



# Deathblow

*Dana Marton*

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## **Deathblow** Dana Marton

Former small-town football hero turned cop, Joe Kessler never met a linebacker, perp, or a woman he couldn't handle. Then a troubled single mom walks into his life, and the only place this hot jock will ever see 'easy' again is in the dictionary.

Hiding out in Broslin, PA was working pretty well for Wendy Belle until Cop Casanova took her under his protection. Now she'll either lose her life to one man, or her heart to another.

## **Deathblow Details**

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Author : Dana Marton

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Contemporary Romance



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# From Reader Review Deathblow for online ebook

## Deb says

Joe has finally met his match!

Hometown football hero and Broslin police officer Joe Kessler has never been at a loss when it comes to finding a date. No women have been able to resist his charm and good looks...until Wendy.

Wendy Belle, single mother and model, pegs Joe as an arrogant jock. She does her best to ignore him, but he is rather persistent.

As we enter their world, Joe is undercover in Philadelphia. Only three people are privy to his real identity - His boss Captain Bing, police chief Gleason in Philly, and Joe. He has just been arrested with kid who is part of a gang - lil' Gomez. A rival gang decides to take both the two of them and the two police officers in the front seat of the cruiser out by pushing them off a bridge. Handcuffed and left in the car, he find himself forced to swim for his life - and that of the kid with him. Unfortunately, due to the frigidity of the water and the size (or lack thereof) of the log Joe catches for them to hang onto, Joe lets go of the log give lil' Gomez a chance. Oh, and one of the arresting cops is 'on the take'.

Wendy's entire world revolves around her son, until his father goes too far at the wrong time. Wendy's best friend Sophie is dating Broslin police captain Ethan Bing. Having arrived at Wendy's place just before things get a chance to get uglier, Kevin leaves and Sophie convinces Wendy to pack up her son Justin and herself and come to Broslin to stay at her place. After all, he house is available since she's moved in with Bing.

When a friend of Joe's is found murdered, Joe asks to be included in the investigation. Bing is hesitant, but makes a deal with him - if he does 'protection duty' by keeping an eye on Wendy and her son.

Wendy denies being abused in any way by Keith, Joe knows the signs well and is determined to keep her safe. Unfortunately, he has police duties to attend to! How can he keep her safe 24/7?

Can Joe keep her safe? Can Joe get enough information from the gang in Philly he infiltrated to stop a gang war? If not, will he live through it? Can Wendy break the hold Keith has on her? Is she willing to give Joe a chance? Oh, there is a BIG secret Wendy is keeping!

I, for one, LOVE Dana Marton's books. The suspense is always good, there is always something I never saw coming, and I have a very difficult time putting the book down to go to bed, work, etc!

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## Renee Entress says

My Review:

4.5 Star Review - DEATHBLOW Broslin Creek Series

I recommend this book.

As always I enjoyed the book by Dana she combines suspense with humor very nicely. This book includes drama, passion, attempted kidnapping, gunfire, betrayal and romance throughout the entire story.

Look forward to the next book in this series Due out in 2014:

Joe is on a undercover assignment that is going down hill fast. Once he makes it home he is assigned to protect Wendy. He met Wendy months ago and she has been in his head ever since.

Wendy is afraid of her ex. She just needs him to sign papers but instead he attacks her. She runs in fear of her life and the life of her son.

While Wendy and Joe dodge her ex. they are trying to figure out if they can have a relationship.

As the book continues Wendy becomes a stronger woman with Joe's help. Joe learns lessons about how to tread lightly so Wendy will let him into her life.

Fast paced action story. Just when you think you know what will happen Dana throws in a curve. Had a hard time putting the book down. Dana know how to keep you sucked in the story.

This was another awesome book in the Broslin creek series. I can't wait for the next book in this series.

\*\*\*\*\*I was gifted an ARC of this and enjoyed every second of this book. \*\*\*\*\*

It was a really great book you are going to love it.

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### **Cheryl says**

This was another good entry into this series. Joe Kessler is a police officer in Broslin. He's also the town's favorite son. He was a standout high school football player. He's really a great guy who is always working to make things better. Wendy Belle is a model who has a young son. The police captain asks Joe to play body guard for Wendy. She has an abusive ex-boyfriend who doesn't want to be ex. There is a lot of action in the book. The romance between Joe & Wendy is a joy to read. Both have things in their past that are roadblocks but they keep working through them. I enjoyed the ending.

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### **RiriRomantiques says**

I started reading reluctantly... The glimpses of Joe I saw in the other books made me think that he was too young and a total jock... maybe a little bit shallow and hollow... Well, that was what Dana wanted us to think of him, wasn't it ?

I didn't think much about Wendy either...

At the end I want to congratulate Dana for forcing my interest and my awe. Joe is funny, very thorough in doing his job and all convincing hero material.

Wendy started slowly on my observation but finished high on my sympathy meter.

Dana Marton's writing is not only about great characters and good plots, it's also about putting those characters in motion and letting them behave and think as heroically and romance-ly as you would have dreamt them to do.

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### **Esther Somorai says**

I won this book from the author through GoodReads, first-reads giveaway. Thank you.

I enjoyed this exciting, intense, gripping, police/crime/romance story with realistic real-to-life situations. Great interaction between characters. Wonderful, meaningful scenes and terrifying action throughout---just like watching a movie. This well-written story has a lot going on from the very first page to the last. Adult Only (for some sexual content.) Recommend

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### **Pamela(AllHoney) says**

The fourth addition to the *Broslin Creek* series by Dana Marton. We met both main characters in previous books in this series. Wendy Belle is Sophie Curtis' best friend. She has an ex-boyfriend, Kevin Kline, who is trying to get her back. He is abusive and she is scared he will attempt to take their son away from her. She accepts help from Broslin cop, Joe Kessler, when she moves temporarily into Sophie's house. Joe just came back from being undercover. Joe and Wendy had a one night stand about three months prior but it didn't go anywhere. Meanwhile, a friend of Joe's has been murdered. Joe is too close to the victim and not allowed to take the lead on the case but it doesn't stop him from trying to solve the case. And, of course, the undercover job isn't quite finished.

There was a lot going on and I will admit I got just a tad confused at first but it worked out in the end. This is not my favorite of the series but I did still like it. There were a few times I wanted to scream and slap Wendy around but I understand that the author was just trying to put Wendy in character. I'm not sure she totally succeeded but I give her points for it anyway. I would still recommend this series and even this book.

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### **Cynthia says**

Deathblow grabs you from the first page, keeps you on the edge of your seat in this fast paced action story. It leaves you with chills while keeping you grounded with heartwarming family warmth and sweet hot romance.

The author touches on a very serious issues abuse, control and power struggle, why taking a very serious issue seriously but puts humor into it. Wendy learns to laugh, tease, takes control and be herself again. This is a very touching story of taking her life back, finding the humorous side and learning to move on.

Wendy is trying hard to get away from Kevin and his abuse, while Kevin will not let her go and will do anything to keep her. No one but no one will have her if he can't, even if that means killing her. They have a child together Kevin isn't above using him to get his way. He uses everything from control, you can't make it without me, you are useless, your ugly, to fat and when all else fails he isn't above using his fists ...does this sound familiar? Anyone who has been in this type of relationship knows the signs, the pain, feelings of

useless, out of control, can't do anything right and yes of course it's my fault. Wendy has little or no friends, nowhere to turn she can't admit to what is going on. One friend is all it takes to help her find her way out. To give her hope and a new beginning, a new life, thus will lead her to a new man who will not only turn her life upside down but give it a new meaning.

In walks Joe, the home town hero, player who hasn't found a woman he can't walk away from. Joe meets his match with Wendy, she doesn't need him, doesn't want him. What a blow to his ego, after a one not stand many months ago he can't get her out of his head. When friends lead him to the abused Wendy the cop in him takes over. He must protect her and her son while keep them alive all while he works on his other cases. Will he be able to protect her and walk away when everything is said and done?

When Wendy's brakes gave out, her car hanging between two trees your heart just about stopped. Can Joe get to her in time and get them out alive? Can he find out who is trying to kill her, find Kevin and have him locked up for a very long time? Along with this he must find out who killed his friend, and he must take down a gang. The action never stops you will not be disappointed in this mystery, action packed, suspense romance.

This was a book I didn't want to put down, I wanted, I needed to know what happen next. It is a book you will not want to end and you will want to read the whole series of Broslin Creek. I look forward to reading more heartwarming, soul searching books from this author.

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## **Cindy ~ says**

From the splash of the opening scene you're taken on a ride of multiple plots in this latest in the Broslin Creek series. I think the author must love the challenge of not just writing two suspenseful plots in one book but adds a third to keep you on your reading toes throughout the book. She does such a fabulous job of making these things all look like they have nothing in common and leaves you wondering where on earth she is going with things but never fear by the end she pulls all those plot points together.

Joe Kessler is a police officer with Broslin PD but lately has been doing undercover work in the next county trying to bring down rival gangs. When he's nearly killed and injured he's given some time off. But a couple of things interfere with that. One is an old friend is found murdered.

Wendy Belle is in an abusive relationship with the father of her young son. When her friend Sophie Curtis (from Deathtrap) shows up right as things are escalating again she agrees to go with Sophie back to Broslin. Wendy and Joe had a one night stand three months ago and haven't seen each other since so when Joe is assigned to watch her these two have a lot to work out all while trying to keep Wendy safe from her ex, figure out who murdered Joe's friend and try and stop a gang war from happening.

I appreciated that the author chose to write Wendy in all the stages of an abused woman. First in denial but clearly having the classic self image issues and thinking she deserved or must have done something to provoke the abuse to realizing she needed to make big changes in her life and figure out who she was and what she wanted to be.

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## **Linda says**

His last encounter with Wendy... Hell, she'd been the one to hurt his feelings.

The best sex of his life, and she'd kicked him out as soon as it was over, told him not to bother with calling because it was strictly a one-time thing. Told him, actually, while he'd still been inside her.

He groaned at the memory as he slipped behind the wheel, turning on the heat the second he had the engine started.

His day was shaping up to be an ass kicker. Which was saying something, considering that the day before included his arrest, a concussion, and a near drowning.

DEATHBLOW by Dana Marton is a very good romantic suspense read! It's the fourth book in Dan's Broslin Creek series. Each book in this series features a different officer in the small town Broslin Police Department as a lead character and each has their own stories, so any of them can easily be enjoyed as a standalone out of series order. DEATHBLOW is a fast-paced, intensely realistic, action-packed thriller with a compelling romance featuring Wendy Belle as the damsel in distress heroine and Joe Kessler as the sexy law enforcement hero.

My full review has been posted to Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Check it out here:  
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>

4 Wines Glasses!

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## **Lisa Butz says**

The difference between liking and loving this book rests with the type of heroine you prefer. If you like women who are "learning to love again", then Wendy is your girl. However, if you like women who fight on the front lines, and only turn to the man, when their ammunition has run out, then you will be frustrated with Wendy.

That was my problem-I like the second type of heroine. She redeems herself, eventually, but you have to hang in there for her evolution.

Contrast that with the hero-Joe. Granted, he's tortured by an undercover mission gone wrong, but he establishes himself right from the outset as a guy to root for.

The author did a terrific job of thrusting both characters into dramatic situations immediately. Many authors like a long lead line, before the plot explodes. It was their reaction to their individual situations that caused me to empathize more with Joe than Wendy. I understand the "damsel in distress" trope, and I realize that for many women in similar situations, she will seem heart-breakingly real. I felt that in today's technology fueled age, she had many options available to assist her, and she came across as too trapped.

The mysteries were excellent. The plot did not feel overcrowded. In fact, they helped distract me from Wendy, even if you don't particularly like her; it's impossible to quit the book and deprive yourself of finding out how they are resolved.

I would like to thank the author for giving me an ARC. This isn't going to be my favorite book in the series,

but it was a page turner, and I definitely want to avail myself of prior and future series installments.

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### **Bette Stanek says**

4 stars for a good "things aren't always what they seem" story. This and book two of the Broslin Creek series are my faves. There are many levels to this book and Dana Marton seamlessly weaves them together. You actually get three plots in one book with this one, but you never lose track of any of them.

Wendy was introduced in book three, she's Sophie's BFF. Joe has been around since book one, he's one of Broslin PD's finest, a hometown hero. Wendy sees Joe as a womanizer. Every single time she's seen him he has women hanging on him or waiting to hang on him. It's actually pretty disgusting. Joe, of course, thinks it's the greatest thing ever. Joe sees Wendy as a typical model, a pretty package, but not much else. They are both soooooo wrong.

Nothing is at it seems. Wendy is fighting demons, one of which is her abusive ex. She's alone and vulnerable with a lack of confidence. She's trying to be the best mom she can possibly be for her two year old son, Justin. She's also trying to find a way out of her relationship with Keith. Moving didn't seem to work. There's more depth to Joe than most people see. He's not really the happy-go-lucky guy with a pretty face who can get any girl he wants. He isn't a player. He's totally dedicated to his town and the people living there.

This book grabs you from the first paragraph and the action doesn't let up until the last. A fast paced read with plenty of action, likable characters and tense moments. Bonus is that it's filled with characters from the other Broslin Creek books!

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### **Linda says**

The first chapter of Deathblow hooks you in with unrelenting excitement as you meet the two main characters: Joe Kessler, an undercover cop, caught in a gang related car chase and trapped in the back of a police cruiser which is currently sinking rapidly in the Schuylkill River; and Wendy Belle, unwed mother of a two year old and trapped in a physically abusive relationship with her baby's father. The story brings these two together in the town of Broslin Creek, a familiar setting for three other Dana Marton novels. It also brings back cameos of other Broslin Creek characters, including Captain Bing and Sophia. Nonstop action as well as a touch of romance all play out in this latest Death installment. Disclosure: I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Dee says**

#### **Dazzling Death Blow**

Officer Joe Kessler meets the woman of his dreams, and loses her before he ever really had her. His life just isn't the same and the women who want him just don't appeal to him any longer. Wendy. A model, perfect, put together, and she doesn't want him. Little did he know that behind closed doors life wasn't so perfect for her either. They are thrown together again when she and her young son are put into protective custody and



Joe is asked to step in to help with the protection detail. Life gets a little crazy after that, and what a ride it is.

I'm giving this story 4.5 stars. The action was believable, well thought out, and lively. The plot is tight and keeps you in suspense right up until the end. The characters sizzle and the tension keeps you on a thin wire. I received an advance copy in return for a fair and honest review.

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## **Derenda E. says**

Deathblow- A Broslin Creek Novel by Dana Marton.

THIS IS THE BEST WORK I'VE EVER READ BY MISS MARTON! The dynamic storyline with twists and turns had me yelling, "ARE YOU FREAKIN KIDDING ME? SERIOUSLY, DID NOT SEE THAT COMING!" I smiled. I cried. I yelled. I did not feel like a reader, because the character development was so superb in Deathblow, I felt ALL the pain, the blows, the anguish, and the family and friend relationships. This story put me on a journey that was intense from Page one. This book, folks, is not for the faint of heart! As an avid reader, this is TOP NOTCH work from an Author that never lets me down.

The story takes place on the East Coast, with many different aspects. I was shocked how well they interworked. Amazingly, the story line range of gangs, homicide, tragedy, family, friends, humor and sex, combined with accurate statistics giving this story such creditability and time line of realism plaguing our society.

The main male character is Joe Kessler. He's a police officer assigned to the Gang division. He assists with a homicide that has close connections to his department. He is a former local football hero, favorite with the ladies, and has compassion to help "those" kids. The ones often overlooked in this world.

The female lead is Wendy Belle. She is a model, single Mother, trying to escape an abusive ex-boyfriend. I enjoyed seeing Wendy discover her strength and determination to provide for herself and her son, Justin. I admired how she just didn't give in and let another Alpha male take control of her life. That was a refreshing aspect to the story!

The abusive ex, Keith Kline, is a really well written character with severe physiological control issues. Miss Marton's depiction of accuracy with his thoughts and actions are all too frighteningly real!

This emotional and intense reading ride has left me exhausted! Miss Marton has completely out done herself with Deathblow. I am glad I have a week until Christmas. I just might need the week to recover! Folks, this is what GREAT WRITING IS LIKE!

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## **E. says**

4.5 stars

“Deathblow” by Dana Marton is the exciting fourth book in the enthralling ‘Broslin Creek’ series. Officer Joe Kessler is juggling many things in his life, his undercover assignment that results in his being handcuffed in a car that is forced off the road, his love life that gives him his well-deserved reputation as a ladies’ man, a murder investigation that involves a friend and a favor that he agrees to do even though he is slightly discomfited by the idea. Model and single-mother Wendy Belle struggles to cope with the abusive behavior of her child’s father but is unwilling to accept that she needs protection against him, despite her friend Sophie’s pleading. Wendy and Joe have a past connection but they are uncomfortable when forced into proximity and subsequent developments increase the tension as well as the danger to each of them, physically and emotionally, and it is questionable whether they will both survive to explore a deeper connection.

This compelling series continues to provide exciting and suspenseful tales as it expands to include various characters associated with the Broslin Creek police department. The gripping introduction to the hero’s predicament is contrasted with the sobering experiences of a woman who has to learn that she deserves better in life. There are several different threads deftly woven together as the tension escalates and danger threatens both of the main characters and the light relief provided by Wendy’s adorable son and the furry secondary characters is a welcome counterpoint. The sensual connection between Joe and Wendy provides delicious heat and their poignant experiences together enhances the relationship that develops. There are a couple of places where credulity is a bit stretched but the overall story is a wonderful rollercoaster of a read and an excellent addition to the series. I continue to be impressed at the author’s ability to write a mesmerizing tale and advise you not to start the story unless you have time to finish it because you won’t want to put it down. Can’t wait for the next story involving these charismatic inhabitants of Broslin Creek.

submitted to Night Owl Reviews

A copy of this title was provided in exchange for an honest review

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