



## Hope Restrained

*M.S. Willis*

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She was meant to be his assassin  
A forced player in a rivalry within The Estate  
Yet her loyalty was to no person but herself  
When Hope is taken captive by Xander Black  
She becomes the one thing that can ensure Aaron's reign

Raised within a rival crime network, Hope Delacroix wanted nothing to do with The Estate. A fierce warrior, Hope is given no choice but to kill Aaron Carmichael. Caught in her attempt, Hope is captured by Aaron's top guard in an effort to discover who sent her.

Ever loyal and protective, Xander Black's sole objective is to defend Aaron and Maddy. Willing to do whatever is necessary, Xander gives in to darkness in order to force information out of Hope.

As Xander enslaves Hope to break her down completely, he learns that in the two years since Joseph Carmichael's death, dissension still exists within The Estate.

“I find it ironic that your name is Hope...especially considering that you have none.” ~ Xander Black

## **Hope Restrained Details**

Date : Published January 30th 2014 (first published January 27th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : M.S. Willis

Format : 300 pages

Genre : Dark, Erotica, Bdsm, Romance, Adult Fiction, Adult

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## From Reader Review Hope Restrained for online ebook

**Katie says**

### **4.5 YOU TASTE LIKE MY DESTRUCTION STARS**

Okay so I have to admit that I have been holding off reading this book since reading Madeleine Abducted a few months ago. The reason? I LOVED Madeleine Abducted and I was SO nervous that this book wouldn't do the first one justice...and let me tell you...it TOTALLY did.

**Hope**...talk about a BAD-ASS heroine. Coming into The Estate, she was the complete opposite of Madeleine. Hope enters The Estate with the hopes of killing Aaron.

*"Her name is Hope Delacroix, and when she entered the walls of The Estate stronghold, she was not like most women going in as a slave...She was going in as a warrior."*

Bad men were holding her sister, Honor, captive and the only way to get her back was to assassinate him. Her plan backfired and she was captured by Aaron's best friend, Xander.

Assigned with the job to get information out of Hope as to why she attempted to murder his best friend, **Xander** finds himself drawn to this lethal beauty. Both had an inner dark side that they are both struggling with to contain and OMG when they come together- it is SO DAMN HOT. Seriously, the sex scenes between Aaron and Madeleine in the first book are NOTHING compared to these two.

Soooooo....If you enjoyed reading Madeleine Abducted and often wondered more about what lurks in the mind of Aaron's sexy and mysterious best friend, then you **must** read this book. Action packed like you wouldn't believe! Sex scenes that were so hot and steamy, that I literally had to take off my sweatshirt while reading! A kick-ass heroine and a sexy alpha! What more could you ask for?!

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**Angie \*\*loves angst\*\* says**

So all my friends are reading ARCs of this and I'm sitting here like:

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## **Kimber Dawn says**

Wow... I'm, shit... \*bows before M.S. Willis\* My queen, please, please forgive my ignorance. For I know it may seem that I am at fault for not believing in your utter exquisitely masterful ability to keep your readers attention in not only the first two books, but THE THIRD BOOK AS WELL?!?!? As I said Ms. Willis, please excuse my lack of intelligence. It has been, I fucking shit you not, YEARS, since a series has not only maintained my attention but kept me hungry, story after story and delivered EVERY damn story with the expertise precision that you've yet again knocked my ass into sub stance with. \*Slow claps\*... Now, what corner do you want me to stand on in order to pay my dues and get to beta read Honor Bound

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## **Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says**

**Book** – Hope Restrained (The Estate #2)

**Author** – M. S. Willis

**Publication Date** – January 30, 2014

**Type** – Part of Series – No Cliffhanger

**Genre** –Romance, Dark

**Rating** – 5 out of 5 Stars

*Book provided by Author (after I stalked and begged) in exchange for an honest review.*

### **Reading Order**

Joseph Fallen (The Estate, #0.5) – Daddy O

Madeleine Abducted (The Estate #1) – Aaron and Maddy

Hope Restrained (The Estate #2) – Xander and Hope (release Jan 30)

Honor Bound (The Estate #3) – Jason and Honor (release in 2014)

### **Review**

I went into this book with a heavy heart after reading some of the reviews on Goodreads. Another reason is that I didn't rate Madeleine Abducted high and thought this was going to be another so-so book for me. See, it was JaHy that emailed me and begged me to try and get an ARC for StarAngels' Reviews because of her love for the first 2 books. I took on that challenge and with the help of my buddy Feifei...I was able to contact Ms. Willis and beg her for a copy to review.

I had another prior engagement for a tour review, so I let JaHy read it first for the blog. My heart dropped when she emailed me that she wasn't feeling it like the others. Now normally, her and I agree on ratings for the most part so I was beginning to get an anxiety attack thinking we were both going to rate this book in the middle, and possibly hurt some feelings. You have to understand that every time I get an ARC to read directly from the author – it pains me to rate it low. I do because that is our obligation to leave an honest review whether it be bad or spectacular.

Well, then I start seeing the reviews go up and I'm shocked ---- I start thinking to myself – do I do this? Do I

take the chance or leave it up to JaHy to review for the site? With half a heart I dove in and after a few pages, I'm waiting for the "instant" love/atraction but in my head it just isn't happening. I understood where others could get that idea but I dug a bit further into Hope's and Xander's psyche and understood the deep rooted attraction they had for each other. I would explain but it would explain too much of the story to you....just take note of the scenes leading up to and after the "captivity/fight".

I do believe that this is my first 5 star rating for the New Year and I couldn't have asked for a better way to start 2014 off. This was dark, this was cringe worthy and this stole my heart. It wasn't just about Hope but we are introduced to her twin sister. I can't wait for the next book!

Ms. Willis – you outdid yourself with this book! Never in a million years did I think I would be able to connect so closely to these characters while their relationship grew and their loyalties to each other and their family lead the way. I am shocked, I am in awe and go ahead and crucify me that I loved this book as much as I did.

### **Re-Cap**

Hope's sister is abducted and tortured in order to get Hope to agree to handle an assassination attempt on Aaron. Some networks in the Estate aren't very happy about Aaron's decision to stop the sex trafficking and slaves. Hope botches the attempt and is taken captive by Xander to find out why she is trying to kill Aaron.

Xander tortures her with pain, sex and other juicy things.....but it's a surprise to Xander when he finds out that pain is Hope's weakness. She gets high off it....well, doesn't that just spark an extra interest in Hope for Xander. Has he met his other half? His soul-mate? Hope resists all advances to the best of her ability and falls short especially when she is drugged.

Hmmmm....if I go on – I may give away too many spoilers so I'm gonna end with a few MUSTS.....

### **Wrap-Up**

DON'T LOOK at the Synopsis for the next book!!! It will give away too much and you won't enjoy this book as much.

Try to figure out why Hope and Xander connected so quick...the answer is in there!

And by the time you reach toward the end of your book....don't eat while reading!

### **For more reviews, Free E-books and Giveaways**

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**~V~ says**

**\*\*3 1/2 stars\*\***

**OMG THE VIOLENCE!!!!** This book is definitely not for the faint of heart...there's rape, torture, slaughter and lots of slicing and dicing in very gory stomach churning detail! The lifestyle of the people who live on The Estate is awful and the only real good person i can see in that whole mess of crazy and depraved is Madeleine...sweet sweet Madeleine, the heroine from book 1. I do like that we got more of her and Aaron but he is not too far off from being as loony as his father was!

Xander is a more likeable hero and not quite as crazy as others, i really liked him a lot but Hope wasn't necc. my favorite heroine. Not that i don't like a tough, kick ass heroine but she wasn't just tough she was pretty much as crazily messed up in the head as Aaron, having been raised to be an assassin in that life...they have no conscience or feel any remorse for the awful things they do to people, granted these are bad bad people but it is obvious that it only adds to Hope and Aaron's darkness! The romance wasn't overly prevalent in this book, i mean it was there but i think it definitely got overshadowed by the violence.

I do like the darker contemporary romances but this is even pushing *my* boundaries of what i will accept/tolerate in my romances. Having said that i *will* be checking out Honor and Jason's book since i'm intrigued by how that will all turn out...oh heck, who am i kidding...i'll prob be reading the whole lot of them because i can't help myself!...i want to see The Estate brought down and all of these people get their forever HEA, if that's even possible after the hell they've all lived through.

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### **JaHy?Hold the Fairy Dust says**

#### **\*\*\*\*\*3" HIGH HOPES" STARS\*\*\*\*\***

Book 2 in the series Hope Restrained is very different, IMHO from Madeleine Abducted, which I for one truly appreciate. I'm sick of authors changing the main characters name in a series and releasing it as the next best thing... YEAH NO!

I'm probably going to sound like a nutter ( well, I am ) but this book made me laugh more than anything. The one liners were priceless and while I appreciated the comedic banter I couldn't help but miss the darkness that lurked in Madeleine Abducted thanks to Joseph.

The insta lust in this book gave me whiplash. There was ZERO build up. Hope kicks Xander's ass, he pleases her with his sandpaper hands , the hero anxiously plants his seed of love and \*\*BOOM\*\* her "golden eyes" meet his sapphire iris's.... and my marathon of eye rolls began.

The last 30% of the story is where the majority of the gore, torture and angst comes into play and readers will be on edge .... EXCEPT I wasn't because the synopsis for book 3 pretty much tells you the outcome of the story and helps you weed out the villain ..DON'T LOOKUP BOOK 3 UNTIL YOU'VE READ HOPE. PLEASE DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE I DID.

So, were my expectations met? Honestly, not quiet. Will I be reading book 3 in the series? HELL YES. Mrs. Willis has a wicked imagination..... and I still want more Xander storyline. Now, ONLY listen to my warning and go love the story for the both of us.. MAUH!

**ARC given to..**

***...In exchange for an honest review.***

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### **Lucy says**

Hate to say it because I loved Xander so much in Madeline Abducted but....he was such a disappointment in this one. Lovesick fool weak ass Xander gets a thumbs down from me.

Also as other reviews have pointed out Joseph is sorely missed. I'm realizing now that he was my favorite character in this series. I need to read the prequel book soon to get my crazy Joseph fix.

I still enjoyed it enough so I'm giving it 3 stars.

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### **TF says**

3.5 Stars!

It was nice to read a book where the heroine is more bad-ass than the hero. Xander was by no means weak but Hope is an enforcer like Aaron and in top shape, she could take on Xander. I liked the book but it was not as good as Madelaine Abducted. I felt the story was underdeveloped, especially the sadist/masochist relationship that was hinted.

Hope was raised to be a female assassin and to save her twin, she was forced to kill Aaron Carmichael by a rival organization of The Estate.

Xander is the loyal friend we read about in Madelaine Abducted. His job is to break her down and find out who sent her to kill Aaron.

I liked the banter between them but the instant-love was a turn off. I would have liked more a buildup to their relationship.

While I was reading this, I could not help thinking if Aaron and Hope were the couple, it would have been explosive and fun to read but ok I get that Maddy was meant for Aaron and Xander for Hope to balance them out.

All in all, a good read.

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## **Clumsy Storyteller says**

**“I find it ironic that your name is Hope...especially considering that you have none.”**

Hope Delacroix is a trained assassin a human weapon. One wrapped in a delicate looking beautiful package and she was hired to kill Aaron Carmichael, The story begins with Hope's sister being kidnapped "Honor" by men from the Estate, it was terrible what they have done to her. in order to save her sister, hope had to kill Aaron, it was the only way to get her back but she did not succeed in her mission, because of Xander Black

Xander is Aaron's right hand man and his best friend, After saving Aaron from Hope's attack and getting stabbed in the process, he decides to take her as a hostage and interrogate her then kill her. but what he didn't know about her is Hope has been trained...trained to crave and enjoy pain and cruelty ,So Xander has to get creative in order to get informations from her.

i found this book very enjoyable, the plot was great, I absolutely loved the characters, they were perfect. i can't wait to read the third book about Honor and Jason :D \*this is gonna be good\* !

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## **Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says**

### **4.5 Gritty and Gruesome Stars!!!**

In the second installment of The Estate series, we're introduced to Hope Delacroix. She's forced to do a job, a rival crime network has something she holds dear and the only way she can get it back is to assassinate Aaron Carmichael, the feared leader of the estate.

But the mission goes wrong when Aaron's right hand man, Xander, captures her and is hell bent on finding out who sent her. She's determined not to speak, she hates everything about the estate, helping them in any way is out of the question. She's a strong warrior and gives Xander way more than he expected, but things change unexpectedly when Xander discovers her weakness and uses it against, she finds herself wanting to give in to his seduction.

And when he finally finds out the reason she made an attempt on Aaron's life, Hope's ideas and belief's about

The Estate start start changing.

***He was her tormentor and her protector, her captivity and her freedom.***

Okay so in the beginning I didn't really like Hope, she's confident and strong. She doesn't need a man to protect her, which didn't work for me, I like my heroines weak and helpless so the hero can come in and save the day (yes, I'm serious), but Xander's "gentle" approach towards her got exactly the same result I wanted. She gave into him, her character stayed strong but when it came to Xander she became all woman. Mind you she wasn't easy on Xander at first, she gave his ego a good beating at first, this I didn't like lol!

***"I hope the spark of rebellion never dies inside you. I enjoy stripping you of your fight every time I light you up inside.***

Xander is a charmer, he's slick, smooth and a little bit arrogant. After he breaks through Hope's walls, he has a deep need to protect her and to calm the darkness that makes her soul so restless. I actually ended up really liking Xander, no he wasn't my ideal alpha male but he's character did suit the role perfectly. I guess it would have been ideal to have their roles reversed but they did compliment each other.

### **Final Thoughts**

The flow of events in Hope Restrained were exactly the same as in Madeleine Abducted, with a slight twist. It's rare that I like a strong female character, I really have to stress this. I think the only other strong female characters I've liked were the heroine in Killing Sarai by J.A Redmerski and recently Fighting Destiny by Amelia Hutchins. This book has bucket loads of gore, non-con and a look into the mind of a female assassin who's been through hell and back, and makes it out on top!

**This book has a slow build up but an explosive conclusion!**

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*ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review*

### **Julianne says**

**\*\*I received an Arc from the author in return for my honest review\*\***

Ok so I sat here patiently waiting for this book.

The first two in the series are phenomenal. If you haven't read them---Get to it NOW. Madeleine Abducted and Joseph Fallen are the first two in the Estate Series.

Xander is a main player in Madeleine Abducted and he intrigued me. He grew up within the Estate with his "brother" Aaron.

I could NOT wait for his story. Maybe to the point of stalking the author.

Finally I get it in my email and Im like

At the Same time Im like

It was brutal.

It was intriguing.

It wasn't what I was expecting.

In Fact---IT WAS BETTER

Xander struggles to keep him self in line with the Estate but Hope could destroy him.

This is not a story of butterflies and rainbows. Its a story of Xander and Hope and there survival instincts against the Estate and each other.

I will now patiently await the arrival of Honor Bound. I have no doubt it will be just as brilliant if not better.

I will come back and redo this review once the book has been officially released.

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### **Candace says**

#### **Another Dark, Depraved Installment In The Estate Series**

When Aaron assumed power as the leader of The Estate, he began working toward the destruction of the criminal network that ruined the lives of so many. His order to immediately cease the trafficking of innocents was one of his first edicts as the new leader. However, in this seedy criminal underworld, loyalty does not exist and there are those who are unwilling to give up their darkest desires to dominate, own and defile.

Hope arrives on the grounds of The Estate on a mission to rescue her sister, who has been taken by a unit of The Estate in defiance of Aaron's order. As an assassin, Hope has used her inner darkness to her benefit, becoming a legendary killer. There's nothing she holds close to her heart, except the sweet goodness embodied within her twin sister, Honor. To save her sister from a life of unspeakable horrors, she must carry out a hit on Aaron, a job she would never consider if not for her sister's life hanging in the balance.

Xander never imagined finding a woman as receptive to his dark tastes as Hope. Assigned to break Aaron's would-be assassin, he revels in her pleasures pain. Soon, he has fallen for this lethal woman who invades his heart and mind.

When the reason for Hope's attack on Aaron is revealed, Aaron and Xander must consider the possibility of betrayal by leaders within The Estate. While Xander inherently believes that Hope is telling the truth. Aaron, and others, are less sure. When her information results in an empty-handed search, Xander makes a decision that may cost both him and Hope their lives.

Remaining true to the dark, twisted vibe of earlier books in The Estate series, 'Hope Restrained' is a book that will push your limits and make you question the goodness of mankind. I cringed, shuddered and, at times, had chills running up my spine. Just when I thought all hope was lost, I was reminded of the resilience and strength of the human spirit.

This was another great addition to this dark series. With more rogue units within The Estate yet to be discovered, I am curious to see where the next book will lead and how deep the betrayals run. Jason's questionable interest in Honor promises to be explored and I cannot wait to have my questions regarding the true identity of her "angel" answered.

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### **Rin W. Vitale says**

[rape,murder,beating, anything creepy was there. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

#### **3.5 stars!**

Let's face the facts people.

With Joseph gone, there goes our badass villain \*poopyface\*

Xander was pretty kickbutt in Madeleine, Abducted so I was ecstatic to hear he'd be getting his own book!

#### After reading

Well I mean it was good and I did like it wait there were some problems I had and I wonder if it's ok to say them I really wanted to 5 star the book because it's the ESTATE for goodness sake

OKAY.

First, I have to say that M.S. Willis has a unique talent that 90% of other authors *don't* have, and that's her writing. Not the writing *style*, mind you, but the actual words. Her prose is almost lyrical, and scenes are so provocative and evocative I could pretty much envision the entire book as a movie. My standards of good writing is when an author is so exceptionally skilled that they are able to transport readers to whatever time period/scene/setting their books are set in and to make us forget our surroundings. M.S. Willis has consistently delivered that again and again with each book in the Estate series, and Hope Restrained is no

exception.

So what did I not like?

**1. Xander and Hope's connection.** Or the lack of. From the way they “meet” to Xander’s interrogation of her to his blossoming affection for her seemed stilted and forced. I really didn’t think there was enough character development on this part to warrant Xander’s insta-love for Hope.

**2. Xander: Badass turned Pussy** Later in the book (around 85%) I realized that just like Aaron needs Maddy to keep him grounded, Hope needs Xander, but I didn’t expect that so I was genuinely surprised at how...*soft* Xander got. He was like play dough in Hope’s hands. Besides, for a top notch assassin, he certainly got slapped around by Hope a lot.

**3. Aaron: Executioner turned Shrew.** Now don’t get me wrong, for the most part, Aaron was his usual dark self but after a few scenes that originally convinced me he had more common sense than Xander, he then turned into a frillish housewife.

(view spoiler)

**4. I felt disconnected with the Estate.** The past two books in the series had something in common (besides being freaking AMAZING): the plot, the characters, and basically **everything** always revolved around the Estate, meaning no matter what part I was reading, I would always be aware of the threat and danger the Estate posed. This added to the thrill, the dark, the mindfuck that these books posed. In *Hope Restrained*, I felt isolated from the workings of the Estate. If I hadn’t read the first two books, I’d tell you that the Estate is composed of Aaron, Maddy, Xander, Hope, Jason, Patrick, and the housemaid. That’s it. It isn’t until 70% where I could *really* grasp how the Estate played a role in this second book of the *Estate* series.

But despite what I didn’t like, this book still made for a great dark read! There were times I was like:

And when the characters were like:

I was like:

.....

Definitely looking forward to book 3, Honor Bound! She's got an interesting story...

*ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Elaine says**

### **4.5 Stars**

#### **Meet Hope Delacroix**

She has been hired to kill **Aaron Carmichael**.

That will take her to **The Estate**

**Hope** has one reason only to do this..her sister **Honor** has been kidnapped by an organisation and the only way she will be set free is if Hope carries out their orders.

**Xander Black** captures her and tries to break her so she will tell him who sent her.

**Hope** is not for breaking and that does something to **Xander** and brings something out of him. But will the darkness still take over.

Hope won't give up without a fight she will not lose her sister to **The Angel ???**

## **My thoughts**

I really enjoyed this, being the 3rd book in The Estate series. As cruel as Xander was he didn't have the madness that still lingered in The Estate.

It is a dark read and I think I found this maybe the darkest one of the series so far, not really the content so much but the way its written and with so many darker/captive stories out there, its hard sometimes to find one that stands out from the rest.

To me **Melissa Willis** is slowly becoming the Queen of darkness and this shows how to write one. Can't wait till **Honor Bound** comes out.

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