



Hostage

Kay Hooper

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Haven operative Luther Brinkman has been sent into the wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee to locate escaped felon Cole Jacoby, a mentally unstable bank robber. Supposedly, Jacoby hid more than ten million dollars from his last heist before he was captured—and rather mysteriously escaped federal custody. And once Brinkman finds Jacoby, the agent is left severely wounded, with no way to convey his location to Haven.

Callie Davis, an agent with the FBI's Special Crimes Unit, has been in the area for some time, due to the foresight of her boss and unit chief, Noah Bishop. But when she finds the wounded Brinkman, her rescue mission turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse.

What neither Luther nor Callie know is that their quarry is far more than an escaped bank robber. And that in hunting him, they will find themselves being hunted by him, and will discover him to be the worst monster either of them has ever known.

Hostage Details

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From Reader Review Hostage for online ebook

grace woodford says

Really good

I really liked this one. I've read them all. This one's worth it for sure. Brings together allot of different characters

Nan's Nookery says

This book, and the one before it are some of the weaker in the series.

In this one in particular, the plot was slow, and poorly placed. I was more interested in Hollis side story, then the story of the new characters (was that the intention? It felt like it), and her story was still pretty slow going.

The paranormal gets a bit too big in this series for me, conceptually I get the idea that with psychics come psychic crminals, but I much prefer these books when they paranormal are a cool side benefit for investigating, rather than the ONLY way the case would get solved, because oh hey the bad guys is this never dying evil presence.

The Fear trilogy is the first I haven't read, I'm interested to see if the books keep trying to be bigger than I want them, or if they go back to basics.

Anita says

Kay Hooper's books have always had a slew of multiple POVs between characters within the book, which I never minded--although if not done properly, it could become a big, distracting, channel surfing mess. In this book, we see more than just multiple POVs, we actually see two sets of main characters and what's going on between them... Luther Brinkman and Callie Davis on one side with their own goings-on; Hollis Templeton (!!!) and Reese DeMarco on another hand with *their* happenings.

And if you can't tell yet, or missed it when I mentioned it the first time, Hollis is my favorite *Bishop/SCU* character--something about her snarkiness speaks to me.

And while at first I didn't care for it (the switching of narrative between Team Callie/Luther and Team Hollis/DeMarco), after I thought about it, I decided that it actually made sense for this story and how everything connected in the end. In the long run, I decided to bump the rating up to an average **3.0 Stars** because some time to think on the book made me realize that what I had found frustrating really wasn't all that bad.

Story Blurb via Goodreads:

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My Notes:

I guess here are some scattered thoughts I'd written down as I read the book as well as some more current thoughts that come to mind as I write this review:

-- The first chapter felt like there might be a sort of "Game of Cat and Mouse". But then that doesn't actually happen and I move on.

-- Again, there is a lot of "enigmatic" talking in circles going around and that gets more frustrating every time it happens and is really tugging at my last nerve. Bishop does it and it pisses off his operatives; Callie does it and it frustrates Luther... and me. Why can't these people just stop keeping secrets in the name of "The Universe doesn't think it's time to reveal these facts yet"? It's annoying!

-- A creepiness factor DOES come into play, even if it isn't entirely spine-chillingly creepy. But we've got an evil killer being possessed by evil as one set of our good guys are trapped in an isolated cabin in the woods--**MAJOR POTENTIAL for story!** And then we've got our other set of good guys investigating something in an extremely haunted mansion--**DOUBLE MAJOR POTENTIAL for story!**

-- And then there's Hollis and her strong mediumistic abilities and her ever evolving psychic abilities, trapped in a haunted mansion that is *very, very* haunted with lots of negative energy. I got excited about that one.

-- It took a long time for the book to actually start being a story rather than spending time discussing backstory and speculating current story. Because it wasn't until the book itself started hinting that the two separate storylines in *Hostage* might be related that things started getting a bit more exciting.

And even though I've come to like the back and forth narration between the Callie/Luther pair and the Hollis/Reese pair, at the time, I found it hard to follow. Because until you reach the end of the book, the two tangential storylines just feel as if they should have been two different stories in two different books; there wasn't even really a feeling that both tangents might intersect except that we know this is how a Kay Hooper

book operates.

And I have to admit: I liked the new characters, Callie Davis and Luther Brinkman. And I feel like they kind of got cheated on their story because of Hollis and Reese taking up the other fifty percent of the book. Because the entire time that the story was progressing, I kept looking forward to seeing more of the Team Hollis/Reese side of the book and barely paid attention to the Team Callie/Luther side of things. It wasn't fair to them--I like following Hollis more than any other of the SCU or Haven operatives.

But the Callie/Luther storyline and romantic developments had a lot of potential to be a singular, individual story all on its own. But unfortunately, they had to share.

-- And in the end, I'm not even entirely sure I know what actually took place in *Hostage* except for some haphazard telling of an evil entity full of negative energy that needed to be destroyed or contained or something...

A lot of the story got told through our exposition fairies: the SCU leader Noah Bishop and the Haven leader Maggie Garrett nee Barnes. Every few chapters we would jump back to those two to explain the happenings in the Callie/Luther world or the Hollis/Reese world... you know, in case, as the reader, you couldn't quite figure out what was going on because "The Universe" was being overly vague again whenever we were actually reading about the two main conflicts with the two main couples.

V says

Narrator 5 star for sure!!! another wonderful voice to listen to, the best thing about this plot was that Callie, had the ability to speak with her dog, Caesar.

Darcy says

You would think by now everyone would be getting tired of Bishop and his manipulations. What makes it worse is that everyone knows what he is doing, they even call him out on it, but he just keeps playing all mysterious. At some point this will come back to bite him and I can't wait.

There was so much blah in this book. The most interesting part was how one of the physics, Callie, had the ability to speak with her dog, Caesar. I loved the relationship that these 2 had, wished that it would have played a bigger part.

Tawny says

If it says Bishop Special Unit I'm on it

Babs says

I liked the different characters and the part they played. I didn't like that Bishop didn't answer the final question of who was behind all this.

Lynn says

FANTASTIC..... NOT SAYING ANYTHING ELSE.. OR I'LL SPOIL IT!!!!

Alisha says

3.85

Diane Perry says

I'm re-introducing myself to Kay Hooper thanks to a friend of mine. I forgot just how good her books could be. Wonderful characters and a great mix of suspense and paranormal. The writing is solid and I find myself quite invested in wanting to learn more about this series. It's a great escape.

Jeanette says

This one has too much information about various paranormal abilities of the differing introduced or static characters who are associated with Haven, and far too little plot. The storyline has absolutely become a secondary aspect and by #14 it seems to be more about displaying the abilities and Bishop manipulating the entire than the actual present on-going crime. Some parts were enjoyable but most were barely so so and long winded at that. 2.5 star, but I'm being generous in the round up for a couple of interesting side tracks. But I'm also sure I won't be reading more of these.

Julija says

Although the summary paints Hostage as a book about Callie and Luther, it isn't. Not exactly. Hostage is actually split into two seemingly completely separate stories: one set in the mountains, surrounding the mystery of Cole Jacoby, and one set in a haunted mansion. What ties these two stories together is Evil.

And that Evil is probably my biggest problem (although 'problem' may not be the correct term) with this book. One of Kay Hooper's strongest points, in my opinion, are her serial killers. But in the last few books, Hooper has made the villain not-quite-human literally. And that, for me, does not work. Not in this setting. Because abstract evil requires either epicness to balance it out or something truly twisted. In SCU books, so far, it's been mostly anti-climactic.

Callie and Luther, in particular, did not fit this kind of villain. They make up one half of the Hostage story, but theirs is a story founded mostly on endless explanations and not much else. Nothing truly happens in those mountains, except talk about energy. Which is truly sad because I feel like Cole Jacoby, in the beginning, had a lot of potential to be interesting. He was the first villain for whom I truly felt bad, especially when he interacted with his dogs. (But hey, at least there was a lot of coffee and dog appreciation going on. That's always a massive plus. #priorities)

But onto things that I adored, and not for the first time:

Everyone and Bishop. It keeps getting better. From the unit's utter faith in Bishop's Very Secretive plans and Things That Have To Happen The Way They Happen, to the Endless Exasperation when all is said and done. Hollis, in particular, takes the crown in this one because I don't think anyone has ever threatened to deal with Bishop in the most mature way, aka kick him in the shins while looking him in the eye. (But Tony is a close runner-up because Tony is always the one truly dealing with Bishop.) It's so beautiful. SCU team feels. Always.

Reese and Hollis. I CANNOT WITH THESE TWO. Due to the nature of SCU books, there is usually very little humour in them. BUT THESE TWO. Aside from being perfect for each other, they are currently in the longest state of getting together and it's beautiful and they provide so much entertainment with their banter. It's such joy to see Hollis simultaneously open up to someone else while also get closer and closer to the ultimate breaking point. After all, even cats have only so many lives...

Molly says

I felt as if this book was a flickering candle....it was driving me insane, there is so much going on its like she jumbled all these characters together flipped back and forth between all of them to the point where you either couldn't keep up or the dialogue was so uninteresting that you could less whether or not you finished the book.... I picked up the book and read the prologue thinking this is exactly what I am going to like... only to realize 200 pages in this book isn't even really related to the prologue until the end. I had to force myself to finish this.... so so so disappointed :(its takes a lot for me to say a book is horrible and such a waste of time...

Jake Johner says

I had never read a Kay Hooper book before, receiving this one as a Christmas present, I didn't know that the book was one of a series. That being said, I think the book held up as it's own story, not having to read the rest of the series to enjoy the story. However, I felt like the first 200 pages go on and on slowly building tension for the very anticlimactic conclusion. At times it was hard to get through a chapter because it couldn't hold my attention, and others I breezed through only to be disappointed with another character switch. Before I fully make up my mind about this author, I think I'm going to have to read the series from the beginning.

Brent Soderstrum says

I was very disappointed with the book #14 of the Bishop series. Hooper goes on for 200 pages with two sets

of characters conversing about nearly nothing important to the story marking time till she trys to wrap it all together at the end. I think Hooper has been infected with bad energy in her last few attempts. Someone open the door so she can pass through this vortex and move on.
