



Mercy Kill

Lori G. Armstrong

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Former Black Ops army sniper Mercy Gunderson isn't adjusting well to the laid-back rhythm of civilian life on her family's ranch in South Dakota. To fill her time, Mercy accepts a temporary bartending gig at a local watering hole. Yet her attempts to settle in back home are tested when Titan Oil, a Canadian company proposing to run an underground pipeline through Eagle River County, sends Jason Hawley, Mercy's former army buddy, to the area to convince ranchers to get behind the project.

While local business owners support the pipeline, Hawley's presence riles the landowners, and Mercy is torn. After ugly threats and multiple altercations escalate tensions in the county, Mercy discovers Hawley's brutally mutilated body in the bar parking lot. When it appears Sheriff Dawson cares more about campaigning for reelection than investigating the case, Mercy vows to find Jason Hawley's killer -- even if she has to run against Dawson for sheriff to ensure justice is served.

But Mercy soon learns her former military pal had plenty of secrets. Her search for the truth brings unwanted exposure to the county's dark side and risks deadly repercussions for the entire community.

Mercy Kill Details

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From Reader Review Mercy Kill for online ebook

Darcy says

The big appeal of this book for me is Mercy, she is such a hot mess and manages to offend everyone in the book at least once it. It seems like with this book Mercy is finally facing the truth that she is done with the Army. With her unrealistic expectations about her life and those in her life Mercy ends up eating a lot of humble pie. It seems like for the most part she learns from these experiences, but with the ending you realize that for every step forward for Mercy she takes 2 steps back.

I also liked that we were able to see more of Mercy's army past through old friends that end up in the area. You can see why Mercy is the way she is and her sense of right and wrong.

It will be interesting to see what happens next for Mercy, both on the personal and professional front.

SheLove2Read says

Mercy Gunderson is back and as usual, she's taking no prisoners. I just love Mercy. She's real. Tough but vulnerable. She'll kick your ass and make you like it and then go home and cry in a bottle about how fucked up her life is. I also love the fact that she's an older heroine - somewhere in her late 30s/early 40s, and an Army veteran.

This was a pretty meaty story about old friends, shared memories and having to rethink both the past and the present. Her relationship with Dawson is stretched pretty thin but I'm glad they were able to work things out. Mercy needs a man like Dawson to help her tow the line. I also liked having an explanation for her seemingly freakish ratio of finding dead bodies. A little woo-woo but then again, Mercy is Native American and the explanation for her uncanny knack makes sense.

This series sucks you in. I definitely recommend you read in order because the storyline basically takes up where Book 1 left off. It is more suspense and mystery than romance, but there is an ongoing romantic element between Mercy and Dawson. 4.75 stars/recommended read

Vontel says

Second book in this series, of which I started with the third volume. Filling in more experiences and gaps up till then. Strong story, Great Plains scenery and character and First Nations politics as part of the story, many sub stories and complex characters as part of the strength of the plot. This volume includes many of the various complexities of building pipelines as part of the story, along with two of her old army buddies appearing in Eagle River County. Along with discovering murder again, Mercy is also convinced to run for election against Sheriff Dawson, which adds serious complexity to that relationship, which she must face and must consider her priorities.

Quite enjoyed it, and hope there is a 4th book in the pipeline.

Quillracer says

I was glad to see the author had her main character grow (in more ways than one) in this second book in the series. There was a lot 'wrong' with Mercy Gunderson in the first book and nothing kills interest in a series (at least for me) than a main character who is flawed, knows it, and doesn't do a thing about it. I am looking forward to the next book in the series but hope the author doesn't change Mercy so much that she loses the character that made her unique.

Julie says

Mercy is kinda prickly but I like her. I found this book at a used bookstore, on a sale rack, and really enjoyed it (and I even read it as an actual paper book!). Off to buy the rest of the books in the series.

Jackie says

This is the second book in Armstrong's new series centered on former Army sniper Mercy Gunderson's life back on the South Dakota family ranch. In this one, Mercy has stopped drinking by becoming the bartender, which also helps keep her out of the way of her grieving sister and her frustrated brother-in-law. But it doesn't keep her from finding a dead body in the bar parking lot. Nor does it keep her from running against her secret lover Sheriff Dawson, even though she's about as unlikely a politician as you could possibly imagine. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep any mystery lover happy, and plenty of laughs to go with the rough stuff. Mercy Gunderson get's my vote when it comes to entertaining mysteries!

Betty says

Listened to this as an audio book and I feel the reader made the book better than if I tried to read it. The main character was interesting and the key point that I liked about the book was Mercy's journey through her life and the finally acceptance that she needed help to come to terms with key events and emotions that have come her way.

Renee says

What can I say? I'm into certain mysteries, thrillers, detective novels & police procedurals. I guess I'm a solve-the-crime junkie. (Since this novel deals with a murder investigation among cowboys, thugs & ex-military folks, expect strong language & violent scenes.)

Margaret Yelton says

This was my second book from this author, the first one was a little hard to get caught up into, but I found the second book in the series much more enjoyable. So I will get some more books from this series,

Linda says

Meant to be tough and brutal, and it was, but it was also almost a caricature of a bodice-ripper romance. All too much.

Kat says

just started this this morning with breakfast. its a x sniper from the war, but its a woman working in a bar. she had a drinking problem but they told her if she wanted the job in the bar she couldnt drink. her nephew was killed, she is part indian i think. im not following the whole thing yet but i havent gotten far. i think something happened to one eye and she cant see out of it good. her secret lover is teh sheriff. she has a dog.

her sheriff lover is not investigating the murder of her x solider friend who saved her life in a attack in a bar in bali. he was killed in the parking lot of the bar and she found him after she closed up for the night. he had been working for the pipeline going in that no one in town wants.

the town asked her to run against the current sheriff, her secret lover and when she found that he wasnt investigating the murder she decided to run. she is also having family troubles with her sister and family.

she doesnt seem to have enough time to pay attention to her dog.

so it turns out her friend from the service, the woman anna killed teh man that was abusing the woman with the scar on her face. then she found out who killed her boyfriend, the dead guy in the parking lot. she killed one of them but at the last minute before she killed the second one, her friend killed her. i think she should have left her kill the guy. i would have liked either of them in my neighborhood the one girl blew up the neighbor house so her sister couldnt move in there and beat bad people. in the end she found her sheriff friend wasnt not looking into her friends murder cause he was no good, it was cause the fbi was looking into it which i kind of thought all along thats who that mysterious guy was. he was a real good shot, getting the target hit in teh same hole, even better than her. the sheriff ended up moving in with her.

Dennis Osborne says

This is the 2nd book in he series featuring Mercy Gunderson an ex black op operative now retired to her ranch in South Dakota. In this one she's running for sheriff and dealing with a murder of an ex-colleague. Good follow-up to the first book.

Suspense Magazine says

Ex Army sniper, Mercy Gunderson's attempts at easing back into civilian life on her families South Dakota ranch aren't going well. To stay busy she takes on a job at the local bar, but her life gets turned upside down when her old friend and army buddy Jason Hawley comes to town. Hawley is with Titan Oil (a huge Canadian Oil Company) and there to convince the people of Eagle River County that running a pipeline

through their ranches is a good idea. Needless to say, the ranchers want no part of Titan Oil or Jason Hawley. When Mercy finds Jason's lifeless body outside the bar one night, no one seems interested in investigating the murder, including the sheriff. Mercy knows she must track down Hawley's killer. But, as she unravels the mystery, she also uncovers a dark side to this South Dakota town.

In Armstrong's latest novel, she paints such a descriptive picture that it feels like you are right there in South Dakota with Mercy. The story was strong, intense and gritty and Mercy, along with the other characters, is depicted as hard as the landscape.

Armstrong writes a very complex and interwoven storyline that twists and turns where almost everyone has a motive. But, you won't know who did it 'til the very end. It was a wild ride!

Reviewed by Catherine Peterson for Suspense Magazine

Kimiko says

2ND Book in the series..just as good as the first. Mercy has finally left the US Army; trying to find her way as a civilian. Decides to run for Sheriff at the last minute, while tracking down the killer of her former Army superior, J-Hawk.

Very interesting outcome and good ending. Looking forward to book 3.

Debbie says

Mercy is still on the family ranch, more trouble comes to town in the shape of an old army buddy who is later found dead.

Mercy has a better handle on her drinking, but has no idea where she fits in in now. She still doesn't trust the sheriff and decides to start her own investigation when she feels he is too busy campaigning rather than working.

This is book 2 in a new series, Mercy is tough and takes no nonsense but currently is cut adrift from all she knew before. I loved it
