



Pay Dearly

M.S. Brannon

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“You see, Josslyn, murder is brash. It’s derived out of careless impulses, leading to a trail of mistakes and ultimately capture. It’s elementary and messy. But revenge … Revenge is entirely different, my dear. It’s methodical and gratifying. Revenge stews and festers as your mind has nothing to do except ingest the hate—to transform and become the hate. Revenge only seeks one outcome. It wants them to pay and pay dearly.”~Nikolai Petrov

To Nikolai Petrov, being a criminal was not a choice. It was a necessity. In and out of Russia’s deadliest prisons, he learned how to survive and ultimately flourish amongst the worst criminals the broken society has ever seen. He rose through the ranks, soon becoming a valued member of one of Russia’s most feared organizations—Vory V Zakone, Thieves in Law.

For Josslyn Stowe, growing up in a typical American household was not in her fate. She experienced her own tragedy after the murder of her father. Soon after, her life was set on a one track course, right down to her chosen profession as a third generation police officer. It did not take long for Josslyn to form a prestigious career. She owed her success to the unrelenting drive to do whatever it takes to capture the worst criminals.

It was the tragic murder of an unknown family that sent these two powerhouse individuals on a collision course toward their opposing fate. Their story soon becomes a cat and mouse thriller that will have you wondering if there is good versus evil, right versus wrong, and retribution versus justice. Or are we all merely a lesser version of those who stand next to us?

Pay Dearly Details

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Author : M.S. Brannon

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From Reader Review Pay Dearly for online ebook

Jenn Sut says

I was given an ARC in exchange for an honest review free of persuasion from the author or anyone else affiliated with this book.

WARNING ** CONTAINS**Adult content

WARNING CONTAINS**** Rape, violence

Jocelyn Stowe, a homicide detective enters a brutal crime scene. An entire family is killed and has the initial V carved into them. Jocelyn is used to violence. When she was younger, her family was attacked and her father was murdered. She now takes the brutal crime cases. This one seems more brutal than the rest. Before any progress is made on the case, Jocelyn discovers the v carved into a different victim. Now she knows she's dealing with a serial killer.

The book goes back and forth between Jocelyn's story and the story of Nikolai Petrov, between the law and the criminal. It is an interesting dynamic that helps flesh out both characters. Both characters have been wounded and have been through traumatic events, however they came out of these events differently. Both have protective walls surrounding them. The author draws on the similarities and differences between the characters to create a very descriptive and suspenseful first book in the series. I will definitely read the next one.

Maddie M1RiH says

I have not read a book like this in a Very long time and was very excited to review this book and Wow what a Book.

Reviewed for my blog.

This book is a truly wonderful artistic creative piece of work and had me gripping my kindle wondering what would be coming next.

This book had it all Action, Grittiness, twists, Hot Sparks & it's written to perfection.

I really enjoyed the characters they brought the whole story together.

This book kept me second guessing myself which I loved.

Josslyn was a strong woman who does her job to the point.

Nikolai is from a different background and fights for what he needs to do, even if it's breaking the law.

When they cross paths that's when I perked up and every thing just jumped 100% interesting and had me on hooks till the last page.

Truly amazing Triller and it's one I recommend you give it a try. Worth 5 Stars.

Lauren says

Pay Dearly is a gritty, on the edge of your seat thrill ride. As my first book by Brannon, I wasn't disappointed in the driving story line and characters. Josslyn is a career driven police officer who follows the law strictly. She wanted to honor her father's memory by policing the law and keeping other safe. Nikolai on the other hand, well, he's her polar opposite. Having to use the tools at his disposal from a shitty start in life, he turns to a life of crime.

Josslyn and Nikolai explode in fiery hot sparks when their paths collide. Intense isn't even close to describing this wild literary tale. So many times in this book, I thought I had everything figured only to be left shocked and wrong in so many ways. Having a degree in forensics and growing up with a police officer father, I didn't see half of the twists and turns coming. That is bar none the best compliant I could give a thrill novel. If you can stump me, you've written a great novel. This book is amazing and thriller romance fans will love Pay Dearly!

Ronnie says

Ok, I admit that I signed up for this book with the misconception that it was a paranormal book. I was incorrect. I am glad that I read this book. It is different from books I have read in the past. It is very dark and very violent. I enjoyed this book. There is a cat and mouse game of sorts being played between Josslyn and Nikolai. He does not realize that he is the girl he saw raped when she was 14. He was sent to her home as his initiation into the world of Russian Mafia. While he did not like the fact that she was raped he did make sure that she lived. He left her alive because he did not think it was right to kill a child. How ironic it is that this is the same girl whose life he saved many years before, that brings him down in the end. Josslyn does not realize who he is as of yet but there is a strong sexual connection between the two. Something they do not realize until the end of this book. This is the first in this series by MS Brannon. I have to say that despite the very dark and graphically violent nature of this book that I am looking forward to reading the rest in the series.

If you do not enjoy dark and violent stories with the rape and murder of children described in detail, I would not read this book. However the story is well written and I enjoyed the perspective change from Nikolai and Josslyn. their stories are told from their own perspective along a time line. it gets a little repetitive at the end but a nice touch. Good way to start the series, cannot wait for the next book!!

Meganm922 says

If you wondered what M.S. Brannon would do after her Sulfur Heights series came to an end, she has certainly shown that she isn't going to stop writing and that she's going to test herself as a writer by writing in various genres. I liked her contemporary romances, but this series is definitely way different. It's more suspenseful and violent than her other books, but with the same rawness and terrifying underbelly of society that I loved in her Sulfur Heights series. I enjoyed Pay Dearly and I have a great feeling that the series will improve even more with each installment as she gets comfortable in this new genre.

I loved the duel point of view layout of Pay Dearly. At first, we met Josslyn, a detective with a tragic and violent past, who couldn't be bought and fought against the seedy side of her town. We also met Nikolai

Petrov, a criminal from Russia who murdered people without hesitating, but had a revenge plan in place for those he used to work for after they wronged him.

Being a fan of M.S. Brannon, I'm used to duel POVs, but typically with those involved in relationships. In Pay Dearly, it seems we have two warring sides. Josslyn was actively chasing after Nikolai, believing him to be involved in a string of murders. But I can't help but wonder... will these two end up being on the same side?

I love that I'm kind of in uncharted territory here with the author because I honestly have no idea what she'll do with the plot and how it will all unfold. All I have is a handful of theories and I'm excited to find out what happens next.

My biggest complaint? I just want the next book.

Indies Heart says

M.S. Brannon has went above and beyond with this action packed thriller! I'd love to spend a day inside her head as she has one brilliant imagination. Josslyn is hunting a killer. The killer is hunting her. She stands between him and his revenge and there's no way Nikolai will allow that to happen. However, when he realizes just who she is, will the small part of him that is his softer side be enough to save her? Pay Dearly will grab you from page one and stay with you long after the last page. I am excited for book 2 to find out what happens next! This is a very well written story with a plot that has twist and turns and jaw dropping moments leaving you saying what the....??? Holy crap! Are you serious? Yes, I said all of those! I highly recommend this one to anyone who likes suspense with some steaminess thrown in! And did I mention the killer is pretty dang hot, you'll find yourself pulling for the bad guy!

Page Turners says

This story was hard and gritty but sexy at the same time. It actually begins earlier with the death of Josslyn's parents and her brutal rape by Russian mafia henchmen that leads us to the present day with Josslyn being a detective on the hunt for a killer. Nikolai is also hunting this killer to seek his revenge. There is an instant attraction between Josslyn and Nikolai but that is not the only thing they share. The past is about to catch up with both of them. I don't usually go for the dark romances but I am so glad I read this one. It was a romance but it unfolded like a thriller with suspense and drama at each turn. If this is the first book in the series, I cannot wait to see where the rest of this story is headed.

Michele says

MS Brannon is in her element with this dark, gritty and suspenseful book! You're taken on the ride of your life with Josslyn and Nikolai. But don't think you have everything figured out, because just when you think you do... BAM! MS Brannon pulls the rug right under your feet.

This has to be one of my favorites from MS Brannon. She does such an amazing job with the POVs in this book; you are never once lost on what's going on or who it is you're reading about. Though there is some time differences between the characters POV at times, MS Brannon keeps you just where she wants you. It's hard to find books that can keep up with the different POVs like MS Brannon can.

I'm very interested to see what happens next with Josslyn and Nikolai! Will these broken souls get the revenge they seek, man do I hope so! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a great psychological read! Seriously, once you start, you won't be able to put it down!

Kristin Campbell says

I loved how differently this was written from Brannon's other books. It was intense throughout and kept you assuming things, but not really knowing until the end. And the end...not what I saw coming.

The timetable she had was super cool! Loved that idea of hers! I can't wait to see where she goes next with this series.

Sassy Southern says

4 Stars

Josslyn Stowe is a 3rd generation police officer with a lot to prove after a past full of tragedy. She will never forget the night her father was killed or the men who tortured her family. Now has she investigates a new set of murders, her past is coming back to haunt her.

Nikolai Petrov has always been loyal to the Vory V Zakone, Thieves in Law, one of Russia's most notorious gangs but maybe all is not as it seems.

Josslyn and Nikolai begin to cross paths and it's personal between the two as both look to their pasts for strength and they are intertwined and someone out there knows the truth about a night gone wrong. Will either be able to escape their past and come out victorious?

I really enjoyed this book and was constantly at the edge of my seat wondering what was going to happen next. I loved the character of Josslyn and her strength to overcome her fears, although they are great and deservedly so. She has so many insecurities about letting people get close to her and it is so understandable with everything she has gone through in the past. I enjoyed her partnership with Gabe O'Connor and really would like to see where it leads.

The character of Nikolai is so complex as you really want to hate him but then as you gradually learn more I found I was questioning things which was awesome. He provided so much suspense and tension.

I really look forward to the next book in the series as I can't wait to see where the story goes!

Rebecca Austin says

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Christie72 says

One of the best dark, psychological books I have ever read. It grabbed me from the very first page and wouldn't let me go until I came to the end. Josslyn is a hard, tough police officer taking after her father. However, she was introduced to unspeakable depravity when she, her mother, and father were attacked in their home when she is just 14. It marked her for the rest of her life. She has worked her way up the ranks and has a distinguished career in law enforcement. She takes on the most heinous crimes, even some that men wouldn't be able to stomach. Nikolai is a hardened criminal who has spent years in one of the worst prisons in Russia just biding his time until he meets the man who put him there....ah revenge is sweet! Both of these strong, damaged souls don't know it yet, but they are on a collision course. The two have a past that is connected to one another, but they don't realize it. When these two collide, watch out, and make sure you aren't caught in the crossfire!

M.S. Brannon always seems to amaze me. This is sooo incredibly different than her other books. If you haven't read her, she writes romance, and some of her romance is really dark, but my God, she just blew me away with this one. Who knew she could write psychological suspense so well??? Holy crap, I thought I had something figured out, but I was wrong, dang it!!!! I loved the dual POV's, especially Nikolai. He was full of mystery and intrigue; I never could really figure him out. I want to be Josslyn; this woman rocks. I love

seeing a strong, badA## woman, and she definitely is that.

Be prepared to do nothing else once you start reading! I couldn't put my Kindle down. I had to know what Josslyn and Nikolai were going to do next. What an incredible cliffhanger! M.S. Brannon, we need the next book like right now. Another great book by the phenomenal M.S. Brannon!!!

Read for Devilishly Delicious Book Reviews

Nicole says

This book is probably one of the best revenge books out there!! i was so happy to get an ARC of this book! I've read plenty of books that involve revenge but never one strictly revenge! i absolutely loved this book! Definitely should be apart of your TBR list!!!

She Hearts Books says

I absolutely loved this dark and twisted tale of two people linked in a way they aren't aware of at first. She is a detective bent on capturing a devious killer and he is a man focused completely on revenge. Little did they know that their missions would intertwine and bring them to a place where all is bared and things blur. This was a story that had me on the edge of my seat wanting to know what would happen next and I couldn't put it down until the very end. I wanted more. I can't wait to read the next book.

I give Pay Dearly 5 hearts!

T, G & T's Indie Café says

First of all YOU had me up till the birds where chirping their lovely tune to greet me with the sun an all I could do was curl up more under my blanket to get the darkness cause she was in the room fighting him. Won't lie my sick a twisted mind wanted more to happen at that point. You had me on the edge during this whole entire read. I could not put it down.

When you first start reading you are in Joss's past where circumstances beyond her control take place. However the events that took place have made her who she is today which is a strong hard headed woman you do not want to mess with. She has subconsciously buried her past in order to move forward. Bringing us into present day what she thought she buried has now risen to the top due to murders that have taken place in her town. She is determined to see this case through no matter the expense it has on her personal well-being. Yet little does she know that these deaths that are accruing around her will impact the rest of her life....

Now bring forward sexy hot Nik with his twisted mind set (see we are a match made in heaven) that is focused on one thing a one thing only. KILL....kill the person who is responsible for putting him in jail. Kill the person that has made him the way he is today. Nikolai is not one to play around with. He did what he had to in order to survive the Russian streets that he had no choice to be on. As the years passed and he grew older he took an oath/pledge to do what needed to be done. Yet sadly during his time in jail things got out of hand that he now has to fix ASAP. With a one track mind on what needs to be done Nikolai gets to work.

However, the cop that is on his case is not letting him get to far ahead. This is not good so it must be fixed. Yet you see there is just one more tiny little problem. Nik for some strange reason he is pulled towards this cop and he cannot shake the feeling that he know s this cop.

What is going to happen? Will Joss be able to save the other people on Nik's list? Will he finally find out what it is that keeps pulling him away from doing harm to Joss? Will Nik finally get his revenge towards the man that did this to him? Will Joss be able to get those unanswered questions that she has been living with for so long?
