



## Listen to the Shadows

*Joan Hall Hovey*

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LISTEN TO THE SHADOWS

SOMEONE WAS STALKING HER. NOW HE'S FOUND HER...

When artist Katie Summers emerged from a four-day coma, she remembered all too vividly the horror of that night - the terrifying dead eyes that had stared back at her in the rear view mirror, causing her to crash her car. But nobody believed her. Even the enigmatic and disturbingly attractive psychiatrist, Dr. Jonathan Shea, implied that she had made the whole thing up. Or dreamed it.

Released from the hospital, still weak from her ordeal, Katie took a taxi to her remote farmhouse on Black Lake. Darkness had already fallen. There was only the wind in the trees to greet her...and the cold and empty house.

But the house was not quite empty. Something awaited her, upstairs in her bedroom. Something with cold, dead eyes...

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Listen to the Shadows

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## Listen to the Shadows Details

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Author : Joan Hall Hovey

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## **From Reader Review Listen to the Shadows for online ebook**

### **Laurie says**

This was one of my monthly picks for March in the Mystery/Thriller genre. Every woman has been warned by a caring and/or concerned loved one about getting into their car without checking the backseat for some maniac lying in wait. Artist Katie Summers looks into her rear view mirror to find DEAD eyes reflected back to her from the back seat. She panics, swerves, hits a light pole, and spends 4 days in a coma.

This book is fairly fast-paced, full of suspense and hard to put down. I have to admit that I guessed early on who the bad guy was, but I tend to be very perceptive. There were a few red herrings that still lead me to doubt my choice of antagonist so the plot wasn't entirely predictable to me.

The editing had some serious issues. Not just the usual wrong words or misspellings that I normally harp about but MANY instances of a paragraph ending mid-sentence. I'm not sure if maybe this is an error that is made during the conversion to a Kindle file, but I found it occurring enough to be disheartening.

All in all a very enjoyable book. Sufficiently entertaining, tense, and apprehensive with a scoop of creepy on the side.

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### **Lynn Demsky says**

I really had to struggle to finish this book, way to much romance crap in it to be a good mystery! UGH!!!

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### **Katie Corbin says**

I started off really liking this book... it is decently written, the story is enough to hold your attention even though the characters fall a bit flat, and it had good imagery. But as Dr. Shea and Katie's romantic storyline developed, it just got cheesy. A poor mix between a thriller, and a PG (thank goodness) rated chick flick. Katie is a bad female character - again, you decide to stick with the guy that slipped something in your drink then carried you to bed? No. Not romantic. Just no.

The ending was very, very unbelievable. As someone who has been to a psych ward and saw many different cases, they would NEVER let someone go who attempted to kill two people. Even after five years. It just will not happen. Especially when the guy is quite obviously a psychopath. That bit of the story irked me more than anything.

I'm pretty sad to see the number of high ratings on this book. Is it good? Sure. Is it the most amazing thriller ever? Definitely not. In the end it lacks a believable story, and good characters that you feel connected to.

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### **Becky says**

Katie Summers gets in a car crash in the pouring rain after she is stood up for a date. Coming out of a coma four days later she recalls the horrible "dead" eyes she saw in her rearview mirror that caused her to crash. Dr Jonathan Shea believes she was either seeing things, it was the rain, or an over active imagination. Dr Shea, the psychiatrist, is living with his own demons and has taken a sabbatical after a young patient of his commits suicide. When Katie is released from the hospital to her aunts old farm house, she comes to find something cold and evil waiting for her. People are coming up dead and made out of straw.

The author keeps you turning the pages to discover what will happen next. It's a great thriller, mystery, romance story. I was shocked at the "who dunnit" at the end. First time I have read a book by this author. I have another one I have downloaded and can't wait to read.

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### **Cindi says**

While I did enjoy this book and the ending was perfect, it seemed quite dated. I'm not sure if the author mentioned the time period that it takes place in. From what I got from it was that it took place sometime in the seventies or early eighties. There is a lot of mention of the Vietnam war and one of the male characters was driving a Pinto. So, the seventies maybe? There were also some instances that seem so far-fetched (like where the heroine lives).

Either way, really good book, though I had the "bad guy" figured out almost immediately, though not the reasons behind it.

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### **Lynda Kelly says**

Another of her books I really enjoyed although it seemed to be a harder one to get into, I thought. I stuck with it and was happy I did as it turned out well with a shocker of an ending. I suspected different people all through it but I hadn't guessed who did !!

There were some annoying spelling mistakes and editing errors and at a really dramatic point I swore when a too was used instead of to !!

I do enjoy Joan's book though and the stories outweigh the errors right now.

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### **Lisa Tortorello says**

Did you ever feel you were being watched, that things around you just weren't right? Well, Katie Summers had those feelings for some time, but kept rationalizing them instead of Listening to the Shadows. She learned the hard way that if something seems off, it probably is.

When Katie woke up from her coma after the accident, she tried to put the pieces together... After being stood up for a date, Katie drove home in horrendous weather, but it was the eyes of the dead man in her rear view mirror that caused the accident, not the pelting rain and wind. How could that be? Even the mysteriously strange psychiatrist Dr. Shea thought something else was going on. If there was a dead man in Katie's car, why wasn't the body still there when the police arrived at the accident scene?

Once released from the hospital, things didn't get better for Katie. She lived in an old farmhouse in a

secluded area. Things she once thought were quaint, like no central heat or electricity, lost their charm when the big empty house didn't feel so empty. Though she was alone, the shadows told another story.

Interestingly enough, Dr. Shea kept showing up at the most opportune times. Opportune for him, or opportune for Katie? Katie started to wonder. She also started to wonder about many of the people she dealt with on a daily basis, because when things happen in the shadows, it's hard to tell who you can trust in the light!

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### **Theresa Abney says**

Predictable, but entertaining enough. :)

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### **Jennifer says**

Good story line at first but very predictable and I hated the ending as it made Kathrine look very stupid, **\*\*Ending Spoiler alert\*\*** So if you've read this, you're asking yourself, who waits 30 mins for someone and then goes looking for him even tho he doesn't respond to her calling out, when there's a killer who's been in her house before, DUH!!

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### **L.F. Falconer says**

Though not quite edge-of-your-seat suspense, there was enough to keep me intrigued and turning the pages. I found the plot to be a bit too predictable and kept hoping for some twist at the end to prove me wrong. Katie struck me as an intelligent, level-headed woman, yet I often found myself shaking my head in bewilderment by some of her foolish actions. Since she'd been the victim of a stalker before, I would've expected her to be a bit more leery of these creepy men she was getting involved with. Even the hero was creepy!

An okay read with some nice action scenes.

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### **Shelley Wead says**

The story line was good, but somewhat predictable. Don't feel that the characters were given as much in depth understanding especially Drake. It reminded me more of a tv show with a surface view of the character insights.

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### **Rhonda says**

Listen to the Shadows is a well-written, fast-moving story. The characters are likeable and believable. The settings are described quite well allowing for easy visualization. There are some spelling and grammatical

errors and the formatting was messed up, but it was readable.

I liked the plot and the characters, but I didn't like the ending. The story was believable until the last couple of scenes, especially the epilogue, but I want to avoid spoilers, so I can't really elaborate except to say that you find out where the bogeyman ends up, but not how he got there.

All-in-all, Listen to the Shadows is a good story and I enjoyed it. It was a quick read and I stayed interested.

I give this book 4 stars. It could have easily been 5 stars, but there was too much lacking at the end.

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### **Lisa Biegel says**

The summary of this book grabbed my attention, but sadly the beginning of the story was slow. I stuck with it hoping that it would improve, but it only seemed to drag - I only ended up getting about 60% through it before I gave up. This is an older novel and the story line and characters seem outdated. The plot itself was transparent which only diminished the suspense of the story. Wouldn't be bad as a light read for short periods of time, but not enough to engage the reader to keep coming back for more.

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### **Eileen Patterson says**

I enjoyed this book, but I liked some of her other books better. This one felt kind of forced. In the beginning it was intriguing, but it soon became pretty clear who the killer was, and the last half of the book felt like a boring trudge for the main character to figure out what was going on before it was too late. The book isn't bad, just not as good as I had hoped.

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### **Linda says**

Katie Summers inherited her aunts old farmhouse outside of Belleville, It boasted no twentieth century luxuries and she had to heat the place with wood. The only concession to modern convenience was the telephone. Katie adored the house as it had great light in her studio where she painted but she worked at the coffee shop to pay her bills. She was driving home and saw a pair of evil eyes in her rear view mirror, she lost control, hit a tree, and awoke from a coma four days later.....

Doctor Johnathan Shea, a psychiatrist, at Belleville General Hospital received word that his sixteen year old patient had committed suicide and he took her death hard as he thought he was getting though to the young girl. He questioned his ability to help others when he couldn't help his mother when he was twelve. As a favor to Doctor Miller, he looked in on Katie Summers, but what she told him caused him to believe she needed treatment as he fought his attraction to her.....

Ms.Hall Hovey certainly livens things up in her intriguing story! You can't help getting involved as Katie faces one disaster after another and fights for her life with "The strawman" bound to kill her as revenge on November fifth!

