



Edge of Midnight

Leslie Tentler

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The writer becomes the story when crime reporter Mia Hale is discovered on a Jacksonville beach—bloodied and disoriented, but alive. She remembers nothing, but her wounds bear the signature of a sadistic serial killer. After years lying dormant, The Collector has resumed his grim hobby: abducting women and taking gruesome souvenirs before dumping their bodies. But none of his victims has ever escaped—and he wants Mia back, more than he ever wanted any of the others.

FBI agent Eric MacFarlane has pursued The Collector for a long time. The case runs deep in his veins, bordering on obsession...and Mia holds the key. She'll risk everything to recover her memory and bring the madman to justice, and Eric swears to protect this fierce, fragile survivor. But The Collector will not be denied. In his mind, he knows just how their story ends.

Edge of Midnight Details

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From Reader Review Edge of Midnight for online ebook

Diana says

Raising audiobook narrated by Bernadette Dunne to 4 stars.

3.5 stars for interesting leads and very compelling storytelling. Problem is I am so tired of the same story told by every romantic suspense author. The last six RS I have read by six different authors are all variations of the same plot.

*Serial killer targets heroine

*Cop/agent/SEAL swears to keep her safe

*Heroine ignores hero's warnings and blithely puts herself in villain's evil clutches

*Hero tortures himself with guilt but pulls himself together just in time to save heroine

I've read this plot dozens of times. Some writers (like Tentler) tell it better than others but I really would love something new.

Jess the Romanceaholic says

This is a Quickie Review. For the full review, please visit The Romanceaholic.

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Author's Website: <http://leslietentler.com/>

My Source for This Book: Netgalley

Part of a Series: Yes, Book 3, Chasing Evil Trilogy

Series Best Read In Order: Works well as a standalone

Steam Level: Steamy

Crime reporter Mia Hale has been following a series of disappearances in the Jacksonville beach area when she postulates a connection between the disappearances that even local law enforcement seems to have overlooked. Unfortunately for Mia, her interest in the disappearances has put her firmly in the sights of a sadistic killer who takes her, thinking to add her to his gruesome collection.

When Mia is found wounded and disoriented on a beach in Jacksonville, it becomes evident that not only had she been taken by the serial killer dubbed The Collector, but that she is the first woman ever to escape from his clutches.

When FBI agent Eric MacFarlane discovers that The Collector has come out of hiding and is once again taking and mutilating women, he knows that Mia Hale is the key to the case. Unfortunately, Mia has been left with no memory of her captivity, and outside of the physical scars of the torture she endured, it appears there is nothing she can do to help law enforcement.

Eric has a very personal history with The Collector, however, and isn't about to let a little amnesia stand

between him and what could be the only break the case has ever had. Strong-arming Mia into doing whatever is necessary to recover her memory, Eric soon finds himself struggling between his determination to stop The Collector and protecting the fiery woman who holds the key to his capture.

But The Collector isn't finished with the tough and determined Mia Hale, and it soon becomes very clear that Mia is to be the pinnacle of his collection, and Eric and Mia both find themselves firmly in the sights of a brutal and sadistic killer..

Overall, this was an exciting, terrifying read. The Collector was one of the scariest fictional serial killers I've read about, and the pacing was absolutely perfect. Adding in Mia's amnesia and the slow recovery of her memories, as well as Eric's connection to The Collector added a wonderful amount of tension to the story, and several unexpected twists and turns kept me on my toes for the entire read.

I also loved the way that Mia and Eric's relationship developed, with both the pacing of their physical relationship ,and the unexpected emotions developing along the way.

Recommended for fans of brutally terrifying serial killers, of survivors refusing to be kept down, and of sexy FBI agents battling between catching a killer and protecting the woman they're falling for.

A scary 5/5 Stars.

?Karlyn P? says

4.5 stars. A great chilling romantic suspense, and an author to watch.

Edge of Midnight is for romance fans who like their stories with a good dose of nail biting suspense, a strong emotionally charged romance between the H/h, and a great deal of attention to the details.

Crime reporter Mia Hale escaped the evil hands of a serial killer, but she has no memory of what happened. Special agent Eric Macfarlane with the FBI enlists her help to find the man that is kidnapping and torturing women before dumping their dead bodies.

This is the kind of story that just sucks you in as you try to figure out what happened to Mia, what will she remember, and how are they ever going to find enough clues to bring down the serial killer? Nail biting stuff! The story spends a lot of time piecing together the evidence as well as building a profile for the killer. We also learn that Eric has deep personal ties to the serial killer, and that Mia's abduction may not have been random at all.

Edge of Midnight was a great balance of romance and suspense. Eric and Mia's attraction and eventual relationship was well blended into the suspense part of the story. This is the best kind of romance suspense (IMHO). It is a multilayer story where more and more stuff gets revealed as we read on, has a believable romance with passion and steam, plus a great ending that wasn't overly predictable. I read this one out of order, and had no problem what so ever. This is a great author, I can't wait to read what she writes next.

ARC provided by Netgalley.com

Lauren says

Edge of Midnight

4 Stars

Crime reporter Mia Hale is the latest victim of the sadistic serial killer known as The Collector. She is also the only one to escape his clutches, but much to the chagrin of law enforcement, has no memory of her abduction. FBI profiler, Eric MacFarlane, has personal reasons for wanting to capture The Collector and knows that Mia is the key. As the two work together and the killer sets his sights on Mia once again, Eric swears to protect her even if it means making the ultimate sacrifice.

Series note: None of the characters in the **Chasing evil** trilogy are connected and each of the books can be read as standalones.

An intense psychological thriller with likable characters and a satisfying romance.

Eric and Mia are both well-developed characters with interesting backstories that contribute to understanding both Eric's obsession with The Collector and Mia's determination with contributing to the investigation.

Eric and Mia have solid chemistry and their romance is more believable than in the first two installments, although like Tentler's other stories in the series, the heroine is more emotionally attached than the hero.

In terms of the mystery, the villain is exceedingly brutal and sadistic. His identity is revealed early on and readers are given his POV, which ratchets up the tension and suspense without undermining the procedural elements.

There are one or two moments that require a healthy suspension of disbelief, but these do not minimize the overall effect of the mystery or the romance.

In sum, a well-written and exciting story with just the right mix of action, suspense and romance.

Sherylb says

Wow, this one scared me (last 10%). What a psycho villain!! I don't remember reading and shaking this much since I read Deadly Fear by Cynthia Eden. Definitely up for something light and fluffy after this one.

Shawna says

4 stars – Romantic Suspense

This is a good romantic suspense thriller. It has a mega creepy serial killer villain, dark, chilling, goosebump inducing suspense, a likable hero and heroine, and satisfying, well paced romance. This should appeal to fans

of Karen Rose, Allison Brennan, Kylie Brant, Jami Alden, and Cynthia Eden.

Pamela says

Too long-winded, flat characters, and a romance that lacks any sizzle.

Tracy says

Too Much and Not Enough

Three years ago, FBI Special Agent Eric Macfarlane was in Maryland, hot on the trail of a vicious killer who called himself The Collector. As a member of the FBI's Violent Crimes Unit, he was trained to hunt serial killers, but nothing could have prepared him for his wife Rebecca becoming the sadistic monster's fifth victim. The Collector slipped through his fingers, making Rebecca his final confirmed kill...an obscene retribution for which Eric still pays.

The Collector disappeared, and no victims have turned up that match his MO. Then Eric gets a call from his old partner and friend in Jacksonville, Florida. He tells Eric a chilling tale of a young woman, crime reporter Mia Hale, who had been found near the beach after fleeing an accident scene.

The woman had been nearly naked and drugged out of her mind. She showed signs of being restrained and tortured, and was covered in blood. Not all of it was hers. On her stomach someone had carved a number that is horrifyingly similar to numbers that Eric still sees in his darkest nightmares, that he saw on his own wife. But the one desecrating Mia's skin isn't the number five that had marked Rebecca's place in a psychopath's sick roll call. It's eight.

The Collector is back. And he's been a busy man.

Mia is the only victim to have escaped The Collector, but what she knows about the killer is locked away by the drug-induced retrograde amnesia she's suffering. Desperate to bring the monster down, Eric will do anything, push any angle, to get at the information that Mia has locked in her mind. Even if it puts her at risk. This is the one case that Eric can't let go...the one that took everything from him three years ago. And Eric knows beyond doubt that the monster will never stop, never, unless he can catch him before he strikes again.

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I've been a fan of Tentler since her first book, *Midnight Caller*, and looked forward with anticipation to each subsequent book in this very loosely connected (as in not really at all) trilogy. Unfortunately, this one didn't work for me, a fact that I find frustrating, because by all rights, it should have. It's an intense psychological thriller, my favorite sort of romantic suspense. Neither the storyline nor the characters suffered any significant attack of the Ills and Imps. And Tentler can certainly write taut, horrific scenes that are gripping. All of those are big positives, and yet this one just fell short for me despite them all.

The main characters, Eric and Mia, were well developed and three dimensional. Their lives were filled in nicely with depth in their backstory and connections to friends, co-workers, and family. On top of that, I enjoyed them in their roles. I thought Eric's history with The Collector added quite a bit of gravitas to his

situation, and the combination of Mia's professional experience and her memory loss melded together well to not only explain her lack of significant trauma from her experience, but forgive her determination to investigate the killer. Without that, she would have annoyed me senseless.

Unfortunately, despite Tenter's skill, I just didn't feel any sexual chemistry between them and the romance elements of the story failed to mesh for me because of it. I couldn't help but feel like they were being forced into their relationship instead of it being an organic extension of genuine attraction and increased sentiment. That's not to say that they didn't have some great scenes together, scenes filled with tension and intensity, but I just didn't buy their romantic relationship like I did for the romantic pairings in Tentler's first two books.

I also had an issue with a couple of story elements related to The Collector. We know from the beginning that this is one seriously screwed up, very bad man, sadistic and brutal. Had my view of him been limited to his crimes and his psychopathy, he would have been a powerful force of terror in the book. Unfortunately, parts of the narrative written from his perspective identified him and showed his relationship with his mother.

Instead of furthering a character study of a cold-blooded monster, he came off as weak and ineffectual in those scenes, a misogynist with Mommy issues. While it explained why he was who he was and how he became what he became, it robbed The Collector of his scary as all hell mojo and lent a pathetic air to his persona that did him an injustice in the book. I wouldn't have minded learning those things about The Collector in hindsight, but being peppered with it sporadically throughout the book had a negative impact.

I thought, too, that the storyline stretched a bit close towards unbelievable coincidence when connections between The Collector and Mia started to be woven into the story. I wish that had been left out of the narrative, because it didn't really work for me and it seemed a bit too far out there to be realistically plausible. It served no purpose beyond displaying an even sharper gradient of evil, and by the time the chips fell and the truth was known, it had become tragic but largely superfluous.

All of the issues I had are obviously quite subjective, and none of them take away from the fact that the book is well told, the characters are well written, and the crimes are well and truly grotesque. For me it just wasn't quite the powerhouse I was hoping for or expecting after the first two books in the series, especially the second one, Midnight Fear. It was okay, though, and I hope to have the pleasure of more from Tentler in the future.

***Disclosure:** An ARC of this book was provided to me by Mira Books publisher Harlequin via NetGalley. This rating, review, and all included thoughts and comments are my own.*

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Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

Christa says

I have read all three books by Leslie Tentler, and I thought each one was better than the one that came before. I enjoyed all of them, so by the time I read the third one, it was a strong "5" star read for me. I enjoyed the main characters, Mia Hale and Eric McFarlane, and loved seeing their relationship develop. Both Mia and Eric carried plenty of baggage, but it was wonderful watching them turn to one another and to overcome their painful pasts. The storyline was compelling and made it difficult to put the book down.

Mia Hale comes to consciousness behind the wheel of a wrecked vehicle, not knowing how she got there. She has obviously been tortured and mutilated. She's not the only victim of late, but she is the only one who has survived. It soon becomes clear that Mia was abducted from the parking garage of the building where she works as a crime reporter. The serial killer known as "The Collector" seems to be behind her abduction. Eric Macfarlane travels to Florida to work the case. This FBI agent suffered a tragic personal loss to "The Collector" and is determined to catch him. As Eric works with Mia to try to help her recover her memory of the abduction and subsequent captivity, they feel an attraction that soon develops into more. As they try to determine the identity of "The Collector," they both face danger, and must decide if there is a possibility of a relationship between them if they both survive.

This was a great romantic suspense. The characters and storyline came together to make an enjoyable book. The main characters were very likeable, and it was easy to feel empathy for them. The story was fast paced and kept me interested from beginning to end. I am very much looking forward to Tentler's next release."

Manda Collins says

Another pulse pounding romantic suspense from Tentler, who is proving herself to be a solid author of FBI procedurals mixed with tender romance. We first meet heroine Mia Hale when she's just made her escape from The Collector, a serial killer who has relocated from the DC area to Jacksonville, Florida. A journalist, Mia had been working on a story about two missing women in the Jacksonville area before she went missing herself. As the first of the Collector's victims to escape alive, she has valuable information, only it's locked in her memory banks. FBI agent Eric MacFarlane lost his wife to The Collector three years ago. And now that the killer has resurfaced in Jacksonville he wants to be there to catch the guy.

One of the most compelling aspects of this tale was the experimental treatments Mia underwent to retrieve her lost memories. So was the way that her own life and The Collector's had intersected in the past. The connection between Mia and Eric was made more poignant by the fact that they both were desperately in need of comfort. Mia because of her ordeal with the killer, and Eric because of the loss of his wife. Eric's need to keep Mia safe was realistic, and the fact that ultimately he too was a target for the killer balanced well with Mia's role of damsel in distress. And though she did need protection, there was never any question that she was tough enough to take care of herself if necessary.

If you like sexy, suspenseful romantic thrillers in the vein of Karen Rose, Mariah Stewart, or Cynthia Eden, you'll like Leslie Tentler's latest.

Slightly reminiscent of Mariah Stewart's FBI stories, only sexier.

Anita says

Another great book by Leslie Tentler. I didn't want to put it down. Mia is a news reporter who becomes the story. She was kidnapped, tortured and somehow able to escape a serial killer dubbed The Collector. Eric is a FBI agent with the VCU, he's called in by his friend and fellow agent Cam. Cam knows Eric's past and that Eric has spent years trying to hunt down the serial killer. It's a personal mission for him to stop the killer

before he kills anymore women. Mia doesn't realize that she has ties to the serial killer that go back to when she was a young girl. Mia is one tough cookie. From her terrible childhood to being stalked by a serial killer, she sure keeps it together. I don't think that I would hold it together like she does. As Eric and his team of LEO's rush to stop the killer, Mia will do what it takes to stop the killer even if it puts her in harms way. Looking forward to reading more of Ms Tentler's book.

Cindy says

Plots ok, way too much sex especially since main character has just been tortured. Made me wonder if author was insensitive or uneducated. Well narrated and recommended for those who can suspend reality and compassion for victims to that point.

Victoria says

Come to me, little girl. You won't cheat your destiny again.

4.25 CREEPY STARS! I was looking at GR recommendations for romantic suspense books and came across Edge of Midnight. I haven't read the other books in this series so not sure if they are related or not but Edge of Midnight seems to stand on its own just fine. It's actually one of the better romantic suspense/thriller books I've read lately. The villain is CREEPY and some of the details in the book are grisly. There is definitely a romance but the book isn't sexually explicit. I thought the author did a good job of balancing the suspense story with the romance that develops between the two main characters. I also thought the multiple POV worked well (the heroine, the hero, and the villain). While Edge of Midnight had less heat than Cynthia Eden's Deadly series, it definitely had a similar vibe to me.

Overall, I really enjoyed Edge of Midnight and plan to read other books in this series very soon. I love finding a new author that "gets it right" and for me, this author did. Looking forward to reading more.

Yvonne says

This was one CREEPY but terrific read.

I enjoyed this romantic suspense very much and there was nice amount of romance.

I plan on reading more from this author.

Sue says

I read all three books one right after the other. I look forward to reading more books by this author.

