



Low Tide

Dawn Lee McKenna

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In Apalachicola, Florida, sinister things are afoot, as sinister things tend to be.

Lt. Maggie Redmond is called to a crime scene on St. George Island, where she is met with the body of Gregory Boudreaux. The medical examiner calls it a suicide, but no one knows that Maggie has a horrible connection to the dead man.

When Gregory's uncle, Bennett Boudreaux, the richest and scariest man in town, takes a sudden interest in Maggie, people start to wonder, Maggie included. Maggie knows he may suspect her of killing his nephew, but she finds herself slowly drawn to the man.

As Maggie fights to help a young girl escape the clutches of a volatile drug dealer who'd love to see Maggie dead, she also struggles to hide her dark link to a dead man, and her burgeoning relationship with her boss, Sheriff Wyatt Hamilton.

Unfortunately, secrets have a way of revealing themselves at low tide.

About the Forgotten Coast Florida Series:

The first four books of the series, Low Tide, Riptide, What Washes Up, and Landfall, lay the foundation for the entire series. There are subplots resolved in each book, but there is also an overarching plot that is not resolved until Landfall, so they should be read in sequence. Later books can be read in any order.

Low Tide Details

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Author : Dawn Lee McKenna

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From Reader Review Low Tide for online ebook

Kelly says

Good start to a new series. I enjoyed this book and the characters. Good story line. My new nay issue was that it was kind of an abrupt ending. I will read another book by this author.

Kathy says

Kind of dragged. Author had to put two unrelated stories together to make it a book.

Mary Ashley says

Good story and an easy read but it ended abruptly with lots of unanswered questions. I guess you have to read the next in the series to know what happens. I like a story to have an ending and not one that leaves you hanging.

Mustang says

This was a new author for me, I happened upon it by per chance! It begins with a bang! No pun intended, and you meet Sheriff Wyatt and LT. Maggie. I was so hooked by the 5th page, I never moved for the time it took me to start til finish! I will also tell you, I bought the whole series that day, and awaiting til Feb. 15th for the next book! It has mysteries, as in plural, funny, serious, great setting, Maggie is my Hero!

Courtney says

I was instantly hooked on this fun, fast-paced, Florida mystery series featuring Maggie Redmond, Sheriff Wyatt Hamilton, David, Maggie's kids, and the mysterious Mr. Boudreaux. Maggie is called to the scene of an apparent suicide... Gregory Boudreaux has taken his own life. Maggie has been grappling with a dark secret for years: Gregory once raped her in the woods when she was a teenager, so she's not all that sad to see him go. While working the case, Maggie and Wyatt finally acknowledge their building attraction to one another that we get the impression has been sizzling for years.

The side plot in this book - as I'll call it - was Maggie's personal involvement with a woman named Grace who was involved with a big-time drug dealer, Alessi. While trying to help her escape Alessi's clutches, Grace ultimately gets her kids taken away by child services and commits suicide. Seeking vengeance, Maggie and the department go after Alessi, and when he turns violent, she shoots him point blank, killing him.

One very interesting twist to this book is Maggie's relationship with her ex-husband and best friend David.

The two had been together since 5th grade, and divorced five years prior when, after losing his job, David took to hustling marijuana in and out of Florida, which Maggie could not bear. I thought that the comfort level Wyatt had with Maggie and David's relationship was quite the example of self-confidence and assuredness... Maggie and David still openly say "I love you" and he calls her "Babe"!

Let's also not forget Maggie's budding friendship with town bad-boy and mob boss Mr. Boudreaux. He's wealthy, mysterious, and definitely dangerous, although I can't quite figure out yet if he has it out for Maggie or if he genuinely cares for her. All the characters in this story are well-developed and likeable, and I can't wait to see what it has in store.

Pauline Ross says

I loved the author's debut work, 'See You', regarding it as one of the finest books I've read in recent years. So this opener for a new series was a must for me. The author very kindly sent me a copy in advance of release day, so I could be one of the first to read it - thank you very much!

This is a very different book, a thriller built around thirty-something police lieutenant Maggie Redmond, divorced with two children. Maggie's a very likable, very normal person, doing her job, raising her kids, not exactly struggling to get by but (like most of us) stuck in a bit of a rut. But Maggie has a secret in her past, and when ne'er-do-well Gregory Boudreaux turns up dead in an apparent suicide, her life threatens to unravel. She's thrown into the path of Gregory's uncle, the town's rather charming chief crook. And then there's the teenage girl ensnared by a local drug dealer, trying to look after his kids and her own baby, whom Maggie takes under her wing.

None of this is particularly unusual, but the background takes it out of the ordinary. Set on the Florida panhandle coast, every page oozes local colour and (even to a Brit like me) southern charm. There were quite a few references I didn't get, but who could resist a town with a single traffic light, and a grocery store called a Piggly-Wiggly? I could almost smell the salty tang of the air, hear the slap of waves against the side of the boat, and feel the sweat trickling between my shoulder blades. Although... oysters? Nah, you can keep the oysters.

The plot develops at a stately, Southern pace most of the time, with much of the tension arising from fabulous, subtext-laden conversations where nothing is said explicitly, but boy, are there undercurrents swirling beneath the surface. But, being a thriller, the pace ramps up dramatically at the end, with far less contrivance than is often found in books of this type. And I liked that no one takes such dramatic events lightly.

If I have a complaint, it's that many of the characters seemed to be a little too nice to be inhabiting a thriller. Not just Maggie herself, but her normal, well-adjusted kids, her loving parents, and her almost-love-interest, fellow cop Wyatt (especially Wyatt, who can woo me any time). Even her ex-husband, divorced for very sound reasons, comes across in his few appearances as a pleasant, sensible and reliable man. In addition, the two plots are not well connected, so sometimes things seemed a little disjointed.

But overall an absorbing, enjoyable read. This is a great start to the series, with the author's trademark wonderfully drawn characters, southern charm and plenty of humour. But there's a darker tone in there as well. This is not the weepy-fest that 'See You' was, but I shed a few tears all the same. Looking forward to the rest of the series. A good four stars.

♥ Joy Joy ♥ says

Came across this book by chance and was surprised at how much I enjoyed it. Interesting mystery read that manages to hook you in good, but does end on a cliffhanger.

(To be clear, the book's mystery is solved, but the series itself has an underlying plot/mystery and that's what I mean by cliffhanger. This will be a series that probably won't be able to be read out of order)

Would recommend to those to give a try. Definitely am looking forward to the next book in the series.

Carol says

What a read!!

Suicides, rape, domestic abuse, child abuse, drug abuse, meth labs, drug running, secrets, oysters, dancing, humor, romance plus more all combine for a fast paced, well developed story with well defined, colorful, some quirky, some temperamental and well created characters.

The main female character Maggie and her two children live in Apalachicola, Florida with their dog, Coco who is a five year old Catahoula Parish Leopard Hound, a rooster named Stoopid and a mixture of White Silkie, Buff Orpington and Rhode Island Red hens. She is divorced and is police Lieutenant. Great ending. Amazing what can be revealed at low tide!! Looking forward to reading the next book.

Michele says

It takes a lot for me to dislike a book but this one qualifies.

A book needs to have a beginning, middle and end that fit and make sense, this one does not.

The book is set up to be a mystery that starts with a murder/suicide.

The main character is investigating this murder/suicide while dealing with her own personal demons and relationships.

Then midway the book shifts from the murder to drug dealers and from there the whole thing falls apart.

The ending was rushed and made absolutely no sense to the rest of the book.

Even with this being book one in a set/series, it still needed to finish one vein of investigation before it moved on to another.

Reading this book was like getting on a bike with the plan to ride 10 miles across town but after two hours of riding you realize your bike is stationary and you never left home. Time wasted!

Zane says

Slow and Good

You know how it is when you read a good book that is slowly paced but still good? That's this book. Although, there are still moments of suspense that have your adrenaline kicking in.

Quillracer says

This book was not quite a mystery and not quite a suspense. There's a little of both but not enough of either to put it firmly in one category or the other.

It also had a somewhat unfinished feel to it. Not poor writing or editing, but a lack of completeness about the book. The main plot and several subplots are unresolved and the ending wasn't so much a cliffhanger as a pause in the action. After reading it, I felt as if I had watched the first episode of a multi-part miniseries.

On the plus side, Ms. McKenna did a better job with the romance subplot, doing an excellent job of having her two main characters tentatively feeling their way into a relationship instead of hopping into bed right off the bat. Her writing is taut, providing enough details to paint a full picture without bogging the reader down in page after page of description.

I'm interested in seeing where the author takes these characters, but not enough that the remaining books in the series go to the top of my 'Must Read' list.

Silver Screen Videos says

Writing is a business, and writers want to keep readers sufficiently interested in their work to read more of their books. So, authors often choose to write novels or other works in series, in the hopes that readers who like their style and the characters will continue reading. It's a strategy that worked exceptionally well for some, like J.K. Rowling, but it's also risky, because many readers don't like out-and-out cliffhangers. The writer thus has to leave enough plot strands open to keep readers interested but, at the same time, give them a feeling of closure in each book. Dawn Lee McKenna wrestles with this problem in her otherwise solid (albeit short) novel, *Low Tide*, and her ending doesn't quite work.

Low Tide is set in Appalachicola, FL, a small Gulf of Mexico fishing town about an hour's drive east of Panama City in one of the smallest (by population) counties in the state. It's home to a commercial fishing industry, some retirement tourism, and, in this novel at least, a homegrown illicit drug trade as well. The last of these interests Detective Maggie Redmond, an investigator with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, since her current case involves an abused girlfriend of a local meth dealer. The girlfriend asks Maggie for help in getting away from her boyfriend and offers to inform. Maggie has to get the woman and three small children out and put the bad guy away.

To say that *Low Tide* is a book about small town cops taking on a local drug dealer, however, is to look at the small picture. For author McKenna sets this book up as most cop shows on TV are structured, with a “case of the week” (or in this case, the book) as one part of a larger puzzle. And this big puzzle involves Maggie, her ex-husband, her new potential boyfriend (who’s also her boss, the county sheriff), and the town’s largest employer, Bennett Boudreaux, who runs a fishing business but is also reportedly involved (but never proven) in various shady activities. At the start of *Low Tide*, his nephew apparently shoots himself on a deserted local beach, and Maggie’s investigation into the death winds up involving her in a very unusual, deepening relationship with Boudreaux, a man her own father’s age.

As a writer, McKenna does an excellent job of sketching in personality traits, both Maggie’s and of some of the other main characters. She does so gradually, allowing readers to know little bits and pieces gradually as the book progresses. But, as this book ends, readers still don’t know all the answers. And they won’t, unless they read more of the author’s work. They specifically won’t know whether Boudreaux’s nephew was murdered, and why he died, whether it was a suicide or murder, which, since the book opens by describing the moments leading up to his death, most readers would probably expect. They will learn what happens with Maggie, the drug dealer, and his girlfriend, but that will probably not satisfy most people in regard to the big picture.

I don’t want to be overly critical of *Low Tide*, since it succeeds quite well at capturing the atmosphere of this small corner of Florida and its residents and establishes Maggie as a very likable and quite realistic character. In addition, the action scenes are well laid out and interesting, and readers will enjoy the general feel they get for small town police work here. But the ending is handled rather awkwardly, as if the author was keeping a page count and, more or less decided to arbitrarily end the book at a particular point. The actual ending is unexpected, but not one that will shock anyone who has ever read this type of book before.

I’ve gone into a bit more depth here than I usually do in describing the storyline to allow readers to get a better feel for what to expect in *Low Tide*. Those who enjoy this type of mystery, with intriguing characters, atmospheric color, and good action, and who don’t mind an ending that asks more questions than it answers will enjoy it. Those who expect full closure will not. My three-star rating is a compromise here, between some very good writing for 190 or so pages and extremely awkward writing for the last ten. *Low Tide* will take readers on a good cruise as long as they watch out for some shallow water at the end.

Annie says

A most excellent 5 star read! found a great new series, on to the next book #2 Riptide

Carla says

Short and sweet but a great beginning to a serial of books written about an where I'm staying this winter! Many familiar places and the author has such a wonderful descriptive nuance to the people and places. Took me just an hour or so to read this. I found it at the local library. Kudo's for displaying the local talent and area books. I rarely if ever read a serial books, but I will read these even if it's just a pleasant break while on vacation.

Diane Schultz says

Stormy coasts

Being from a coast, i love the storms, and i love it when authors use the environment almost like another character. This was only the first book... they're a little dark, not quite your Florida summer beach read with quirky characters and laughs a mile long. Its more real, with characters almost too real, where good guys stent all that perfect, and bad guys not all that bad. It's a. little bit of Dave Robicheaux, just a little, and a bit of Florida the way the natives live it, and a bit of teeball and divorce and women with secrets and moral codes and children to raise and a crazy chicken named appropriately, rather than politically correct. And family. The rest is just a story that pulls on the threads of all the other stories and makes you want more.
