



Tallchief

Dinah McCall , Sharon Sala

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A Dream...Or A Nightmare?

Ever since the night Morgan Tallchief lost the only woman he would ever love, he has struggled to seal away the past. But now Kathleen Ryder is back in his life--still pursued by the deadly secrets that forced her to flee before. And even though Morgan swears to protect her, he is helpless against his own rekindled passion.

Kathleen has never forgotten the achingly sweet hunger that bound them together years ago. Now, still on the run, all she dares ask is that Morgan keep her safe--never expecting that he has the power to breathe life-giving fire to an ember that has grown cold.

Tallchief Details

Date : Published February 24th 1997 by HarperTorch

ISBN : 9780061084447

Author : Dinah McCall , Sharon Sala

Format : Paperback 416 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Romantic Suspense, Fiction

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From Reader Review Tallchief for online ebook

Wyrddness says

I generally liked this, but at times Kathleen seriously got on my nerves.

I don't think I have much else to say about this book. It was a good read, I didn't notice too many glaring grammatical mistakes, it generally had a nice pace to things and was easy to keep reading. I'm not sure if I'll ever read it again but I don't regret reading it this once.

Tonya Lucas says

One of my favorite!

Kathleen says

Contemporary romantic suspense, first released about 1997. This is the story of a life-long devotion between a Native American (Comanche) and a Caucasian (no ancestry provided). Their love affair begins in high school in small-town Oklahoma, is halted for 16 years, and picks up again in Santa Fé, New Mexico.

NUTSHELL PLOT: Morgan Tallchief is a record-setting sprinter and long-distance runner, a former SEAL, and a world-famous artist. Kathleen Walker is running for her life from Marco Benini's thugs, including an FBI agent on the take. The Witness Protection Program has let her down. It has let her entire family down. She reaches out to Morgan for help. He protects her, killing the baddies. Happy ever after. Sweet epilogue.

MY THOUGHTS: A sweet and tender romance, with some angst. Their devotion to one another is clear. Each would die for the other, and over the 16 years, they never fell out of love, remaining bonded in heart but separate in body. Tallchief is protective and passionate. Several mildly explicit love scenes: on the roof, on the grass, etc. Sweet! Gotta love Tallchief! (Liked his brothers, too.)

My only quibble about their relationship is that Kathleen dragged around a lot of guilt for "lying" to him in high school, letting him think she had died. Her reasons were solid, and she explained her reasons, plus she was ordered by Feds and father not to reveal anything. All her guilt-tripping got on my nerves. She was a victim, not a criminal.

Despite the love, too much plot contrivance, forcing Morgan out of character. As a former SEAL, Morgan would be a world-class expert in covert ops, but he totally bungled the job several times. In Seattle he struck out. Amateurish. What did he do? (view spoiler).

Then, he does something else that is out of character for a SEAL. (view spoiler) Why? Made no sense to me. What if she had talked to the reporters swarming the art gallery? Why put K's life at risk? What did it buy him?

But the biggest disappointment with sheer plot contrivance came when Morgan (view spoiler)

Finally, the long run. (view spoiler) Spare me such stupidity.

These plot contrivances were used to stage a climactic, overly dramatic situation where McCall could portray Tallchief with the adjectives she so often used in her narrative: noble, fierce, brave, courageous, proud, warrior, etc. I got no problem with that, but don't make him look stupid. Give him credit for his SEAL training and for common sense.

Bottom line, this is a sweet love story. McCall created a wonderful hero. Too bad she took him out of character to develop her stupid plot.

TJ says

4.5/5.0

Oh, I HATE it when you have to round it up or down and neither way fits!!

The romance, angst and relationships in this story are INCREDIBLE!! Heart-wrenching, tear-jerking, sigh-worthy wonderfulness. The suspense was just a little tiny, itty-bit flat.

ksstannard says

Mighty Fine

Lots of heart in this tale of star crossed lovers. Tallchief is everything a hero needs to be, an Olympian potential runner, a Navy seal, an artist, and the man who can't believe his eyes when he finds his lost love. nicely done.

Jacqueline says

Very romantic book all the way around. Just what I was looking for after some lighthearted stuff. The emotion continued throughout the book even after the hero figures out that the heroine is still alive. These two fell in love early and never fell out even when separated for years. His love for her was just all consuming. She was still in danger and he was committed to keeping her safe.

The action scenes were very well done. Sometimes, authors make their heroes SEALs and then waste that aspect of their character. Here he is an ex SEAL and uses his skills to save her in a very real way.

Also the reason for the bad guys chasing this family for years is well set up. I also enjoyed the FBI agents who were working on solving their case from a different angle unknowing where the trail was leading.

Most of the story is told from the hero's POV which I particularly enjoy. Characterizations were very well done. Writing flowed well. Plot moved right along and made sense.

Loved it.

Karla says

4.5 Stars! I really really enjoyed this!

A little bit of everything! Captivating story about a second chance at love, great characters...I liked all of them, mystery and suspense, some angst, but nothing too crazy. Oh yeah, and Morgan Tallchief *swoon*...he's my kind of guy!

Lyndi W. says

Another **3.5 stars** for Sharon Sala. I can't bring myself to say I *really* liked it, but three stars just doesn't seem like enough. It's... weird, sorry.

My issue lies, as usual, with the heroine. She was wishy-washy and I don't think she tried hard enough. And she was one of those heroines that lives to deny herself happiness. But she was a good person with endearing qualities, so I liked her the more I read.

Our hero was an odd mix of athlete-warrior-artist, but it somehow worked well for him. I don't have any specific draw towards heroes of Native American descent, but I definitely see the appeal now. Phew, he was hot and fierce.

Nice choice of conflict with the secrets, the drama, and the revelation. It's a plot I haven't seen before, though I have a feeling it is because I don't do many long-lost-love stories. Though we do have some mystery as to *why* there is a threat, the *who* isn't much mystery. I wish it had been.

As usual, this author is overly wordy. I swear she could have knocked 30 pages off this by not describing the sunset and the spirit of the desert so many times. I liberally skimmed paragraphs about walking down the hallway and ruminating over the past.

But it was still a really good story, so there's that.

Frances Botelho says

all heroes should be like this man

strong, loyal, brave...that describes Morgan Tallchief...it also describes Kathleen, the girl he believed was killed in an explosion 16 years ago - what a shock when she shows up at his house with her 15 year old

daughter who looks just like him, but has her eyes - believable characters, well developed story ...no more secrets between these two

Sara G says

This one is just not for me. The book starts with a description of faked deaths due to participating in the witness protection program. I'm so sick of that trope. Really, how many people EVER participated in that, unless they were some mobster's family or something? I couldn't get into it at all, and when the characters started getting religious on me, I was over it.

Rose says

I don't recommend this.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Morgan Tallchief and Kathleen Ryder fell in love as teenagers but Morgan Tallchief's world is destroyed when Kathleen is killed. Many years later, Kathleen walks back into Tallchief's life with his daughter.

A very heart-wrenching story. Dinah McCall has become somewhat hit and miss with me. I haven't actually hated anything she has written but some of her books barely make 3 stars for me. I think this is one of her better novels and would recommend it to those fans looking for a tearjerker.

♥Laddie♥ (Lee Lee) says

I'm not someone who likes an overload of angst in the books I read. For some reason I don't mind it Dinah McCall novels. Actually, I love it in her novels.

Basic plot is this: A Native American teenager Morgan Tallchief, who's also a prodigy when it comes to running track, and his girlfriend Kathleen are in love. One night Tallchief walks Kathleen home and watched her house explode after she goes into it. Tallchief goes into deep mourning and enters the military the next day. Seventeen years later, Kathleen shows up with Tallchief's daughter and lets him know they've been in witness protection but now they need help.

I loved so many things about this book.

Morgan Tallchief. I wanted to be angry with Morgan because he was so angry with Kathleen about her disappearing act. The thing is, he spent seventeen years thinking she was dead. Kathleen's reappearance in Tallchief's life is not a magic wand that gets waved and makes him all better. Yes, Kathleen was in WITSEC but Tallchief still has seventeen years of soul searing pain to get over. That doesn't happen overnight.

In the end I adored Tallchief. No matter how angry he was and how much he was suffering, he took care of

Kathleen and his daughter. He loved them and ultimately that was all that mattered.

Kathleen. Kathleen could have lashed out at Tallchief when he expressed his anger but she didn't. She understood. She felt guilty even though she really had nothing to feel guilty about. It's rare that I wholeheartedly like a heroine. Kathleen is on my list of kickass heroines. She was a good mother and just a good person in general.

The relationship between Tallchief and his daughter. Sweet. The relationship was just plain sweet. Tallchief and Kathleen's daughter was an amazing teenager. Usually when authors write teenagers the characters turn out to be annoying. That was not so in the case of Tallchief and Kathleen's daughter. She was smart, charming and lovely.

Actually, everyone in this book was smart. There were no TSTL moments.

I read this book in one sitting because I just couldn't pull myself away. This book is worthy of more than five stars.

Suze says

TALLCHIEF

This is a book I plan on rereading many times, it is that good. It's a story of second chances, renewed love. Morgan and Kathleen both struggle to get their footing after betrayal and loss. It's a page turner, very good.

Saly says

Love never dies, is what Tallchief is all about.

Morgan Tallchief is a runner, who has the ability to make it to Olympics when unable to save the girl he loved (Kathleen), he gave it up and joined the navy.

Sixteen years have passed and Morgan has left the military and paints instead but he still remembers, loves and grieves for Kathleen. He has never loved any woman besides her, when in walks the shock of his life, Kathleen, a little older and his daughter.

Kathleen loved Morgan, but her family was in the Witness Protection Program, she didn't want to leave Morgan and was forced to, she tried to get back to him and if it wasn't for the fact that she was pregnant she would not have lived. She has kept tabs on Morgan, loving him from afar and making sure his daughter Trish loved him too. She comes to Morgan for protection (and maybe a chance to be a family they should have been).

I loved seeing these three together, I never had any doubt that they loved each other, fate had kept them apart but their love had not died. Morgan was such a wonderful hero and he loved his family and would go to any lengths to protect them. Seeing them find a way towards each other, over-coming the past was a beauty.

Miki says

There are some books that are just keepers. Characters that jump off the page into your heart, stories that long to be told. Books that are readable over and over again, that hold one's interest no matter how many times they are read.

Too bad this isn't one of those books.

Stuck fast in the "noble Indian" mold, Tallchief is almost embarrassing to read. I lost count of the stereotypical behaviors perpetuated in this morass of bad dialog, silly people and overblown prose. This book is on its way to the second-hand shop, tout suite!

Lorena Helfers says

A little more spice would have been nice

Make no mistake, I loved this premise of this story. It was super heart tugging. The love scenes were soft and full of emotion. I guess I just wanted just a tad more description.

Good writing, well thought out scenario. Good shocking moments.

Charlotte says

Wonderful!

I would recommend this author to anyone who enjoys reading books with both romance and suspense. I have read many of her books both under the name Dinah McCall and Sharon Sala's and have very much enjoyed them.

Tallchief is one of her older works and also one of my favorites. Me Sala writes with such passion and depth. Can't wait for what is next.

Neko says

I had high hopes for *Tallchief*, but I found it disappointing. The dialog is lame. The descriptions were overwrought. As an example of the writing style - at one point, the author described the wind blowing a 16 year old character's t-shirt against her "young breasts." Not only is that gross, it added nothing to the scene. In another scene, she describes Morgan's "manhood" as "fully extended." That makes it sound like he has an Inspector Gadget style robo-penis.

Kathleen spent so much time beating herself up for "lying" to Morgan about her past and her faked death that I could hardly stand her. I'm pretty sure the point of being in Witness Protection is that you *don't tell people*

about it. I actually found the sections about the side characters - the hit men and random FBI agents - more interesting than lot of the scenes with Morgan and Kathleen.

Bark says

Never again and this is why. Pseudonyms OK for authors. Not okay for readers. Sorry, I don't think so.

Here's my original review so those who will cannot accuse me of being a drive-by troll. If anything I was a silly fangirl. I wrote this way back when. Ahhh, innocence was bliss.

Morgan Tallchief was on top of the world. Only eighteen years old and a record breaking runner with Olympic dreams he has a beautiful girlfriend who loves him with all her heart and his future looks bright. Then all of his dreams are shattered when his legs aren't quick enough to save the girl he loves from a fiery death. Grief stricken he joins the Navy to escape his heartache.

Sixteen years later Morgan, now an accomplished artist and former Navy SEAL, is living an isolated life until the day Kathleen comes back from the dead with their daughter in tow. All of the old pain comes back full force when he has to face the fact that Kathleen has been alive all of these years and the one glorious night they spent together as teenagers resulted in the birth of a daughter.

Kathleen has been on the run her entire life. When she was a child her father's testimony against a criminal placed their lives in danger and they were put into the the Federal Witness Protection Program. Torn from the boy she loved the only thing that kept her going was the birth of their baby daughter. When her dad dies she believes the nightmare is finally over. She's wrong. She realizes someone still wants revenge when she finds her apartment ransacked and receives a threatening phone call. Because the FBI has closed the case she has nowhere to turn and sets out to find her one true love hoping he will keep their daughter safe.

An emotional story from beginning to end, Ms. McCall captures all of the angst and heartache of first love lost and love reborn. The story is told mainly from the hero's viewpoint and what a wonderful viewpoint it is! Her hero defines the term heroic, he's not only brave and strong but he's also sweet, sensitive, loving and vulnerable. A perfect combination, if you ask me. If anybody deserves a happy ending it is this man. The portrayal of the budding relationship between father and daughter is realistic and moving. After reading this story I ran out and bought everything I could find with Dinah McCall/Sharon Sala's name on it (alas, with mixed results).
