


## **Sacrificial Muse**

*Maegan Beaumont*

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**Sacrificial Muse** Maegan Beaumont

**She is his muse, and the fates require sacrifice.**

San Francisco Detective Sabrina Vaughn is able to shrug off the nine red roses being delivered to her office every day. But when only eight roses arrive on the same day a Berkeley student's mutilated body is found, Sabrina fears that the killer is taunting her. Forced into a partnership with a deceitful reporter who somehow remains one step ahead of her, Sabrina discovers that she's the object of a psychopath's twisted delusion...and there may be no escape.

## Sacrificial Muse Details

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Author : Maegan Beaumont

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## **From Reader Review Sacrificial Muse for online ebook**

### **Cindy says**

Thank you to Midnight Ink and net galley for allowing me to read and review this book.

Picking up where Carved in Darkness left off Meagan Beaumont will keep you guessing once again. Sabrina continues on with her troubled life and her determination to protect her loved ones and take down anyone who is a threat to them. There is not as much detail in the actual killings in Sacrificial Muse as there was in Carved in Darkness but I felt the story was very well written & followed Carved extremely well. Kudos Maegan! See you at Bookworm for a signing in August!! Very excited!!!!

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### **Alexis Stankewitz says**

Everything that I really disliked about " Carved In Darkness" was amplified x100 in the book. I really didn't even enjoy the Antagonist POV (which I did in the first book.). I didn't enjoy this book at all,not even to continue to the third book in this series.

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### **Sharon Obelenus Holland says**

CAN'T WAIT FOR BOOK 3!!!

After all Sabrina had gone through, she was finally home. Now all she has to contend with is the press constantly stalking her and her boss, who feels she shouldn't be on the force anymore. Things should be going back to normal, but aren't. She has a bullet wound in her leg and a voice in her head (Wade).

One of the reporters, has started stalking her and writing about her at every turn. Which brings out the people calling her hero and the crazies that send her confessions. So when she starts getting flowers she doesn't think anything of it, even gives them to the other officers to take home. Her boss is making her jump through hoops, trying to find a way to fire her, including sending her for drug testing, and then sending her back to SWAT.

The first clue something isn't right is a phone call she receives at the station, asking her if her favorite color is red (the color of the roses she keeps receiving), that the caller isn't happy she gives them away and then that there is 9 of you...but not for long. Then while going through her "fan" mail, she finds a red envelope with the name Calliope, with the word "Mox" and the eternity symbol. Mox is Latin for soon.

Another crazy is after her, and has started killing innocent females, cutting their hearts out and stuffing them with rose petals. She keeps getting letters from him, that are written in blood, DNA tests show its a mixture of 9 peoples blood one being Sabrina's. And this killer is always 1 step ahead of her, and is steering her to where he wants her, even to the one witness who could ID him, right before she dies.

But this time, Sabrina isn't doing it on her own, she learned her lesson. Her partner, a few fellow officers and Ben (the son of the guy Michael works for). But when Val ends up missing, Sabrina will do whatever it takes to get her friend back, including going in alone....AGAIN!!

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## Larissa says

4.5 stars

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## Blood Rose Books says

You NEED to read the first book within this series, Carved in Darkness, before picking up Sacrificial Muse. It is not only an excellent thriller, if you do not read it you will be missing as to who Sabrina is and how she became the woman she is today. So pick up Carved in Darkness or read my review of that book before venturing below :)

Maegan Beaumont is back with another Sabrina Vaughn Thriller, where even though the monster from her past is gone, it does not mean that the killings stop:

She is his Muse, everything he has done has been for her. He knows that she is the one and she will be impressed with all the sacrifices he has made for her. San Francisco Detective Sabrina Vaughn has become a household name across the nation and this means she receives all types of mail from the crazies to the thankful one. But each day she has received 9 blood red roses and she cannot help think of who is sending them to her. Then she receives a letter in with the Latin word Mox, which means soon. The next day a Berkeley student's mutilated body is found and Sabrina receives only eight roses that day. Sabrina is about to learn that she has become the infatuation of another individual who will do anything to get her attention and anything to be with her and with the body count rising he can be sure to get her attention, really quick.

Beaumont's debut novel Carved in Darkness is one of the best debut novels I have ever read in the thriller genre. So you can say that my expectations were set very high for her sophomore follow up novel. Personally, I do not think that this novel was as good as her debut. This is not to say I did not enjoy the novel it was still very entertaining and well written but there was an aspect missing from the first novel and that was more of the personal involvement of Sabrina. Yes, since the first novel all the crazies have come out of the wood work and want to get to know her and in this case an individual is killing to be with her, but in the first novel it was so much more personal as there was more history.

I felt that Beaumont lost quite a bit of the darkness in her writing when compared to the first and if this series is to continue I hope that she brings it back. Taking a reader to those dark places is why most of us read these types of books and I feel that by taking this aspect away it just didn't work as well as the first novel did.

I love Sabrina. She is one of the best heroines out there and the complex way that Beaumont has put her together is second to none. Sabrina is damaged unsure of how she is going to keep herself from going crazy and trying to keep up pretenses of a normal family life and knows that she is not succeeding in any venture but she keeps on going keeps on doing the only things she feels normal doing and that is working homicide and putting away bad guys. It was also interesting having her tormentor still part of the novel, that Sabrina will always have him as part of her, and this makes sense as he has essentially defined her life and will continue to do so. It is also interesting to see how all of Sabrina's relationships with the people in her life are changing and evolving, but for the better is really the question. Sabrina really struggles in this book to be

"normal" how people want her to be now that the past is over with, but how can you really be normal when so much has happened. And do not worry fans of Michael (I know I am one) he shows up in the book :)

Although I did not think that this book was not as good as the first, it was still a really interesting, intense and great read. I think that Beaumont is making a name for herself and a must read thriller author. Her writing, ideas and plots are more interesting than some of the big names out there that have been writing for years. I say keep them coming Beaumont as I know I will be reading them.

Enjoy!!!!

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## **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/sa...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Jerjen

sacrificial-muse-maegan-beaumont-sabrina-vaughn Sacrificial Muse by Maegan Beaumont is a great murder/suspense book. But to me it was almost as much of a story about a damaged homicide detective. It is a story about how much the human body and mind can take before totally crumbling.

Sabrina Vaughn is a homicide detective who has returned to work after being held captive for 83 days. During her time of captivity she was raped, tortured and shot by her brother. The brother that she eventually kills. The brother who is inside her head, taunting her and talking to her daily. To say the Sabrina has physical and emotional problems would be a big understatement. Her life has been turned into a media circus and her immediate supervisor is trying to get her removed from her duties. On top of that, she has some psycho sending her letters and flowers, calling her Calliope. Her stalker sends her nine red roses everyday. Then she receives a phone call from her stalker directing her to an apartment where a dead body is found. The chase is on for Sabrina to find the stalker/killer before more bodies turn up.

Along the way Sabrina is able to enlist the help of her partner, a special police friend and even a reporter who she despises. But she is very reluctant to ask for help from anyone, thinking she can take care of things by herself. Physically, she has a wounded leg that makes even walking very painful. She refuses to go to physical therapy because she feels she can heal her leg without help. Like I said, she thinks she can take care of everything by herself.

The mystery/suspense aspect of this book is very good. There are twists and turns along the way that kept me guessing until the very end. There is a lot of action taking place and the descriptive writing made the action seem non-stop. I felt like there were no wasted words, everything written had meaning and purpose. At times I found myself holding my breath, thinking "Oh no, what's going to happen next. How is Sabrina going to get herself out of this mess?". I had to keep turning pages to find the outcome.

As good as the mystery/suspense is, I think the part I like the most about this book is Sabrina's struggles with her own demons and problems. As tough as she wanted to pretend to be, you could tell that she was struggling and really did need help. When it came to her family and friends, she had a softer vulnerable side. This made her seem very real and human to me and I wanted to cheer for her and help her. When I read a book I want to like the characters and care about them. I was able to do both with Sabrina.

The writing style flowed easily and the writing was very descriptive. When reading about the pain in Sabrina's leg, I could almost feel pain in my own leg. When things were going from bad to worst, I could feel the tension and the despair Sabrina was experiencing. To me, this is the sign of a good author, being able to make you feel things just by reading their written words.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good mystery/suspense book. I would also recommend this book to those you enjoy a good psychological book. Sacrificial Muse was the story of Sabrina after her attack. Carved In Darkness is the book where the attack takes place. I wish I had read that book first because I think I would have understood Sabrina even better. I plan to remedy that soon and get the first book to read.

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Carol says**

I loved this book just as much as the first one! You definitely must read #1 first. I'm starting #3 immediately. This is one of the best series that I have enjoyed. There is lots of action! There were some editing issues, but my love of the story and characters far exceeded any annoyance about editing problems

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### **Linda Strong says**

This is second in the series featuring Homicide Detective Sabrina Vaughn, and a re-read for me. I now have the 3rd in the series, PROMISES TO KEEP, and I wanted to read again so as to not miss anything.

Sabrina's background is that she was abducted when she was a teenager, held for 2 months, being tortured and raped on a daily basis before being left for dead. Book 1, CARVED IN DARKNESS, has Sabrina returning to her hometown and looking for the man who not only 'killed' her, but all the women he has killed since then.

SACRIFICIAL MUSE has Sabrina once again being in the cross hairs of a psychopath. This human monster is sending her 9 roses every day ... except for the days he kills another woman. Then she gets 8 roses ...and then 7 roses.

He is saving Sabrina for last .. she is his muse. At least, until he sees her with the man she loves, and the killer gets mad and moves her up on his kill list. He wants to play a game and Sabrina has no choice but to follow in order to save all those she loves.

I think this is a terrific series and I can't wait to start the 3rd one. Sabrina makes such a great serial character. She has lots of issues..lots of layers. And it's quite interesting where the author takes her. She keeps telling everyone she doesn't need help - she can take care of herself. But deep down she just wants to be normal ..something she can't imagine ever happening.

All of the secondary characters are finely woven into the story line. I would love to see a couple of them have their own books.

I, without any hesitation, firmly recommend this series! 5 stars!

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### **Amber says**

Another edge of your seat read. I really love Ms. Beaumont's writing style. She sucks you in and makes it very hard for you to put the book down.

I would definitely recommend reading book 1 before reading this one. It does refer back to what happened to her but to get the full effect of this story you really need to know what happened to her.

I really like Sabrina. All this stuff keeps happening to her but she's just so strong. For some reason the crazies are always drawn to her. I really root for her. Its just one thing after another. She's fighting to keep her job and to not lose her mind.

This was very suspenseful and kept me guessing til the end. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for more in this series.

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### **Megan says**

amazing!!.. maegan wowed me again..and this time whoa watch out!. her story is so creative and new and refreshing I am in complete love. I thought I had the killer pinned but then I was totally shocked and found I was wrong. but never been so pleased to be wrong because it made the story that much better. I'm hoping there will be another book because I want to see what happens between sabrina and Livingston shaw. sacrificial muse is an easy 5 stars and a must read! If you haven't read it go get it!

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### **Book Chatter-Cath says**

OMG, I both love you and hate you right now Maegan Beaumont!!!  
wow, what a read, full review to come....

and here it is:

I read Maegan Beaumont's debut novel Carved in Darkness a year ago and was completely blown away. It was gripping, dark, seductive, and it left such an impression on me that I still think about it regularly! Carved in Darkness was my favorite read of 2013 – so yeah; this was always going to be a tough act to follow, especially when the first book was a smash-it-out-of-the-park amazing read. Would the story be as good, will the characters have their same charm? Would the action, mystery, romance, and intrigue live up to its predecessor? Sacrificial Muse had so many expectations to live up to!

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Sabrina and Michael have not seen each other since what

happened (no spoilers) in CiD. Because of his work and a stubborn determination to keep Sabrina safe, Michael has kept his distance; but in doing so he has broken her heart. Not that she'll admit it, because Sabrina is just as determined to keep Michael safe, and so she has found another shoulder to turn to, another man to keep her company. But there is a new killer on the loose and this one has chosen to toy with Sabrina, to tease and torment her, and she's now the target in his sick plans to mutilate and kill.

Although a little less graphic than CiD, Sacrificial Muse is by no means less intense, it is heart pounding intrigue at its very best. The writing is smooth, flowing effortlessly throughout; so much so that I got sucked into Sabrina and Michael's story and didn't resurface until I was done. Maegan Beaumont knows exactly what the reader wants and tantalises them with her seductive writing style until nothing else matters except devouring the story.

Sacrificial Muse is such a great read, and I mean really, really great – it kept me guessing right until the end! And yes, there are some really great Sabrina and Michael moments to satisfy the romantic heart (but I still want more!)

A fast paced exciting read that I couldn't put down, can I have book #3 now please?!!

5 stars

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### **Bookworm LLC says**

Picking up where Carved in Darkness left off Meagan Beaumont will keep you guessing once again. Sabrina continues on with her troubled life and her determination to protect her loved ones and take down anyone who is a threat to them. There is not as much detail in the actual killings in Sacrificial Muse as there was in Carved in Darkness but I felt the story was very well written & followed Carved extremely well. Kudos Maegan! See you at Bookworm for a signing in August!! Very excited!!!!

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### **Mrs. Kenyon says**

Detective Sabrina Vaughn is still recovering from psychological and physical damage she endured during the events chronicled in "Carved in Darkness." Every day she receives nine red roses from an unknown person and passes them off to different people within her department. She doesn't think much about this until the day she receives eight roses, a Berkeley student is murdered and the killer begins to send her messages and clues. Through circumstances beyond her control, she must work with the newspaper reporter who has been airing all of her dirty laundry and must complete her investigation outside of official police business. Why has this new psychopath targeted her? Can she stop him before all nine roses are gone?

Sacrificial Muse is the second book in the Sabrina Vaughn series. I highly advise readers to start with the first book and ride the experience into this tale. Both books will hook the reader from the beginning and keep them guessing who the perpetrator is. Unfortunately, if the reader starts with this book, it will spoil many elements if they wish to return to the first volume. Beaumont has truly created a cast of characters that are easy to understand and love. Reader will try and decide who is out for Sabrina, but hopefully they are able follow the clues and deduce along with this feisty detective. I gave the first book 5-stars and am shocked that I am giving the second book 5-stars. Most second books fall flat, but I am glad to say this breaks the mold.



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### **Ava Black says**

Just when you think Maegan Beaumont can't top *Carved In Darkness*, she does. Dark, twisted and exactly what thriller readers crave, *Sacrificial Muse* ups the ante in the Sabrina Vaughn series with more tension, suspense and danger. The love angles continue to gratify and the fear-factor continues to terrorize while Ms. Beaumont never loses sight of what her readers want, cohesive, smart, rewarding thrills. Flashy narrative, hard-hitting dialog, and plot twists and turns that fling you round like a toy top, this book dishes as much as you can take. A great read.

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### **Louisa says**

Oh, loved this sequel, thrilling, and terrifying, that he wanted to rise to be become a god, and yeah, can't wait for the 3rd book!

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