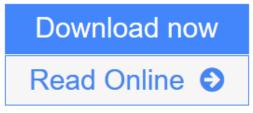


Before Her Eyes

Rebecca Forster



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In a remote mountain community, the execution of a grocer and the abduction of a world-renowned model leave the local sheriff searching for a connection, two killers and a woman who is running for her life. In the next 48 hours, Sheriff Dove Connelly will peel back the layers of intrigue beneath the tranquil camaraderie of his mountain enclave and find that nothing is what it seems.

As Dove sets his investigation in motion, Tessa Bradley, a hard assed Texas gal, faces off with her abductors. Her rangy beauty doesn't mean a damn thing to the foreign men holding her at gunpoint. Just as one of them pulls the trigger, Tessa lashes out. Wounded but alive, she escapes her captors only to find greater peril lies ahead. As her life flashes before her eyes, Tessa struggles to stay alive, prays for rescue and fights for her soul's salvation.

Before Her Eyes Details

Date : Published January 14th 2014 (first published January 11th 2010)
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Author : Rebecca Forster
Format : Kindle Edition 193 pages
Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Before Her Eyes for online ebook

Katie Sanchez says

Excellent

This book was really good. i was invested in it until the end. the characters were easy to grasp and the writing simply carried me along.

Grammy 1 says

We have had a really good run here at the Dual Review site in these last few months, receiving some rather interesting book submissions. Rebecca Forster, you did not disappoint! Oh my, since I do not 'cheat' and read the blurbs about what a book is about, I stepped into the world of Dove Connelly on his mountain, and took the ride of my life.

This story is heard in different POV's and begins with The Phone Call from the Police Dispatcher Jessica, calling Dove Connelly the Sheriff, alerting him to a heinous crime at Fritz's Mountain Store. It encompasses a few days in the lives of these people, who we meet one by one in individual chapters both in real time and in the past, telling their story through a timeline of events. It was a very clever way of relating this mystery.

So now you have met tall, handsome alpha, Dove Connelly, married to Cherie, having a beautiful baby daughter, and you sense right away that there is something 'more' that we do not know. The call from Jessica has alerted Dove to leave his warm bed and go to Fritz's Mountain Store where Fritz, his best friend on the mountain, has been killed.

We also meet the beautiful Tessa Bradley, who through reading her words, looks like person or persons who have hurt Fritz have kidnapped her from the mountain store and have taken her captive. They have her bound in their vehicle for a while, and finally stop in the forest, pulling Tessa out into the night air. Tessa fights back and uses her car key as a weapon, thrusting it into the eye socket of one of her captors and rendering him helpless. This allows her to get away, running through the woods not knowing where she is. Fearing for her life and desperately cold, she flees. Now the story begins:

Fritz's Mountain Store

2:58 a.m.

The information gives us a two fold story, a murder and abduction, which are two separate crimes, but could they be connected? Many other characters come into play. Fritz's wife Bernadette, Jake Bradley, Tessa's husband, Charlotte, Tessa's daughter, and police officers involved in solving Fritz's murder, both in this town and the next.

Dove is following clues, zig zagging back and forth between the mountain store, Tessa's beautiful home, and having search parties out looking for her. We are following her progress through this time table as well with her being lost in the woods; at the mercy of the elements, the cold, the snow and the rain ...

Rebecca Forster has woven a tightly knit mystery thriller with all the right components. A heinous crime, a beautiful rich woman missing, and the core of Dove Connelly needing to find the answers. Dove's tenacity and perseverance are what leads the reader to an astounding ending, with twists and turns and surprises... It had me going until the end, turning pages frantically to see the final words. I cannot say enough for this story, it is a must read if you are a mystery lover. Remember my words... the end has a gotcha...

4.75 Stars

Review by Gloria Lakritz

Senior Reviewer and Chair person for the Paranormal Romance guild

Stacy says

Although I enjoyed the PROCESS of reading this book, when done, I found myself still with a pile of leftovers. Forster takes great lengths to describe in detail many points, thoughts, lines of flow; but in the end, there's still a pile of rubble that's just sitting there never to be addressed...some stuff just out if nowhere makes major impact on the story and characters, but never got fully developed so you're left with WHERE'D THAT COME FROM? too. All in all, a good QUICK read, but I wouldn't put it down as a FAV for sure.

Elaine says

Definitely Worth The Read With An Unexpected Ending

Nothing boring about this book. Starts of by grabbing the reader's attention and continues to hold it throughout. At first, I was disappointed with how it ended but I quickly got over that. I won't get into why lest I give the ending away.

Starts off with Dove, the sheriff getting a phone call in the middle of the night. A man is dead. A beautiful woman who was a model in an earlier time, goes missing. Dove's friend's wife is dying of cancer. Things are happening but leaving the reader with no hint as to what it has to do with, driving curiosity up. Later in the book events start happening at a fast pace, keeping the reader glued to the pages.

Rachel says

Dove is the Sheriff and along with the victim of a kidnapping, Tessa Bradley, they take you on a twist and turn journey from beginning to end. This book did have a couple of typos within it, but nothing major and the story is exquisite.

The characters are all tortured souls, all dealing with their own demons and secret pain, and it makes this

book so interesting, and this is aside from the main plot! The main plot is of Dove's friend Fritz, who is shot dead in his own store, and an ex-model from the big city (Tessa) is kidnapped. The story switches between two viewpoints. From following Dove on his determined path to find the killer and rescue the woman, with whom he has a 'feel' for and can sense along his journey, it changes to Tessa's own words as she struggles to find her own path to self-forgiveness, battling her own demons and finding her way home. I could foresee a couple of the story lines, but most of them were well woven and did not give up the secrets till near the end, and the final piece of the puzzle was so well hidden I was shocked!

I don't lie spoiler reviews but I have to say - read this book, it's well worth it, if I could have given it higher than 5, I would have.

Dove is a hero, a tortured bear of a man who was a great character to delve into, and Tessa haunted me after the last page.

I shall be reading more of Forster's work in the near future. A must read for any fans of great thriller writing.

Rachel Dove The Kindle Book Review

HerbieGrandma says

Dove Connelly is the sheriff in a remote mountain community. When a local grocer, Dove's friend, is killed and a woman abducted by those killers, he has no time to lose figuring out who the two murderers are and finding Tessa Bradley.

Tessa is an aging, world famous model. Wounded, she has escaped from her abductors and is running for her life.

This story is told in two points of view. One follows Dove as he questions locals and tries to piece together the connection between the killers, the grocer and Tessa. Another side of the story unfolds from Tessa, as she struggles to stay alive in the forest, cold, hungry and fighting the demons of her past.

The characters are all original and clear. Cherie, Dove's wife, was my favorite. Tessa's daughter, my least favorite. Small town police corruption, Dove's own internal struggles, as well as famous types from Tessa's past, fill this book with interesting people. This story tugged at my heart over and over again, while the suspense kept me up past my work-night bed time.

This was a 'no put down' book. And the ending? I never saw it coming.

Debra Martin says

"Before Her Eyes" is not usually the kind of book I read, but I agreed to review this book as a nice break from the usual fantasy and science fiction books I review. I thought it would be a quick and easy read of solving a murder mystery in a small town, but I was wrong. This book is so much more than that and made me do a lot of thinking about how we all judge people based on our own perceptions and biases of who we think they are when we look at them. The story revolves around Sherriff Dove Connelly, a good moral stand-up kind of guy who battles his own inner demons while trying to solve the murder of his friend, Fritz, the local store owner, and the kidnapping of Tessa Bradley, a local socialite, from the scene of the crime. Throughout the investigation that covers 48 hours, everything that Dove thought he knew about the people of his mountain enclave is challenged, warped and then twisted back into a new slot. Even Dove himself must undergo this torturous journey if he ever wants to have peace and happiness with his wife and child.

The author lets the story unfold through two viewpoints – third person to follow Dove and the investigation and first person for Tessa Bradley. It is Tessa's voice that draws you in, haunts you, makes you listen to her, and leaves you a shadow of former yourself when she's done with you. Her beauty blinds all who see her, but no one really sees her, no one really knows her, all except for one, and he's never met her before. Dove is determined to find Tessa not because she's a beautiful woman, but because she is a woman in need and that's his job.

This book makes you think and I like that. I highly recommend it, but make sure you carve out the time to read it because once you start, you won't want to put it down until the last word is read.

Christina (Ensconced in Lit) says

I requested this book from Rebecca Forster, the author, because I loved her novel, Hostile Witness. I give this novel 3.5 stars.

Before Her Eyes focuses on two protagonists, Dove, a hard-boiled small town policeman, and Tessa, the beautiful model that has vanished. The setup is interesting--there is a dead man in a convenience store, which is the last place Tessa was seen before she vanished. We see alternating perspectives between Dove in a tight third person, and Tessa in first person. As Dove tries to track down Tessa, he finds himself uncovering mysteries that others hoped to keep hidden.

The strengths of this novel include some of the great description and some interesting plot twists. Forster excels at revealing secrets and bringing the unexpected.

However, I had some difficulties with this novel. The pacing is a little off-- I found myself uncertain why we were following Tessa at all. The middle drags some as we wander around with Dove trying to figure out what is going on. And although I really enjoyed the twists, particularly at the end, some of them still don't quite make sense to me.

That said, I still think Forster is one to watch-- and her Witness series is excellent. This was not my favorite of her books, but still a fun read.

Laurette H says

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. I always enjoy Rebecca Forster's

books. They are always entertaining. This one was an excellent mystery/suspense. The storyline was very well written. Great job, once again.

sharon slepian says

Suspenseful

Great book. Kept you guessing. Characters were real and you could feel their emotions. I am very fond of this author

Blessedutopia says

The beginning was AWESOME. I was sucked into this world in a matter of paragraphs...the middle kind of dwindled...and yes the end was a surprise...but it was kind of a, "huh? why?..what...wha...???" sort of ending. I'm stuck between a 2 and 3 star..but I went w/ three b/c it was an engaging little read that I (with the exception of a bit in the middle when I wish it would have sped up...and the end where there were multiple questions that were left unanswered and I was hanging with a confused look on my face for a day) had a hard time putting down but an easy time finishing.

Karen says

"with death chasing behind what will she see...Before Her Eyes"

That's a product description that makes you **want** to read the book. I found "Before Her Eyes" very ingeniously engaging, believable in plot as well as the rich character development throughout. You find yourself guessing what the outcome will be but you will continue to read on because it becomes evident that things are not what they seem. Rebecca gives an attention-grabbing ebb and flow to the writing style that keeps your attention throughout as you find yourself right next to Sheriff Connelly helping him along his path to find Tessa alive, her kidnappers, murder suspects as well as encounter corruption along the way that threatens to deter him from doing his job. You won't even begin to know how it will end until every last word is read.

Before Her Eyes Rebecca Forster

KyBunnies says

I loved this book but hated the ending. Shelved as 'thrown kindle when finished'!!!!! UGH!!!!!!!!

Shirley Ford says

A gripping tale

This book is really worth 5* although I have only given it 4* due to the typos. I sometimes think that it doesn't matter how many times a book is checked, errors still seem to creep in. This did not detract me from the overall story, which was well written and kept my attention from beginning to end. The characters, all with their own demons, were interesting and believable. I could picture the locations in the mountains. The plot twisted and turned throughout and each time I thought I had it sussed, it went off in a different direction. The ending was a complete surprise. A great book, I would definitely recommend it.

Loves To Dive says

When Sheriff Dove Connelly is called to the murder scene of his best friend, he has no way of knowing that his small mountain community is about to be turned upside down. Dove soon discovers not only has there been a murder committed, but a possible kidnapping as well. Now he has to find the murderers and find out what happened to supermodel Tessa Bradley as well.

Tessa manages to overpower her kidnappers and is now alone in the woods on Dove's mountain. As she tries to stay one step ahead of her pursuers, she reflects back upon the triumphs and mistakes of her life.

The hunt is on, and now Dove and Tessa will discover hidden secrets about not only their friends and loved ones, but their selves as well. Told alternatively between Dove and Tessa's point of view, Before Her Eyes is a heart stopping, bone chilling, well written suspense novel.

Dove has always had the ability to "feel" things in the past, but that ability seems to have left him. He doesn't know why he doesn't "feel" any more, and hates it. He is a strong man of few words, a tough man with a temper if crossed, loyal to his friends and the community he serves. Married with a baby girl, his wife is the love of his life and his rock during times of trouble, yet his home is not the refuge it should be. If I lived in an isolated mountain community, this is the man I would want to protect me and mine.

Tessa is heartbreakingly beautiful. Her career over, she is content in her life with her husband and grown daughter. Her life was not easy, mistakes were made and now she is just trying to make it all right. She is a difficult woman to get to know, but I liked her. I felt her pain and cheered her on. As the story progresses, we learn Dove and Tessa's back stories and meet the people who are important in their lives.

This is a well written, character driven book. Ms. Forrester manages to paint a vivid picture of Dove's mountain and the communities and people who live on it. I felt like I was right there with Tessa running for her life, and Dove moved right into my heart. The secondary characters play a large part in the story, each given a voice and story of their own. The members of Dove's team are quirky and give us some much needed comic relief. There are little side stories going on, leading us on a merry chase trying to figure it all out. The suspense is built slowly, small hints dropped; I was on the edge of my seat and have to admit I did

not figure it all out until the very end. And speaking of end, boy does this book have one. There is a twist I did not see coming and could not stop talking about for days. Anyone who enjoys a good mystery/suspense with twists and turns is going to love this book, I did.

Member of the Paranormal Romance Guild Review Team