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Luesse's "In too deep" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Luesse, V. F. (2019). *In too deep*, Grand Rapids, MI: Revell Publishing. 348 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800729295

There are only so many pages in a book, the author in this case has concentrated on the romance rather than the suspense and intrigue. There are still twists and turns, people being killed and injured, and it does not reveal the murderer until almost the end of the book. The romance revolves around a murder investigation which the heroine, Dr. Fleming, is the next target and the hero, Adam, is protecting her. Unlike many romances, Dr. Fleming and Adam have known each other for a while and think of each other as friends. Romances are usually vehicles to take the reader away from the day-to-day drudgery of life to find true love. This book does that but the author has added a touch of reality to the mix. Dr. Fleming is extremely intelligent but cannot read social cues. This means she is not only fighting her own emotions, she is also trying to figure out everybody else's emotions especially Adam's. Throughout the story, communication and support of their friends are the key to the Adam's and Dr. Fleming's relationship maturing. The author shows skillfully that misread cues can run rampant in a relationship and destroy it if couples do not talk about their concerns. Being a Christian book, God is mentioned many times in this book. The author has made sure that the details of this investigation follow real police procedures. There is a sub plot about human trafficking. Human trafficking is mentioned throughout the book but the author developed none of those characters. This book is geared to a female audience. I would go as far to say that this would be a good book for older teens and young adults since this book shows woman in a positive light and pursuing careers that are male dominated. Another unique characteristic is that it is the female that cannot read social cues; there is a section where Adam is explaining to Dr. Fleming about social norms. This was refreshing to see, I have never seen an author broach this subject before and women need to know they are not alone if they cannot read social cues. The author has won awards for her suspense writing (Selah Award for Mystery) and for a short novel (Carol Award).

Reviewer

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