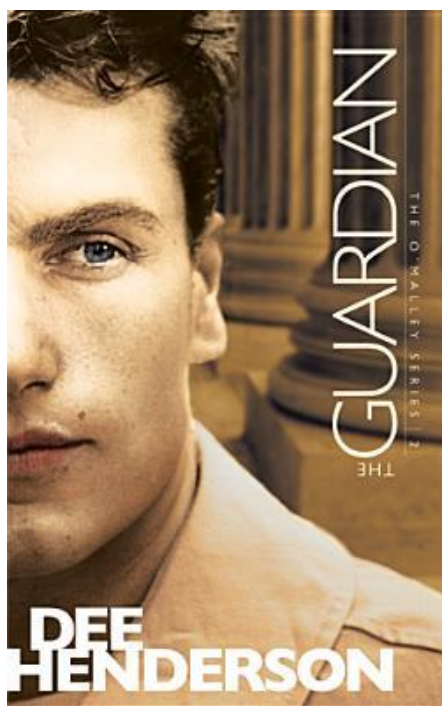




The Guardian

Dee Henderson

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A federal judge has been murdered. There is only one witness, and an assassin wants her dead. U.S. Marshall Marcus O'Malley thought he knew the risks of the assignment . . . but he was wrong.

Introducing the O'Malleys, an inspirational group of seven, all abandoned or orphaned as teens, who have made the choice to become a loyal and committed family. They have chosen their own surname, O'Malley, and have stood by each other through moments of joy and heartache. Their stories are told in CBA best-selling, inspirational romantic suspense novels that rock your heart and restore strength and hope to your spirit.

The Guardian Details

Date : Published November 1st 2005 by Tyndale House Publishers (first published January 1st 2001)

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Author : Dee Henderson

Format : Paperback 275 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Romance, Mystery, Suspense

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From Reader Review The Guardian for online ebook

Mikayla says

[the amount of kissing. In particular the kiss in the gym, it was very unexpected and I found myself disliking Marcus for kissing her that much. (hide spoiler)]

Joy says

A Judge is dead and there's a witness.

Marcus O'Malley is used to protecting everyone. He's the Guardian and he's good at his job. But now things are shaken up. He can't protect everyone. Someone wants Shari dead because she witnessed the murder and his younger sister is dying. Plus, he can't seem to guard his heart either by the witness he swore to protect.

This book was good. Appropriate for all ages.

AlixJamie says

It took me forever to read this book. I read the first few chapters and quickly got disgusted by Marcus and Shari's hitting on each other when they had just happened to meet by accident. So I set it aside for about a month until it got annoying. I can't stand starting a book and not finishing it. So I sat down and told myself I was going to read until it was done.

For starters, I was really annoyed with all the kissing and flirting going on between these too mature, career-minded adults. It just didn't fit their characters.

Then, Dee Henderson's overblown images of the O'Malley family, while SOME of it was fun to read, a lot of it got aggravatingly tacky.

The Christian angle of this book came off as stilted and awkward. I know from personal experience that it is EXTREMELY difficult to take a character who believed at one point in his or her life and then rejected God for one reason or another, and make their re-conversion convincing. Even so, practically any mention of God or prayer seemed removed from the plot line and just stuck in here and there to tag the book as "Christian". But, in Ms. Henderson's defense, writing fiction where the characters naturally breath God and any mention of Him flows with the book is also extremely difficult. In real life, most people don't talk about God constantly, if really at all, so even though it is heartfelt, it just doesn't sound natural.

I found Lisa's forensic pathology very engrossing, to the point where I viewed her scenes as the best parts of the book. As is usual with Dee Henderson, her dialog was interesting to read and mostly well paced, though I occasionally got lost in the longer conversations because she withholds some necessary he said/she saids. My favorite character, and one of the main reasons I kept reading, was Joshua Hanford. It was too bad that he was only a minor character, because he was excellently drawn and the only reason I gave this book three stars. Without him, it probably would have been two (and a half, if Goodreads let me do that...)

And finally, as one of my friends complained, Dee Henderson's plots are virtually the same in every book; which is basically true. It begins with mild flirtation, digresses to something more serious, a damsel is always in distress and must be shipped off to some safe hideaway to be looked after by their love-interest and an avalanche of security (in most cases the mass security), the disbelieving person usually comes to faith in God around that point, meaning that an eventual marriage will take place, and then there is an abrupt and usually

bullet-filled climax and everything is resolved in an upward of ten or eleven pages.

It's the quick endings that get me. Ms. Henderson drags out the investigations, false leads, romance, danger, faith struggles, family issues, crime scenes and other interesting topics and then, boom, she drops the criminal culprit in the laps of the law where he is shot or arrested as the case may be, and then before you have really caught the significance of what just happened, the book ends and you are left to read the note by Dee Henderson that is stowed away in the back. Maybe the swift culminations after drawn out investigations are the way it is in real life; I don't know. But it doesn't make for a very conclusive novel-ending.

One more thing: I wasn't the only one who thought that the last scene in this book was really...childish, am I? I mean, come on. Pager games? Really? It reminded me of Rolf and Liesl in the garden in "The Sound of Music" sending telegrams to each other. But Rolf and Liesl are sixteen and seventeen - not thirty something. "HUG-TIME"? Please...

????t?? says

This series amazed me- all the storylines flow from each other so wonderfully and this was a great one!! At the beginning I didn't really care for the match of the characters but Dee really pulled me in and her use of suspense had me sitting at the edge of my seat waiting to see what happened. Marcus's journey back into Christianity and Shari's struggle with keeping her own faith was so relatable and the book really helped answer some amazingly tough questions about a God who would let horrible things happen and why.

Jennifer says

A good book (like all her others). The things I like most about the books are the romance aspect, but more importantly, the fact that each of the siblings has a different issue about God to deal with and I find that Dee Henderson makes the issues real - I can definitely relate to a number of the themes and have enjoyed all the books. The ability to make people aware of aspects which might be affecting their relationship with God as well as the solution and the reasoning for making the choice I feel is a necessary one which makes us, the reader, think.

Jesseca Wheaton says

Augh! Try to review a book on my tablet and it says I rated it 3 stars. Okay. . .no, it was definitely a five star book!

I loved getting to learn more about Marcus, and Shari's story was so heartbreak. But the way she handled it, the way she leaned on God through it all was just so good. And of course her and Marcus just had the sweetest relationship ever!!

And the sibling relationships! I adore this series! I love all the sibling interaction. It's just precious. :)

Sarah says

I liked this book even better than the first two. I love how Henderson can make each sibling's journey to God different.

Jenny Jo Weir says

This series is so cute! Not sure how much Christian Fiction I'd read before this but I'm loving it. When they want a cold drink, they drink a glass of milk, tea or soft drink :-). When they get angry, they pray to God, no one says bad words and it's full of suspense and action! Yay I say! Can't wait to read book 3.

Piepie says

I really enjoyed this one! Dee Henderson books are sometimes a little cheesy (the "hug time" thing with the pagers? really??) and predictable (I think all her books end with a marriage proposal/happily ever after), but I like her writing and her characters.

Angela R. Watts says

Another good book by Dee Henderson! I enjoyed the characters, and the story line. I am worried about some of the characters though... Poor things.

Joleen says

The Guardian by **Dee Henderson**

Genre: Suspense, Christian Romance, murder mystery

Format: Kindle

Timeframe: More or less current day

Location: Chicago, IL

Characters:

Marcus O'Malley: Eldest O'Malley, 38 year old single US marshal

Shari Hanford: Witness to a murder, 34 years old, unmarried speech writer

Kate, Jennifer and Lisa: Three O'Malley sisters

Dave Richman: FBI agent, working with Marcus, dating Kate

Joshua and Beth: Shari's brother and mother

Shari Hanford is a witness to something horrible in a hotel room just as US Marshal Marcus O'Malley was heading to that floor to relocate and protect a federal judge. This immediately becomes his case...to protect the witness and her remaining family members.

There are always so many twists to Ms. Henderson's books that they are hard to put down. This book is no exception.

There's a murderer who believed his disguise would keep him safe. The protection team is on a hunt for who Shari saw. While the shooter is sure he won't be caught, the witness still needs to be eliminated, and the route to that end is *elaborate*. What Lisa (a forensic pathologist as well as sister to Marcus) does to find the

least little clues is pretty amazing.

Two specific things I'm realizing about this series:

- 1) The author has a main character who is a Christian, and another main character who is an unbeliever. Both are placed together for some reason and both begin a relationship that usually passes beyond friendship. The non-Christians are all the O'Malleys. In their orphanage-life "God" seemed distant or had abandoned them, so these unrelated orphans became a family, learning to rely primarily on each other for the past two decades.
- 2) The gospel isn't in great detail, but Christ is proclaimed by believers in such a way that the non-Christian is challenged to rethink his/her ideas about God.

In *The Guardian*, two characters fall in love. When the Christian accepts the unbeliever's marriage proposal, it isn't written that the Christian is aware that the person she's going to marry had turned his life back to Christ. So his lack of faith is irrelevant to their marriage vows? She got what she wanted...*him*. That's a pet peeve of mine in Christian fiction. Why do Christians put themselves in a position to fall in love with someone who doesn't share their greatest value? Could it be that what they **want** is of greater value than the Son of God who saved them? Another thought is why Christian authors think it's okay to write about a Christian falling in love with an unbeliever... and for them to pray that they could spend the rest of their lives together? Does II Cor. 6:14 mean nothing?

Sigh.

Aside from that fact, which brings it down a notch, the book is amazing!!!

Leslie says

It was okay. The plot seemed way too similar to the first book in the series: (spoiler follows)

Strong woman in difficult situation, struggles to stay strong, and is "rescued" by strong man, they fall in love and get married. Oh, and the unbeliever comes to faith. Also, how is it that everyone in these books is rich? Not just well-off, but 2nd home is a ranch in Montana rich? I'm having a harder & harder time suspending disbelief!

Naomi says

IL begin with saying I'm not Christian and I'm responsible for what I write, not for what you read.

That been said, that part of the book was beyond annoying. In me defense I didn't know it was Christian Fiction! I was book hunting in my favorite book store, read the synopsis in the back and loved it, that's why I bought it. Don't get me wrong, I have NOTHING against Christians, but I don't understand why religion-

ANY religion-seems to create division when God should do the opposite and unite us all. So if someone is not a “believer” and you are you can’t see a future with said person because of where he stands or because he might push you away from your beliefs? Is that aspect of your life so fragile? I was raised a catholic, in a catholic school where one of my best friends was Christian (studying in the same school by the way), problem? None, whatsoever. If, in the other hand half of the family gets “Introduced to Jesus” and the other half doesn’t “believe”, is that supposed to bring conflict? Why can’t we just respect everyone’s religion, beliefs or opinions? and Why, WHY FOR CHRIST SAKE, do people love HIM when everything is good in their life but when things go south they hate or get mad at HIM? I believe true faith lies in you knowing that HE loves you NO MATTER WHAT you are or which God you believe in and to trust HIM NO MATTER WHAT happens in your life. But I’m more pagan than catholic, so...

Bottom line, if you are kind of a freak like I am or not quite the religious person, you’ve been warned: this might or might not be the book for you, depends on what you’re really looking for.

Religion aside, I really liked the plot, very realistic. The book’s focused on Marcus O’Malley, leader of the O’Malley clan, a family with a far stronger bond than blood. He’s U.S Marshal and he will have to protect a witness of the murder of a federal judge, not knowing how much his life will change when meets Shari Hansford, a speechwriter with a passion for politics and religion.

Shari is the witness of the murder and she quickly becomes the target of –I think- I wealthy family with very questionable and shady business. From that moment a race begins to find out who pulled the trigger, how to connect said person with the murderer (the man was a genius), all this before a paid assassin gets to collect his bounty.

There is suspense, religion, drama, romance, religion (yes, again), crime and crime investigation CIS: NY style.

Reason I don’t give this a 5 star it’s because, in my humble opinion, the “villains” were a bit flat, barely any development on those characters and I felt the ending was rushed and unfinished. I mean I was expecting to the ransom on Rugby! And a very well deserved deep and passionate kissed between our MC, considering everything was standing between them, including poor Jesus.

Victoria Lynn says

This book was good! Another great O'Malley story. Can I just say I love all the O'Malley's? Dee Henderson does a great job making each and every one of her characters unique and interesting.

MC Marcus O'Malley was very easy for me to relate to. . .we share a lot of similar qualities, For him it is being a guardian for his family, and for me it is being a big sister and mother hen. I found myself relating very much to his struggle and I thought the spiritual wrestling that he and the other MC did in this book very helpful and relatable. I also related to his deep heart. . . he feels things deeply, which is something I do as well. Plus, you just gotta love his banter.

The other MC, Shari, was a little on the bland side, but she became loveable as time went on. I just didn't jive with her the way I do other characters.

The mystery was compelling, and equally balanced with moments of normalcy. This book is filled with sweetness between all of the O'Malley characters, enjoyable characterization and a high stakes mystery and suspense.

Recommened for ages 16+

Contains (view spoiler)

Ashlee says

For some reason I remember these being better than they are... I'll still give it a 4 instead of a 3 for sentimental reasons...

Lyndi says

I was seriously wondering if this book would EVER be done. I don't like giving up on books, but this wasn't anything like the 1st 2 in this series. Sherri wasn't relatable at all, and the O'Malley's fell in love with her by talking to her on the phone like twice? The beginning was good, good enough that it kept me reading, hoping that it would get good again. I don't think it did. The ending was a HUGE let down. So much so, that I have the next 2 books in this series and debating on reading them. I normally like Ms. Henderson's writing. Enough complaining, but be warned, may be a waste of your time as well. I am being generous by giving it a 2.

Knucklefish says

Being the rather female chauvinist I am, as a general rule I prefer the O'Malley books centered around the sisters. Marcus is the one glowing exception. This book is one of the best.

Although in actuality, the gender of the main O'Malley shouldn't matter much because of the book's format. They are told from the perspective of both the male and female lead. Maybe it's just that the women for Jack and Stephen aren't as dynamic of characters. Marcus's love interest Shari, however, is as cool as they come. Ironically I think it took some time for me to warm up to her during the first reading. Part of it may very well have been that I didn't like her name. Also it's a testament to how quickly the reader falls in love with Marcus. What woman would possibly be good enough for him?

Now I do think Shari is worthy of Marcus. She's got major feminist appeal because she wants to be a politician. The relationship she and Marcus form feels like one of the strongest in the series. It develops over the course of many late night talks about both silly and deathly serious topics.

Sarah Grace says

happy sigh That one was the best yet! <3 I absolutely loved both Marcus and Shari, and loved hearing their stories. I could relate to both characters in a lot of ways, and the supporting cast was also fabulous. Beth was especially sweet. The Guardian keeps you on the edge of your seat pretty much the whole time, but leaves plenty of time for sweet heartwarming scenes, and some comedic relief. The romance was so sweet and perfect. There were a few too many\too described kisses for my liking, but the rest of the book was lovely. The themes of faith, salvation and prayer were spot on, and so inspiring.

Highly recommended!

Recommended for age 16+ for romance and violence.

Ed says

So far in all of this series, I find many examples of God dealing with individuals through His providence in dealing with lost people about their salvation. Also you also see God allowing adversity and other trials on Christians to get the weak Christians stronger in their trust on the Lord. This is a good book showing the steps to maturity among Christians by putting complete faith in God because God knows what He is doing. Even those who are lost in the story see how Christians react to the problems of God working in their life. A lot of lessons taught in this fictional story.

Shawnette says

INTRIGUING Christian Romantic Suspense...looking forward to the next book!
