



First Do No Evil

Carey Baldwin

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When the killer strikes, detective Daniel Benson finds himself in the wrong place at the right time. The bold detective manages to save Sky's life...just in time for her to return the favor. Survival leads to seduction, and Danny risks everything—his career, even his life, to keep Sky safe. But will the buried sins they uncover cost him her heart?

Danny's strong arms may hold her close, but only Sky can stop the terror that's coming next...

First Do No Evil Details

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Author : Carey Baldwin

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From Reader Review First Do No Evil for online ebook

Casey Dare says

Carey Baldwin's debut novel, *First Do No Evil*, is a romantic medical thriller that starts with a kick (of unexpected desire) and a bang (literally) and never lets up until the end. By the forth page (she had me at "...what's it going to be... coffee or cuffs?") I've become so hooked and can't wait to see how the H/H get together. He, Danny Benson, a detective and widowed father. She, Skylar Novak, a physician running a clinic for the indigent, and recently engaged to her partner. How on earth will Baldwin get them together? By the 25th page I get the idea and am now so heavily invested in the outcome of the story that I can't put the book down until it is finished.

Skylar Novak keeps losing people she loves. First, she loses her mother to breast cancer. Then she loses her father when he is murdered during a robbery. Then, fifteen years to the day, her fiancé is murdered - at yet another robbery. Only Danny sees this isn't an every-day robbery gone badly. There are too many inconsistencies but no one is listening. The Mayor says, "Case Closed!" But, Danny and Skylar know there is a mastermind behind these killings and become determined to get answers. From here on out, the novel becomes a fast-paced, gut-clenching, page-turner. In other words, I was up to the wee hours of the morning!

One ability this author has that stood out to me was her ability to describe the setting and scenes in this book. Each scene is so minutely crafted that one in particular, felt like an out-of-body experience for me. Seconds after the first shooting scene, I swear I could hear the buzz of disbelief resonate in my ears; feel the tingling of shock run wild throughout my body; smell the exhaust of gunpowder floating in the air; and hear Danny's shallow breaths as he lay in a pool of blood on the floor.

Her ability to paint those scenes, bring them to living color, and imbue her H/H with characteristics we'd all aspire to (compassion, perseverance, commitment) made it so easy to identify and commiserate with her characters. I fell in love with the Hero Danny. Here's a man that is man enough to express his sorrow, admit his weaknesses and fears, and still come off as a strong, hot and sexy dream man. It is SO rare that an author will let a Hero cry in their story. Yet she did at least twice and I challenge anyone to say he doesn't epitomize what every woman wants in a Man.

The conclusion, while bringing great sorrow to the Heroine, also brings her to the realization that happiness is something you have to choose. And when Sky asks Danny, "...how? How did you get happy?" Danny answers, "...you fake it till you make it." A life lesson I'm sure many of us can relate to and actualize. I know it had a profound effect on me.

My only caution for this author is to lower the language of her writing a bit and be careful of the use of medical terms with characters not in the field of medicine. I had to look up a few words and while it is not a big deal for me since I love to learn new words, others may get annoyed with repeated visits to dictionary.com. That said, these few distractions did not take away my enjoyment of the story at all. I think it was fantastic and I'm looking forward to her next installment. Bravo Ms. Baldwin!

Pam says

I'm happy to say that I've found another great new author--one I'll be looking for again in the future. This practicing physician has started off her new series with a winner in this romantic medical thriller. The

opening pages catch your attention with a literal bang when a killer steps into a diner and endangers everyone inside. It's also where Danny is seriously injured---Sky has to save him---and the details and swirling emotions are so vivid you can almost feel them. But never fear, you're guaranteed many more spine tingling twists and turns as you race to the end.

There's nothing about this wonderful story that I didn't like. It's well plotted, entertaining, smooth flowing and has two unique and interesting characters in Danny and Sky. With the author being a doctor there are plenty of medical details--some a bit gruesome--but I didn't feel any of it was overdone or out of place. It all fit with the story and the personality of the villain. What to say about this guy? His identity is revealed early on in the book and he becomes the third main character. His relationship to Sky may or may not surprise you but he's a wack-job. He's crazy spooky. Cold, calculating and with little in the way of feelings--but he's not boring. I don't know what to expect with the next series release but I can't wait.

MaggieReadsRom says

Memorable Scenes:

- *the first chapter > awesome start to a fabulous book*
- *Sky unraveling a part of the suspense plot and figuring out who the villain was > I was reading with bated breath*

I was immediately grabbed by Carey Baldwin's writing style. It's fluent, clean and crisp with a knack for subtle humor in the dialogues. That first chapter had me at the edge of my seat, reading breathlessly.

Dr. Skylar 'Sky' Novak is suffering from survivor's guilt and not taking care of her own wellbeing. She is stubborn, careful and guarded. I loved Skylar as the heroine of this book. She wasn't flawless but I like my heroines not to be perfect so her character worked very well for me.

Dt. Sgt. Daniel 'Danny' Benson is an awesome hero and the perfect match for Skylar. He's direct and honest but also persistent and a real stand-up guy. As a single father he tries to do what he can and he had my undying devotion from start to finish in this book.

The fact that the first sex scene was not between the hero and heroine normally is not what I like, but I understood why the author took this path in this particular story. I really can't say more about it though because it would be too spoilery for the plot and believe me you do not want spoilers going into this book. The unexpected twists and turns are what make this book so awesome.

I also can't tell you about the plot without the fear of saying too much so I'll only say that the POV of the villain was perfectly intertwined with the rest and gave me chills. Even though it made the plot take precedence over the romance between the main characters, it worked because the suspense was so mesmerizing and the characterization of the villain was so brilliantly done.

I thought with Cindy Gerard and Shannon McKenna I'd read about the vilest and most disturbed villains there were but I have to add Carey Baldwin to the list. Her villain was so evil and sick I was reading in fear and was not so secretly wishing him a painful and cruel death.

FIRST DO NO EVIL is a perfect example of a well-balanced mix between suspense, romance and strong characterization. The villain's motivation is disclosed little by little and made me speculate a lot about whom it could be. Fairly early in the story the identity of the villain is disclosed and instead of lessening the suspense it just made it even more intense. There are numerous characters killed off in this book and some of

those kills literary made my heart ache in horror of seeing the villain take them out. The resolution to the plot and the culmination point of the suspense just took my breath away and I couldn't stop reading till I was done

This book made me gasp in horror, bite my nails in suspense, cry with its emotional intensity and sigh with its romance. Carey Baldwin put her characters through hell and back and wooed me with her excellent writing, heart-pounding suspense and fabulous characters. She's been added to my list of go-to authors for romantic thrillers! I was just blown away by this debut author and hope there is much more to come from her in the future because this first taste was beyond expectations.

Favorite Quotes:

“Look, I’m no expert, but I’m pretty sure we’re having a moment here. And...” He paused and turned his palms up. “Please, correct me if I’m wrong, but when you’re having a moment, those rules you mentioned are suspended...momentarily. When you’re having a moment you gotta grab it by the balls, or else something wonderful might pass you by.” (Danny)

Averting his eyes from the swell of her breasts, he found himself staring at the lush fullness of her mouth, and even the remorse balling up in his stomach didn’t stop him from imagining what it would be like to lick that mouth until it opened beneath his. He raked a hand through his hair and pasted on his best choirboy face, afraid she could read the salacious thoughts running through his head. He didn’t want to burden her with that little piece of intelligence.

The sensations built and built, but Danny didn’t let up. “Look at me, Sky,” he said in rough, commanding voice that was hardly recognizable as his. And then he drove into her, so hard, so fast, so mercilessly that she was unable to stop herself from shattering.

Dropping the knife, she flung the door wide. Danny crossed the threshold. Their eyes met and held, and then she was in his arms. Wrapped and safe and floating, and for one ephemeral moment, the world was right again. Danny’s fingers wove through her hair, and heat radiated across the sensitive skin of her scalp. He tugged, and her chin tilted up. He pressed his mouth against hers, not gently, not at all softly, but the very fierceness of his kiss somehow comforted her more than any fragile brush of his lips could’ve done. His was the kiss of a warrior returned from battle.

“Do you really mean that, Sky?” The masculine timbre saturated the air with warmth, seeped through her skin and penetrated her bones. As if it were a fire blazing in the hearth, she basked in the glow of her name wafting from Danny’s lips.

Rating:

10 out of 10 - PERFECT READ!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

One killer is in her blood. The other is in her house.

First Do No Evil is the first book in Carey Baldwin's *Blood Secrets* series. It's an action packed, romantic, medical thriller that took me on a roller coaster ride of emotions. At times I was riveted to the story and couldn't turn the pages fast enough to find out what would happen next, while at other times I was reading with one eye squeezed tightly shut, *afraid* of what might happen next.

Blurb: There's a killer lurking in Dr. Skylar Novak's family tree: the gene for breast cancer. That's why her brilliant brother invented the Bella vaccine. But even if the miracle drug protects her from the cancer that took her mother's life, it can't save Sky from the flesh and bone evil stalking her in secret.

When the killer strikes, detective Daniel Benson finds himself in the wrong place at the right time. The bold detective manages to save Sky's life...just in time for her to return the favor. Survival leads to seduction, and Danny risks everything—his career, even his life, to keep Sky safe. But will the buried sins they uncover cost him her heart?

Danny's strong arms may hold her close, but only Sky can stop the terror that's coming next...

About her recipe for a great book, Ms. Baldwin says: "*A dollop of romance + a dash of medicine + a cup of crazy. Fold into a story. Bake until it rises, and voila, you've cooked up a delicious thriller!*" Well, I'm here to tell you that's exactly what she served up with this story. While there were a few things that didn't work well for me, there were *plenty* of things that did. Great characters, exciting storyline, passion and romance... this book has it all, and I'm looking forward to reading more by this very talented author.

3.5/5 stars

My thanks to Ms. Baldwin for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Pj Ausdenmore says

A compelling, superbly written romantic thriller that hooked me from the beginning and still hasn't let me go. With a debut this outstanding, I can only imagine how good this author's future books will be!

fleurette says

My first book from Carey Baldwin and it is okay, not great but readable.

Danny is a single dad and this is what I like about him, since it isn't an extremely common thread in contemporary romances. He is a nice guy but a bit undeveloped as a main hero. We mostly follow Sky, our over-tortured heroine. I have some problems with attaching to her. There is some inconsistency in her actions.

The general plot is okay. Not really surprising, but good enough to follow it. The romance part... well, the romance part is quite undeveloped. It is based mostly on the chemistry between Sky and Danny appearing from the very beginning - which is quite believable. But then it goes to some strange we-are-so-in-love zone that I totally didn't get (okay, so this is basically the last chapter, but they still know each other for three weeks or so). Not really a fan of this.

Also, we are given the personality of the killer too early in my opinion. I would prefer to have some doubts in this area, to do some guessing. And the villain is a bit too obvious, I don't think it's only me who disliked the guy from the very beginning. Let's be honest, he is a prick and he is wearing a big red arrow screaming "I am a bad guy!". This is too easy, I would prefer some more complicated solution and explanation for everything.

And Sky, like many other heroines, makes some stupid decisions and does some stupid things. I was annoyed with her from time to time, not enough to dislike her but enough to not really care about her.

The book is generally okay.

Heather in FL says

This was a group read or I might not have picked it up. Another Samhain with very little (but some) sex, yet still a really great, suspenseful story.

This is the story of Sky, a family doctor with a big heart, and Danny, the cop she meets at the very beginning of the story. Sky is meeting her brother and fiance early morning at a favorite coffee shop, and Daniel shows up before the brother and fiance and starts flirting. And then finds out about the fiance and backs off. But during that visit to the coffee shop, the shop is robbed, Sky's fiance is killed, and Danny would have died if not for Sky's medical attention.

Months later, Danny comes back to Sky asking about the robbery. Something doesn't sit right with him. When he finds out her father was killed fifteen years ago to the day, he thinks there must be some connection. And Danny inadvertently puts a target on himself with his obvious interest in Sky... and his unwillingness to let the robbery go.

We learn who the monster is early on in the story. Amazing how he could be so charming one moment and completely heartless the next, but I suppose that's the hallmark of a sociopath. And while I understood his warped logic, obviously his methods left a bit to be desired. And while we knew who the villain was, what he would do next was anybody's guess. Except him, I guess.

I have to say, I'm glad my Kindle has a built-in dictionary. This was NOT fourth grade level, lol. And hey, I learned lots of new words! Kudos to Carey Baldwin for the huge vocabulary! ;-)

This book kept me so on edge, wondering where the story would go, where it would ultimately end... and great characters in Danny and Sky. While I was sad Sky's fiance had to die -- though he turned out to be a douche -- I was glad Danny and Sky found each other. Great couple.

Lisa Lin says

This fantastic debut has it all-a strong heroine, a sexy hero, a scary bone chilling villain, and lots of unexpected twists and turns. The medical aspects of the book was quite interesting as it led to lots of moral and ethical questions. It was a thrilling fast paced book that kept me turning the pages-couldn't turn it down! I absolutely loved this book and hope everyone buys it next Tuesday! :) I'm so excited for Carey and can't wait to see what's next from her!

Diana Hockley says

When newly-engaged Doctor Skylar Novak walks into Jolene's coffee shop to meet her fiancé Edmond and her brother Garth, she has no premonition that life is about to change forever.

Detective Sergeant Daniel Benson does not expect to come across a woman he can love nor does he expect his world to explode in terror and pain.

Carey Baldwin's First Do No Evil opens with, literally, a bang and the action escalates.

I was hooked from the first chapter and have to confess that I did not pick the murderer. Baldwin reveals him early on, but far from being a spoiler, this is a master stroke. As the plot unfolds and the killer eliminates those whom he considers a danger to his life's work, the tension grows relentlessly. I found myself holding my breath as Danny uncovers the identity of the murderer and his past.

The characters are likeable, enabling the reader to invest care in their future and the investigation is revealed without the histrionics so beloved by many authors. The pace of the plot is just right in this well-written, exciting debut novel, the reader not being permitted respite from the pressure of the chase.

Thrilling, tension-filled action and a portent of things to come from Carey Baldwin!

Amy says

Dr. Sky Novak is no stranger to crime or the aftermath but when months later she is confronted with the idea that she may be next or her brother, Garth, she turns to the one man she hopes can help her make sense of things.

Detective Danny Benson puts his life on the line all the time as a cop but when he entered Jolene's diner that cold morning he hadn't expected to meet Sky Novak or come quite so close to death. In the aftermath, while rehabilitating, Danny starts questioning the events of that day. That day that Jack Spurlock robbed Jolene's, held Neveah Flores at gun point and threatened to kill Sky if her brother didn't sit down and shut up. For a robbery, it was all so atypical that Danny couldn't let it go.

I wish I could tell you more but if I do, I'll ruin the read for you. FIRST DO NO EVIL by Carey Baldwin is an action-packed, grab you by the throat and not let you go until the very end, story! This being her debut novel, Carey Baldwin has hit an A+ grade. She's created great characters and a plot that twists and turns so many times that when you start to see it come together, you'll smack your forehead and say, "why didn't I see that coming?" I am a little disappointed, Carey, that you actually used the word snuck ... sorry, English major in me that makes me cringe at such slang.

FIRST DO NO EVIL, Blood Secrets Book 1 by Carey Baldwin is a romantic suspense that will have you gripping your ereader while worrying if you're going to be able to sleep after turning off the light. There's nothing like a well-plotted serial killer on the loose story to give you chills and heighten your senses. Throw in a hot sexy detective and a doctor heroine whose no shrinking violet and you've got yourself one excellent, steamy romance filled spine tingling suspense that you won't soon forget.

I highly recommend FIRST DO NO EVIL by Carey Baldwin for anyone who loves suspense, a killer on the loose who when revealed makes your blood run cold and a heroine who will have you cheering when she shows her true iron self. I am looking forward to seeing what comes next in the Blood Secrets series and Carey Baldwin is definitely now on my list of authors I read.

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (9/11/18)!?

Blurb:

There's a killer lurking in Dr. Skylar Novak's family tree--the gene for breast cancer. That's why her brilliant brother invented the Bella vaccine. But even if the miracle drug protects her from the cancer that took her mother's life, it can't save Sky from the flesh and bone evil stalking her in secret.

When the killer strikes, detective Daniel Benson finds himself in the wrong place at the right time. The bold detective manages to save Sky's life--just in time for her to return the favor. While Sky struggles to unearth the buried secrets of her tragic past, Danny risks everything--his career, even his life, to keep her safe. But will it be in time to stop the evil that's coming next?

Judi says

One good turn deserves another, you save my life, I'll save yours.

A seemingly innocent breakfast at the local breakfast watering hole in Flagstaff with her brother and finance ends in heartbreak and despair for Skylar Novak. Why was this happening to her again? Wasn't it bad enough she had to lose her father to murder 15 years ago. Why must she suffer through another inconceivable tragedy and terrible loss?

Detective Danny Benson was also in the coffee shop that fateful day Jack Sprulock decided to rob Jolene's and he didn't escape unscathed. He can thank his lucky stars that Dr. Skylar Novak was in the diner that day. Danny noticed the good Dr. right away and even tried to engage her in a little harmless flirting. Now he owes his life to her.

Danny's been through his own hardships, losing his wife, raising a teenage daughter as a single parent, coping with his own recovery and yet he can't get the day of the robbery out of his mind. Some things just don't add up and he can't let it go. It doesn't hurt that his suspicions give him a reason to reconnect with Sky and question her about that fateful day at the café. Now that he's investigating the case, it wouldn't be appropriate for Danny to pursue a relationship with Sky, but that doesn't stop him from wanting to.

The evil villain was revealed quite early in the story. I wasn't sure how I felt about that and quite frankly I had my suspicions who it was. Sometimes I also think authors like to lead us down a path, only so they can go Ah-Ha later...I fooled you. Not so in this case. Since the killer's identity was no secret, I then became very interested to see what his endgame was and how it was going to play out given his relationship to Skylar.

First Do No Evil is a great debut novel by Carey Baldwin. As the story unfolds and the action heats up, I was on tender hooks waiting to see what was going to happen next.

After reading the author's bio - it all makes sense now...no wonder the killer is so psychotic and the medical aspects so detailed and realistic.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

4 1/2 Star!

FIRST DO NO EVIL is a well written, entertaining thriller with a great love story. Baldwin creates a tale with enough suspense to have the reader sitting on the edge of their seat. Danny and Skylar are very real and likeable. I couldn't wait for the scenes where they interacted. Baldwin's medical experience gives her the ability to bring life and additional tension to crisis scenes with her realistic portrayal of the danger. Sky's brother Garth could easily become just another stereotype but Baldwin makes him different and interesting. I've found a new writer to add to my must read list.

Janet Juengling-Snell says

This is my first time reading anything from Carey Baldwin and I must say, what a rollercoaster ride it was!! This book was GREAT. Kept me on the edge of my seat from the first chapter. The characters were wonderful and the storyline had so many twists and turns, It made me dizzy just from reading. Anyone who likes a good romantic suspense novel, this book is most definitely for you.

Cindy ~ says

Loved this book. The author is a physician and boy you could tell through out this book. The first three chapters blew me away both with the introduction of the hero and heroine and with the detailed explanations of medical procedures that had to be performed. Don't say this often but I also fell in love with the hero from his first words in the book.

Dr. Skylar Novak goes through life determining the threat level and quickest escape route of every place she goes due to seeing her father killed and being both physically and almost sexually assaulted by the person that killed her father when she was a younger. She thinks she is finally happy in her life now that she has her clinic, her brother and her fiancé. As she is waiting for her favorite diner to open where she is meeting her brother and fiancé she runs into detective Daniel Benson who is quite the flirt and if she wasn't already engaged she would be charmed by. But everything changes in the blink of an eye. A robber comes in and destroys her happiness again by killing her fiancé and shooting Daniel who was trying to defuse the hostage situation.

Skylar's brother Garth is the creator of a vaccination that cures a specific form of breast cancer. The same form that killed their mother and also the type that Skylar has test positive for. Skylar supports her brother's research and longs for the drug to be approved by the FDA so it can finally be made available to the many women that need it. She refuses to take a dose for herself until it's on the market and readily available to everyone.

Three months after the shooting Daniel is still on leave due to his shoulder not being back to 100%. Daniel is

the single father to a teenage girl who is going through so major issues due to her father's job and her mother's suicide when she was little. He is also having a hard time letting go of this feeling that the robbery was not all it seemed like it was. He decides he needs to ask Skylar more questions about her Fiance's death.

This starts the balling rolling on more twist and turns than you could imagine. You just sit back and hang on for the ride through every shock that comes at you. The book just flowed from beginning to end and I couldn't wait to see what the author was going to throw at us next.