



A Stranger She Can Trust

Regan Black

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In *USA TODAY* bestselling author Regan Black's new Escape Club Heroes thriller, a guarded man builds a future with a woman without a past...

Outside of one of Philadelphia's busiest nightclubs, a woman stumbles from her taxi. Beaten and bruised, Melissa Baxter is an amnesiac with a target on her back. Gun-shy, Melissa relies on a handsome hero to help her uncover who she really is.

Carson Lane—a paramedic with his own dark history—can't help but bring this beautiful, vulnerable woman under his wing. Still reeling from his partner's murder, he's no stranger to risk. But as he and Melissa begin unraveling the mystery of who she really is, Carson realizes falling in love could be the biggest risk of all.

A Stranger She Can Trust Details

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Author : Regan Black

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From Reader Review A Stranger She Can Trust for online ebook

Susan says

Very good book, action filled from the beginning and terrific romance to go with it. Carson is a paramedic who is on medical leave after being injured in an attack that killed his partner. He is suffering from guilty feelings that he should have been able to do something to save her. To cope, he keeps himself busy, working construction during the day and at the Escape Club at night. The club is one of Philly's hottest night spots. It is also a haven for those in need. One night Carson witnesses a badly beaten and bruised woman stumble from a taxi, he steps in to help.

Lissa can't remember anything before exiting the cab and falling into Carson's arms. She hurts, she's terrified, and she absolutely does not want to go to the hospital. She feels safe with Carson and is willing to let him watch over her. She accepts his assurances that her memories will return.

I loved Carson and Lissa. I ached for him and his unhappiness. He's depressed, just going through the motions to get through each day, and reliving the attack, wondering how he could have stopped it. His training kicks in to help Lissa when she arrives at the club, but he's reluctant to take charge of her care after that. Grant insists and it isn't long before something about Lissa reaches past the darkness that consumes him. As her memories begin to resurface it becomes apparent that she is in danger, and protecting her gives him a purpose. Though lost and terrified at the beginning, Lissa still shows an amazing amount of inner strength. As her memories begin to return, she has immense sorrow to deal with, as well as the growing knowledge that she is still in danger. Through it all, she tries to focus on the positive memories of her friend, and stay confident that the truth will be discovered. I also loved seeing her deal with her parents, who were so incredibly oblivious to how fantastic she is.

I really enjoyed the development of their relationship. Carson is a kind and compassionate man, and I loved seeing his care of Lissa. From the comfort of the food he cooks for her, to the loan of his sisters' clothes, to just being there when the memories and the grief hit, he is just what she needs. I loved his protectiveness as the danger escalates. From the moment she met him, Lissa instinctively trusted Carson, and the feeling of safety helped with her healing. In her own grief and sorrow, she recognizes the same in him. I loved seeing her return the comfort, and how she helped him see that he had no reason to feel guilty. Underneath their growing connection was also a simmering attraction that continued to build. There are some sweet and sexy scenes as that attraction pulls them closer together. I loved Carson's big moment at the end - so romantic!

The action and suspense of the story kept me hooked from beginning to end and well past when I should have been asleep. As Lissa's memories begin to return, more questions are raised about why she wasn't killed along with her friend Noelle. Especially as several attempts are made on her life. Then a possible link is discovered between the death of Carson's partner Sarah and that of Noelle. Were they guilty of something terrible, or is there more to the story? The final confrontation at the end was intense, and I wasn't sure how they were going to get out of it safely. I have to say that the revelation of who the bad guy was came as a complete surprise to me.

Lynn Brooks says

The intrigue starts immediately and keeps us wondering who the bad guys are, and whether Carson and Lissa

will make it out alive to pursue the relationship they are so obviously headed for! Great characters, an exciting story line and lots of who-dunnit to ponder on!

On-leave paramedic Carson Lane is taking on whatever work he can to keep him busy while he mourns the horrific death of his partner and tries to get back enough of his nerve to get back to work full-time. He's heading out from a night working at the Escape Club when a taxi pulls up and leaves off an obviously beaten woman who can barely stand.

Melissa Baxter has no clue who she is, or what happened to her, but she somehow has the info to come to the club for help. Carson and his boss set out to help her figure out where she came from that night and who she is. Once memories start to surface and she knows the basics, they set out to find out what happened to the friend who was with her that night, and what the big cover-up is all about.

Elizabeth Neal says

Two hundred fifty-four. That's how many days it's been since Carson lost his best friend and partner, Sarah, during a shift, and it still haunts him. He's not ready to resume his paramedic job full-time, but instead covers from time to time as well as working two other jobs. One of those is at the Escape Club, owned by Grant, a former cop, a place with a reputation for helping those in need. When Carson sees a woman arrive, sensing she's in trouble, he doesn't hesitate to step in, instinctively knowing why she's there.

"I don't know." She only knows she can't go to a hospital, Carson and Grant, are helping her, and she hurts...that's the extent of her brain at this moment. She also feels, though she can't explain why, that she can trust Carson and is thankful he'll be watching over her, monitoring her injuries.

"Carson. He had a crisp , honest scent. The scent of safety, she thought." - Jane Doe

When they learn her identity, it's with tragic consequences as they've placed her with a friend and co-worker, Noelle, whose body was just found that morning. Though she now knows her name, Melissa, she feels no connection to it, nor does it trigger any memories, and the question remains how did she acquire her injuries and does it have anything to do with Noelle's death? Thankfully, Lissa, as she remembers she prefers to be called, begins to recall parts of her life, including some of the details of Noelle's death and how she herself was injured.

"Once she was out of this trouble, they'd go their separate ways, and it wasn't likely their paths would cross again. It was common sense, yet it left him feeling hollowed out." - Carson

Though Carson is happy that Lissa is remembering, he has to admit, at least to himself, that he has mixed emotions about it as well. As Carson and Lissa spend more time together while her case is ongoing, it strengthens their connection, and that's not the only thing growing between them.

But what happens when Lissa is in danger once again? Can Carson keep her safe? What does Lissa's plight have to do with what happened to Carson and Sarah? Did Carson and Lissa truly know those closest to them? Is it a coincidence? Can Carson move forward with his life? Or will his guilt and self-doubt keep him from finding peace? Is Lissa an emotional reaction to not being able to save Sarah? Or has he found the person to bring him back to life? Will Lissa ever regain her memory from that night? Will the cops discover what happened to Noelle and Lissa? Are Carson and Lissa's feelings for one another real or merely a product of

the situation? Will Carson and Lissa get a HEA?

One-click now and follow along as a man who can't forget, falls for a woman that would do anything to remember. For those who are curious like I was, no, Carson and Sarah were only ever friends. While this is part of a series, I was able to read this as a standalone, though I am purchasing the previous titles immediately.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Books and Spoons says

First I just want to mention how much I love and admire the concept of the book series, the Escape Club, and what they do and how they help people in dire straits. It was inspiring and uplifting to read about these amazing heroes and heroines, and it put a fire in my mind to do something to make a difference.

The story flows effortlessly off the pages and mesmerized my mind. The constant elevated tension from the amnesia, barely surviving the vicious attacks, the growing attraction between the protagonists, and the deep sorrow of losses they have faced, the personal struggles they are battling, it all makes the story impossible to put down.

Carson Lane won my heart over repeatedly with his protective, humble, and kind nature. His willingness to put everything in to help others was admirable. The fact that he is not perfect, or that he does not see himself as perfect, made him even more attractive. His gentle, tender side with Lissa was so sweet, yet the heat between them had me fanning the air because the sweetness and loving were mixed with burning desires and delicious spiciness.

Melissa Baxter seemed to be the perfect mate to Carson, they balanced each other, there was harmony between them, they made me smile. The trust between them was solid even though fast to built. Even amongst all the drama and trouble, danger and fear, they manage to hold on to a resemblance of normality, they were supportive of each other, encouraging and understanding. Yes, they had me swooning when they danced together.

The suspense had me on my toes. The way everything was twined together in the bigger picture as the plot was unveiling was well played and sketched. As much as I read, it is a rare occasion that I would not change anything in the plot, but here I loved each moment, every scene, and how the events played off as I was glued to the story, inhaling the tale. Loved it.

~ Five Spoons

Cindy Reifel says

Carson is a paramedic who lost his partner and best friend 8 months ago when they ended up in the crossfire while answering a 911 call. He's been working and spending a lot of time at the Escape Club since then. Melissa stumbles out of a cab into the Escape club with evidence she's been severely beaten and with no memory.

The two are paired together by the Escape Club owner so Carson can protect Melissa until she regains her memory or the police figure out what happened and why someone is still after her. This was a very fast-paced, keep you on your toes story that I really enjoyed reading!

4 stars

Heat Level 3

Monique says

Carson Lane has been on medical leave for almost nine months from his job as paramedic, he also helps out at a friend's bar, the Escape Club, which also serves another purpose, that of a safe house and more to people in distress. Carson has been existing in a very dark place since his friend and partner Sarah died on the job; he blames himself, he keeps looking for the mistake he must have made. Late on Friday evening, as he's taking out the trash, Carson sees a woman stumble out of a cab, bruised and obviously in great distress. The caregiver that he is kicks in, and Carson takes her in the club. The woman, whose name he will learn later on is Melissa Baxter, whose friends call Lissa, and she can't remember a thing, only that she doesn't want to go to a hospital and that she is terrified. Carson recognises the signs of trauma-induced amnesia; he knows she will probably remember everything in due time, so Carson tells his boss at Escape that he will keep an eye on Lissa for the night. However, it turns out to be much longer than that, because someone is trying to get to her...

What a terrific book this is! I thrive on amnesia tropes, and *A STRANGER SHE CAN TRUST* is as good as they come! Ms. Black obviously did a lot of serious research on the subject, and it made the story even more captivating, as Lissa's memory came back in an entirely believable way. Carson is depressed, he doesn't feel he has much to live for, and yet keeping this woman safe gives him a purpose, and again the author's understanding of survivor guilt is riveting. Every character is sharply drawn, and Carson and Lissa are amongst the most realistic protagonists I have come across in a good while. Regan Black's sense of balance is impeccable, as a steady pace is maintained throughout the book, the dialogues are easy as Carson and Lissa eventually slip into companionable chitchat. The author's prose is simply spectacular: Ms. Black possesses a stellar vocabulary, which she uses to tremendous effect in flawlessly constructed sentences, making the narrative enthralling. Ms. Black's writing is so smooth, nuanced and yet crisply descriptive; it is a thing of beauty, and still her wonderful style never distracts from the intricate and superbly crafted plot.

The suspense side is impeccable, the story captivating from page one, and the romance unfolds organically; while the sex scenes are not explicit, they are beautifully done and perfectly in tune with the tone of the book. I cared for Carson and Lissa, I wanted them to be safe and happy together, I was invested in the story and their relationship. Simply put: *A STRANGER SHE CAN TRUST* is just about as good as it gets when it comes to romantic suspense; this is a book that should not be missed, and it comes with my highest recommendation: absolutely fantastic!

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

Sarah says

Thank you for the ARC of *A Stranger She Can Trust* (Escape Club Heroes #2) by Regan Black that I read and reviewed.

I really enjoyed this book. I loved both Carson and Lissa as people and even more as a couple. The story was really well written and thought out and very enjoyable and moved along at really great pace.

If you enjoy books that have strong heroes and equally strong women this book is a book for you. I am not going to get into spoilers or recap the story again but I will tell you that this book is packed full of action

from the start and also has its fair share of romance in it as well. It is a great read that I was not able to put down.

I am giving A Stranger She Can Trust four out of five stars.

Jo Ann Reinhold says

I was so lucky to get an early copy of this book and Regan ALWAYS wants an honest review!

This series has so much heart and this book brings it up another level.

Carson Lane is facing a crisis of his own when Melissa Baxter stumbles out of a taxi outside the Escape Club where he is working. Obviously beaten and in need of help, she has no memory of what happened to her and is terrified to go to a hospital for the medical attention she needs. It becomes up to Carson, who is a paramedic, to tend to her wounds and try to help her. The dark truth to her attack will tie these two together in ways they couldn't expect!

Regan has such a wonderful writing style that both captures the intensity of the situation in the plot and the complexity of her characters and their emotions!

Five Stars Regan! I can't wait for more of these heroes!

Amy Shelton says

Independent Reviewer for Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!

This was a great suspenseful, sweet, interesting book! The story line flowed extremely well and kept my attention from start to finish. It was full of great, strong, loving characters.

As this book is part of a series, I have to note, it is definitely a standalone book, part of a series. I think you could benefit from reading them all in order, but it isn't necessary and doesn't affect the book you're reading if you haven't read the others.

These characters are incredible. They are strong, broken, loving, caring, men and women. They are fierce protectors and even bigger lovers. They protect what is theirs to protect and open their lives to protect others.

One thing I thoroughly enjoyed while reading this story were the constant curve balls I felt were thrown my way. Every time I felt like I kind of had it figured out there was something new thrown in the mix. I think the author really did a great job writing a story with intense details and descriptions that keeps you on your toes.

I would definitely recommend reading this series. It was an enjoyable read and one I'm glad I had the opportunity to read!

* A copy of this book was provided to me with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book, and my comments here are my honest opinion. *

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Melody-rose Parker says

I was given an ARC of this book, and this is my honest review.

I feel very honored to be given the opportunity to review A Stranger She Can Trust, Book 2 in the Escape Club Heroes series. The overall concept of challenged law officers and first responders helping others in their off time, while they personally heal, is unique and interesting. The Escape Club Heroes is romantic suspense at its best!

Our heroine, Melissa Baxter, comes into the Escape Club, beaten and bruised, with amnesia. The only identifiers she has are the match book from the Escape Club and a fear of hospitals. When Melissa stumbles into the arms of Carson Lane, a paramedic who is recovering from the murder of his longtime partner, the fast-moving plot begins. As Carson helps Melissa, will she remember who she is and what dangerous problems brought her to the Escape Club? Is this a turning point for them? Can they fall in love while they unwind the danger?

I always love Regan's character development. I care about the people she writes about, want to see them overcome their challenges. Regan also always gives us a fast-moving plot with plenty of twists and suspense.

But, what I even like more about Regan's writing is her mastery of wordsmithing. Since I read 2-3 books every day, this is important to me. When I read a book, and the grammar and spelling is correct, and the words fit the genre and plot, I see the work of an author worth her salt. Regan also is very generous with her readers and encourages other writers.

Thank you, Regan, for A Stranger She Can Trust. I predict more 5* ratings!

Anita Hayes says

This is the next book in the Escape Club Heroes and as I got an advance copy and have read it, I can honestly say, this is as good if not better than the last one. Unraveling a mystery and their own selves, you are hooked in from the beginning and I found that once I started reading it, I could not put it down til it was finished. As I am the first reviewers, I did not want to spoil it for you all but I highly recommend you go get it when it comes out. You will not be disappointed.

Mary Lawson says

A Stranger She Can Trust
Regan Black

She can't remember what happened to her, but she knew it was horrible! How did she get to the Escape Club? How did she know about? Where did she get the matches with 'Alexander' written on it? Carson and Grant knew what 'Alexander' meant, but could she trust them? Will Alissa be able to find out and survive both emotionally and physically? You really have to read this to find the answers to these questions. It grabs you and won't let go until the surprising end.

Can the horrible tragedies be overcome. Only reading it will let you know.

Jessica Figueroa says

Carson used to be a paramedic, and is dealing with the grief of the murder of his partner while on duty. In comes Melissa missing her recent memories with bumps and bruises and Carson is there to help her out. When the body of her friend showing up dead and people out to get Melissa they need her to recover her memories and find out why she is a target before she gets killed.

I really enjoyed this book, if I'm honest though all it was the hott dude on the cover that drawn my eyes. Then when I saw romantic suspense, I knew this book would be right up my alley and I had to get my hands on this book. Overall it was pretty great, suspenseful. I had a hard time putting the book down, and it was a pretty quick read. It only took me maybe 2 hours or so to read this book. I loved the whole mystery of what was really going on, questioning what shes not remembering, and wondering when the person might strike next. Overall this was a great book I really enjoyed it!

Harlie Williams says

Oh, my. I haven't read a Romantic Suspense from Harlequin in a while and I'm sure glad that I read this one. Ms. Black blew me away with Lissa and Carson. The suspense was there in spades. The action/danger...check. The romance...not so much as a traditional romance but the respect, ying and yang of them...you bet. Let me try to explain.

In romantic suspense, there are no flowers, unicorns or normally dating per se. Ms. Black knows this but it's the little things that Carson would do for Lissa. His sister's clothes for instance. The oil that she needed to help her heal. The comfort food. It all added up to be romantic. Lissa's gestures of cooking, never giving him an inch when it came to his abilities to help other help and his paramedic skills. Plus, the boldness that Lissa had in the truck. Delicious, in my book. It showed a side of her that I didn't expect and it was welcomed.

I won't go into the plot of the book but I will say that I loved that Carson's partner, Sarah and Lissa's friend, Noelle were connected. You have to read the book to find out how but it made the plot that much richer. It was almost like Carson and Lissa were destined to meet in a sense. *wink* Which, by the way, the plot was just too engrossing for me. I never did figure it out until Ms. Black spelled it out for me. Normally, I can figure it all out but not with this one.

I also liked the whole Escape Club. Grant is awesome and I need to go back and read the other stories in the connected series. The whole idea that the club is the central point intrigues me. I haven't read a connected romantic suspense series in a while and I will definitely be picking this one up. Ms. Black kept me on my toes with how she plotted out this story. The pacing is great, the characters wonderful, even if Lissa's parents weren't, and the action wasn't too over the top.

If you haven't discovered Harlequin's Romantic Suspense line. You should. When I read Ms. Black's backlist I about died. She's written with Debra Webb. SQUEE!!!! She's written in the Colby's world. *thud*
