



Notorious

Allison Brennan

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Maxine Revere has dedicated her life to investigating murders that the police have long since given up any hope of solving. A nationally renowned investigative reporter with her own TV show and a tough-as-nails reputation, Max tackles cold cases from across the country and every walk of life. But the one unsolved murder that still haunts her is a case from her own past.

When Max was a high school senior, one of her best friends was strangled and another, Kevin O'Neal, accused of the crime. To the disgrace of her wealthy family, Max stood by her friend, until she found out he lied about his alibi. Though his guilt was never proven, their relationship crumbled from the strain of too many secrets.

Now Max is home for Kevin's funeral?after years of drug abuse, he committed suicide. She's finally prepared to come to terms with the loss of his friendship, but she's not prepared for Kevin's sister to stubbornly insist that he didn't kill himself. Or for an elderly couple to accost her at the airport, begging her to look into another murder at Max's old high school. Max is more interested in the cold case at her alma mater than in digging around Kevin's troubled life, but she agrees to do both. As Max uncovers dark secrets, she finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies that hit far too close to home. And it's becoming increasingly clear that someone will do whatever it takes to make sure the truth stays buried.

Notorious Details

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Author : Allison Brennan

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From Reader Review Notorious for online ebook

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Notorious Allison Brennan's new suspense introduces Maxine Revere, a high-powered and intrepid investigative reporter and host of her own nationally acclaimed reality TV show that investigates cold cases. Whilst the plot, involving the mystery of three unsolved murders that might or might not be connected, it's the character of Max that really drives the story.

Maxine is a very complex and interesting female lead character. Known to be tough, relentless, determined, she's also independently wealthy, career-orientated and risk taker and is not afraid to using manipulation methods to get what she wants t gets what she wants.

But the badass reputation hides another side of her that very few people get to see. She's afraid of commitments and does not allow anyone to get close to her, affected by her mother's disappearance and her very dysfunctional family. I connected with her from the start.

Max returns to her hometown after a long stay-away to attend a friend's funeral, whose suicide might be connected to the 13 year old unsolved murder of her best friend.

There seems to be a connection between those two deaths and the death of a construction worker and so she starts her own investigation as the police force don't seem to be doing enough. Nothing will stop her from finding the truth...she's RELENTLESS, even when her life is in danger....she will not give up!!!

A very fast paced plot, with interesting secondary characters, twists and turns and a total surprise when the murderer is finally revealed.

A great start to a new series and I am looking forward to the next installment.

Donna says

Maxine Revere's best friend was murdered in high school and another friend, Kevin, stood trial for the crime. Thirteen years later, Kevin commits suicide and Kevin's sister asks Max to look into his death. Also, Max learns of a more recent case where a man is killed on her old high school campus. Following the evidence, she wonders if the two cases could be related. Compounding the problem, her own wealthy family may be involved. Regardless of who may be hurt, Max won't stop until she uncovers the truth.

Max was an investigative reporter for nine years before getting a TV show showcasing cold cases. This book, out in 2014, is the 1st in the series. I've read book #5 and it's nice to go back to the beginning and learn more about Max. I like her no-nonsense, cut-to-the-chase style. I'm interested in finding and reading more Max Revere stories.

Ashley says

Just finished the 1st book in the Alison Brennan Max Revere series (book 1)
And all I can say is **WOW** What an ending!!!!

I seen this at Kroger and thought well this looks ok... There's nothing else good here today.. AM I HAPPY I PICKED IT UP!!!! I seen a few days later on Goodreads the Ads and thought ok it seems good
WOW just WOW....
What a understatement!!!! It's fantastic..
I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN!!!!

This was a awesome start of a series because of countless reasons but ill tell a few so not to give the whole book away.....

It's a "Keep you on your toes" **WOW WHAT THE HECK JUST HAPPENED!!!** suspense story. S many twists and turns of "who dun it", what's gonna happen next, who is this woman!?!?!!

The main character Maxine Revere is a woman of privilege, but a hardcore investigative reporter! She's a **TOTALLY GET OUT OF MY WAY, No Bulshit, Hardcore Strong Woman!** (I loved her from the start!!) this was not only about a family of wealthy people with very disturbing history and secrets... But a senseless murder!!!

I will be looking for book 2 in April!!!

(Not close enough!!!!)

And getting more books from her... She's got a bunch of books and series...

Can't wait to check more out from her!!!

An absolute terrific read!!!

Dianne says

Brace yourself for the forces of the past and present as they collide with the firestorm that is Max Revere! **Notorious** by Allison Brennan is one action and intrigue packed moment after another as we are introduced to one of the strongest, and smartest female heroines ever! Max returns home to attend the funeral of a man she once turned her back on when he needed her most. The world she left behind holds no warm memories. Older, wiser and more independent than ever, Maxine is now an investigative reporter who has tasted danger, exposed the underbelly of life and lived to tell about it.

Max promises the sister of her late best friend she will look into his suicide death, because something just does not sit right, there is more to the story and she is determined to get to the bottom of it, no matter who or what tries to get in her way. Kevin was accused of murder, a crime he swears he did not commit and he was acquitted in the eyes of the law, but branded in his own town. Obsessed with finding the real killer, he spirals into drug and alcohol abuse, until he takes his own life, but not before leaving scattered breadcrumbs for Max to follow. What she discovers has far more impact and uncovers other unsolved crimes and the trail is leading too close to home for her comfort. Few of the local authorities will cooperate, most do all they can to thwart her investigation, but obviously they do not know Max. A fascinating and riveting mystery thriller with one heck of a heroine, **Notorious** is a twisted ride through the dark tunnels of secrets, danger and the brutal glare of truths revealed!

Allison Brennan knows how to bring life to her characters and lead them down into the world she has created for them like the consummate puppeteer. Max is tough, but feminine, smart and edgy, yet vulnerable to her own mistakes and regrets. She has heart, a conscience and a grit that makes her larger-than-life! The

supporting characters keep you guessing, who can she trust, who is hiding something, are they good, evil or just mean-spirited? With each changing page and emotional tension, Ms. Brennan's style makes this smooth sailing at warp speed. Mystery lovers, here's your next great read, Mystery newbies, here's the perfect introduction to a contemporary who-dun-it!

I received this ARC edition from Minotaur Books in exchange for my honest review.

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Lyn says

Investigative reporter Maxine Revere returns to her home town to attend the funeral of a childhood friend. Kevin O'Neal was a troubled young man who at eighteen was tried for, but not convicted of, the murder of Lindy Ames. Although Lindy was Max's best friend, she stood by Kevin when everyone else turned their backs on him. Soon after the trial she became disillusioned. Kevin lied to her about his alibi. She still didn't believe he killed Lindy, but his lie kept the real killer from being apprehended. From that time until his death Max refused to talk to him.

Max was just a teenager when Lindy was murdered. Now she is a respected reporter with her own popular television show that specializes in cold cases. Because of her support of Kevin during his trial, Max has been on the outs with her wealthy family for years. She's only been home on two occasions, for the funeral of her great grandmother and for the wedding of a cousin. Maxine's own past is murky. She was raised by her grandmother from age ten, when her mother left and never returned.

While still at the airport, Max meets the grandparents of Jason Hoffman. They want her to take a look into his murder, which recently happened on the grounds of her former high school. Although she won't be staying long, Max decides to do what she can while she is in town. Soon after the funeral she must return to New York to report on an upcoming trial. She has no intention of delving into either murder, but new pieces of data keep drawing her in.

For a wealthy town where murder rarely occurs, the police have zero solve rates. Max is reluctant to leave Jason's case which is being put on the back burner just like Lindy's was. Lindy's case is also calling to her. When an anonymous phone call directs Maxine to leave town, she finds herself wondering why someone thinks she might succeed when the police did not.

Investigative reporter may be overused as a mystery heroine, but Max Revere is fresh and original and the mystery will keep the reader guessing. I'm looking forward to the next book in this series.

Reindert Van Zwaal says

Just like the prequel, I liked this first installment of the series very much! Keeps you guessing almost until the end. I really like Max her character, her cynical remarks can be so funny. Had me laughing out loud multiple times. And of course Max her moral drive and the deeper personal layer present in the story made the book much better than a standard detective novel.

Elizabeth says

This is the first book of Allison Brennan that I've ever read and the first book in her new Mixine Revere series. And I love it, once I picked it up and started to read I could put it down.

Emily says

1.5 stars

I was just not feeling this book. Lackluster, I would call it. Maybe it's because I have been reading some well-written books lately or because I haven't been reading much of this genre, but I found the writing very basic, clichéd, repetitious, and formulaic. The book was really slow moving to me, which I understand is reality at times for an investigative reporter researching stories, but the author just didn't give me anything that I found interesting- not as far as plot, characters, descriptions, tone, themes, etc. The plot just kinda spun its wheels a lot of the time. The ending wasn't bad, but nowhere near good enough to make up for the rest. I also thought the prologue gave too much away right off the bat about the main crime. Some of what should have been revealed as Max discovered it we already knew, and I would have preferred knowing less till the end.

Then the main character. I found her cold and one-dimensional for the most part. As one of my favorite reviewers (Emily May) said in a recent vlog (not about this book), she was more of a caricature than a character- a gung-ho investigative reporter who doesn't want to get close to anyone.

She REALLY has a thing about lying, about which she comes across as too black and white and uncompromising for me. Just hating everyone who lies for any reason and never lying yourself seems unsustainable. Which it turns out to be because she turns into a hypocrite, breaking into someone's apartment and then essentially lying about it and other things several times (as well as instances of lying by omission, lying with the truth, deflections, etc.)

There was a minor romance element to the book, which made me feel absolutely NOTHING. I didn't dislike the love interest, but I didn't like him either. I can't tell you really anything about him after reading the book- his likes/dislikes, traits, habits, mannerisms- I don't even remember what he was supposed to look like. He was just central casting of white, American, good guy cop.

Robert says

Maxine "Max" Revere might have what one could call a strong personality. She knows what she wants, and

she's not afraid to go after it, diving right into the swimming pool. Whether it's men, or a friend, or a story, or a dead body, she's not afraid to mess up her manicure. Her strong will could bowl over even the hardest of hearts, and she has one devilish smile to even out the fair trade. And she knows how to dress for all occasions, even if it means she might get a little blood on her clothes.

She may have a weakness for cops, or one might call it an obsession, and she's rather adept with a pair of handcuffs. While I appreciated her sticky situation, I had trouble with my focus at various points along the way. Max, while intriguing, managed to keep me at a distance throughout much of the story, even while her NOTORIOUS circumstances managed to hold me in suspense and despair.

The cold case concept intrigued me, and her beguiling smile deceived me, and her off-putting attitude caused her a whirlwind of trouble wherever she went, even if she kept her head in the game, and her eyes on the horizon. Making friends might not have been at the top of her list, but she commanded attention and a second glance wherever she managed to turn up next.

Other than Nick Santini, many of the males felt like caricatures, instead of full-bodied versions ready to spring off the page and into my living room. Had the men measured up to the women, it might have provided a bit more balance to the equation, and made it a bit easier to swallow for this particular reader. Not bad writing, or a bad story, mind you, but not a tale that showcases Allison Brennan at her story writing best.

I received this book for free through NetGalley.

Cross-posted at Robert's Reads

Michael says

Investigative reporter Maxine "Max" Revere returns to her hometown outside of San Francisco for an old friend's funeral. At the airport an elderly couple approach her. They recognize her from her TV show and ask her to look into the murder of their grandchild, Jason Hoffman.

The funeral Max is to attend is for Kevin O'Neal. They grew up together and he was accused of murdering their friend Lindy Ames. Max was one of the few who took the stand in his defense years ago. Now, Kevin committed suicide and left a note for Max to look into the case because the killer was never found.

Max investigates both murders. Jason Hoffman was an architect for the Sterling-Pierce Sports center at Max's old high school. This is a multi-million dollar project that could make or break careers or businesses.

Max is a modern woman, fiercely determined to bring both killers to justice, even when it looks like members of her own family might be involved. Obstacles are placed in her way but the reader has confidence that she will succeed in finding the killers.

There was good character build-up and descriptions of the setting. I enjoyed the story and Max as a character.

Annette says

I found Notorious to be a thrilling page turner that kept me guessing until the very end.

Max is an interesting character. She's colorful, tough, and determined. She's up against her family in Notorious because she's back home trying to solve an old murder -- and the victim happened to be her best friend.

Max is an investigative reporter who has a TV show, so she's recognizable to many. She returns back to California, to her home town, to attend the funeral of one of her high school friends who committed suicide. Kevin was accused of murdering one of their friends. He was tried but not convicted because of a hung jury. Kevin has lived with this for years, and Max was the only one who truly believed he was innocent.

Also, when Max is recognized in the airport, she is approached by some people who want her to investigate the murder of their grandson, which also happened to occur in the same town.

So Max can't help but become twisted up in these cases, and also involved with a sexy police officer who she is helping with the investigation (much to his chagrin.) She pisses off a lot of people, but she's feisty and keeps on digging until she gets to the truth.

The pacing of Notorious is excellent. It moves quickly, and keeps you guessing as the plot twists and turns and ends up in places you would never guess. I'm interested to read more stories about Max. She kept referring to a college friend who was murdered and the killer was never convicted. I'm assuming she's going to tackle that case in a future book. I hope the sexy police officer comes along....

Add Notorious to your list of fun, intricate murder mysteries. You won't be disappointed. Although this is an adult book, high school students will really enjoy this one too.

Terri says

Original review found at

3.5 stars

I received this ARC novel as part of a Goodreads giveaway in exchange for an honest review. The expected publication date is March 25th 2014.

I enjoyed this read. It had the perfect amount of mystery and suspense with the main character drawn in to the task of trying to solve two cold case murders. Mix in a handful of potential suspects and family drama and you have the ideal framework for a good "who dunnit". The writing was well done and the story was paced just write.

I really enjoyed the supporting character of David and Santini. I found David's devotion to Max in assisting with her career and ensuring her security was admirable in spite of the fact that I felt Max did not offer him the same respect. Santini as the local cop was just dreamy in my opinion. Although there was no major love story attached (more a mutual attraction) I loved his even temperament and his personality. I looked forward

to scenes in which he was a part of.

The part that I struggled with was the character of Max. She was obviously the main character and was written to be strong and independent. I found that she was too much so. She was too hard and jaded which made it difficult to identify with her. She held the truth to the highest degree sometimes writing people out of her life for a lie yet she committed lies of omission throughout the entire story. This made her very hypocritical and left a sour taste in my mouth as she held people to a higher standard than herself. I know she was written to be a strong character who stops at nothing to get answers however I felt her character was not balanced enough to make her believable. It is my understanding that this is the first book featuring the character of Max and I think that for future instalments that she needs to be fine tuned so that she is tough yet believable at the same time.

Although I struggled with Max this was still a good story. I enjoyed the time spent within the pages. I am just not sure if I will invest further time in Max' future stories. Then again it could be interesting to see how she evolves

Tairyn Ayala says

This book it's so infuriating it made me crazy! First of, it was so sloooooow. I can appreciate details, but when the writer goes on and on with such inconsequential details such as how many glasses of wine a character orders, and drag on conversations just because of word count. It just leaves me rolling my eyes and wanting to strangle someone. Then we have the main character Max. I read so many reviews calling her a strong female character, but to me she just seemed like a meddling, spoiled and selfish bitch. Everything she did in this book was self serving for her own egotistical satisfaction. She did not read honest to me at all. I hated her, and I do realize hate is a strong word. I kept thinking "this bitch would be less damaging if she were just a paparazzi" rather than mess with police investigations and people's feelings. Which she did not respect in the least. Just a meddling reporter. I didn't see how is she different than any other meddling reporter. I guess maybe the fact that she comes from a wealthy family. But that does not make her a hero. I also dislike her self righteousness. The author tried to humanize her with the fact (a fact that was mentioned repeatedly) that her mother abandoned her and she didn't know who her father was. That didn't humanize her to me. In fact she went to the best schools and got millions in inheritance because of it. Not something to feel sorry about in my book. I will ABSOLUTELY NOT follow this serie. It was hard enough to finish this book.

Terri Wino says

I'm a huge fan of Allison Brennan's Lucy Kincaid series, so I decided to give this series a try. I have to say at first I didn't find Maxine Revere very likable, but as the book progressed she really grew on me.

The reason I didn't give this book four stars is that there was just a ton of information thrown at the reader. I realize, this being the first in the series, characters need to be established. But Max herself has quite a history that I'm sure will play out in future books. Coupled with the fact that there are actually two separate cases being investigated in this book, I sometimes felt brain-numbed by trying to wade through all of the characters, past history, current events, etc. This much information can sometimes lead to boring passages, even if they are necessary to the plot playing out.

I felt the second half of the book moved more quickly -- probably because of being over the hump of setting up background and history -- and was more engrossing. There was a really ridiculous action sequence towards the end that I just found hard to swallow, but other than that, I liked the way the plots were wrapped up in the end.

Bottom line: I liked Max well enough to continue with this series and see what other trouble she can get herself into.

Cheryl says

"...all I could think was that Wonder Woman's real name is Maxine Revere."

- Strong, smart, in-your-face female investigative reporter. Check!
- Sexy, strong-enough-to-stand-up-to-her male cop. Check!
- Realistic dialogue. Check!
- Lots of action and quick page turning. Check!

NOTORIOUS is one of the best mystery/thriller/romances I've read in the last few months. It caught my interest on the first page and kept the pace up to the "killer" ending.

I liked Maxine Revere and am glad to see that she is going to have her own series. I did notice that there is a short story/novella out in Kindle land called "Maximum Exposure (Max Revere Novels)" that takes place prior to this tale. I plan on reading it next. And I hope the next Max Revere novel isn't too far out in the future.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.
