



Obsession

Debra Webb

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She thought she'd left the murders—and his obsession—behind . . .

Special Agent Jess Harris has spent more than a decade studying the many faces of evil. In her determination to stop a serial killer, she broke the rules, and it cost her everything. With her career in need of resuscitation and her love life dead and buried, Jess jumps at a chance to advise on a case that has the top detectives of Birmingham, Alabama, stumped. But the case forces her to confront all the reasons she put her hometown—and her first love—in her rearview mirror.

Four young women have gone missing, and Police Chief Dan Burnett will do anything to find them before it's too late—even if it means asking for help from the woman who has spent a decade avoiding him. Jess agrees to lend a hand and welcomes the diversion of a new case, a new life to save to make up for the victims she's lost. But then the unthinkable happens: the crazed serial killer from her past follows Jess to Birmingham. The situation is becoming increasingly desperate—and time is swiftly running out...

Obsession Details

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From Reader Review Obsession for online ebook

Thelma Banzhoff says

Debra Webb is one of my favorite authors, and she has done it again. FBI Special Agent Jess Harris is on a forced leave from her assignment as an investigator and profiler at Quantico, Virginia. In the pursuit of a serial killer her zeal got the better of her and she overstepped, breaking the rules and damaging her career. Meanwhile, her former beau (and first love) Dan Burnett, the Chief of Police in Birmingham, Alabama, needs her help and expertise. Four girls have gone missing in his town, and he reaches out to her to help him find them alive – even though he hasn't seen her in ten years. The thrills just keep coming as another girl vanishes, time is running out, and the serial killer unexpectedly follows Jess to Birmingham. The romantic subplot which finds Dan and Jess dancing around their former romance runs very deftly under the main story line without interfering. The main story gets resolved, the romance remains unresolved, and the foundation is laid for more. This book is the first of 12 in the Faces of Evil series, and I am already eagerly awaiting the release of the next book.

Sandra Valente says

This is a brand new author for me and the reason I am reading these books is that in one of Christy Reece's updates, I saw she had added them on her 'to read' list on Goodreads. Loved the covers and they caught my attention. I have also checked out Debra Webb's site and apparently there are going to be twelve books in this series. I already have the 2nd one called 'Impulse'.

I finished reading Obsession yesterday morning and still feel restless and jumpy yet so excited as it was fabulous. Absolutely nail biting and I now need a manicure! Looking for suspense, romance, a thriller filled with mystery? I warn you though that if you have an annoying tendency to damage your nails as I do when reading books such as this one, wear gloves and don't hesitate to pick this series up. :D

You have to love Jess Harris, an FBI profiler at Quantico. I admire her, and her tenacious 'dog with a bone' reputation lands her in hot water more often than not, but ultimately gets the job done. She's not one to follow many rules and procedural steps. She's strong willed/minded and for this reason is at a stand still in her career due to a case she'd been working on involving Eric Spears known as the Player. After a 12 year career at the FBI, she was unfortunately set up playing right into this villain's hands. Add the fact that her marriage has gone south, things are looking pretty glum. Spears is on the verge of being set free although the FBI couldn't have held him regardless of her actions and of course someone must ultimately take the fall - she's number one on the list. Accepting a case from her ex-lover and friend, Dan Burnett, Jess who is on administrative leave, heads off to Birmingham, Alabama to help in the search for missing girls. She's a top notch profiler and since the BPD aren't getting anywhere, she's their best bet.

Jess and Dan have a long history and are both in their forties. Their issues concerning their past will eventually be resolved over time throughout this series, but they have started to communicate and talk over why things happened the way they did. There is another relationship forming in Obsession, which adds to the dynamic of the story and will continue in the next book as Detective Lori Wells, has been kidnapped by the Player. The POV's are all interesting and easy to follow, but where the young girls are concerned, bone chilling - OMG! To say I got the hizzie jibbies is putting it mildly. The story that unfolds here reminds me of the movie Psycho, just so much worse.

Not only do Dan and Jess have to contend with media releases and reprimands (the usual bureaucratic waste

of time), the mayor (irritated me immensely), searching for practically non-existent clues as to what happened to the girls or where they could be, they now have to deal with the fact that Spears is free and has started taunting Jess by texting her. It's as if he can see her every move. He is 'obsessed' with her although she's not the type of female he kidnaps, tortures, plays with and eventually kills. She got in his face, literally, and he is fascinated. The game is on as he has Lori, and Jess has no choice but to play. Spears can't wait. It's a race against time as those kidnapped by the Player, never live to tell the tale.

I can just imagine what awaits me in the next book if this one was anything to go by. Three quarters of the way in, it became even more enthralling and was hard to put down. There is more than one villain here as you've gathered and both sickening for different reasons. This book concludes with news from Dan that a special unit will be formed and classified as a Special Problems Unit (SPU). Essentially, a unit that will be solely devoted to crimes that don't normally fall into your everyday categories and to criminals who don't fall under the usual profile either. This is going to be an awesome team.

When I wrote this review, I was already late for everything that needed doing - this book was that good. I should thank Christy Reece for adding this author to her 'to read list', in turn making me do the same. I am glad she did, glad I did and you will be too. I promise.

Quote

"If you want to know what evil looks like, look in the mirror"

Jonetta says

Originally posted on The Book Nympho

Quick Summary

FBI Special Agent Jess Harris is a profiler assigned to the BAU in Quantico (for now). When four young women are reported missing in Birmingham and she's asked to advise on the case, Jess returns to her hometown to work with Police Chief Dan Burnett, the man who broke her heart years ago.

The case

Each of the missing girls' situations seem different and unconnected, which is puzzling in itself. The first order of business is to determine if they're actually missing. Jess is highly renowned for her skills and Dan fought to have her be a part of the team. Her style is unconventional and she really doesn't suffer fools very well. Unraveling the mystery was gnarly and complicated and held my interest until the last page. I must admit I didn't have a clue as to what was going on for quite some time. That's not normal!!!

If you read the prequel, you have sort of a leg up in understanding the dynamics of these two. She's fiercely independent and ambitious and he's more drawn to home and hearth, which explains what probably separated them. However, their chemistry is impossible to ignore, either by you or them. Jess is complicated with lots of layers and secrets. Dan is extremely likeable and more of an open book but makes so many mistakes with her. This is a romance that still is developing.

The bottom line

One of the things that really works is the multiple perspectives used to tell the story. We have the points of view from Jess, Dan and one of the victims, which helped fill in the blanks about the mystery and the

romance. The tension level is extremely high all the way through the macabre climax. I am unbelievably hooked to the series already. 4.5 stars

Danica Page (One Page at a Time) says

This is a condensed version of this review. The extended version can be found [here](#)

My Overall Thoughts/Impressions: I'm so glad that World Literary Cafe is allowing me to review books for them.

I went into this book with absolutely no expectations. I honestly didn't know what to think. I just saw that this was romantic suspense/thriller and I was hooked. I was worried that this novel would be slightly questionable...and it was. But I still really liked it. Once again, I'll reiterate that this is a novel for mature readers.

I loved Debra and Dan and the chemistry between them. This book was definitely an electric read. I couldn't set it down. I was anxiously reading this one and read it in one sitting. I just couldn't do anything else until I had finished it.

The writing was really good and I found myself sucked into the story from the very beginning. Granted, I'm a succor for this genre, but this novel was great. I can definitely say that I'm anxiously awaiting the sequel. I won't get to reading it fast enough.

In Summary: An electric read that had me hooked from the very beginning, but definitely one for mature readers. Personally, I'm anxiously awaiting the sequel.

Warnings/Side-notes: This book is definitely for mature readers. There are some instances of strong language (f word) and multiple sexual references. The book isn't erotic by any means and isn't overly graphic, but is definitely more graphic than a young adult novel. Proceed with caution.

Judi says

Wow, wow, wow...what a bargain basement price for an unexpectedly great surprise read and all for the low, low price of .99 cents. I got waaaaay more than I bargained for with this offering from Debra Webb. I would have paid 10x times that amount.

Obsession reminds me of the works from some authors who are auto-buy authors for me: Karen Rose, Lisa Gardner and Tess Gerritsen. If you enjoy the suspense/thriller genre with edge-of-your-seat action then you won't want to miss out on Obsession. I've already purchased the second book in the series Impulse and after checking the author's website - color me excited to learn she has a total of 12 books planned in this Faces of Evil series. I can only hope each and every book is as good as Obsession was.

FBI profiler Agent Jess Harris is at a bit of a crossroads in her career. After a stellar record for 12 years at the FBI, her record as a behavioural analyst is perfect except for her latest case involving the maniacal killer The Player. She played right into the hands of a cunning sociopath who set her up and now thanks to Jess's work on the case, he is about to go free.

Answering the call from an old friend and lover, Police Chief Dan Burnett, Jess who's on administrative leave from the FBI heads home to Birmingham to assist in a particularly troubling case involving missing, young girls. A case in which Dan has a personal stake as one of the missing girls is actually his teenage step-daughter Andrea.

I liked that Dan and Jess were more mature characters (both are in their forties), well established in their careers and yet they have some pretty serious history dating back to when they were teenagers and college lovers. They both still obviously have strong feelings for each other, but solving this case is their top priority and for the most part they try desperately to ignore the lingering feelings between them. Obviously with more books in this series, I expect their relationship will grow over time.

In Obsession the race is on discover a link between the missing girls and find them before it's too late. We are treated to the POV from the kidnapped girls and can you say...creeeeeeepy!

To further complicate and muddy the waters is the release of Eric Spears aka The Player, a sadistic serial killer. Jess knows beyond all doubt that he is the man who committed numerous, heinous crimes - she just wasn't able to prove it and now her career is in ruins because of it. Eric has become fascinated with Jess...in fact Obsessed if you will. And he is far from done with playing games with Agent Harris. I'm sure Eric will be a "Player" in a number of upcoming books - I can't see Webb making him go away any time soon. With so many possibilities and 12 books in the making, I expect him to be around torturing Jess for some time. Masterminds like The Player know how to commit crimes and get away without leaving a trace.

Fair WARNING: You are going to want to have book two in this series Impulse ready and waiting for when you are finished. The ending...O.M.G. I started Impulse immediately upon finishing Obsessive even though it was late and past my bedtime. Don't say I didn't warn you!

Marijane says

I am so glad that I purchased Obsession and its sequel, Impulse, at the same time! Trust me, I immediately started to read Impulse after I finished Obsession! The gist of the story is Jess Harris, an FBI profiler on administrative leave for seriously messing up a case, returns home to Birmingham at the request of Dan Burnett, chief of police and her former lover. He believes he has a serial killer case.

Obsession grabs you from the first page and doesn't let go. It is gritty and fast paced. I love the fact that Jess and Dan are in their 40's and their undeniable feelings still are there.

This book ranks with Karen Rose, Christy Reece, Allison Brennan, Cindy Gerard, Laura Griffin books.

Forgive me, if I have forgotten any of my favorite authors!

Be prepared to stay up late to read this book and its sequel, Impulse. I cannot wait for the next book!

A great read!

Toni says

She is his Obsession.

Obsession is the first book in Debra Webb's planned twelve book Faces of Evil series. Webb crafted the series in a serial fashion; one overarching big bad (The Player) that spans all twelve books with individual perpetrators in each book. Each book brings clues to The Player but resolves the case of the week; similar to

a season of a weekly television series. Obsession brings us the first introduction to The Player, a ruthless serial killer who's gotten away with murder for years. It also introduces us to Jess Harris and Dan Burnett; high school and college sweethearts that went their separate ways but never forgot each other.

The case of the week revolves around five missing girls. The Birmingham police have no leads, so Chief Burnett calls in FBI Special Agent Jess Harris as a favor. Reeling from her recent brush with The Player, Harris accepts and returns home for the first time in ten years. Working together they are able to discover the motive behind the missing girls and bring about their safe return. At the same time, we begin to learn more about The Player and his newly formed obsession with Jess.

This book is fast paced. Webb is a master storyteller and manages to weave the two storylines together seamlessly. This is a strong start to a series that is only going to get better and better. The only problem is waiting between books.

Stephanie Collins says

We start this series off with a bang, Jess has been called to Birmingham by her former lover who is now the Chief of Police to investigate the disappearance of multiple young women. These women are not the type to have just run away but instead are women who care deeply about their families. She is still smarting from the disaster she has left with the FBI which is about to get her fired from the Bureau. You see she got a little too involved in a case with a serial killer and went outside the lines to gather evidence which is now going to set the man free. Unfortunately this makes others think she has gone off the deep end since not only did that happen but she is also smarting from the breakup of her marriage. She is a smart woman who's only crime I think is wanting to do her job to the point that she won't always look before she leaps.

Jess is a brilliant profiler who can see things noone else notices. She immediately takes over the investigation and pushes the task force to look outside the box. She is also still in love with Dan which you see in this book but the tension between them is palpable in this book. They split in college when Dan wanted to go back home to Birmingham and she wanted to go to the FBI like she thought they both planned. They ran in to one another 10 years ago and had a memorable night together. The chemistry between them is not gone and will not leave them alone. They are a great match for one another but things just keep getting in their way during this book. She pushes the team in this book to the point where they aren't sure if she is truly sane or not but the results she gets give everyone a happy ending.

Dan is conflicted... He wants this case solved because his ex-stepdaughter is one of the missing. He sucks it up and calls Jess because he knows she will be able to solve this case. He still harbors feelings for her even though it has been 10 years since that memorable night and 20 since they were a couple. You feel for him since as the series progresses you understand more of what drove them apart originally and truly like him and them as a couple.

This story was a lot of fun and ends on a bang that sets up the next book perfectly. So go grab it and the others....

Overall this has been a great series to read and I am waiting for the final 2 books in the series.

Special thanks to NetGalley.com and Grand Central Publishing for letting me read these in exchange for my honest review.

Meigan says

First off, I really like the covers on this book series. I like the bright pop of the neon, and I like how each cover looks the same with the exception of the graphics on the film. Pretty.

Jess Harris is pretty much a rogue Special Agent at this point in time. She made a judgement error on a case with the FBI and is pretty much out the door. She gets called to her hometown of Birmingham by her former boyfriend, Chief of police Dan Burnett, to assist on a case involving missing teens. She was a top profiler with the bureau until the "incident", and doesn't reveal that she isn't working under an official capacity. So many secrets. Even Burnett has secrets of his own.

The suspense was quite light. This was more police procedural with very little victim involvement in the story telling. We do get to read about the victims and what is happening, but not nearly enough. What the book lacked in suspense, it definitely made up for with the "ick factor". The reasoning behind the abductions and the scenes around that towards the end were pretty gross.

The end is a giant cliffhanger, but luckily I have books 2 and 3 on hand. That takes away some of the disappointment with the unfinished business. This is a 12 book series. Books 1-3 are available now, books 4-6 will be released May, July, and August. (I am referring to the paperback versions. The ebook versions of 1-3 were released a while ago, 2011. I opted to wait for the print version because my Kindle is pretty full!) Even if they all end in cliffhangers, there doesn't seem to be much wait time between installments. I can live with that. I like Jess Harris, so I will more than likely finish out the series. At least books 2 and 3 since I already have them.

Nicole Henke says

Obsession will get you hooked!

I took my time reading this book, as it is full of minute details for you to pay attention to. As a fan of Dean Koontz and Douglas Preston/Lincoln Child, I think Webb is definitely a new force in the police/mystery/thriller range! She builds you slowly into liking the characters, until suddenly you are enraptured with the story and don't want to put it down. At that point it's a locomotive of a ride, steam rolling to the finish and not letting the reader down along the way!

Setting the story in Birmingham, AL, was unusual, but really worked well for the story. This is a thriller, involving teenage kidnapping, so it is definitely NOT a book for kids to read. I was glad to see that this is the first in a 12 book series for the 2 main characters, and that one of the main story lines continues into the next book. As I really liked the book! I will be buying the rest of the series to see how things turn out for the duo, and if Jess can 'fix' her past mistakes! This one is a great read, just don't read it before bed- it might haunt you!

Anne OK says

An amazing beginning to this thrilling romantic suspense series by Debra Webb. Top that off with the 99-cent price and it's a steal. This one caught me from the beginning and never let go. The characterizations were so well presented, the crimes dark and gritty (which is just how I like them) and even some unanswered questions and a cliffhanger at the end didn't diminish the high I got from this reading experience. After visiting Webb's website, I now know that this will be a 12-book series. I'm hoping it doesn't lose its power and go stale after the first few. Right now, I can't wait to read the next in this highly entertaining new series. In my opinion, it's the best yet from this author.

Lesli Polk says

I received a free copy of Obsession (Faces of Evil #1) by Debra Webb from Goodreads for my review. The main character, Special Agent Jess Harris, is returning to her hometown to assist with on going missing person cases. Jess Harris is leaving behind a broken marriage, loss of her stellar career, and is now being stalked by a serial killer. Ms. Webb is an Alabama native and gives a wonderful description from the humid climate, to the indicative slow southern drawl, to how rivalry football is revered in the South. I was drawn into to this book by each character and the current kidnapping of four young women from Birmingham. Since I reside close to Birmingham, I was able glide through the streets of my neighbor city as they were described and was able to feel a connection with the characters. Debra Webb can truly spin a wonderful suspense and I look forward to her sequels.

Rhonda says

5 STARS

Once the story start ti build did not want to stop reading. If I was not already tired I start the next book in the series.

Special Agent Jess Harris life was falling apart. Her marriage is over, her FBI career will be over soon. Worst of all because of her mistake a killer is going to go free.

Her old boyfriend back home in Birmingham has called her for help. He was the Chief of police of Birmingham. 5 collage age girls are missing. Thier is no proof of foul play or crime. They just up and left. They are not even from the same city and some in the county.

Everything the families say is they would not have run a way. Four of them are attending collage. Most have good grades, no way as far as they can see that connects the girls together.

Jess is a profiler and a good one till the last case against the PLAYER. She has worked for two decades for the FBI. She does not know what the future will be but she will do everything she can to find those missing girls. Jess wants to start by interviewing the families and see what they know that might show them a clue. Jess fell in love Dan Burnett while they were in school together. He chose to stay at home and she chose to leave. Then 10 years ago they reconnected again for one day. He asked for help and she came.

Dan Burnett is Police Chief he has been married a few times. One of the missing girls is his stepdaughter. He does not believe she would runaway. He has never forgotten Jess and is counting on her help.

The Player is now out of jail and is sending Jess texts that is letting her know he is watching her.

The media has found out that Jess is in town and her roll in breaking rules to try and stop The Player is just adding more drama.

Jess chose to have a career over family and now she has neither. Lori is choosing to be a cop over family but

is still undecided.

The missing girl's are brave and falling apart but they care too about the others. Andrea is counting on her stepfather to find her.

The drama builds slowly than you don't want to leave till the end and even then you want to read the next two books in the series Faces of Evil.

I was given this ebook to read in exchange of honest review from Netgally.

August 07, 2012 PUB Grand Central Publishing Imprint Forever Yours 332 pages

Marilyn Rondeau says

Special Agent Jess Harris had made the sacrifice - career or love - choosing a career that she loved and was fabulously good at. So good that she had identified the maniacal serial killer The Player after five long years of murder and mayhem. However, The Player had played Jess and he was now off on a technicality and Jess was in jeopardy of both losing her job and becoming the players next target.??Now Jess has left Quantico behind to refocus and return home to Birmingham, Alabama and help an old friend solve missing persons cases -- all involving nice young women, who just disappear without a trace. Dan Burnett, Chief of Police was the old friend and lover Jess had left behind who'd broken her heart and when his call came she was more than ready to return and help in any way she could. But would her obsessive serial killer leave her be, or would he follow her to Birmingham???

*** Having never read this author before I am always ready to try someone different and expect they will have some talent. Well, enough said, Ms. Webb definitely has the talent - oodles of it! OBSESSION was one heck of a thrill ride for me and though I am a romantic at heart and love suspense riddled with romance, I am ecstatic when the suspense is a good 85% and the romance is at 15%. To my mind those percentages are my idea of a perfect combination of a romantic suspense genre book. ??

Combine that with a story that grips you from the very beginning of a life in peril; a woman with baggage and a maniacal psycho playing head games with her while she tries to balance a life changing career move and an old lover; plus the addition of an additional pair of psycho's who are terrorizing young women and you have the makings of one very fine suspense thriller. The suspense and the sexual tension was very palatable as both Jess and Dan found themselves trying to focus on finding the missing girls, one of whom just happens to be Dan's step-daughter, all the while trying to keep the flame between them, which never went out, down to a bare minimum. ??Ms. Webb, kept the tension high, as she brought more and more details into the forefront as Jess unearthed the tiniest bits of information that until beforehand had gone unnoticed.

I loved the way Webb explained and showed just how when the kidnappings were executed so brilliantly leaving no traces behind, Jess was able to find that one pin in the haystack that seemed to prick the case back into some semblance of focus. Webb's thought process of tying ends together while adding more and more substance, characters and motives into OBSESSION was brilliantly conceived and marvelously told. AND, it doesn't end here.

The second book to this series IMPULSE is already on my Kindle and I'm anxious to get it started. OBSESSION is a definite highly recommended read!

Arlena says

Author: Debra Webb
Published By: Pink House Press
Age Recommended: Adult
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean
Book Blog For: GMTA
Rating: 5

Review:

"Obsession" by Debra Webb was an excellent read that was full of suspense with a bit of romance that will not let you put it down until the end with so many twists and turns. All of the characters were very interesting and well developed that will give you an awesome read that will only have you wanting more. After FBI Jess Harris had made her first mistake and a bad man will walk because of it...with no family or husband...a boss who had 'thrown her career under the bus'...Jess returns to Birmingham, AL to help out Police Chief Dan Burnett who had been her first love, to help in the bizarre case of five girls who had disappeared. This novel really moves...from all of this to the serial killer who will be set free due to Jess's mistake. Now, this is where I say you must pick up "Obsession" to see how this author will present an outcome to all of this. This novel "Obsession" is a part of a trilogy so be prepared that you may not get all of the answers to your questions in this one read. I am more than sure you will want to pick up the next book. You will be kept on the edge of your seat with this investigation, the rekindled attraction that still seemed to be there for Dan and Jess, a serial killer (Eric Spears) being set free will only keep you reading.

"Obsession" is an excellent thriller with plenty of suspense that will only keep you reading this novel and even the series....and YES, I would definitely recommend this one to you.
