



## Best Laid Plans

*Allison Brennan*

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## **Best Laid Plans** Allison Brennan

Newly minted FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid is settling into her job in San Antonio, Texas, when the corpse of Harper Worthington, the husband of a sitting congresswoman, is found naked in a motel on the wrong side of town. It's up to Lucy to locate the last person to see him alive: a teenage prostitute who seems to have vanished into thin air.

When forensics determines that Harper was poisoned, Lucy and her new by-the-book partner dig deep into his life to find out who might want him dead. Why did Harper lie to his wife and his staff? Was he involved in an illicit affair? Embezzling money? Laundering money for a drug cartel? Or was he simply a pawn in someone else's dangerous game?

Lucy's boyfriend, Sean Rogan, is hired by Harper's company to run a security audit, causing friction between Lucy and the FBI. But when Sean finds a high-tech bug in Harper's office, an entirely new threat emerges—a far-reaching conspiracy run by a ruthless killer who will do anything to get what he wants, and kill anyone who gets in his way. And the person between him and victory is Lucy Kincaid.

## **Best Laid Plans Details**

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Author : Allison Brennan

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## From Reader Review Best Laid Plans for online ebook

### Silver James says

I've been a fan of Allison Brennan's Lucy Kincaid series almost from the start. After the slam-bam events in DEAD HEAT (book 8), I was really excited for the release of BEST LAID PLANS. The fall-out--professionally and personally--from DEAD HEAT continue to affect Lucy in BLP. I spent half the book pissed at Lucy. Spent 3/4's the book trying to figure out who the bad guys were. Spent the whole book falling more in love with Sean Rogan, Lucy's boyfriend. While Kane Rogan and Jack Kincaid (older brothers to Sean and Lucy) are still in my list of top Book Boyfriends, Sean might have made it onto the list. OMG when he confronted the madam?!?! No spoilers. If you love romantic suspense, glom onto this series. I'm starting Brennan's NO GOOD DEED (Lucy Kincaid #10). I've been promised bigger cameos from Kane (plus a hint at his upcoming heroine) and Jack, who already had his story but I still lust for him from afar.

BEST LAID PLANS was an uncomfortable book to read but it was an emotional roller-coaster that had me alternately wanting to slam my Kindle against the nearest wall and hugging it while I sniffled into a tissue. There's a reason why Allison Brennan is a NYT Best-selling author. Have to go with 4.5 stars because it was almost perfect but not quite.

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### Sparkymom says

#### Best yet!

Lucy and Sean have to be one of my favorite book couples ever. More than any couple I remember reading, they are two halves of a broken whole. I honestly don't know how either would survive without the other. I am so invested in this couple that I have trouble putting the books down. I'm sure part of the reason I'm so invested is because I've read all the books related to this series, the ones about Sean and Lucy's siblings that portray all that Lucy goes through and all which makes her who she becomes--a walking shell of her former self. Sean breathes life into Lucy's world and brings her out of her darkness. They are completely perfect together despite their mutual feelings of unworthiness.

This story finds Lucy with a new partner working on a case which may be tied to fall out from the events in the previous novel. Sean ends up getting hired to consult on the case but from a civilian rather than law enforcement angle. As always, Sean and Lucy work best by bouncing ideas of each other, but each ends up keeping a few secrets of their own. As they get deeper and deeper into the case, secrets from Lucy's past threaten her hard won stability and may send Sean over the edge.

I thought this was the best of the series yet. Though some resolution was achieved, many threads of the plot remain unraveled. Fortunately, I didn't care because the ending was fantastic!

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### Elvan says

[ when Sean planted a deadly computer virus which was so effective iPads and laptops were catching fire. In the land of the Rogans and Kincaids its all part of the fun. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Anne says**

Interesting story. Lots of twists and turns.....and then it ended .... quickly! On to No Good Deed to continue!!!!

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### **Diane says**

Great read, love the Lucy Kincaid series. So who is/are the corrupt cop(s)? How much can you believe from all of the suspects and/or all the cops involved? What exactly are they all hiding? From the first chapter, the pace is relatively fast and head scratching. Allison Brennan is another go-to author for me. Ms. Brennan weaves a very good tale and keeps you thinking throughout. The downfall of this novel is that it is a cliff hanger - ARRRRGGGGHHHHH.

2 thumbs up and 4.5 solid stars!

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### **Dawn says**

As a rookie FBI Agent, Lucy Kincaid helped take down a drug cartel that was using boys as mules and helped save lives. Now months later a seemingly random murder of the husband a prominent congresswoman turns up, questions beget more questions. With her new by the books partner by her side, Lucy must figure out all the pieces of the puzzle in order to solve the case. But Lucy doesn't know that there is more going on than the murder of Harper Worthington. When her boyfriend Sean is drawn into the high stakes that is becoming this investigation, it will take all that Lucy, Sean and the FBI to figure out what is going on, who the players are and try to stay alive in the process.

I have got to admit Ms. Brennan is one talented writer. She knows how to hook the reader in and not let go. The latest in her successful Lucy Kincaid series, *BEST LAID PLANS*, delivers more twists than ever with some new players that we are introduced to as well as a few familiar faces as well. This time the stakes are higher than ever because for Lucy and for Sean. This time a killer is determined to take out the people who stand in his/her way. The characters are what make this series so enjoyable. The characters continue to grow and evolve with each of the books in the series and you can't help but fall in love with them while you read them. The mysteries/Suspense portion of the books just keeps your attention till the very end. Who I thought was the bad guy wasn't it and I was totally surprised by the hints of who this methodical person was. The writing is very well done, with a few twists and turns to keep your attention. The pace of the story started slow and steady until mid-way when the book started to race towards the end. Then it got quite riveting to say the least.

*BEST LAID PLANS* is a top-notch edge of the seat thrill ride that will leave you breathless from start to finish. If you haven't picked up the book or any of the series books before this one, you won't be too lost as the author does a great job in letting the reader know what Lucy went through in order to be a FBI agent. I do recommend you start from the beginning of the series as it gives the motivations of Lucy, her family, etc in her quest to become a FBI agent. Plus they are just that good of a read. I can not wait to see where the next book, *No Good Deed*, goes for Lucy, Sean and the San Antonio FBI office goes especially as we see hints

towards the end of this book on what might happen. Ms. Brennan is truly a gifted storyteller who knows how to tell a story and captivate her audience. I look forward to seeing where this author goes in the future.

This is an objective review and not an endorsement.

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### **Terri Wino says**

Well this was definitely one of my least favorites in the series so far. The plot was just too busy and intricate, but not in a good way -- more the find my attention wandering way because I found it a little boring in parts.

I do like the arc that is carried through from the last book with the baddie still on the loose and already set up to continue in the next book. I'm looking forward to finding out who he is and what's coming next.

As always, I love that Sean and Lucy are still finding their way through their relationship. Even with the bumps in the road -- sometimes, frustratingly of their own making -- their love for each other is always apparent.

So while this wasn't as good as some of the others in the series, I'm looking forward to the events to come in book 10!

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### **Kerry says**

Allison Brennan is always one of my go to authors for a good read. I have read this series from the beginning and this one didn't disappoint. Lucy has been through the imaginable and she is a character who just keeps fighting. She also always fights hard for other victims out there and so we are kindred spirits. Sean is her boyfriend and he lends his computer skills again to help her find the person who killed the Congresswoman's husband. It is wound in gang war fight, espionage, prostitution and embezzlement so something for everyone. I am looking forward to the next book in this series which will be out in November.

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### **Darcy says**

This one seems pretty straight forward from the start. Corrupt politician, gets rid of those in the way, FBI comes in to save the day. Where this one gets really interesting is in some of the deviousness with the characters. There are a couple that are playing a long game, they've had things in place before some of the players even knew there was a game. Even as this book ended the FBI still doesn't have a clue what really went on, how the bad guys are manipulating them, which will make for some great books ahead. I only hope that Lucy and Sean are up to the task of going head to head with them.

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### **Sandra says**

I can't believe I am giving a Lucy Kincaid book only 2 stars. I love this series, and I love Lucy & Sean

together. At least I did. In this one I found the story both boring and convoluted. It is part of some multiple book complex story arc starting ( I think) with the the last book although I can't be sure cause it was awhile ago that I read it and they kept referring to so many different past bad guys and crimes and crime syndicates etc that I couldn't remember so it could have come from further back. And to make it worse it is obviously continuing on cause nothing was resolved in this one. Plus the crime itself for this book was boring and there was no actual mystery to be solved because we got a step by step through the book of what happened to Harper and who the bad guys were, then we had to discover it again with Lucy. BORING. And while I have previously loved Lucy & Sean's relationship and how devoted Sean is to her and how much that love has helped Lucy grow in this one we had Lucy back to where she was near the beginning of there relationship and Sean's devotion seemed less admirable and more unhealthy obsession. I mean in the past he loved her and was all about Lucy but he had a life , a job and thoughts outside that. In this one his every thought (and I do mean every thought) and action where solely about Lucy. It felt unbalanced and unhealthy. Such a disappointment.

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### **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

#### **3.5 stars**

I can't believe that this is the 9th book in the Lucy Kincaid Series!! It has become one of my favorite!!!

Best Laid Plans was a bit ....so so...it's not that I didn't enjoy the book but there were a couple of things that dragged a bit of me....the plot of Lucy, who has been given a new partner, after her Mexico "disaster" in the previous book, is working on the murder of a well-know local politician's husband.

Not only having to deal with all that is going on in her life, she is thrown into the middle of politics and an undercover drug investigation, which has links to what happened in Mexico. That subplot was that threw me a bit....having to go from one investigation to another and back.....when all I wanted to know more about was the actual murder case!!!! It was a case of confusion a lot of the time that I turned the pages.

Dirty politicians, corrupt cops, conspiracies, lies, manipulators ....good guys, bad guys.....to and fro!!!! Total rollercoaster!! Twists and turns.....unexpected surprises!!!!

However, the best part of this series is Lucy and Sean Rogan. I have loved seeing the development of their relationship, how they deal with all that s@#\$\$\$\$ that is thrown at you and how incredible it is to see the way Sean helps Lucy .....What he does for her....how much she matters to him. I've said it before and I will say it again...he's one of my favorite alpha-males with the biggest heart ever!!!!

So, continuing turning page after page....hoping that there is still going to be more going on....and WHAM!!!

Thrown the most unlikely and unexpected CLIFFHANGER!!!! I was like.....WHAT!!!!

I am really looking forward to the next book which is due sometime later this year...I need to know – WHAT THE HELL IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!!!!

And please.....can we get Kane's story sometime soon!!!!

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## Melanie Stewart says

### No more Lucy

I had reached the point where I was tired of Lucy but the last book was good. This book was convoluted and boring. I found myself skipping pages. I have the next Lucy book preordered but if it is bad, I'm removing Alison Brennan from my auto buy list.

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### Ariel says

*sigh...* This book. Oy. Let's start with the good.

Good:

**1:** Kane Rogan. He's mysterious and to the point. He picks the battles he can win and is, by far, the most realistic character in the book.

**2:** Juan. He's a good boss to Lucy. A patient boss. Frankly, more patient and understanding than she deserves.

**3:** Barry. He's a good counter-balance to Lucy's reckless behavior.

**4:** The mystery was fairly complex.

Bad:

**1:** The mystery was far too complex. How can that be good and bad? Easily. Mysteries that keep you guessing and you can't figure out are wonderful. They keep you reading. Bog that down with too many twists and you lose focus of the main mystery and no longer care.

**2:** Lucy. Sweet Jesus, girl, get some more therapy. After NINE books, her wrestling with her personal demons is becoming tiresome. You can't escape your past, you know it, you've said it. So deal with it again. You can't work it away. You certainly can't erase it by trying to save the world-- and in doing so, recklessly. Which Lucy has a penchant for doing.

**3:** Sean. Ah, Sean, I love you. You're smart and funny and sarcastic and you truly love Lucy. But you love her to the point of obsession. Her life and safety can't be your entire life, guy. It takes you from that multi-faceted reformed bad boy to...a doormat. A willing doormat is *still* a doormat.

**4:** Sean and Lucy's relationship. Say it with me: dys-func-tional. They love each other, completely. Yup. That's wonderful. They also lie to each other. Obsess over each other. Nor do they actually *trust* each other. Lucy thinks keeping her pain away from Sean keeps him and his love for her untainted. Sean wants to be Lucy's knight in shining armor and seeks illegal and oft-times *dangerous* ways to protect her that even he knows she'd have an issue with if she found out. That's not healthy. No part of that is a healthy, *trusting* relationship. Especially an *adult* relationship. Neither of them allows the other to grow up. They both know Lucy has issues. Dark ones. Big, glaring, dark ones. Neither of them has suggested she get more therapy. Lucy, who knows she's walking a dark path. Sean, who watches. Yet neither of them even considered a therapist? I mean, really? That's not realistic. Listen, kids, love isn't a cure-all. It's not a band-aid that will

magically keep all the darkness of the past at bay if you love harder. That's not how it works. You'd think by now, after 18 months of being together (NINE BOOKS, PEOPLE! NINE!) that these two brilliant individuals would know their limitations. They should know there are some things you just can't fix on your own. And no amount of working or loving is going to make those issues go away.

**5. No Noah.** Yes, I know, all new characters when Lucy moved to Texas. So, what? Noah was awesome and a great counter-balance to Sean's reckless behavior. Plus, who doesn't like a hot FBI agent. ;)

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### **Barbara ★ says**

Usually these books complete a story arc with each one but this one is a continuation of Dead Heat and it takes up right where that one left off. I liked returning to these characters and the plot itself which was complicated and kept the characters guessing. I'm not much on politics but this was handled in such a way as to be entertaining (to a degree) and interesting enough to keep me turning pages. I liked the way it ended and look forward to reading the conclusion to this "interior series" trilogy.

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### **Stacy McKitrick says**

Oooohhh, I sooooo did love the ending (before the Epilogue—which is pretty much setting up the next story). This was a complicated read for me because I sometimes have trouble remembering who is doing what (and there are a lot of characters in this story—oh heck, there are lots of characters in all her stories!). Even though it was a challenge, I loved it. Every bit of it. Can't wait for the next one.

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