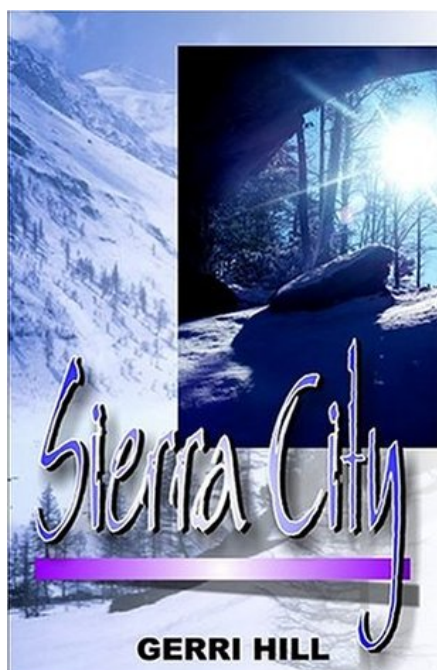




Sierra City

Gerri Hill

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Chris McKenna gladly escaped the crowds of Yosemite to work as the new Search and Rescue in tiny Sierra City, nestled just west of Lake Tahoe. A loner by nature, she didn't mind the seclusion of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Jessie Stone, a successful but reclusive writer, is haunted by memories of her childhood and finally returns to Sierra City after sixteen years of estrangement from her mother. The odd assortment of residents of this small mountain town brings them together but it is Annie Stone, a woman Chris has grown to admire and a woman Jessie still feels hatred for, that binds the two. Through lies and deception, they still cannot deny the growing attraction that will brighten both their lives...if only they will allow it. As Chris fights for her life in a winter blizzard, Jessie comes to terms with her past and her mother, finally accepting the love that Chris willingly offers her.

Sierra City Details

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From Reader Review Sierra City for online ebook

M says

Don't drink and drive, I feel that I need to point this out as the main characters are constantly drinking copious amounts of wine and then presumably driving home...

God, when did I become such an old woman!

I have always enjoyed Gerri Hill's books but found this story slight by her high standards. Still a good, fast read but wished for slightly more meat on the bone and a couple more dimensions to the characters.

Linda says

This is a fairly predictable girl-meets-girl novel but it's a decent read even if it doesn't hold any surprises.

Megzz says

I adore Gerri Hill but I was very disappointed with this one, although it has the same average rating as other books by her that I absolutely loved. So I guess it's mainly a matter of taste.

I found that the characterisation was a lot more superficial than in her other novels. Chris appears to be a caring woman but is very boring, and we hardly know anything about her life. Jessie is too raw, too rough, and could have been endearing but for some reason her story didn't touch me at all. I found no passion, no intensity, no believable emotions. Also it is obvious Gerri Hill is no psychologist, the whole thing about blocking the unhappy memories out is written in a really amateur way. It reminded me of her thriller novels, in which crime scenes are always the same.

The pace of the story is also totally off and inconsistent. Jessie goes from being depressed and unhappy after 16 years of misery to being happily in love and content a few weeks later. And when in other romantic novels this could have been believable thanks to a "true love" kind of story, in Sierra City there's not much that can explain it. Apart from the physical attraction between Chris and Jessie, I don't really see why or how they fall in love with each other. It all happens way too fast after only a handful of real moments together.

A lot of this author's novels are borderline cheesy, and it usually doesn't bother me because I believe in the love story that's written, but Sierra City is over the top and it annoyed me. First of all, I couldn't stand the number of times the characters say the other's name when talking to them (Okay, McKenna, I accept. You're cute, McKenna. I don't hate you Jessie. You don't owe me anything Jessie). It adds a ridiculous intensity to every line and it's too much.

The characters go on and on about how they've never felt that way about anyone before, how they've never wanted to make love before, how they're special to each other, how they're saving each other's life, etc, etc, etc. It's chapters after chapters of that. WE GET IT. Dialogues between Jessie and Annie are pretty much as boring: they repeat a lot of things that have already been said. It's so repetitive that I had to skip a lot of paragraphs just to get to the interesting parts.

And unfortunately, there are not that many interesting parts. I would actually find it hard to define Sierra

City as a romance novel. I feel like the focus of the story really is about Jessie and Annie. The love story between Chris and Jessie is really not that intense or beautiful. There is almost no build up and as a result, no explosive ending.

And finally, why is Jessie a writer? nothing is made of this. Chris has read several books by her, and I'm no writer but if Jessie's books are as intense as they are depicted in the story, then I feel like Chris should have been intimately linked to Jessie because of it. Reading someone's story is delving into someone's head and someone's past, it's a big deal to me. In the end this doesn't play any role in the story. Jessie's books are only used as a tool for Annie to know about her daughter's wellbeing and for Roger to broach the subject of Jessie with Chris. It's also too much of a coincidence that Chris reads a book by THE writer that grew up in this small town. And.. what with Chris looking at the picture in the back every time she holds the book?

I didn't mean to write such a rude review but as I was typing I realised this book really annoyed the hell out of me.

Gerri Hill missed the mark on that one.

Weetniet says

sigh Ik wou dat ik een hutje in de bergen had.
Typische Gerri Hill lovestory ook.

Lira says

This one was not my favorite Gerri Hill book. For me it felt so different from the last few I've read by her. There was a sub story that included sexual abuse and I don't really care for stories like that. It wasn't the focus of the story necessarily so I was able to get past it. It just had a weird flow and I don't feel I was as invested in the characters because of it. Ehh, I finished it. It was good enough to finish I guess.

Charleen says

Enjoyable book.

Colleen says

AWESOME ROMANCE

Gaelle Cathy says

I really liked the the first half of this novel, then not as much. It felt like the story was already over. The rest felt a little forced, I'm not sure. And yes, the way Jessie keeps switching and calling Chris McKenna either McKenna or Chris, never knowing which one, was annoying after a while. So I liked it but it's defo not my fav Gerri Hill novel.

P. Industry says

I hate to be the one to say it, but this particular novel is surprisingly joyless.

I say surprising, because Gerri Hill is an author who is generally fairly consistent in quality. You could pick up any of the nine or so of her cop/mystery books and leave happy as pie. This novel, however, feels heavy-handed.

Part of this stems from the forced nature of the central romance. The two characters feel like they have nothing in common, which makes the plot pacing uneven in places. The dialogue is also stilted and heavy; long passages of cloying things people would never be caught dead saying aloud. From the publication date, this is an early novel from Hill, and her inexperience (and poor editing from the publisher) surely shows.

The poor editing is especially egregious. Small publishers must cut costs somewhere, but when you haven't fixed basic things like lay/laid/lie errors then you've got to take a good hard look at yourself in the mirror. The constant repetition of the character names, especially in dialogue, and the strange way Chris' first and last name seemed interchangeable even to her lover, really got my goat about 50% of the way through.

I enjoyed it, but I think Hill's other books are far better and much more worth the \$10 eBook price tag. For \$10 you could get Hunter's Way, which is remarkably good, or for something sans cops, Behind the Pine Curtain. This isn't really worth it, not even for someone getting a bit starved for good fiction.

Tracy says

Loved it

Julia_reads says

I agree with the other reviews - almost every character drinks way too much alcohol. Also, they seem to think it necessary as a way to be open about emotions. That speaks for a severe abuse of alcohol, if not an addiction.

This aside I really liked the characters and the story.
