



## **Pasión peligrosa**

*Amanda Stevens*

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El atractivo oficial Cullen Ryan, con su aire misterioso y su actitud arrogante, podía despertar las fantasías más ocultas de una mujer. Él nunca había mirado a la doctora Elizabeth Douglas, inteligente y virginal, de aquel modo. Pero cuando entró en la habitación donde Elizabeth había encontrado un cadáver, su corazón empezó a latir con fuerza. Y cuando se asociaron para investigar el asesinato, ella descubrió una pasión peligrosa que amenazaba su seguro mundo.

Entonces un asesino despiadado convirtió a Elizabeth en su objetivo, y Cullen juró hacer cualquier cosa para protegerla...

## **Pasión peligrosa Details**

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Author : Amanda Stevens

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# From Reader Review *Pasión peligrosa* for online ebook

**Janet says**

HI #650

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**Penny Griffin says**

Secret Sanctuary  
February 22, 2002

Harlequin Intrigue returns to its roots in "Secret Sanctuary," an interesting, though uneven, modern gothic by Amanda Stevens. Moriah's Landing, Massachusetts has a dark and mysterious history reaching back to when witches were burned at the stake in the 1600s. Twenty years ago a serial killer swept through the town and was never caught. When Professor Elizabeth Douglas discovers the body of a young woman drained of blood, it appears to be starting again. Bodies begin to pile up and Elizabeth offers her help to police detective Cullen Ryan. Can this man she's always desired protect her when the killer comes after her?

For this reader and hopefully many others, "Secret Sanctuary" marks the beginning of a return to the kind of story Intrigue used to tell before the line became devoted to baby, cop and cowboy stories, when there was a real feeling of danger on every page and the stories were genuinely scary and suspenseful. It is reminiscent of Elise Title's Thornhill stories, also a New England college town with paranormal happenings, and the dark suspense of Jenna Ryan, Elaine K. Stirling and Bethany Campbell. Amanda Stevens has given many of her books a darker, almost gothic feel, so she seems like a good choice to begin this series.

Unfortunately, "Secret Sanctuary" is a book I wanted to like more than I did. I was thrilled to see Intrigue embracing so many paranormal and gothic elements again. But there are way too many of them. Witches, curses, ghosts, serial killers, mysterious recluses, isolated castles on cliffs, cults, secret societies, mad scientists. It's not a modern gothic. It's gothic stew. Somewhere along the line "Secret Sanctuary" lost all fictional believability for me and became a too obvious mishmash of all the weird themes Stevens (or since this is a multi-author series, the authors and their editor) could jam into one book. It stopped being suspenseful and started being silly. I could buy a town with a few extraordinary happenings but all this happening in one town? Eventually I had to roll my eyes and give up on even trying to believe a town like this could exist. It's interesting to note that, despite all the gimmicks, "Secret Sanctuary" is neither as gothic, atmospheric or suspenseful as another of this month's Intrigues, "Wedding Captives" by Cassie Miles. In that book, Miles takes one element, the isolated castle, and uses it to good effect. Here, the gothic overload lessens the effect.

"Secret Sanctuary" also suffers from the problem faced by most first books in a series. The author has to fit in so much information to set up the series that readers may be overwhelmed with information. Stevens stuffs huge chunks of information in at a time, not integrating it very well. The story comes to a stop, or takes a while to get going, because we're too busy being spoonfed information. The first few chapters are particularly overstuffed, and some readers may find themselves having to go back and reread passages to keep all the characters straight. With so much going on, the romance is shortchanged. While Elizabeth is an interesting, well-developed and unique heroine, Cullen is barely developed beyond what we learn about him in the first couple of chapters: former bad boy, now a cop. That's it. And the more unique and interesting part

of their conflict, that Elizabeth is a genius and Cullen always thought she was a know-it-all, is overshadowed by the more predictable rich-girl/poor-boy conflict we've seen before.

Once the story gets going, Stevens delivers her usual pageturner, although the effort to begin the series must not have left her much time to plot her mystery. The killer is surprisingly obvious for an author who is usually so good at keeping readers guessing. On a more positive note, the story is certainly never boring. Stevens pens several suspenseful sequences with Elizabeth in danger that are gripping. I love how the title is unique, not an attempt to show what hook this story uses (for instance, no mention of a cop hero) and actually has a meaning that is revealed in the story, like a great title should.

I do think Stevens did the best she could with a tough assignment. Since most of these elements are related to the other authors' books, she had no choice but to incorporate them. It does give me some hope that, with all of this out of the way, the next books will be able to tell their own stories and not fill every page with as much gothic weirdness as possible.

"Secret Sanctuary" isn't a great book. It is a fun and entertaining one that should leave readers waiting to see what happens next in Moriah's Landing.

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### **Wendy Sparrow says**

Probably 4.5 due to quick resolution of the conflict between the characters.

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### **Nikita (NjKinny's World of Books & Stuff) says**

*Can a place be evil?*

*Can it induce people towards crimes?*

*Are witches and ghosts real?*

Moriah's Landing, a small port town, looked ordinary at first glance. A small town where everyone knows everyone and where the major income is through tourism, one wouldn't suspect anything out of the ordinary ever happening but Elizabeth Douglas has always felt that something is just not right about the place. She feels the town's history of witches, warlocks, bulk assassinations of witches, legends of ghosts and the mysterious murders of four women twenty years before have lend the place an evil aura and she feels that she can feel the undercurrents of this evil.

Dr. Elizabeth Douglas, a genius, an expert in criminology, and a professor at Heathrow College, an all girls institution where she is no older than many of her student, is also haunted by a secret. Five years ago, when she and her friends were asked to spend a night in the local graveyard legendary for its ghost, McFarland Leary, her friend Claire was abducted and brutally tortured. Though Claire managed to escape but she lost her mind and has ever since been in an institution with no memory of what happened to her or who kidnapped her and Elizabeth has felt herself responsible for Claire's condition.

As if the unsolved and baffling murders of four women from twenty years ago plus the mysterious abduction of her friend Claire five years before were not enough, Elizabeth soon becomes the primary witness in two murders being the one who discovers their bodies, as if the murderer wanted it to be so.

Soon it becomes clear that the killer is targeting young women of Moriah's Landing and Detective Cullen Ryan begrudgingly turns to Elizabeth for help. Elizabeth has always been in love with Cullen but she was always a "scrawny" girl for Cullen, who was once a boy on the wrong side of the law as well as the town and who now has turned himself respectable, returning to Moriah's Landing as detective in the Moriah's Landing police department.

*But are these murders victims of the ghost said to rise every five years?*

*Are they somehow linked to the murders twenty years before or with the unsuccessful attempt on Claire five years ago?*

*Or are they just a thrill for some sick, madman?*

Now its up to Cullen and Elizabeth to solve the riddle of the murders, catch the killer before he gets to Elizabeth, who it seems is his next victim and also solve the mystery of their feelings for each other.

The introduction to the town of Moriah's Landing is unique and spine chilling. A fantastic start to a beautifully written multiple author series, Amanda Stevens succinctly builds an atmosphere of mystery with legends about witches, ghost stories where the ghost of McFarland Leary rises every five years to seek revenge, strange murders of the past and talks about secret societies of scientists conducting covert genetic experiments in Moriah's Landing.

The stage is set and the main characters introduced expertly for the successive books in the series. The author is able to weave together modern Gothic, mystery, romance, history, legends about witches, ghosts, futuristic genetic experiments, covert societies, a genius murderer and conflicts of the heart all together without confusing to give a book that is tastefully written and one that keeps us hooked till the end, leaving the reader excited to read the other books in the series.

A beautifully written book where myth and logic come together and we get a book that can be read any number of times. I give it a 4.5 out of 5 with a strong recommendation to read the book as well as the series.

This review is also available on my blog <http://njkinny.blogspot.in/>

Do visit my blog for more reviews. :)

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## **Pepa says**

En general ha sido entretenido, pero mucha tensión que se resuelve de forma rápida ya que estamos ante un relato corto

Lo que no me ha gustado: la edad de los protagonistas... ella 20 y él 24...Ella dando clases en la universidad gracias a que es una superdotada y él ya de jefe de policía. Lo siento.... no entiendo la necesidad Y la moral que hay detrás. Lo siento, no me gusta... Esa necesidad de protagonistas puritanas me repatea, lo admito

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## **Beth says**

It was an okay read. I just didn't feel a real love connection between them.

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