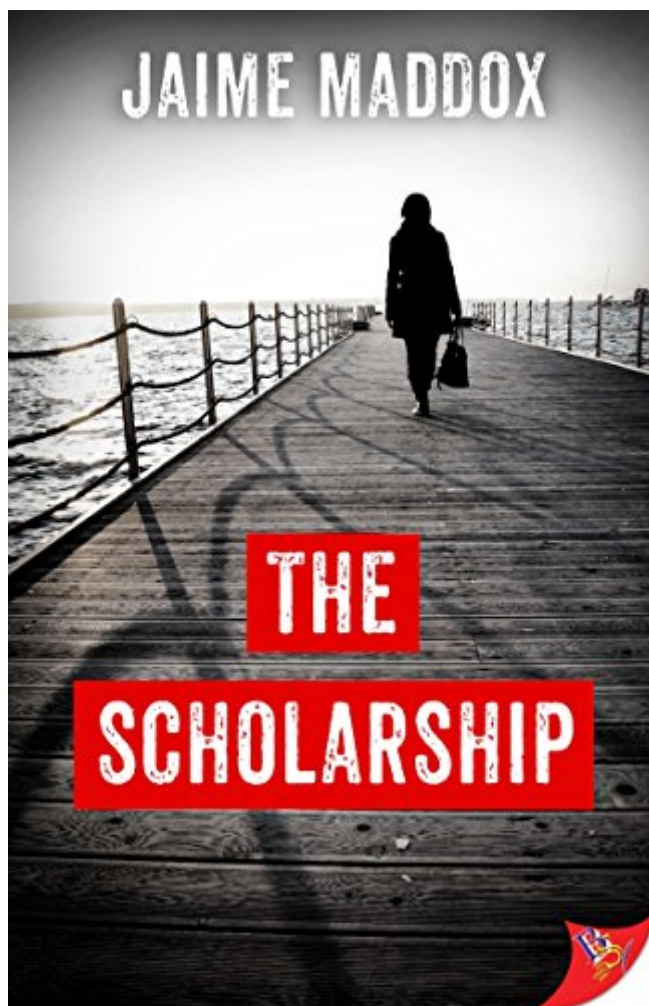


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The Scholarship



Synopsis

Looking to find harmony, Ella Townes leaves a big Philadelphia college and returns to the mountains where she spent her youth. She quickly makes a friend—Cassidy Ryan, a woman with Down syndrome who is the neighborhood busybody and sister of a very attractive ER doctor whom Ella finds equally charming. Under the watchful eye of Cass, Ella and Reese begin a promising friendship. Then Ella writes a scholarship in memory of a childhood friend who was murdered, and things begin to unravel. The scholarship stirs interest in the cold case, and soon the murderer is maneuvering to protect his secret. After Cass is brutally attacked, Ella and Reese question her. The killer's identity becomes clear, but after twenty years, is there enough evidence to bring him to justice?

Book Information

File Size: 1687 KB

Print Length: 291 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Bold Strokes Books (August 15, 2017)

Publication Date: August 15, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0749RKVMZ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #21,972 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #80

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Customer Reviews

I loved The Scholarship. Great book. It's an exciting, edge of your seat who-done-it mystery. You

have a great romance set in beautiful Pennsylvania with a great cast of characters.

Ella returns to the town where she spent her summers with her grandparents. Hoping to reconnect with some of the people she knew from the past Ella discovers that her best friend, Steph was murdered right before she graduated high school. Ella finds a great housing situation, house sitting for a woman who is going out of town for a few months. She befriends the neighbors next door one of whom is a woman with downs syndrome, Cassidy, who loves to help with the dog she is supposed to watch. Cassidy's sister Reese is a doctor and soon the sparks are flying between Reese and Ella. Reese also knew Ella's friend Steph and they bond over the telling of stories and sharing the past. Well written Maddox does a great job of keeping your interest in the mystery while also spinning a sweet romance.

Ella Townes has left Philadelphia for the Poconos Mountains of Pennsylvania where she had spent her summers as a youth visiting her grandparents. She applied for a position at Poconos Mountains University and is now vice president of development for the university.. Her job involves a lot of traveling to meet with potential donors, and leaves her little time for house hunting. Luckily, she was asked to house and dog sit for a friend who would be traveling out of town. Her new home is next door to the Ryan family which includes Cass Ryan, a woman with Down Syndrome and Reese, an E.R. physician. The Ryans are very friendly, and welcome Ella to the town. When Ella was young and spending her summers in the Poconos, her best friend was Stephanie Gates. When she tried to reconnect with Stephanie, she was shocked to find the Stephanie had been murdered in her senior year of high school. The Scholarship is part romance and part mystery. The lead characters, Ella, Reese and Cass, along with Stephanie's mother, are very well developed. The romance adds a rich warmth to the story, while solving the murder adds an additional dimension to this very enjoyable read.

A new investigation brings back very painful memories. There are no leads, no evidence available and no witnesses. One person feels the heat around the corner and does everything to make sure that the truth never comes out. It's a story about, among other things, a close-knit family, a slow building romance and a crime passionel. A well-constructed story and with true-to-life characters. I loved Cass. She is a real sweetheart. So pure, authentic, unrestrained and a great asset to the story. This is a great mystery romance and I can highly recommend this book.

Love this book. Two people that had secrets and uncertainty in their lives was brought together by a 10 year old boy. As time went the walls in both lives started to crumble and the unexpected became expected.

Mary Ann asked Elizabeth/Ella what made her think Mary Ann would like living in the Poconos . She was offered the job of Vice President of Development of a University there. The job would be a promotion with more money , more responsibilities, and more rewards. It would also mean Ella made it to the top of her field. When Ella interviewed she hoped to find an answer to sooth the discontent she couldn't really explain. Ella needed a change. It was the next leg of Ella's journey. Ella's parents had sent her and her sister to the Poconos every summer to be with their grandparents and have some fun. The girls were dropped off in June and picked back up on Labor Day. Ella thought they were the best times of her life. Ella wanted the job but wondered if she could handle it. But Ella was good at her job even if she didn't have much time to spend with her friends as she was in a demanding field with many evenings spent wooing donors and at university functions. Her donors had given from five thousand dollar scholarships to five hundred thousand dollar buildings. In return Ella gave her time and that didn't leave that much time to socialize. Ella was filled with excitement that she hadn't felt in ages. Reese was an emergency room doctor. Millie Nathan was on her way in via ambulance with Engle. Millie had a bad heart and her vitals weren't that good right now. Millie was the Senator's- Josh Nathan-mother. Reese had known Millie Nathan all her life. Reese had known Josh since kindergarten and they were still friends. Reese called Josh to let him know about his mom. Beginning twenty five years ago a group of teenage friends had been devastated when their seventeen year old friend Stephanie had been murdered. Reese's sweetheart had been Stephanie at one time. Stephanie had been killed accidentally in a time of great passion from her killer. Everyone had loved Steph. Twenty five years later Ella moves back and is horrified to learn her childhood friend had been murdered. When Ella moved back she started to get close to Reese. Then the murder gets a new investigation and the killer will do anything not to be caught. Ella takes a house sitting job so she has time to look for her own home as she had little time to do it when first moving back to the Poconos. Cass liked to come over and help with the dog Ella is also watching. I had mixed feelings on this story. I don't like the same sex stories although this one wasn't too bad for the most part as the romance was slow in forming. I felt this was a good read with a good plot. But I also felt the story dragged I liked the idea of a mystery with a slow burning romance. I also

liked not knowing who the killer was from so long ago. I think Cass added a lot to the story. I didn't really care for the ending. I did like how Cass and her Downs Syndrome was presented. So there were things I liked and things I didn't like when it came to this story.

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