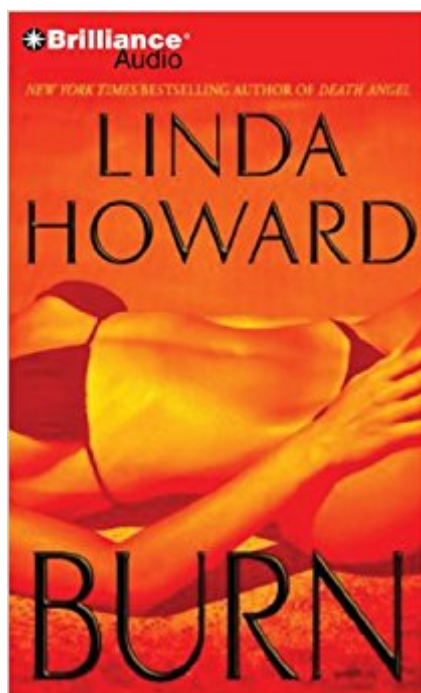


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Synopsis

Money certainly changes Jenner Redwine's life when she wins a lottery jackpot. But it also costs her plenty: Her father rips her off and disappears, her fortune-hunting boyfriend soon becomes her ex, and friends-turned-freeloaders give her the cold shoulder when she stops paying for everything. Flush with new money, Jenner can't imagine ever finding a place in the world of the wealthy. Seven years later, though, she's rubbing elbows with the rich, despite the fact she still feels like a party crasher. Luckily she finds an ally – and a guide to the rarefied realm of privilege – in shy, kind-hearted heiress Sydney Hazlett, who quickly becomes Jenner's confidante and surrogate sister. When Sydney invites Jenner on a charity cruise aboard a luxury liner, Jenner reluctantly agrees. But while she's expecting – and dreading – two weeks of masquerade balls, art auctions, and preening glitterati, what she gets is more like a Hitchcock movie than a Love Boat episode. Taken hostage by a menacing stranger, Jenner must cooperate in a mysterious cloak-and-dagger scheme – or else. With nowhere to run, and with Sydney's life as well as her own at risk, Jenner is drawn into a game of dizzying intrigue and harrowing danger. But as her panic gives way to exhilaration, and fear of her captor turns to fascination, Jenner rediscovers feelings she hasn't had in years – and realizes she's found a life worth living. If she survives.

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (H) > Howard, Linda #696 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #1775

in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

When Jenner Redwine wins the lottery, she finds herself alienated from everything she knew, and a misfit in the world of the ultra-wealthy. When she agrees to go on a charity cruise with her best friend Syd Hazlett, she thinks it'll be the perfect escape: two weeks of spa treatments and art

auctions. Onboard the Silver Mist, however, Syd is kidnapped by a mysterious group, and her only shot at safety is going along with the plan of her mysterious captor Cael Traylor. Finding herself increasingly uncertain over who the bad guys really are-and what exactly is happening onboard-Jenner begins falling for her kidnapper. Veteran author Howard operates well within her comfort zone, charging this romantic thriller with light erotic flourishes, a sympathetic fish-out-of-water heroine and an archetypal hero-gruff, assertive and dangerously masculine-all of which fans will expect and appreciate. Though Howard goes out of her way early on to make Cael unthreatening, she maintains enough tension between captor and captive to make this an enjoyable but unexceptional caper. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• Those who love Howard's brand of quirky humor combined with real chills are in for a special treat. Settle back and savor this one. • "Romantic Times (Top Pick)" [Linda] Howard's newest read is certainly a hot one. • "Entertainment Weekly" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

******Another great thriller by USA Today New York Times bestselling author Linda Howard that includes a flair of mystery, excitement and loveEver since she won the lottery seven years earlier in the windy city of Chicago, Jenner Redwine never regretted moving to the sunny skies of Florida. Deciding not too long ago to give up on men entirely, she still found it hard in believing that she just agreed with her best friend's wishes. Go on a cruise? Don't women do that in order to find a man? She didn't have a clue but she told heiress Sydney "Syd" Hazlett, that she would and before she knew it, she was boarding the "Silver Mist." But where was Syd? Escorted to her cabin or suite, it didn't take long for Jenner to realize that she'd been duped because not only were the stewards who they claimed to be, but they kidnapped Syd and as long as she did what she was told, she would remain unharmed. Who were these people? As told by her captors, she would be playing a part in their sting operation and her acting skills required that she portray a new girlfriend to their boss, Cael Traylor. Could she do it? Known to be stubborn and not taking bull from any man, she knew she had to pull it off for Syd's sake but what she didn't realize however, she was about to take a trip down a road she never dreamed of traveling on ever. Cael Traylor had been after Frank Larken for years for all his illegal scams but after learning that he might be in with the North Koreans, made Cael realize that he would have to move quickly. After learning that Larken's ship, "The Silver Mist" was about to make its maiden voyage, Cael put his group of people into

motion and through his computer skills, he placed two of his people on each side of Larken's suite only to have one suite changed the very last minute by Larken himself forcing Cael to come up with another plan. Little did he know, however, when he decided to put his plan in gear, he was unprepared when he first met the feisty but gorgeous Jenner Redwine. Being in the middle of a sting operation was one thing but one look at Cael Traylor, and Jenner found herself losing it. The man was drop-dead gorgeous with alluring blue eyes and a body to die for and even though she found herself attracted to him, she became more obnoxious, rude and downright insulting. Cael couldn't believe how beautiful Jenner was and what a spitfire she was too, but through it all, he also had a job to do and in order to accomplish that job, he needed her suite to do it regardless of her insults, obscenities, and stubbornness. With no choice in the matter, Jenner only agreed because of Syd's safety but before long, she was discovering what kind of man Cael really was and she realized for the first time that her resolve was slowly melting when it came to this man. When their attraction intensifies to the next level, Jenner learns and discovers a secret, so dangerous that she is frightened for the first time in her life. With all the people on board including Cael and his friends, she tries to race against the clock by warning everyone with only limited minutes to spare. Cael knows something is wrong and where in God's name is Jenner? He knows how he feels but does she? Will Jenner and Cael find a way to be together? Will they find each other in time or will love burn itself out before it even got started?.....a great book by Miss Howard.....thank you.....

REVIEWER'S OPINION: Great character development for Jenner. She didn't have an advanced education, but I loved her intuitive smartness which guided her actions and helped her make smart decisions about a number of things. Great plot development. Great emotional pull. Romantically there's anticipation and clever dialogue. I was laughing and chuckling many times "sometimes at the clever banter, other times because I was surprised at something unexpected happening. The suspense is well done. At the end, on the last page, I felt great! I read the physical book a few years ago and recently did the audiobook.

REVIEWER'S COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER REVIEWS: A couple of reviewers felt there wasn't enough romance. I agree that there was not a lot of romance, but there was definitely enough to be able to call this a romance novel. It was a good story which too many romance novels don't achieve. Someone did not like that there was no secret about what was going to happen to the ship and its occupants. I didn't mind that. The mystery was "how and when" the good guys would discover the problem and "what" they would do about it. A lot of

good stories work this way. Someone complained that the elaborate kidnap scheme seemed contrived. I had no problem with it. In fact, one of the reasons I liked this book was that the kidnap scheme was believable, at least to me. One reviewer wanted more character development concerning Cael and the bad guy. Ok, there could have been more, but I was fine without it. I didn't notice the lack of it until I read that reviewer's opinion.

STORY BRIEF:Jenner is a blue collar worker who wins a \$295 million lottery. She is street smart from watching her father who was a con man. I think her mother died early. Jenner saw her best friend and coworkers change after she won the lottery. They were jealous and resented her. Jenner moves to Palm Beach and becomes a close friend with Syd, a shy kind-hearted heiress. Syd invites Jenner on a luxury liner charity cruise for two weeks. Aboard the ship, Jenner is taken hostage by a stranger and must cooperate in a mysterious cloak-and-dagger scheme, which involves pretending to be his lover.

AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR:I've enjoyed the narrator Joyce Bean in some books but not all books. She has a problem doing men. She sounds weird or loses emotion when she tries to lower her voice to do men. She had the same problem in two other audiobooks: Blue Smoke and Angels Fall by Nora Roberts. In this book her voice for Cael (romantic hero) was wooden with no emotional interpretation.

DATA:Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 365 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: 3. Total number of sex scene pages: 5. Setting: 7 years earlier Chicago, IL and current day Palm Beach, FL, San Diego, CA, Hawaii and aboard the Silver Mist luxury liner in the Pacific. Copyright: 2009. Genre: contemporary romantic suspense.

Ms. Howard gives you the expected high-level suspense and made you question who the good guys were and who the bad guys were. The romance took a second seat to the suspense story, but still all good.

The action was non-stop. I was hooked from page one. Jenner Redwine is a fascinating character, a woman who wins a lottery. What happens seven years after that is what has you on the edge of your seat.

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