



If I Should Die

Allison Brennan

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A TRIP TO THE DARK SIDE

Aspiring FBI agent Lucy Kincaid and her P.I. boyfriend, Sean Rogan, are heading to the Adirondack Mountains for a pleasant romantic getaway when they detour to help troubled friends, owners of a new resort who are battling malicious vandals. After Lucy and Sean pursue an arsonist into an abandoned mine shaft, Lucy stumbles upon an even more heinous crime—and the perfectly preserved remains of its victim.

The only thing more disturbing than the discovery of the corpse is its sudden disappearance. While the local police remain skeptical, Lucy is dead certain that there's a connection between the sabotage at the resort and the murder—one that the less-than-neighborly citizens of Spruce Lake seem to have a stake in keeping hidden. Then, when a cold-blooded sniper targets Sean and Lucy, FBI agent Noah Armstrong enters the fray to ensure that more bodies don't hit the ground. Now three outsiders race to untangle a violent conspiracy before they end up like the rest of Spruce Lake's secrets: dead and buried.

If I Should Die Details

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From Reader Review If I Should Die for online ebook

Meghan says

Interesting story full of details and action. I enjoyed this story, but would definitely recommend others read the whole series before reading this one as the characters and storyline are constantly fluctuating. It is great to see the relationship between Lucy and Sean evolve, as well as her role as an aspiring agent.

Joan says

Lucy and Sean are supposed to be on vacation, when a friend asks them for help. Lucy is supposed to be relaxing before starting her new job. The friends are opening a resort, but it has been vandalized several times. The last time their kitchen was burned. The community is upset because a woman who grew up there called the Monster is back. She is a killer and enjoys killing. When Sean chases the boy who started the fire, while chasing him, he falls in a mine shaft. Lucy finds him and gets him out. While in the mine shaft, Lucy sees a dead woman. When she reports it to the police and returns to the mine shaft, the body is gone. The police think she imagined it, but Sean believes her. Good story, much like the previous books.

Barbara ★ says

[says I love you. It took a near death encounter but she said it. (hide spoiler)]

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Book 3 in the Lucy Kincaid series finds Lucy and Sean away on a “sort of” vacation. They’re trying to help friends figure out who is vandalizing their new resort and preventing it from opening on schedule. What starts out as a vandalizing case which leads them to a 17 year boy that started the fire at the resort, opens up all kinds of secrets that the small town of Spruce Lake has been hiding for years. There are plenty of reasons that people don’t want the resort to open on schedule, a resort that would bring, hopefully, many tourists into this small struggling town. But along with an increase in people, brings more eyes into this town to potentially catch on to all the dealings that have been going on that involve quite a few players, and that’s what made the suspense portion of this book very interesting to me, and set it apart from the first 2 books in the series.

We get the POV of the worst of the enemies in this story. We know from the start that the bad “guy” is really a bad woman, a psychotic woman, as we’re able to get inside her head and her thoughts for most of the story until we actually meet her on page. What I enjoyed most about the suspense storyline was that it involved the town, literally. Everyone looks guilty of something at some point and it takes a lot of twists and turns to finally find where the line is drawn and see who ends up on the right side of the law, or the bad side. There are a few people who want to stop all the craziness in their town, and are driven by vengeance. Not only do

Lucy and Sean need to connect all the clues, that start when Lucy finds a body in one of the abandoned mines outside town, but they have to figure out who they can trust, how the past is impacting current events and how they're supposed to stop a crazy woman.

Lucy and Sean have to call in Noah (who I hope gets his own series told one day), Lucy's brother Patrick, along with other government agencies, as a lot of hands end up being in the pot due to everything that's been going on in Spruce Lake. Drugs, money, fire arms, murders, it impacts everyone there in some way and Lucy and Sean find themselves right in the middle of it, in no time.

...Lucy saw her real fears, the ones she kept buried, in their full light; Loss, loneliness, and helplessness.

She had been so alone, even with her family surrounding her, until Sean walked into her life and taught her how to live and laugh. She was no longer lonely, in the deep, weary existence she'd had for years.

Love was a risk. Sean made it look so easy when he told her *I love you*.

Yet when she looked at him, he was waiting. He was scared she didn't love him back, no matter how confident he was that she did. He needed her to admit it, because he knew she wouldn't lie.

Lucy and Sean's relationship draws me into each of their books. Sean is the first man that Lucy's been able to let in and get close to since her attack years ago, and Sean doesn't take that lightly. He loves Lucy with all his heart, tells her often and Lucy really struggles with expressing her emotions. There were a few times I wanted to shake her, to get her to just say the three little words that would have meant the world to Sean, but while she does love him, it just scares her. It disappoints Sean, each time she stumbles over the words, but ultimately he loves her and he will wait for as long as it takes to hear her finally say them.

Seeing where this couple has come from book 1 to now having a solid relationship makes the suspense portion of their stories even more intense. Lucy is still counting down to starting her FBI training, and with Sean working as a private investigator, it'll add another dimension to their relationship. Noah points out, pretty directly, that the rules Sean bends in an investigation, Lucy can't let that influence her as an FBI agent, and there will no doubt be more bumps along the way for these two as they figure out their new working/personal relationship. They're a great team, and I hope that Lucy going to Quantico for training during the next portion of this series won't be too much of a strain for my favorite couple. A little angst is ok, as long as we get the happy payoff at the end!

Noah plays a very strong role in the story, and it was important for Sean to work through his own feelings when it came to Noah and Lucy working together. There's nothing between Noah and Lucy, but it showed a small insecurity for Sean, and having Noah around and being forced to work with him to bring down the enemy was essential and Sean's able to come to terms with the place Noah has in Lucy's life. Like I mentioned above, Noah is a secretive guy, Lucy even says as much when she thinks about how much Noah knows about her, but in return, she knows absolutely nothing about him. There's some hinting that Noah had a past relationship that didn't work out because of his job and his commitment to working for something that he strongly believes in, and I really hope we get his full story after Sean and Lucy's series comes to an end.

I really loved the mix of the emotional relationship between Sean and Lucy and the intricate suspense plot

that has a lot of players, a lot of people to keep straight, who's related to who, who is or was friends, and who needs to watch their back. This is a really nice edition the Lucy Kincaid series and I'm glad it'll be extended for another three books. A great read for all fans of romantic suspense.

Cecily Kyle says

I have had a lot of ups and downs with this series this far. The covers are what drew me in and I have read other Alison Brennan that I really enjoyed. It was different to have a psycho female as the villain but I had some time where I was a little bored. Not bad but I have read better. I will continue the series because I am invested at this point.

Terri Wino says

Another good suspense story from Allison Brennan. I like the relationship development between Lucy and Sean, as well as involvement of other characters from previous books. Looking forward to the rest of the books in the Lucy Kincaid series.

Larissa says

Originally Posted at Welcome to Larissa & Friends' Bookish Life

**No Spoilers

I am addicted to the paranormal genres, but after reading J.D. Robb's great Romantic Mystery series, I decided to check out more series in the genre. Now I am a card carrying fan of Karin Slaughter, Lisa Gardner and most recently of Allison Brennan.

I had read Brennan's Paranormal series, but in the Procedural Thriller is where she shines as an author. Not only in the Criminal aspects but also in the interpersonal relationship between characters. Which, let's be honest, it's what keeps us coming back. I mean, what would it be of shows like Castle and Bones without the friendships and relationships?

I love Lucy Kincaid! She is a great heroine for me. She is real, she is a survivor that has chosen to NOT be a victim and fight for justice. What is not to love?

Now, her hero is definitely a new favorite male lead for me. Sean is the great anti-hero. He is more of a hero.hero for me, because the anti is usually in the past. What might keep him in the "anti" column is that he is not afraid to cross some lines for justice.

My favorite thing, besides the great thriller side of the novels, is the relationship between Lucy and Sean, and the relationship they have with their families. I love how much they lean on each other and how much they trust each other even when others might try to set them against one another.

If you love this genre of novels, the Lucy Kincaid series is a must read! =)

Angel Walker says

Once again a book that I couldn't put down. Read it in one day and I have the urge to read it again. I thought this one was the best one so far in the Lucy Kincaid series due to the level of craziness in this book. I love when the antagonist is just filled with pure lunacy and in this book for such a small town lunacy runs rapid. This book hit very close to home for me since the setting was in upstate New York which is very close to where I live and I remember some of the incidents mentioned in the book. I also liked how Agent Armstrong was thrown back into the mix because the tension between him and Sean Rogan was great to read. I can't wait for *Silenced* I'm hoping for a lot more tension! I'm not sure if I'm just a fast reader or if it's just that good...It's just that good :) For full review visit my website. <http://angelwalker.weebly.com/book-re...>

Melanie Chabrol- says

What more can I say? that wouldn't give it away? Very well written, loved the ending, thanks to my dog, she woke me up and finished it this morning. Will Lucy Kincaid and Sean Rogan ever get on with their lives? Ever have a decent vacation?, If you are up for a good challenge find out whom the good guys are between the bad guys, PS did I say it had a great ending.....

Terri Lynn says

The title of the book is *If I Should Die*. I was hoping all the characters **WOULD** die. That sums it up.

Michael says

Just started this but so far seems to be full of overstatement, cliché and melodrama. Almost more comical than suspenseful...

Christi Nash says

I'm not big on paperback romance novels unless they're classic Romanticism, which is generally more complex, so I honestly am not enjoying this mystery as much as I could because I find the romance between Lucy and Sean claustrophobic and annoying, and I'm not sure I will ever read another Allison Brennan mystery - not just because it contains romantic elements, but the romantic subplot is narcissistic and unrealistic, a bunch of crap about Sean reading Lucy's mind after only knowing her for four months, and just a bunch of psychoanalytical bullshit that strikes me as the fanciful meanderings of a lonely woman who has never actually had a serious relationship. Sorry/not sorry. I'm only continuing to read it because the mystery itself is actually decent, but I think I'll stick with Nevada Barr and PD James next time I want a mystery written by a female author.

Karen says

Another book from my digital library that was a failure for me. I checked it out for a book challenge and unfortunately the library does not tell enough to know this is full of relationship romance. I dislike romance and tolerate just a small bit in a story. I did like the main characters, but not in the spotlight together. The story line was interesting; If it stuck more to the suspense I would have most likely really enjoyed it.

Marca says

Feelings...whoa whoa whoa..feelings. I forgot that Allison Brennan incorporates romance/erotica into her mysteries. My bad. I had to listen to endless teen-type angst over the relationship of the two main characters. Lucy Kincaid (why can't I tell Sean I love him?) and Sean Rogan (why can't Lucy tell me she loves me?) Acckkk! The mystery is pretty good. Lucy is an FBI recruit and Sean is a private eye. While on vacation, they stumble onto a woman's body in an abandoned mine. The body disappears by the time the police get to the mine. Who moved the body? Who was the woman? Why does the small town around the mine seem to be conspiring to keep Lucy and Sean's friends from opening a resort? Does Lucy really, really love Sean? (oops). If you are not a romance aficionado, read the print version so you can skip over that cr*p, and get to the mystery. I was stuck in audio world so I didn't have much choice.

Mike says

This comes out at 3 1/2 stars, with good action and a semi-convoluted yarn about Sean helping some friends stop saboteurs at their soon-to-open resort lodge.
