suspense.

Jessie Lockwood is in China on business when she gets a call that her mother Mariah is missing. She comes home to a small Appalachian town in Kentucky called Deep Down. There she teams up with an old Love Drew, who is now the local police. Not only does she come home to her missing mother, she also comes home to old inner demons she must face.

Likable characters , but a bit slower than I am used to (for a suspense novel). I also figured it out about half way through the book (the back story) and main plot. But it was interesting to learn of the ginseng plants, and the demand for these wild plants.

Jeanie Harper says

My word, this author is fantastic - I normally feel like I've entered the books scenario, but, wow.

A very good read and spine tingling.
