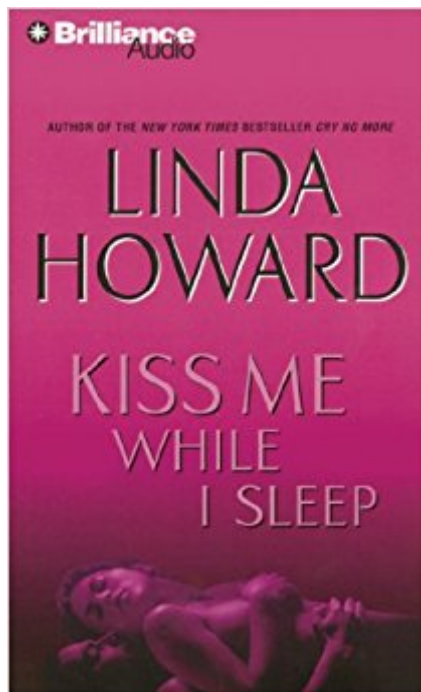


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Kiss Me While I Sleep



Synopsis

It's a job that makes a killing. Efficient, professional, and without apology, Lily Mansfield is a hired assassin, working as a contract agent for the CIA. Her targets are the powerful and corrupt, those who can't be touched by the law. Now, after 18 years of service, Lily has been drawn into a dangerous game that hasn't been sanctioned, seeking vengeance for her own reasons. Each move bolder than the next, she is compromising her superiors, drawing unwanted attention and endangering her very life. Though stress and shock have made her feel somewhat invincible and a little cocky, Lily knows that she too can be taken out in an instant. And if it's her time, so be it. She intends to go down fighting. A CIA agent himself, Lucas Swain recognizes the signs of trauma in the line of fire. His orders are to either bring her in or bring her down. Yet he too is drawn into the game with Lily Mansfield, dancing on a tightrope as he tries to avoid a major international incident while still battling a tenacious foe who is dogging their every step. Keeping laser focus on her task at hand while vigilantly watching her back, Mansfield never sees the lethal peril that lies directly in her path . . . and how loyalty has a price.

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Customer Reviews

CIA contract agent Lily Mansfield has been a ruthless, professional assassin for nearly 20 of her 37 years, but her work takes a personal turn after the young girl she rescued off the street as a baby, and the friends that were raising her, are killed. Lily turns renegade and avenges their deaths with a brilliantly executed murder, but she soon finds herself hunted by an evil family, embroiled in a plot that threatens the safety of the world, and chased by handsome CIA agent Lucas Swain, who has

been charged with bringing Lily back by any means necessary. Though Howard's latest offering (after *Cry No More*) is far flung, the high energy story line translates well to audio thanks to the compelling performances of Hill and Bean. The duo deftly tackle the story's many intonations and foreign accents, and their skillful use of nuance lends some depth to Howard's larger-than-life characters. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"If you sense someone's watching you from afar, or if you feel a shadow other than your own at your back, I might as well pack it up and call it a day. It's a job that makes a killing. Efficient, professional, and without apology, Lily Mansfield is a hired assassin, working as a contract agent for the CIA. Her targets are the powerful and corrupt, those who can't be touched by the law. Now, after nineteen years of service, Lily has been drawn into a dangerous game that hasn't been sanctioned, seeking vengeance for her own reasons. Each move bolder than the next, she is compromising her superiors, drawing unwanted attention, and endangering her very life. Though stress and shock have made her feel somewhat invincible and a little cocky, Lily knows that she too can be taken out in an instant. And if it's her time, so be it. She intends to go down fighting. A CIA agent himself, Lucas Swain recognizes the signs of trauma in the line of fire. His orders: either bring her in or bring her down. Yet he too is drawn into the game with Lily Mansfield, dancing on a tightrope as he tries to avoid a major international incident while still battling a tenacious foe who is dogging their every step. Keeping laser focus on the task at hand while vigilantly watching her back, Mansfield never sees the lethal peril that lies directly in her path . . . and how loyalty has a price. Chock-full of the intrigue, breathless action, and sensuality that have made Linda Howard the master of romantic suspense, *"Kiss Me While I Sleep* is a daring thriller of passion, sudden twists, and richly imagined characters who live and breathe in readers' hearts. It is the most gripping and complex novel of LindaHoward's career. "From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Another book I read when it first came out and several times since. I enjoyed it just as much this time as I did the first time.

Another winner by one of our favorite authors.

and the man who's been sent to save her - or not. Linda Howard works hard to convince the reader that the hero's romantic involvement with the heroine won't be enough to stop him from committing

a shattering betrayal in the line of duty. Is he an assassin sent by the CIA to bring down a rogue agent? Will he go through with his assignment even after winning her trust and falling in love? If you've read your share of romantic suspense novels, as I have, you already think you know the answer. But I'll admit, Ms. Howard had me going there for a while. I'll even confess to a tear or two, just imagining how things might turn out. The heroine is beautifully written and surprisingly easy to like, despite her having worked as a CIA-authorized assassin. Approached at 18 because her sharp-shooting skills and innocent look made her the perfect candidate to kill a dangerous villain, she has worked as a professional killer for years when we first meet her. Increasingly unable to deny the emotional turmoil caused by her job, isolated from her family, and close to no one but her adopted daughter and the retired agents who are raising the girl, she is pushed to the edge of a break-down by their murder. When the CIA chooses political expediency over retaliation against their murderer (a mob boss valued as an informant) she sets aside her grief to pursue a revenge that she knows could make her the CIA's next target. The agent sent to hunt her down finds her both attractive and intriguing. Jaded, bored, and a bit lonely himself, he decides to postpone the inevitable conclusion of his assignment, long enough to enjoy the challenge of seducing and matching wits with her. It's no surprise for the reader when he begins to fall for her. The big jolt, which requires some serious suspension-of-disbelief, is that this obsessively cautious woman fails to recognize him as the CIA agent she knows must be tracking her. I kept expecting her to reveal that she'd guessed his secret almost from their first meeting (How could she not?) but had been so starved for intimacy that she chose to play along. When it became apparent that she really had bought his act, I chose to get over the out-of-character plot device that brought the two together, and enjoy the ride. And what a ride it is! Sizzling love scenes, high-speed chases in sexy sports cars, and moments of unexpected tenderness mark the couple's shared adventure, as they criss-cross France to learn why her friends risked their own lives and her child's life to come out of retirement, crossing a powerful and politically connected mob boss. Nefarious goings-on at a research lab and back at CIA headquarters - and plans for revenge by the mob boss' even nastier son - further complicate a love affair that appears already doomed by one partner's plan to betray the other. Is he a romantic hero or utterly heartless? It goes without saying. Or does it?

Love the CIA Spy Series

There was a surprisingly void of action in this book. Probably 70% was "what characters were thinking." Pages and pages of thinking. Most Linda Howard books are not this slow. Disappointed!

Linda Howard writes a great book!! But, "Kiss Me While I Sleep " was exceptional!! I feel in love with this book right away... and it had me all tangled up in it until the very end... mystery, lies, secrets, murder... it had it all.... a great read for anyone's collection!!

I first read this book when it came out in hardcover, and loved it. I hadn't read it in years, but since I was in the mood, I bought the kindle version. It's just as good as I remembered. It's the perfect combination of romance and intrigue. Plus there are enough twists to keep you guessing what will happen next.

Linda Howard has been a favorite author of mine for decades. I have many many of her books in my paper library including this series of books. Will continue to transfer my paper books to ebooks so I can enjoy whenever I want. Thank you Linda Howard

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