



Deadly Melody

Connie Mann

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Home is where the heart is. The danger too...

The Martinellis were the closest thing to family Cat Johnson ever had. That's why she ran—to protect them from her threatening past. The orphaned child of classical musicians, she's been lying low in Nashville and performing at the No Name Café. When Cat reluctantly agrees to attend the wedding of her beloved foster sister, the plan is simple: make a quick appearance at the Martinellis', then disappear again. Instead, she's thrust headlong into a nightmare.

After a wedding guest is murdered, Cat's past becomes harder and harder to avoid. So does handsome and inquisitive Safe Harbor cop Nick Stanton, who will stop at nothing to uncover the town's secrets. That means exposing Cat's as well. The more intimate Nick's feelings for Cat become, the more driven he is to find out what she's hiding.

As things in Safe Harbor take a terrifying turn, Cat realizes that the man she's afraid to trust might be the only one she can turn to.

Deadly Melody Details

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Author : Connie Mann

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From Reader Review Deadly Melody for online ebook

Nina Sivula says

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am voluntarily reviewing it. I enjoyed *Deadly Melody*. I really liked the development of Cat's character. Her absence from her family and constant movement and secret identities stemmed from her desire to not let anyone be hurt. This distancing hurt her family relationships as her sister did not understand her motives and consequently felt like she was abandoning them and feared the hurt she would cause. Family relationships can be difficult even in the best of circumstances not to mention in times of peril. I also liked how they brought the lost Martinelli, Nick, into the story. He balances Cat out by bringing the straightforward legal way of approaching the deadly situation versus Cat's lone wolf approach. But as one reads the story one sees that they need both their strength and weaknesses to get through the danger. I really enjoyed this book but there are also things I would still like to see. I would like more of Nick's backstory as well as an attempt by Nick to deal with the residual emotions left over from it. I would also like a cool down on some of the romantic scenes. Sometimes I think desire plays to big of a part in them whereas I find romance tempered with respect and love to be more romantic.

Kim says

Once again, Mann has written a thrilling, suspense-filled story. I was hooked from the opening scene. This is the kind of story that captivates you from the very beginning and makes you want to read all day long! *Deadly Melody* is a book you won't want to put down until you have read the very last line. Mann writes in such a way that you really cannot predict the twists and turns the story will take. Don't wait another minute...read this story now. You won't regret it!

The author gave me a complimentary copy of her book and this is my honest review.

Kerry says

I liked Nick and Cat's story, but I found myself wanting a bit more about them--both as individuals and as a couple. We learned in book 1 that Nick is the lost son of the Martinellis, but I was hoping his thoughts/feelings on this would have played a more prominent role. I liked the mystery, but I wanted more of Nick and Cat.

Teresa Reitnauer says

Connie Mann can weave a story. A well written story with suspense and intrigue. Two lost souls find each other and take a chance of a happily ever after.

Susan Snodgrass says

"Her time had come to stand and fight."

If you're looking for a suspenseful novel, look no further. Connie Mann hits the ground running and this action does NOT let up! Not for a minute. She continues her series with this third, featuring Cat, who seems so incredibly mysterious on her visits to her foster family in the past. I've wondered about her story since her introduction in the first book and now we have it here with *Deadly Melody*.

Cat has been witness to a terrible crime and hears a devious and horrendous plot concerning her life, so she runs. At age fourteen. The Martinelli family fosters her and loves her, but she is still fearful constantly. She lives under the grid, playing her violin in night clubs and always looking over her shoulder. A wedding brings her home to the small town in Florida where her foster family lives. She meets Nick Stanton, police officer in the little town at the wedding and senses an immediate connection. He feels the same. From that night on, the action heats up and lives are lost and more at stake.

Mann weaves a very convincing tale of mayhem, murder and the danger is palpable! I was hanging on from the very first page! The tale is fast paced, exciting and dangerous in the extreme. Don't miss this one! My favorite so far in the series.

*My thanks to the author for a copy of this book. The opinions stated here are entirely my own.

Jackie says

What an outstanding book. Cat runs away to save her foster family. Then her foster sister is getting married, how can she not go. Suspenseful all the way to the end. Don't miss out once it's released.

Debi Anne says

I have been looking forward to reading Connie Mann's book, "*Deadly Melody*" since I first read "*Hidden Threat*" and "*Tangled Lies*". Each book is a stand-alone read, but once you are invested in the Martinellis and the people of Safe Harbor, you can't help but want to know what happens next! Cat's story intrigued me from the beginning and I couldn't wait to unravel her mystery. I was not disappointed.

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Cat Johnson was a foster daughter in the Martenellis' home. She arrived in Safe Harbor as an orphan and the only clue to her past is her classical music training. Cat is reluctant to return home for her foster sister's wedding because of her threatening past. She would do anything in her power to protect her adopted family, instead, she is forced headlong into a nightmare after a wedding guest is murdered.

Cat's past becomes harder and harder to evade, as does the good-looking and inquisitive Safe Harbor cop Nick Stanton. He will stop at nothing to uncover the town's secrets, even if that means exposing Cat's as

well. The more Nick's feelings for Cat flourishes, the more driven he is to find out what she's hiding and who she's running from.

When events in Safe Harbor take a frightening turn, Cat realizes that the man she's afraid to place her confidence in might just be the only one she can trust.

Connie Mann has created wonderful personalities; Safe Harbor is a great setting and Cat's story is a truly super mystery. I enjoyed every single minute. I recommend this book and I don't think you'll be disappointed. Of course, my hope is one more book.... Blaze's story!

*I was given a copy of this book via Net Galley for review purposes.

Leslie Santamaria says

Finally! Cat's story! Even from Book 1 in Connie Mann's Safe Harbor series I was curious about Cat. Book 3, DEADLY MELODY, reveals Cat's shocking history and follows her through a dangerous, action-packed mystery back home in Safe Harbor, Florida, with the foster family from her childhood. The suspense grabs you right away and doesn't let go. You don't have to read the first two books in the series to appreciate this one, but once you read DEADLY MELODY, you'll want to go back and check out the stories of the other two foster sisters (Sasha and Eve) as well.

I received an advance copy of DEADLY MELODY, and this review is my honest opinion. You can get your copy when it releases May 22!

Madison Calhoun says

Deadly Melody follows a young woman on the run from her murderous uncle, as she ventures home to her foster family for a wedding. On the night of the wedding, a teenager is killed. Cat tries to help her younger sister determine the cause of the boy's death and winds up sticking around in town longer than planned--thus, putting herself and her family in danger.

I received this book in a GoodReads giveaway; this in no way affects or biases my review of it. I did not like *Deadly Melody*. From what I can tell, it is the third book in a series. However, both the GoodReads description of the book and the eBook itself do not mention that it is part of a series (I likely would not have entered the giveaway had I known this). EDIT: Now, the GR description does acknowledge that it's #3, thankfully. It did not when I wrote this review. Supposedly, *Deadly Melody* can work both as a stand alone novel and as a part of the greater series. I don't agree with that, though.

This book put a bitter taste in my mouth from the beginning, because the reader is thrown into a very large family dynamic, with only half-descriptions of the other family members. Since the series is centered around the family, there is a lot of background knowledge you don't have when starting out with this book. A great deal of weird things happened to the other family members (kidnappings, investigations, drug issues, etc.), but they are only mentioned in passing, since fans will already know all the details. It made it hard for me to get to know the characters and also required a suspension of disbelief, to a certain extent. It felt like being thrown into book four of *Harry Potter* and being expected to know everyone in the series and believe everything that happened with Voldemort, without any context.

The characterization fell flat for me. I was pretty neutral on Cat, but I couldn't really grasp her personality. She cared about her family, yet I found it difficult to believe she was still in contact with any of them in the first place. She was on the run (and she reminds you of this every single page), so she shouldn't have had much time to speak with them. She also had biological parents and an uncle she lived with, growing up. I was confused about when, in the time span of her life, she had the ability to grow close to the Martinellis family and how she kept up with them while in hiding. She also just didn't have much of a personality. The first 200 pages are spent with her freaking out about her uncle and the possibility of her identity being discovered. The last 150 pages are her freaking out about something in the plot. She's just always anxious. I don't know if she has any other personality traits, to be honest.

The other characters seemed fleshed out, but again, it was difficult for me to figure out their personalities. They seemed like they had been developed in the first two books, and I was expected to already know about them.

The writing is actually what I had the biggest problem with in *Deadly Melody*. It's very simple and juvenile. It felt like a YA book, where things were constantly repeated. Yes, I know Cat was worried about being discovered. But she did not need to repeat it every single page. She also didn't need to reiterate her fascination with Nick every other page. New emotions and thoughts were never introduced-- it was just the same ones recycled over and over. Even when the plot becomes a little more dramatic, it's just more of the same: Cat whining about being upset, yet not really doing a whole lot. She says she'll do things, but more space is spent on her worrying and thinking about doing something than actually doing it.

Also, the author had some weird fascination with eyes. Almost every page she would write something about either Cat or Nick's eyes. Apparently you can tell everyone's emotions and background by looking into their eyes. I'm cool with mentioning eyes here and there, but there were a ridiculous amount of eye descriptions in *Deadly Melody*. Just for reference, the word "eyes" was mentioned 325 times in this book. Teddy, the murdered boy who the plot revolves around, was mentioned 172 times. The book is 339 pages, so eyes are brought up almost every page.

I'm shocked that this book has such a high rating. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad if I'd read the other two first... but, I dunno. The mystery element was predictable; the romance felt forced. I don't see the appeal in this one, and I do not recommend it. If you're going to go against my advice, at least start with book one.

1 star.

Brandi says

I enjoyed this Christian romantic suspense book by Connie Mann. Cat has a troubled past that keeps her on the run. She returns to Safe Harbor for her foster sister Eve's wedding, but she becomes involved in a mysterious death trying to help her other foster sister, Blaze. Detective Nick Stanton, who happens to be the biological son of Cat's foster family, must solve the murder and stop the drug problem in his town. He fights his attraction to Cat while investigating the case. Cat wonders if her past has caught up to her.

This book kept me reading late into the night with thrilling twists and turns. It was action packed with brave heroine who champions troubled teens. The trust issues and attraction between Nick and Cat had me rooting for them. This book is part of a series. I am intrigued by Nick's backstory and need to read the other books. I hope that there are more books to come in this series.

I received this book from the author through NetGalley. This review is my own opinion and not required.

Katherine Duffey says

Surprising!!!

To be frank I didn't have high hopes for this book even though I was intrigued by it, but I'm so glad I chose to read it, it turned out to be a wonderfully suspenseful book with some twist and turns that had me wondering but never guessing the outcome! Will be looking in to other titles now!!

Yvonne says

I have loved the previous books in this series and this one was just as wonderful.

The series centers around the Martinelli foster sisters. All girls whose past drove them away from their homes and had it not been for the Martinelli's, most likely would have ended up in the streets or dead.

Now as adults, they have grown up to be strong, vital women with a spine of steel.

In this one, the main character is Cat Johnson. A talented violinist, who lives under the radar, dressed in disguises because she knows that otherwise would be hunted and killed and avoids coming home for fear that she would bring danger to her loved ones.

The story is filled with suspense, bad guys, a great hero in Deputy Nick, and a woman that is strong, talented yet fearful of getting close to anyone.

A story that will keep you on the edge of your seat, while hoping that in the end, Nick and Cat get their HEA.

Another winner by this talented author.

I was entrusted this ARC copy by Netgalley. The opinions expressed are solely my own.

Becky says

Spine-tingling adventures await with every swipe of the finger or turn of the page in Connie Mann's *Deadly Melody*. Third in Mann's *Safe Harbor* series, *Deadly Melody* can be read as a stand alone book, although it may be a little richer if you have previously read the first two books in the series.

As a young teenage girl, Catharine, an accomplished violinist, runs away from her powerful uncle who is involved in drugs and the mob.

Returning "home" for the wedding of her foster sister in Florida, Cat agrees to her sister's request to provide music. Having once thought herself safely hidden in *Safe Harbor*, the death of another sister's boyfriend indicates Cat may have been found by those she eluded years ago. To keep her family and friends safe, Cat keeps everyone at a distance. Cat is very independent, loyal, and determined to sacrifice herself for those she loves.

The biological son of Sal and Rosa Martinelli, yet kidnapped and raised by friends of the Martinellis, Nick

Stanton is the town's police officer who falls for Cat. Obviously Cat is either IN trouble or she IS trouble; Nick can't decide which. Should he help Cat or arrest her? Who has it out for her and why?

The rapid pacing of the book, the many twists, and the total lack of trust between characters kept my neck in whiplash mode. I tried to decode who was the guiltiest party, who would outsmart whom, and who would not live to see the light of the next day. Timing is everything in a novel of this genre, and Connie Mann has it down pat. Me, I'm going to practice my deep breathing and panic-fighting techniques so as to be ready for Mann's next novel!

I gratefully received a complimentary copy of this book from the author and NetGalley. I am not required to leave a positive review, and all opinions are solely my own.

Jan Jackson says

Connie Mann masterfully weaves an edge-of-your-seat plot around a touching love story.

This is my favorite book of the series. Cat is a butt-kicking heroine determined to protect the people she loves at any cost. I was rooting for her all the way, and cheering for her to take a chance on love with Nick.

I received this book as an ARC, but it was already on my pre-order list. Connie Mann is an author to watch!

Sharon says

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am voluntarily reviewing it.

This is the first book I've read by Connie Mann but won't be the last. I planned on reading it during my kids' soccer practices, but I ended up reading it during lunch and waking up early to get a few pages in before taking the kids to school. I don't read romantic suspense often, but I do enjoy books by Lisa Harris, who writes Christian romantic suspense. I have also enjoyed many books by Mary Higgins Clarke. *Deadly Melody* was just as good as any books I've read by those authors, but a little steamier.

Deadly Melody is told from a Christian worldview in which the main characters (the good ones at least) are Christians and frequently turn to God in times of need. The characters, while they do kiss heavily, do not have premarital sex. There are some references to sex, such as in a scene in which a police officer comes upon teenagers making out in a car and when a character stays in a hotel and tries not to listen to the goings on in the room next door. There's no foul language. The book involves sex trafficking and drugs but is not graphic. I would recommend it to teens and up because of the subject matter.

I do not know if there are any books planned to come after *Deadly Melody*, but there were a couple of side stories that were not cleared up at the end. I would enjoy reading more about Nick's past, for example. However, *Deadly Melody* has a satisfactory ending and does not have a cliffhanger.

It is part of a series, and while I could tell it was part of a larger story, I was able to enjoy it (a lot!) without having read the other books in the series. I must warn you that after getting to know the other characters in

the book, you might want to read the books that come before it.
