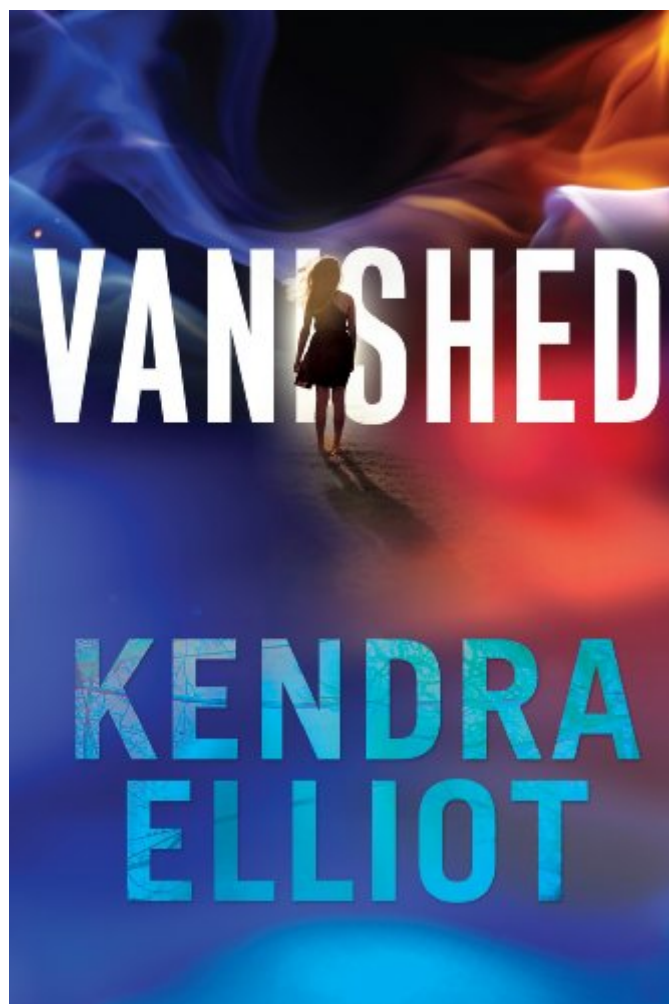


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Vanished (Callahan & McLane Book 1)



Synopsis

From Wall Street Journal bestselling author Kendra Elliot. When an eleven-year-old is abducted on her way to school, the FBI doesn't waste a moment, sending agents to scour the area and embedding Special Agent Ava McLane with the distraught family. In the eye of the storm is local detective Mason Callahan, whose life is crumbling to pieces—relationships related to the victim, and his longtime confidential informant has just been murdered. Both he and Agent McLane hole up in the victim's family home. Every second counts in a kidnapping case, and the stakes keep rising the longer the girl is missing. As Ava and Mason struggle to hold the family together in their darkest hour, the two investigators find themselves drawn to each other. 2015 Overall Daphne du Maurier Award Winner

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Until this book, I had never heard of Kendra Elliot. Vanished is my first Elliot read, and its #5 in her Bone Secrets series. It's a testament to the author that the book worked perfectly well as a stand alone—I didn't notice at all that I was jumping in in the middle of a series. Pick up this book and you'll be immediately drawn into the action. A little girl has been abducted on her way to school,

and the FBI is on the case, working closely with the family and a family connection who also happens to be a state Detective. Elliot does well imparting lots of information in a short amount of space. We're introduced to the characters via their interactions with each other - no long backstories given or needed. The book opens at a tension level appropriate to the storyline, and it opens well. Unfortunately, Elliot can't sustain the tension within the plot, and never seems to achieve it within the romance at all. Plot-wise, tension came and went in waves, with the lulls allowing (almost prompting) the reader to pull away from the story. I don't want to look up at the clock when I'm reading, or notice page numbers. I want to be completely sucked in end to end, to finish a story at 4 am and say, 'I have to get up in two hours, but damn, it was worth it!'. Reading this book, I looked at the clock at 9, said 'I'll give it another hour', then looked at the clock at 9:45 and said, 'OK, that's good, I can call it a night.' Romance-wise, eh, pretty much a dud. Didn't even feel a bit of a sizzle until page 95/335, and then it was more or less just the two protagonists noticing, rather clinically, that they found each other attractive. The romance proceeded as if it were on a schedule, and it left me lukewarm.

The Bones Lady has done it again! Kendra spins a tale as smooth as silk, soft as velvet and comes up with a storm. The disappearance of an 11-year-old girl brings FBI agent Ava McLane and local detective Mason Callahan under one roof. For Callahan, this is personal, as the missing girl happens to be the stepdaughter of his ex-wife. Two mothers, two dads and another's child!!! The Fairbanks family is no screaming divorce family from TV, everyone gets along well with each other.... stepdad has positive things to say about cop dad. So what is the motive for Henley Fairbanks being kidnapped? And that is the '323 page' question. I have to admit that Kendra did a brilliant job of keeping that suspense until it was time to be revealed. Each page was a revelation of bits and pieces of information as the law enforcement tries to piece the puzzle together. And as the puzzle starts to fall into place, the emotions and secrets of the family come to light. And as the past and the present collide, Ava and Mason try to understand their growing feelings for each other. Mason and Ava are Kendra's crowning glory. Dedicated to their job, focus in their quest for justice, despite individual issues in their lives, they create enough ripples of passion and intimacy as they try to get to know each other. This is just the beginning of a relationship that will go through a journey of ups and downs as they deal with personal baggage. But nowhere does the lust and passion take away from the desperation and pain of a family trying to get their daughter back or the grave and critical situation of the kidnapping as the FBI races against time to get to the bottom of it. I really, really, really was in the perpetrator's corner of sympathy.

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