



## On the Verge

*Karen Lenfestey*

Download now

Read Online →

# On the Verge

*Karen Lenfestey*

## **On the Verge** Karen Lenfestey

Interior decorator Valentine Taylor loves three things: her fiancé, her seven-year-old-son and houses with character. Soon after she marries Nathan, a man who hopes to be as good a father as he is husband, he falls down a flight of stairs and injures his head. As Nathan recovers physically, it becomes apparent that he is no longer the same man.

He buys her a 1920's Spanish-style dream house, but it's one they cannot afford. He becomes impulsive, unpredictable and sometimes angry. Together they try to repair their once grand home as they struggle to rebuild their relationship.

When Val's husband changes into someone completely different, how long should she wait for her true love to return? What if he never does?

## **On the Verge Details**

Date : Published July 29th 2012 by CreateSpace

ISBN : 9781478338659

Author : Karen Lenfestey

Format : Paperback 308 pages

Genre : Romance, Fiction

 [Download On the Verge ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On the Verge ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online On the Verge Karen Lenfestey**

---

## **From Reader Review On the Verge for online ebook**

### **Anna says**

On The Verge is a sad story that has a happy ending. It makes you think about what you have and learn to appreciate it. Life could easily change at any moment.

---

### **Lee Book Lady says**

**I really loved the story! It was real and down to earth. I would not hesitate to recommend to any of my friends.**

It was written in good taste which I appreciated. Nice to see the author attended Purdue, as well as several of our family members!

---

### **Lynn McClelland says**

This well-written book, which I thoroughly enjoyed, presented realism that most of us have probably not experienced, allowing us to put ourselves in an unfamiliar situation and ponder what we would do. It was not your standard 'chick lit' ... but rather an in-depth search for the true meaning of the marriage vows. Are they still to be honored if your partner is no longer the person you married due to a head injury? Val must seriously consider this, identifying her feelings for a man who is so good to her son, all while she is feeling some guilt about the accident that caused Nathan to change.

While she is struggling with this dilemma, other unexpected events occur in her life and the lives of those around her ... some that create more uncertainty, while others propel her toward reconciliation. Are Val's feelings strong enough to allow her to give Nathan another chance? And, can they accept each other, as the learning process continues? Only time will tell.

---

### **Annie Burrows says**

I found this book so gripping I could hardly put it down. Warning - there was an extract of another book in the back matter that was also so gripping I just had to buy it! So don't start reading it unless you want to get hooked.

---

### **Barbara Hackel says**

Val comes with the baggage of a seven year old son, yet reconnects and marries one of the sweetest men (Nathan) that she has known from high school after a very brief courtship. It seems he is patient and ready to become the father to her son Chip. Before the couple can even go on their honeymoon they are summoned to school by Chip's teacher. Chip, in danger of flunking first grade, will not read. Although both Val and Chip have worked with him on spelling and reading every day, simply no progress is being made. Even before the

couple can go to the second tersely called meeting with Chip's teacher, Nathan has an accident and falls down the basement stairs. He is rushed to the hospital and on top of everything else, Val has to face her husband surgery, coma, and questionable recovery from a brain damaging injury. With only her new mother-in-law at her side, the weeks pass before Nathan wakes up from his coma and finally can return home.

Brain damage isn't pretty, and although the author has glossed over details somewhat, Nathan is no longer the patient and kind man he used to be. He can't go back to work, and when he does, the results are disastrous. He begins drinking and lying. The only thing he continues is his physical therapy which helps him recover physically although encourages other problems.

Nathan has bought Val the house of her dreams, and a dog for Chip. He plans to renovate the needy 1920 home, yet barely starts let alone follows through on any project. When the bedroom ceiling falls and a new roof is needed, the money problems and poor judgement accelerates. Couples counseling is unsuccessful at first, and fortunately they seek a second counselor. But is it too late? Nathan-who now wants to be called Nate-has taken to day drinking at a seedy bar with his physical therapist who reminds him of Marisa Tomei.

The author has woven a complex story around Val, Chip, Nathan, friend Joely, and the different, yet all challenging health issues they face. I liked this book because it was certainly a realistic look at difficulties people face in their lives. It shows no one is untouchable, yet everyone can find a solution and have a chance to follow their dreams. Some deep thoughts emerge. The growth of the individual characters as well as their willingness to work for their dreams is a lesson we all can benefit from learning.

---

## **Helen Pickering says**

### **On the verge**

I would recommend this book to anyone who love second chances a good love story with lots of challenges loved the book

---

## **Don Miller says**

On the Verge is Lenfestey's best work yet. I like the characters. Val is smart and fun but plagued with a bent for taking the easy way out, always finding a rationalization to justify the more pleasurable choice. Nathan's personality changes and adjustment difficulties caused by a head injury fit well with real life experiences I've been close to. Val's six-year-old dyslexic son, Chip, complicates the difficulties Nathan and Val face after their new marriage is recolored by the pre-honeymoon brain injury.

The fact that their troubled marriage is the second for both of them adds to their despair. Tension in the marriage builds as each mishap gets eclipsed by the next. The pace kept me turning pages. The side stories of their checkbook-depleting manor house and of Val's friends Joley and Jake, transported from Lenfestey's previous novels, round out the story well.

The novel is well written and easy to read. Choose this one. You'll like it.

---

## **Tracy says**

### **What happened to Bobby?**

This was the 3rd book in a series, all three were great reads... I recommend reading them all in order and I hope there are more to come in this series... I'm left wondering what happened to Bobby.... but would like to hear more about the New characters in this book, Val, Nathan, and Chip. well worth the purchase and as a fibromyalgia warrior, I can so relate to the character Joely....

---

## **Kari Beh says**

Great end to the 3 book series.

---

## **Barbara says**

### **Good Book**

This book shows realistically what is meant when we take our wedding vows of "in sickness and in health" seriously. Marriage is not just about being in love but encouraging and forgiving one another. Some days it is easy and some days, it is hard. I loved this book.

---

## **Lynne says**

It was easy to want to read On the Verge when I read the synopsis. I love love love books about houses (spooky, old, haunted, etc.) and I'm interested in interior decorating as well.

Things are (almost) perfect in Val Taylors life, and she's reasonably happy. She is a great mom to her little boy, Chip and newlywed wife to an equally great guy, Nathan. She's successful in her career as an interior decorator as well as being there for her best friend, Joely -who suffers with lupus.

The main story focuses on Val and Nathan. Very soon after Val and Nathan are married, Nathan falls down the stairs going down to the basement and whacks his head bad enough to end up in the hospital and in a coma for a lengthy time.

When he finally wakes up Nathan is different. The Nathan she married is changed, more or less -gone. He doesn't even remember getting married. His injuries require that he go to physical therapy. And to make matters worse, he can't help but notice how attractive his trainer is.

Trying to reignite the flames and reconnect with his wife, Nathan buys a 1920's Spanish mission style house for Val. It's one they looked at before they got married and she had fallen in love with it immediately and kept the flyer from the open house.

She loves it, but unfortunately the house is really way more than they can comfortably afford and in need of costly repairs. Very costly repairs that begin to drain the bank account. Nathan says he's got everything under control, and she believes him (til the bills start coming in).

Like I said, Nathan has changed and he's struggling with the changes. However, Nathan is losing the battle

with himself. Adding insult to injury, literally, his head trauma prevents him from being able to work so he feels inadequate, unmanly, and beaten down. He becomes temperamental, moody and short-tempered and even gets somewhat physical with Val.

He hates himself and eventually takes to drinking and makes several rash (and ultimately wrong) decisions.

Their happy marriage is on the rocks and definitely being pushed to the brink of no return.

On the Verge is a really well written story. It held my interest the entire time. I found myself talking to these characters (in my head, of course). Getting mad at Nathan as he spiraled down the path of self-destruction. On the other hand, it also brought me to (happy) tears too. When this book arrived in my mailbox, I was in need of a nice, 'real life' contemporary read. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed it. :)

\*\*I won this book in a GoodReads first-read giveaway. Thank you Goodreads and the author, Karen Lenfestey (<http://www.karensnovels.com/>) for the opportunity to read On the Verge. (

---

## Donna says

E-book. Ok

---

## RedRedtheycallmeRed says

1.5 STARS

The premise was something that interests me: home remodeling/interior design combined with a romance. But what I got were two grown adults in their 30's who were unbelievably stupid and irresponsible.

Val is in her mid-30's and has a seven year old son. She marries Nathan I guess because she loves him, but mostly because she seems to want someone to take care of her. She doesn't like doing hard things like parenting, making smart financial decisions or hearing the word no. Her son's teacher calls a meeting to let her know he'll probably have to repeat first grade because he can't read (but also, what kind of crappy teacher doesn't notice or bring in the parent until the school year is almost over?) and Val's response is to bury her head in the sand. She tries to help the kid read, but gives up when it's too challenging, and when the teacher contacts her again she just ignores the problem. What kind of parent does this? That alone made me dislike her immediately.

After Nathan's head injury, they're immediately worried about the thousands of dollars worth of medical bills (as anyone would be). But not too worried to buy a six bedroom house they can't afford. If they can't afford it, how does Nathan buy it without Val's signature? And apparently, neither of them had ever heard of having a home inspection first (so very many eye rolls with all the stupid decisions). But Val loves it so, shrug. The roof tiles cost over \$40,000 (that they don't have), but using a cheaper kind wouldn't look right so, shrug. We just bought a house we can't afford, have a ton of medical bills, but let's go buy new living room furniture! While we're at it, let's have Nathan buy a new vintage (\$\$\$) car, even though he's unable to work. And their solution to their financial problems? Ask their respective bosses (and Val's parents) to loan them money, then act indignant when they decline. Good grief, what planet do these people live on? Did I mention Val also wants to get pregnant, because that seems reasonable when your life is a crap sandwich.

Did I mention the house is also haunted? That actually could have been interesting, but it didn't really go

anywhere except to give an easy financial out at the end.

There's a secondary plot about Val's friend Joely, that takes up way too much time in the book. Joely whines about being fat and how could her boyfriend possibly love her (although he had no problem carrying her around so how fat could she be)? Her low self esteem was so annoying, I also started wondering what he saw in her.

There's another subplot about Nathan having an affair with his physical therapist, Mia, who learned everything she needed to know about relationships by emulating Glenn Close's character from Fatal Attraction. And Val seemed much more upset at the thought of losing her house than the fact that her husband cheated on her.

By the end of this thing I was exhausted, and I really, truly hated both Val and Nathan. I guess they really did deserve each other, because no one else should have to be shackled to these losers.

---

### **Linda Stock says**

I didn't care for it. Can't explain why - it just bothered me and I was uncomfortable with it - did not enjoy it.

---

### **Melodie says**

Another great story from Karen Lenfestey! It is easy to identify with Val, a young woman in her thirties, engaged to a great guy, she has a seven year old son and a job she loves as an interior designer. She dreams of owning her own design studio someday and is sure that once married, living on Easy Street won't be far off.

But plans are easier made than executed, and she finds herself wondering how things could go so wrong so fast. Wedded bliss is fleeting as her husband falls and suffers a head injury. Recovery is long and hard, and Val finds it a constant strain to maintain balance. New problems seem to pop up on a daily basis, and she frequently feels like a drowning woman.

The challenges of recovering from a head injury and loving someone recovering from this life changing event are dealt with accurately and honestly. There is no magic wand to wave, one doesn't someday just go back to "normal". And the importance of support for all involved is brought home here as well. Val finds support and solace with her friend Joley as every day seems to bring new challenges.

I was tickled to find Joley and Jake brought forward from Lenfestey's previous novels, with the interesting subplot of planning their wedding amid their own set of challenges. Again, redefining normal seems to be the theme, as Joley struggles with changes brought about by having Lupus.

The book was terrific, and it would be interesting to follow these friends in upcoming stories.

---