



## Walking After Midnight

*Karen Robards*

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## **Walking After Midnight** Karen Robards

The nude male body lay on the embalming table, battered beyond recognition. Gingerly, Summer McAfee, chairwoman, CEO, and sole employee of Daisy Fresh cleaning service, reached out to touch an arm to reassure herself that she hadn't just seen the corpse move. Suddenly, shockingly, her hand was in the viselike grip of a man very much alive and desperate enough to take her captive on a no-holds-barred run from cops, killers, and his own decidedly complicated past...

Summer's former life as a New York lingerie model had gone south with her marriage, leaving her, at thirty-six, single and back home in Tennessee, on her hands and knees scrubbing other people's bathrooms. But the drab present vanishes in a flash as she's forced to flee into the Tennessee wilds with the stranger she calls Frankenstein, first as his captive, then his companion, as they run from the enemies determined to destroy them both--straight into a raging passion that could only be the last laugh of fate...

## **Walking After Midnight Details**

Date : Published October 1st 1995 by Dell (first published January 1st 1995)

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Author : Karen Robards

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## From Reader Review Walking After Midnight for online ebook

### Mayu says

Este es uno de los libros más raros que he leído nunca. Y cuando digo "raro", quiero decir muy, muy raro. Nada de peculiar o diferente, no, raro. Además, esta historia de secuestro y suspense con amorio fantasmal incluido no puede ni de lejos, llamarse romántico. La novela no fue lo que esperaba, mis expectativas se quedaron en nada. ¿Mas obras de Karen? Con todo mi respeto, pero no gracias.

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### Theresa Vondra says

Saw a recommendation on Facebook for this book and ordered it on Amazon. Read it over the weekend and enjoyed it.

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### natasha k says

An oldie but a goodie. Loved the storyline, loved the hero, loved everything about it. Have read it numerous times.

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### Jolene says

Karen Robards always manages to keep me on the edge of my seat with mystery, fast paced action and a fullfilling love story tucked underneath with some intense love scenes. I love her books and can't wait to get ahold of some more. Each story of her's that I have read (this is only my 3rd) are very unique. I love the storylines! Summer McAfee is an ex lingeree model who is divorced and trying to make it on her own. She has a cleaning company that she has built from the ground up. Taking over the cleaning at a mortrurary one night when her staff doesn't show up, she is a little creeped out at being in a building filled with dead bodies and is extremely jumpy. Going into the back room to shut a light off that was left on she sees a naked male body on the table that she could swear wasn't there before and to make matters worse she sees the naked body move it's leg. Slowly walking over to the body, she reaches out to feel it's pulse thinking she is really crazy, the body suddenly springs to life and grabs her hand. That naked body is none other than Steve Calhoun who has been beaten almost beyond recognition and left for dead in the mortrurary by thugs who were in the process of creamating him to keep him quiet. He has a notorious reputation from a deadly love triangle that was splashed all over the news three years before. Not sure if Summer is friend or foe and thinking she is foe, he takes her hostage as he makes his escape. What follows is a run for their lifes as they flee the goons who tried to kill him and now also want to kill Summer thinking she is envolved with Steve. Summer refers to him as Frankenstein being he is grotesquely black and blue. I really liked this book. We don't see sparks at first, it slowly builds up to something more as they are pushed into situation after situation of trying to survive. The bantering was hilarious and it was heartwarming to watch Summers feelings grow for Steve as we see the real man in him come out and we hear about each of their life stories. To add another quirk to the story is the ghost of Dedee, Steve's ex dead lover as she is brought back from the spirit world to help right a wrong. The sexual chemistry between Steve and Summer smokes up the pages and I loved watching these two find their way to eachother. The mystery and suspense in this book is amazing and is fast paced. I had a hard time putting this book down and wasn't sure about Steve through the first few chapters,

but found myself pulling for him towards the end. Great read, for anyone who likes romantic suspense needs to read this book and any other of Karen Robards

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### **Sarah says**

This was a page-turning romantic suspense set in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. I just couldn't put it down, and stayed up way too late last night reading it. The book's spooky beginning puts Summer, cleaning service owner, alone at night in a funeral home where she is surprised by a corpse that isn't exactly dead yet. It takes off from there to the forests and small towns of the Smokies where everyone seems to be an enemy, and where the man who kidnapped Summer starts looking like less and less of a bad-guy compared to those who are after him. There are points in this book where I had no idea how Summer and Steve were going to get out of the mess of a situation they were in. You'll just have to read it yourself to see how they pulled it off.

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### **Saly says**

I seriously enjoyed this book when I didn't think I would because the introduction to the hero is less than stellar. The heroine has been stood up by her employees (she runs a cleaning service) and is now alone cleaning up a funeral home, scared and singing songs when she finds the hero, who is not dead. He kidnaps her, is less than gentle with her and doesn't believe her when she tells him that she is not involved in what happened to him.

The heroine was a former lingerie model who returned home and got married to a jerk who wanted her to be perfect, so she toughed it out but she's now divorced, running her own business and 36.

She does find out who the hero is, a disgraced former cop who fell from fame after his best friend's wife committed suicide after admitting she had an affair with him, the hero lost his wife, friend, career & daughter and felt he deserved it, so he spent the next two and a half years drunk when he finally decided to straighten his life around and began questioning things, like the corruption investigation he was working on before his life went to hell & how did his best friend's wife get the key to his office.

I didn't think I would like a cheating hero & there is no excuse for cheating I agree but the hero never had a great marriage & his best friend had a habit of screwing around on his wife. Steve felt guilty for his action and ended it, Deedee (the best friend's wife) had always been someone he wanted when he was younger and in a weak moment he gave in. We do learn in the end that his wife was screwing around on him with the best friend long before.

Okay, this was on the run story & well written. I especially enjoyed the nicknames these two had for each other: Frankenstein & Rosencrans. Their relationship doesn't seem sudden at all and even the short time it took for them to fall in love, felt believable.

Very enjoyable book.

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### **Amy says**

This early novel by Karen Robards strains the reader's credulity, requires a map to keep all the loose plotlines straight, and wanders a bit--but it is breathtaking and awesome like a carnival ride turned up to speed "11". I'd read it before but long enough ago that this re-read was better than the first time, and I enjoyed it very much. Robards' characters are not squeaky-clean, stories are gritty in the extreme, and resolutions are not neatly tied for all eternity. I like that. And I really liked this book. Highly recommended to fans of romantic suspense, mystery, or chick lit who can tolerate a minor paranormal influence.

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### **Gail says**

I read this many years ago in paper, back before GoodReads was a dream in anyone's eye. All I remembered was the dead guy on the table at the funeral home and carrying the pekingese dog through the woods. Robards uses a lot of pets with personality in her books. The hero and heroine spend a lot of time driving around and getting in and out of trouble before they reach the running through the woods part. This is basically a chase story, an escaping-the-bad-guys tale. It's a good one. I liked it. Good read.

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### **MBR says**

This is the type of book that keeps me up all night reading. With hair raising adventure mixed with unbeatable romance, needless to say I loved the book.

My review: <http://bit.ly/axSrHp>

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### **Vichy says**

Αν εξαιρ?σει κανε?ς την αρχ? που ?ταν ιδι?τροπη, και πολλ? υποσχ?μενη το βιβλ?ο ?ταν για τα μπ?ζα.

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### **Jacqueline J says**

This book starts out at midnight in a mortuary when a naked, beat up corpse suddenly grabs janitor Summer's hand and drags her into the middle of a life and death chase through the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. Steve is not dead, but he is extremely frightening. She fights and spars with him and calls him Frankenstein and does every thing she can to get away from him. When she eventually gets back to her house she finds the men who tried to kill him are there and figures out they are a worse bet than he is.

Most of the book is the two of them on the run while they try to escape from the bad guys while the authorities have a BOLO for the two of them for crimes the baddies committed. Their relationship happens fast during their run but here it was believable. Except for a few scenes told by a ghost (it might sound a little hokey but it worked pretty well), all the scenes are the two of them together which makes great reading and helps with the falling in love quick believability. There is a mystery running through the book about just why the bad guys are after them, who they are and how can they be brought to justice.

The characters are different than most romance heroes/heroines. The heroine is 36. She used to be a lingerie model and she used to be married to the local police chief's son. After both of those things went south she

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started her own janitorial service. She is feisty and brave but not stupid. The hero, Steve, has definitely done wrong but he is sorry and seems very human. I absolutely loved him. He was a great character. I really believed that he cared for her.

*"I think that maybe, just maybe, you were sent to rescue me from outer darkness," he said quietly. "When I first encountered you, in that funeral home, I didn't really care if I lived or died. Now I do."*

The book is fast paced, exciting and well plotted. The dialog is good and my attention didn't flag at all. I really enjoyed the sniping they did at each other before they knew each other well.

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### **Palomablue says**

I have thoroughly enjoyed many of Ms. Robards novels, however, this one seemed to me a total aberration. The lead female character is annoyingly stupid, the dialogue is hackneyed, the writing facile, there are way too many insignificant details which add volume to the text but do not contribute to any real characterization or plot development and I consistently had the feeling that the author wrote this during a long nap. The more of it I read, the cheesier it became. Not sure if I'll make it past the final 5 or 6 chapters. Sigh....

Unfortunately, the opening premise of the book might have led to a far better, and even a humorous story, a la Stephanie Evanovitch (must be the funeral home setting!). I'm convinced that Ms. Robards can do a far better job than this. Don't waste your time on it.

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### **Michelle Robinson says**

I just finished this novel and to say that I was disappointed is an understatement.

A fellow reader told me that this was a great read and so my expectations were really high.

I found the mystery pretty thin. I also am always amazed when supposedly intelligent women have spontaneous, unprotected sex with men they hardly know. Especially in a case like this when the guy is completely unknown and could possibly be a murderer. Even if he wasn't, at the time this book was written, I like women who are a little more savvy about their sexual health.

I also have difficulty with the idea that they are running for their lives, in imminent fear of death but the recurring theme seems to be their lust for each other, I cannot imagine any person being in fear for their lives or at the very least, for their future as free people running spending so much time horny??? I don't mind suspending belief, to a certain point but this book asks us to forget our common sense altogether.

Nothing that happens here really makes any sense at all and the "bad guys" are such caricatures that I cannot remember a single one of their names and the generic label of "bad guys" seems to be sufficient for what the author did with these characters.

I really enjoy an interesting ghost storyline incorporated in a novel. Here the ghost was gratuitous. She pops in and out enough to make the hero seem a little nuts This was not a horrible quick read but it was not a good read either.

## Jay says

### DNF at ~30%

Ugh, the hero was insufferable!

He cheated on his wife and then described the event as "balled Deedee's brains out".

### Charming.

Later, he describes the heroine, as a "hazel-eyed, brown-haired, bigtitted woman".

### Charming.

He kidnapped her, threatened her life with a knife and then knocked her out by punching her in the face when she tried to get away.

### Charming.

Oh, about the cheating thing? It's totally okay because he regretted it and anyway, he later found out that his wife had been cheating on him for a lot longer so it's all good!

Dickhead.

The book was also a little religious - the heroine prayed a lot and left her fate "in God's hands" a couple of times. No thanks.

Also, Summer spends like 20% of the story pissed off because Steve (**the possibly violent murderer/definitely violent kidnapper**) won't make a move on her. She literally says "he didn't even seem to realise she was a woman". For god's sake, just because only one of you has a Y chromosome it doesn't mean you HAVE to start ripping each other's clothes off.

But of course, they just **had** to have sudden, unprotected sex in the middle of fucking nowhere even though people were constantly hunting and shooting at them. That's true luuuuurve for you.

I'm slightly concerned because I have some of Karen Robards' other works on my Kindle (one standalone and her Dr Charlotte Stone series) that I was looking forward to, but now I'm not sure I want to give them a go.

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## Elizabeth says

2.5 stars

The book forced itself into insufferable cuteness and lost half a star from this reviewer. In any case it could never raise itself above the 3 star mark. Knew who the villain was almost from the word go and was surprised that the, supposedly, clever and brave cop could not see what was staring him in the face. The heroine was nothing more than your average annoying female, the bane of the genre (and can one tell me why when such heroines want to commit titanic stupidities the hero follows them into dodo land with just a hint of a shrug? And goes on to pledge eternal love, devotion and copious sperm produce to her?). As for the ghost the less said the better, but a word of advice, if you are not writing a paranormal or a gothic (neo-, paleo-, post-, etc.) do not even think of introducing one into your story. And if you do happen to have such thoughts have a dominatrix of an editor to beat them out of you. Spare the reader all that suffocating folly.

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