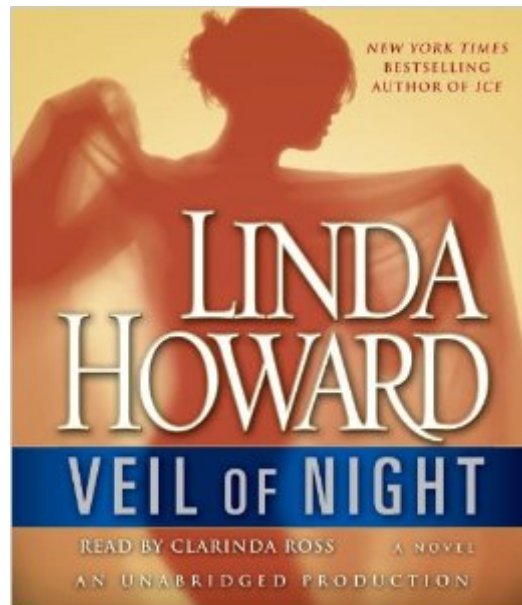


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Veil Of Night: A Novel



Synopsis

Â Jaclyn Wilde is a wedding planner who loves her jobâ ”usually. But helping Carrie Edwards with her Big Day has been an unrelenting nightmare. Carrie is a bridezilla of mythic nastiness, a diva whose tantrums are just about as crazy as her demands. But the unpleasant task at hand turns seriously criminal when Carrie is brutally murdered and everyone involved with the ceremony is accusing one another of doing the deed. The problem is, most everyoneâ ”from the cake maker and the florist to the wedding-gown retailer and the bridesmaidsâ™ dressmakerâ ”had his or her own reason for wanting the bride dead, including Jaclyn. And while those who felt Carrieâ™s wrath are now smiling at her demise, Jaclyn refuses to celebrate tragedy, especially since she finds herself in the shadow of suspicion.Â Assigned to the case, Detective Eric Wilder finds that thereâ™s too much evidence pointing toward too many suspects. Compounding his problems is Jaclyn, with whom he shared one deeply passionate night before Carrieâ™s death. Being a prime suspect means that Jaclyn is hands-off just when Eric would rather be hands-on. As the heat intensifies between Eric and Jaclyn, a cold-blooded murderer moves dangerously close. And this time the target is not a bride but one particularly irresistible wedding planner, unaware of a killerâ™s vow.Â Â Â Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starting off with a bang, wedding planner Jaclyn Wilde and Detective Eric Wilder run into each other (literally) at the courthouse one afternoon, then at a bar where they talk long enough to discover their last names are almost the same, and then gosh darn it the attraction is so strong that they find

themselves together in bed that night. Oddly enough, for me that was the best part of the book as neither made any kind of excuse or justification for that action other than "Hey, (s)he is really hot and sexy and I wanted to!" I found it kind of refreshing. There is a morning after scene that made me oh so fondly recall the Linda Howard humor of the past. Eric is lying in bed contemplating how he likes women well enough for the good parts but really wishes he could avoid the complications like having to spend an hour or so the next morning talking and relating because he is a busy man and he just doesn't have time for all that stuff. Jaclyn then pops into the bedroom, hands him a cup of coffee in a To Go cup and takes off for the shower and asks him to make sure to lock the door on the way and oh sorry, she just doesn't have time for a chat because she is a busy woman! At this point in the book, I gave a small grin and settled in for hopefully a really enjoyable Linda Howard ride. Unfortunately, it went downhill from there. First the characters - there is Eric who is pretty much a Wyatt from the Blair Mallory books wannabee. Detective cop, perfect body, perfect face .. wisecracks on demand. In fact, halfway through the book I kind of renamed him in my head as "Eric/Wyatt."

Being a huge fan of Ms Howard's earlier works, It's been such a long time since I've felt, wow, what a great novel. *Veil of Night* is better than the last several for sure and makes a good attempt at sparking the wit and chemistry we all know and love, but I have to agree with most, it was a pretty boring book. It has a good start and a decent ending but the middle is pure pain. Jaclyn Wilde is an events planner with her mother and they have 6 weddings scheduled in 5 days. In addition to this, Jaclyn needs to finalize the details for the ultimate Bridezilla wedding to take place in a month. When the tension escalates between her and the demon bride, she finds herself getting assaulted and fired by said bride and calls her mom afterwards to celebrate only to find out later that the bride was murdered right after their incident and she's the primary suspect. To make matters worse, she's being investigated by the hot detective that she had a one night stand with only the night before. This book had a lot of potential. There is a lot of the humor, wit and points of view of both the hero and heroine of the story to add to their attraction to one another. Unfortunately these moments are so far and few between. I'm not sure what has happened to her writing style but we often find ourselves having to endure the mind of the killers or bad guys as well as her peripheral family that add absolutely no value to the story and only detract from the main characters. For example paragraphs from the mother's point of view on how she loves her daughter, paragraphs from the bad guy thinking over and over again how they've worked hard for what they accomplished and won't let anything stand in their way.

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