



Beyond Instinct

Lynn Ames

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Vaughn Elliott is a member of the State Department's Diplomatic Security Force. Someone high up in the United States government has pulled rank, hand-selecting her to oversee security for a visit by congressional VIPs to the West African nation of Mali. The question is, who picked her for the job and why?

Sage McNally, a career diplomat, is the political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Mali. As control officer for the congressional visit, she is tasked to brief Vaughn regarding the political climate in the region.

The two women are instantly attracted to each other and share a wild night of passion. The next morning, Sage disappears while running, leaving behind signs of a scuffle. Why was Sage taken and by whom? Where is she being held?

Vaughn's attempts to get answers are thwarted at every turn. Even Sage does not know why she's been targeted.

Independently, Sage and Vaughn struggle to make sense of the seemingly senseless. By the time each of them figures it out, it could be too late for Sage.

As the clock ticks inexorably toward the congressional visit, the stakes get even higher, and Vaughn is faced with unspeakable choices. Her decisions will make the difference between life and death. Will she choose duty or her own code of honor?

Beyond Instinct Details

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Author : Lynn Ames

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CK says

It's all in the details and Lynn Ames gets the details right in this series. Showing obvious knowledge of her subject, Ames weaves a believable web of political intrigue. I confess that I often skim through the background details of a novel, when an author doesn't persuade me the time spent will be worthwhile. Not so with Beyond Instinct. I read every word and still finished the book in two nights, because the suspenseful story demanded my interest more than sleep.

Baxter Trautman says

Other than a distracting jumble of character view-points in each chapter, Beyond Instinct is a well-written thriller couched inside a lesbian romance. A cut above the average for this genre.

Sally Trotter says

A rollercoaster ride

This is a book I had meant to read for ages and am kicking myself for not getting to it sooner. One he'll of a story with twists and turns on every other page well worth its 5 stars can't wait to read the next one

Barrett says

This was a fast paced and well researched international thriller with courageous, professional women driving the story. Add in some insidious bad guys and some resourceful allies and the story sizzled.

lov2laf says

I have some frustration with this one. In truth, I nearly gave up on it the first 20% of the book but I'm glad I stuck with it.

The book attempts to do two things, be a romance first and a then thriller. For me, it failed in the former. The first 20% of the book focuses on Vaughn, an emotionally scarred former CIA agent and Sage, a woman working in the Ambassador's office, where Vaughn's next assignment takes place. The author attempts to build chemistry between the two leads, initially going on the premise of a more superficial mutual attraction...okay, fine...but then it's pushed to be something it's not...instant, presto, in-love, for real love.

Once the thriller aspect kicks in, the book is a lot more fun and interesting. The author does a good job of keeping the plot moving at a fast pace and I stayed engaged at that point. All of the thriller elements of the book seemed plausible (yes, far-fetched but done in a believable way, at least) and the story felt like an action movie. The writing itself is solid and professional.

Sadly, the things I didn't like were the romance and the two main characters. Sage is basically left unexplored as a person after the first 20% of the book and Vaughn wasn't particularly likable in the first place since she comes across as a pretty macho, cardboard character. Any "relationship" between the two just felt forced. Funnily, the side characters were much more interesting to me and Sage WOULD have been interesting if the author kept her on the same path as when she started. Oh, well. I was hoping Justine and Sage would hook up, instead. They had better chemistry. Oi.

Anyway, if you want a political thriller, this is pretty good. If you want a romance, this isn't.

Elaine Burnes says

Like Mission: Impossible for lesbians. Very much a page turner. Basic, uber-Xena type plot where strong, silent former CIA agent Vaughn takes a security job at an embassy in Mauritania and meets Sage, who reminds Vaughn of Sara, who, well, that's for the opening. Sage goes missing, Vaughn goes after Sage and things really rock and roll along quite intensely. Problems are solved a little too easily and quickly, but overall, quite good.

Laurie says

This novel will keep you hooked until the end. Thoughtfully written believability. The first book I have read by this author and I am now looking forward to reading others by her.

Lex Kent says

Wow talk about exciting! This book grabbed me from the beginning and didn't let go until the end. This is my first book read by Ames, and I enjoyed every second. The action is so faced past that I felt almost like I couldn't stop and take a breath till about 2/3 the way through. And you only get a short break, then the action picks right back up. This book is the true definition of a page turning thriller.

Also want to mention the book cover is gorgeous, drew me to the book right away.

The only downside to the whole book, was the romance was put on the back burner for all the action. And while this is not a cliff-hanger book, It looks like you would have to read Above Reproach to find out the outcome of the romance. That is alright with me, I'm very much looking forward to reading book 2.

I will be reading many more books by Ames, and would easily recommend this to any action/thriller fans.

Erin says

Like movies I have an affinity for stories that are action packed and keep me turning the page. Lynn Ames nails it all together in Beyond Instinct with an action packed adventure that I truly enjoyed. Ames did an

outstanding job of tying the whole story together in a solid story, fast paced action and great ending. From the moment Vaughn Elliott is introduced and running toward an explosion the action just gets faster and faster. Add in Sage McNally with her intellect and huge heart and I couldn't wait to see what would happen next as the two ran through the desert, dodged bullets and raced to diffuse an international episode. I think it is excellent advice to not start reading this late at night as Beyond Instinct has the grab your attention and keeping you awake.

Claire says

Gripping page turner, loved the story and the people in this book and the way everything its resolved by the end.

Dide says

This was a good read and my rating is more 3.5 than 3. Plot, characters etc. were all quite captivating. I do have a problem understanding why Fairhaven posted Vaughn when he new she is a good agent. That angle just isn't clear to me. That said this was an enjoyable read just not in my 4star range

M says

I have to admit that this book became a bit of a struggle by the end. Every time that a seemingly impossible situation occurred, there was always a way around the latest insurmountable problem that usually involved amazing friends, with incredible resources. If such people existed and had the level of skill displayed, they would rule the world.

The ending felt incredibly abrupt and lacking in drama. The huge chunk of exposition at the end tied everything up very neatly.

Sunny says

I would probably give this one 3 1/2 stars if I could, but rounded down instead of up because I didn't want to rate it quite as high as those I've rated a 4. Enjoyable and interesting plot even if you do have to suspend belief just a little bit. Really difficult things seem to happen a little too easily and there's always a 'friend' in line to call for help.

The connection between Vaughn and Sage seemed to be really strong, REALLY fast. I think it had something to do with Sage reminding Vaughn of Sara and feeling she could right a wrong by saving her, but I didn't understand how their connection got so deep so quickly. Aside from that, I liked the characters, including the secondary ones, and enjoyed this fast-paced story.

Line says

Would have given it 3 1/2 stars.
