



Run from Fear

Jami Alden

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With each step she takes, he tracks her every move, waiting for the perfect time. The perfect revenge. Until then, he'll watch her . . .

RUN FROM FEAR

More than anything, Talia Vega wanted to leave behind her harrowing past. Moving eight hundred miles away, she succeeded . . . until the one man who knows her darkest secrets wanders into the restaurant where she works. Now the agonizing memories come crashing back-along with an undeniable desire for Jack Brooks, the ex-Green Beret who rescued her from a sadistic monster two years ago.

Jack Brooks knows that showing up unannounced is a purely selfish move. Talia doesn't need his protection anymore, but he can't get the raven-haired beauty out of his mind. And when a twisted madman is hell-bent on resurrecting her torturous past, Jack vows to do anything to keep her safe-even risk his own life to save the only woman he's ever loved.

Run from Fear Details

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From Reader Review Run from Fear for online ebook

Yvonne says

3.5 Stars

Well there are so many things I really enjoyed about this book but it wasn't my favorite in the series. I loved Jack, he was a wonderfully perfect Hero. The bad guy was a real creep but I'm not sure why he was so obsessed by the heroine. The suspense storyline was lacking especially when compared to the other books in the series.

I had to deduct a star for the heroine, Talia. She got on my very last nerve and jumped up and down! I know I'm tough on the heroines but this woman drove me bonkers.

Ah well, I love Jami Alden and will read anything she writes. Her Alpha Heroes are over the top protective and the steam is always nice and hot!

Jonetta says

3.5 stars

Carolyn Storer says

The third and final book in this trilogy, Run from Fear, jumps a couple of years on from Hide from Evil. This time we catch up with Talia and her sister Rosario, and of course sexy Jack. Since the take down of David Maxwell's empire, Talia has been able to live out in the open, although she doesn't broadcast who she is. She now works as a bar manager and her sister is at Stanford. Things are pretty good.

Unfortunately it all change for the worst as Talia starts to receive gifts from her past that bring a cold chill to her bones. It's a past she's tried hard to forget, but someone out there doesn't want her to. Although there are two threads to the suspense plot, as we find out their are two unconnected baddies, for one of them we really don't find out why they did the things they did, but we do get to know who both baddies are.

I can't say I loved this book as much as I did the previous two, it was addictive reading as always, but I thought it was the weakest instalment plot wise, and there were a couple of irritating characters, namely Rosario, who just acted too dumb for an 18 year old, and Talia's friend, Susie, who was too selfish for words. I did like both Talia and Jack as our hero and heroine though, and I believed in their relationship and budding romance. It did take a while for the romance aspect to get going, but I understand it had to be handled lightly due to Talia's past and what happened to her.

I enjoyed how protective Jack was of Talia and her sister and how much he wanted to keep them safe. I also liked how he kept his feelings for Talia in check because of her history. He is thoughtful, caring and just an all round nice guy. But he also has a quick temper, and although it's never aimed at the women in his life and never would be, any threat to them would be dealt with his fists and without remorse. Jack is a bad boy but with a soft center.

I was disappointed that we didn't get to see any of the characters from the previous books as it would have been nice to see how they were doing. The conclusion to this instalment was a little rushed with respect to the suspenseful plot and the romance. I would have liked it to be drawn out for a few more chapters at the end but there was a definitive conclusion, and it was pretty cute.

MBR says

Run from Fear by Jami Alden is the much coveted 3rd book in the untitled trilogy that showcases Jami's remarkable ability in delivering romantic suspense the way we readers crave them. Anyone who has read the 1st book in the series entitled Beg for Mercy would have encountered the larger than life Jack Brooks and definitely craved to learn more about the man behind the intimidating figure. I belong in the said group and when I saw this title up for grabs at Netgalley, I quickly seized my chance get my hands on a copy. Though I was disappointed in the book when compared to the previous 2 books in the series, Jami Alden still manages to deliver a decent romantic suspense that makes for a none too shabby a read.

Talia Vega is slowly making a life for herself in an affluent corner of California, having survived one of the most horrific incidents a woman can ever go through. Two years of her life spent in hiding with her younger sister Rosario in tow means that Talia appreciates the freedom that life has offered her with the death of the man who had made her a slave of his in every way. Talia's regrets in life are many, and the way she looks at herself and comes up lacking is one of the many scars left behind with many more, some of them even physical in nature. Talia's only aim is to give her sister everything she has got to give and though she feels those tendrils of unease coursing through her every now and then, she lets them slide through never knowing that her days of enjoying peace, serenity and order in her life are quite numbered.

Jack Brooks is ex-military and works in the security business. From the moment Jack had encountered the sexy siren version of Talia, Jack had been a goner. And watching Talia pick up the pieces of her tattered life and come out fighting the demons that must haunt her just makes Jack feel emotions of a stronger nature towards a woman who already has him on a dangerous edge. Jack stays on the sidelines, never letting Talia know just how much he is affected by her, and only re-enters her life 2 years later in order to sever the ties that binds him to her, or so he tells himself.

But so it happens, danger is never too far from Talia and Rosario and once again Talia is the focus of a stalker who would stop at nothing to complete a legacy that he claims to be rightfully his. Jack once he learns of the danger is as unmovable as a ton of steel and whether Talia wants it or not, Jack is around to stay until he can once again breathe easy, knowing that Talia and Rosario would remain safe from the clutches of mad men.

As always, Jami Alden does a superb job out of creating a villain, whose vicious thoughts alone is enough to give a person the shivers of the bad variety. But knowing who the villain was right from the very start somehow stole all the glory from the suspense aspect of the story, though the nature of the villain's fascination with Talia and how he goes about securing access to Talia is one that was splendid.

Talia was a tough nut to crack. Though she is beautiful, smart and independent, she has a lot of self esteem issues, understandable when throughout her life men had deceived and made use of her. Talia is not ready for a relationship, especially not with someone like Jack who makes her feel uncomfortable and tingly all over, all at the same time. Talia is cautious with whom she gives her trust, and comes across as a bitch sometimes and makes life pretty much miserable for Jack who adores the very path that she walks on. And maybe it was because of that reason that I couldn't like Talia much though she makes for a strong heroine in most of the ways.

Now, Jack Brooks is the type of hero that I salivate over all the time. I like larger than life heroes and Jack is one of them whose sheer size is in direct contrast with his gentle nature. He has “knight in shining armor” syndrome, something that had been triggered due to the abuse he had witnessed and gone through as a child. And when it comes to Talia, Jack’s over protectiveness is something to behold, his utter lack of control around Talia something to be savored. His gentleness around Talia who is skittish as a newborn colt when it comes to expressing sexual desire was one of the best aspects of his character. I totally fell for him because Jack is a man who is willing to do anything, and I mean literally anything to be with the woman he loves, to protect and cosset her and give her the life that he feels she deserves.

So, even though certain elements within the story didn’t work that well for me, Run from Fear still made for a great read, Jack Brooks’ character the reason I am bumping the rating from the “good read” range to the “great read” range.

Recommended for fans of the series and fans of Jami Alden. Jami certainly knows how to deliver on heroes that would appeal to the female readers and Jack Brooks is no exception.

Rating=4/5

Quotes included below.

Hbeebti says

Excellent! I love this trilogy. Jack was so much better than I had imagined. I just loved him. Talia was strong, bullheaded and a pain in Jack's ass. But Talia was seriously messed up after what happened to her in book one. I loved all the drama, the slow build up to the eventual romance and the action. The baddie was crazy, nasty and just plain creepy. What I really hope is that there will be more books. I mean come on Tomas needs a book and so does Ben. Hint hint Mrs. Alden..

Kathleen says

Story Rating 4 stars
Character Rating, Hero Jack - 5 stars, Heroine Talia - 3 stars
Romance Rating 4 stars
Heat Level 3.5 stars
Overall Rating 4 stars

I really liked this story, it kept me interested all the way through. I just felt that it was not as good as the two previous book's. The action, suspense and the villain just not near what the other book's were. But the hero, sighhhhhhhhhh, he made the book for me. I loved Jack. The heroine Talia had some flaws, some of them she had for good reason and others.....

The love scenes were good and hot but you know me, I wish there would have been more :)

I must say the ending was excellent and left me happy overall with the book.

Saly says

Rating 3.5

This is the third book in a series that started with a bang with Beg for Mercy and before starting it I had my reservations, mainly because of Talia the heroine.

When we met Talia in the first book I didn't like her much, yes she was a victim but her actions had had consequences. The book opens almost two years later, Talia has tried to rebuild her life away from the Seattle Slasher and the Talia who flaunted her beauty and fell in love with a monster, who used her, abused her and threatened the one thing that Talia held dear, her sister Rosie, is gone. Her self-esteem is decimated and we see this through out the book, she doesn't trust her judgment or men and then she sees Jack again.

Jack represents her past, he saw her at her lowest and saved her and Talia feels shame seeing him, shame that he knows who she used to be, that she was foolish enough to be the mistress of a monster. Now, I have to say Talia was her toughest critic, she beat herself for everything she had done and the choices she had made and that is what made it hard for me to dislike her since she already despised herself enough.

Jack, oh, Jack he was a totally yummy hero. Protective to the extreme I might say and I loved him. He had kept tabs on Talia and her sister though he never told Talia because he knew that her past had done a number on her and she needed to feel powerful again, as if she was in control. I admired him a lot and when we see the flashes to his past, I felt for him, he had always been the protector, when his father beat them and even years later with another woman, but he took on too much of responsibility. I thought that his feelings for Talia may stem back to his past but they didn't, he saw her totally and didn't judge her.

The suspense was great as well, creepy since we know who the bad guy is and go into his mind and his effort to relive the Seattle Slasher.

There were things that lessened my enjoyment, I didn't like Talia's sister much, she was a brat in my opinion and Talia herself, she had a tendency to over-analyze stuff and I know it was because of her past but I didn't like how she pushed and hurt Jack in the process.

All in all an enjoyable book but not as great as Beg for Mercy.

**ARC provided by Netgalley*

Lauren says

Run from Fear

2 Stars

After escaping the clutches of a madman, Talia Vega is finally rebuilding her life, and the last thing she wants is a reminder of her past in the form of Jack Brooks, the man who rescued her. Jack has never been able to forget Talia and feels compelled to protect her, especially when someone from the past resurfaces to threaten everything that Talia holds dear.

The first two books in this series are very entertaining. Unfortunately, this one is a dud as neither the hero nor the heroine manage to evoke any sympathy and the suspense plot has too many disconnected threads.

Talia is a problematic heroine. On the one hand, her troubling past is, to a large extent, the result of her own naïveté and bad choices (some of which had detrimental effects on others), but on the other, she is also a victim of the machinations of a manipulative and charismatic man. Regardless, she comes across as weak-willed and her hot/cold reactions to Jack are off-putting.

Jack's propensity toward overstepping his bounds and controlling situations does not make for an appealing hero either. In fact, his behavior is borderline obsessive and stalkerish.

Aside from weak romance, the suspense plot is far too convoluted. The story would have been better served with one more simple yet better developed plot rather than the more complex twists that really don't go anywhere. Moreover, the villain has potential as a real threat, but his psychological makeup is inconsistent with his criminal acts.

The secondary characters do little to improve the situation as Talia's sister, Rosie, comes across as a spoiled brat and her alleged friend Susie is exceedingly manipulative. One additional problem is the numerous references to characters from an earlier series that do not appear in any of the earlier books in this series. The only possible conclusion is that the author is shamelessly plugging her other series.

All in all, a huge disappointment.

Steamywindows♥? says

I wanted to like this book, and probably would have if the heroine didn't DRIVE ME CRAZY. I admired her survival of terrible abuse, both the psychological and horribel assault that happened in the first book. BUT she hurt the people she loved, and didn't just have a wall she threw poison knives from behind it. The hero was lovely, dark and deep. mmm, this author knows how to write great male leads. Frankly, others may really like this female lead, but she wasn't my cuppa...I look forward to reading more of this author's work...

Anne OK says

After such a powerful beginning with the first two books, the finale in "Run from Fear" was a little disappointing. Still yet, this trilogy will remain one of my favorites. Jami Alden did a fabulous job with character development and the well-balanced blend of romance and suspense.

Jack gets an A+ rating. He stayed true to himself and he's just about perfect in every way. He never wavered in his loyalty and determination towards Talia and Rosie.

Talia, on the other hand, drove me nuts. Her character made me ask, "why can't you see what's before your very eyes?" I will give her credit for unselfish devotion and love for Rosie.

I wish the author had waited a bit longer to reveal the villain. That decision lessened the suspense for me. Overall, I still enjoyed this book and one of the best romantic suspense trilogies to come along in awhile.

?Karlyn P? says

Underwhelmed. Maybe my hopes for this book were just too high. While I loved, loved, loved the first two in this series, I was sadly underwhelmed with this one. I did enjoy it, but in the end it didn't have the same level of suspense mixed with great characters that I loved in the first two.

Run From Fear is Talia and Jack's story. The last we saw of these two she had helped serve the final nail that brought down a massive international crime ring, and then went back into deep hiding where only Jack, her former bodyguard, knew how to find her.

This story takes place two years later with Talia and her little sister living in Palo Alto, California and no longer in need of their false identities. She hasn't seen nor heard from Jack in two years, and then he walks into the restaurant where she is working to say hello. Jack works for Gemini securities and is in town for a few months on a big job.

Talia has changed quite a bit from the woman we knew in the previous books. No longer the trophy girl with fancy clothes and makeup, she is making it on her own and trying to live a simple life. She has been training in martial arts, and is determined never to be a victim again. But she begins to suspect foul play when it appears a petty burglar has tried to get access to her home. Then odd romantic items begin showing up that reminds her of her past with David Maxwell. Without any real threat, there isn't much the police can do. But when it appears that a local kidnaper and rapist has ties to her past, the threat becomes quite real.

I think this is where the story starts to go wrong for me. We learn right off the bat that the evil bad guy of this story is not someone from her past coming to settle an old score, but a psycho copycat serial killer named Eugene Kuusik. He is fascinated with the legend of Nate Brewster, aka 'The Seattle Slasher', the man who tried to kill Talia while slowly torturing her. So while Talia's past may be coming back to haunt her indirectly, the suspense just wasn't on par with the last two books. She ruined many lives in the previous books, so it felt off that it was a stranger who is causing her problems now.

Unlike the previous two books, this one had very little mystery for the reader to solve. We are told in full detail about the crimes and his intentions all the way through. And there wasn't the 'race against the clock' kind of feeling we got in the first two books either. There were a few twists toward the end that helped, but oddly made the story only that much more bizarre too. (view spoiler)

But the real issue I had with Run From Fear wasn't so much the lackluster suspense, it was the fizzle of a romance between Talia and Jack. He was too good for her. Period. I really didn't like this new Talia, or her snotty little sister. She treated him terribly though much of the book, she let her pride get in the way far too many times, and she made foolish decisions repeatedly. Would I call her a TSTL heroine? No, but she came real close too often for my liking.

Jack was hands-down the best part of the book, and he is worth getting to know. He is awesome hot, amazingly protective, has a heart the size of Texas, and only has eyes for Talia. Sigh. ;-) We also learn he has a thing for rescuing 'wounded birds', and has failed at trying to save women in the past who were not willing to accept his help or do the right thing. He realizes Talia is another wounded bird, and tries like mad to get her to make the right choices for her own protection.

I really wanted to love this book, but in the end it was just OK. This is one of those romances where I just don't understand what the hero sees in the heroine. I LOVED Jack, and my heart broke for him over and over in this story as he tried to reason with Talia. But she was so focused on her spoiled/wounded pride she was not able to see Jack clearly or logically. (view spoiler) The romance never fully heated up for me because Talia remained cold and distance through most of the story. Initially I gave her a big break because I understood the trauma she endured, but I felt her attitude against Jack went on far too long and was simply too much at times. On the bright side, if you are a fan of the Gemini series you might enjoy this one a bit more as we see all the major players from that series.

Lynsey A says

Great suspense. Nice romance but dropped a star because of Talia. She seemed a bit too ungrateful for everything Jack did for her. I understand her past and all she went thru but her belief that Jack would try to control her like David Maxwell, annoyed me when Jack has done nothing but protect her and her sister.

The suspense was spot on but I felt the killer died too easily. I wanted to see him realize he failed.

Still a good book but the heroine took it down a star for me.

Cocktails and Books says

I'm going to be honest and say I wasn't really looking forward to the third installment to the Trilogy series. To me, the series was always about Megan Flynn trying to exonerate her brother Sean and the aftermath of Sean being found not-guilty. I didn't like Talia Vega, in either book, despite what horrible things she had suffered because of Nate Brewster. I was iffy on Jack Brooks, because he seemed shady and wishy washy at times. But, I'm absolutely, positively glad I picked this one up because it was absolutely fabulous and changed all my feelings about Talia and Jack.

The story picks up two years after the events in Beg for Mercy and Hide from Evil. Talia is living in Northern California and trying to put together some semblance of a normal life for herself and her eighteen year old sister, Rosie. But she's still haunted by what Nate Brewster, David Maxwell and Margaret Grayson-Maxwell did to her. So it's no surprise that when she starts receiving "gifts" in the mail that were things David Maxwell gave to her, she starts to freak out. What she wasn't counting on was Jack Brooks showing up.

Jack has been keeping his eye on Talia and Rosie, from a distance, for the past two years. He knew how important it was for Talia to feel like she was rebuilding her life and he knew that his feelings for her would always make him want to wrap her up and protect her. When business brings him to Northern California, he stops by to check on her. When their visit didn't go quite as planned, he vowed to stay away. But Talia's gifts make him take control and do what he needs to do to protect her.

As I said at the beginning of this post, I was really crazy about either Jack or Talia in the previous two books. But this book gives you a bird's eye view on just how scarred both of these characters are.

Talia is dealing with the guilt and fear they have been her constant companions since Nate Brewster kidnapped her. She knows it was her mistakes that landed herself and Rosie in the situation that they are in and she's trying to ensure they have as normal a life as possible. Unfortunately, despite how she feels about Jack (and she really does like him) all she thinks he sees is the woman he rescued and pities her.

Jack isn't much better off in the emotional department. He had an abusive father with a mother who wasn't willing to help herself or her kids. He tried to save a friend and her son from an abusive Green Beret teammate, but instead had to deal with the aftermath of their murder/suicide. And then there is Talia and what she went through. The man is a big pile of mush covered in muscle.

Putting these two together is a tremendous emotional roller coaster. She pushes, he pulls. He says yes, she

says no. But when they do finally get their act together and connect, as a reader you can visually see to halves joining together.

As with the other two books in the series, Jami Alden creates some fabulously evil characters who try to wreck havoc in our hero and heroine's lives. In this case, it's a geeky physics TA who has a need to emulate his hero and take a step his hero was never able to take. He's creepy, in an unassuming kind of way, that may have you looking at the quiet ones a little bit differently!

Jo says

For the most part I liked both main characters. Talia didn't make the best choices in the past, but everything she did was with the intent to carve out a better future for her and her teenage sister. And after surviving the terrible things that were done to her by a serial killer, all she wanted to do was make a better future for them and not relying on anyone else. This was very admirable but it also make her difficult to like at times, since she kept on pushing away Jack, who only wanted to protect her.

Now Jack Brooks I really liked. In the two years since he rescued Talia from the pain she had suffered, he's tried to keep her safe from a distance but he's never been able to get her out of his mind. I loved how focused he was on her, on keeping her safe and making sure she was happy. He definitely was a very sweet hero.

The romance was definitely better for me than the previous two books, but I still didn't love it and I find it difficult to explain why. Perhaps because Talia kept pushing Jack away? Or perhaps because I just didn't feel any intensity between them?

I have to say this author knows how to write chilling suspense and although it wasn't as dark and twisty as the previous books the plot was very gripping and thrilling with the villain focused on Talia Vega, intent on resurrecting her darkest past.

I remember loving this book the first time I read it, but three years later it doesn't hold up so well anymore and I hate it when that happens. Still for readers who love dark and twisty RS this is an enjoyable series.

Dinjolina says

I think I had too big hopes for this book.
I wanted it to be marvelous!

It was just an ok suspense book that had about everything thrown in, including the kitchen sink. :/

I dragged my feet with writing this review, because nothing really gripped me in the whole plot.

The reason I did in the end sit down to write it is to talk about expectations...

From previous books I had a distinct liking for the heroine and a very lukewarm feel concerning the hero. I saw him as one more broken cookie collector with a spec of alpha thrown in. These are a dime a dozen these days and are a no great mystery to me.

So what was the twist, you ask me?

After I read the book, I actually liked the hero and wanted to bleach out the heroine from my mind.

Her strong woman persona that could have grown in to something special turned caricaturistic. She was, all at once, this martial arts down to earth babe with an attitude. I had a strong urge to ask if she was also bitten by a radioactive spider, just like Spiderman. And do not get me started on all the bad man and stalkers that are coming out of the woodwork right at her. It was a circus. :/

The bottom line is: this whole experience was depressing. This is a book by an author I really love and I was anxiously anticipating the read.

The good thing is, I got the book from NetGalley. And the sad thing is that I will not be getting my copy of it.
