

*Love Inspired*TM
SUSPENSE
RIVETING INSPIRATIONAL ROMANCE

BARBARA PHINNEY
FATAL SECRETS

PROTECTING *the* WITNESSES



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Dear Reader,

When I was writing this story, I had to access memories I'd kept locked away for a long while. These memories included the deaths of my parents, and how alone I had felt. Of course, no matter how good one is at writing, no one can ever fully explain the feeling of losing a parent. A woman who was in her sixties once told me that no matter how old you are, when your mother passes away, it hurts terribly and you feel like a small child again.

In *Fatal Secrets*, my heroine deals with great loss. Her beloved adoptive parents have died and, months later, she's still struggling.

But she has her faith, and with that we can know that God is there to comfort you, and can do an amazing thing for your grief. No, He doesn't take it away. But the pain is eased, and the knowledge that God loves everyone, that He wants to welcome those who have passed away with open arms, makes the tough times ahead easier.

My heroine also discovers another important truth. That God is working actively in her life and in Zane's life, right to the very point that He wants them together. We can do so much for each other on earth. It all starts with trust in God, and love for others, those two great commands of which Jesus reminded us.

Let's try to love each other. To be there for each other, and to accept God's gracious gifts for our lives here.

Blessings,

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In the beginning, Kristin decides to disobey Jackson and continue her search for her mother. Is it proper for her to do so? Would you, under the same circumstances?
2. Early on, we learn Zane has no time for God, having been abused as a child by a so-called Christian. How would you minister to such a person?
3. To protect ourselves, we sometimes avoid things that may lead to pain, as Kristin avoided seeing her parents' crash site. They can become superstitious. Even in our walk with God, we can be superstitious. What do you do that is similar? Do you think it will make God act differently?
4. At the lake, Kristin suggests that Zane ask God to teach him what He wants Zane to know. Have you ever done that? Have you ever asked for wisdom, or a change of heart?
5. Do you agree with Kristin's motives to continue her search? She feels that she owes it to her mother who'd saved her life, and she has no one in her life right now. Would you do the same thing?
6. How do you perceive Kristin? Is she strong, weak, tearful or immature? How would you be in her circumstances?

7. Because He'll never force Himself on anyone, God wants us to take the first step. Zane did that at the lake. Have you taken that first step by asking the Lord into your heart? Or admitting your sin? If yes, do you remember that time? Try to describe it in words.
8. Kristin ministered to Zane without ever realizing it, just by her faith. By combining your own faith with learning to describe concisely your first step toward the Lord, do you think you could become an effective minister for the Lord?
9. Like Zane, are you a bit rusty in your prayers? How can you remedy that? Do you think it would help your life to pray more often?
10. Zane recognized that Kristin possessed a peace he didn't have. How can we get that peace?
11. Zane's parents were not good examples of Christians and they tainted his view. How many people do you know have such an opinion because of people like Zane's parents? Do you have that opinion yourself? How can it be repaired? How did Zane repair his opinion?
12. Afraid she is losing Zane when his brother arrives, Kristin wonders if God was telling her to stop her search. How can we avoid misinterpreting God's will in our lives?
13. Do you get mad at God? Is it okay to argue with Him?

14. **Kristin and Zane realize that God is working in their lives when she drops the tissue at his office. Only then was Zane able to see the bomb. Do you see God working in your life in what may seem at the time like a mundane thing?**

*Eloise Hill fled the Witness Protection Program
more than twenty years ago, leaving her baby
in the care of rookie FBI agent Jackson McGraw.
Now, knowing the Mob is after her again,
Jackson has to get to Eloise first.
Read on for a sneak preview of
RISKY REUNION by Lenora Worth,
the exciting conclusion to the
PROTECTING THE WITNESSES series.*

Jackson McGraw stood back as the door creaked open about an inch. Flashing his badge and I.D, he said, "Eloise, it's Jackson. I have to talk to you."

He heard an intake of breath, then the door swung back.

And he took in the sight of her, her eyes wide with shock and fear, her skin pale as she tried to find air.

"Eloise," he said, reaching for the door.

She swayed, her eyes fluttering, her head dropping.

Jackson stepped inside and caught her before she passed out.

"Eloise, it's going to be all right."

She felt tiny in his arms. She looked almost the same, older but still beautiful in spite of the jagged white scar bursting through the pale skin near her lips and the deep circles of fatigue underneath her eyes. And she was still afraid. Her whole body began to quiver with a gentle shaking as she held on to him.

Slamming the door, he helped her to the couch, and looked into her eyes again. They were brown instead of the

vivid green he remembered, but the colored contacts matched the rich brown of her long straight hair. Contacts might change the color of her eyes, but he didn't care. That look of fear mixed with disbelief and a bit of wonder broke Jackson's heart and made him even more determined to protect her.

*Can Jackson keep Eloise safe
from the danger that surrounds her?
Pick up RISKY REUNION by Lenora Worth,
available in June
from Love Inspired Suspense, to find out.*

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Bestselling author

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Rancher Justin Granger hasn't seen his high school sweetheart since she rode out of town with his heart. Now she's back, with sadness in her eyes, seeking a job as his cook and housekeeper.

He agrees but is determined to avoid her...until he discovers that her big dream has always been him!

The Rancher's Promise

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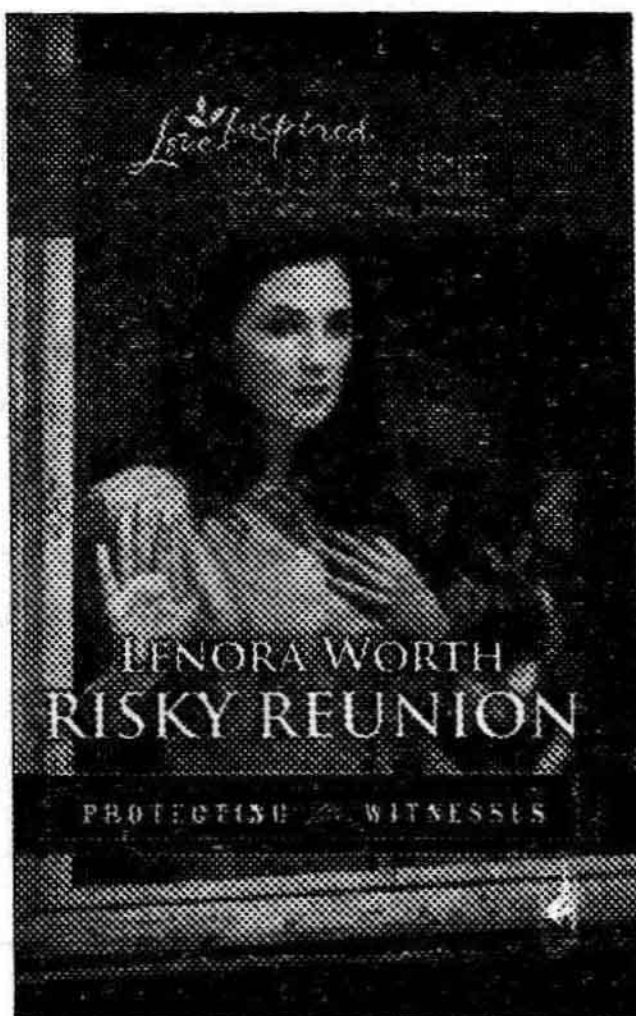
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RIVETING INSPIRATIONAL ROMANCE

Twenty years ago, Jackson McGraw had a tiny baby left in his custody after the mother fled, fearful for her child. Today the mob is still obsessed with retaliation against the woman who testified against them. Jackson is determined to track down the mother, Eloise, to protect her—and reclaim two decades' worth of love.



PROTECTING *the* WITNESSES

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by **LENORA WORTH**

***Available June
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Kristin's heart swelled in sympathy for Zane.

They were both searching for their family. In a way, she'd found a kindred spirit. "I'm sorry, Zane."

"It's all right. I've built a good business here in Montana, and searching for my brother is something I do when I have the time. I have even less information on him than you have on your mother so I always knew I might never find him."

"So you're back to square one now?"

"I have one much weaker lead out there, but I'm not expecting anything to come of it. Like I said, I may never find him."

He watched her as if he was also looking for understanding. Her heart lurched. He was hurt, too. He was struggling to find a connection with his past. And like her, he might never find his family.

* * *

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Fatal Secrets

BARBARA PHINNEY

was born in England and raised in Canada. She has traveled throughout her life, loving to explore the various countries and cultures of the world. After she retired from the Canadian Armed Forces, Barbara turned her hand to romance writing. The thrill of adventure and the love of happy endings, coupled with a too-active imagination, have merged to help her create this and other wonderful stories. Barbara spends her days writing, building her dream home with her husband and enjoying their fast-growing children.

BARBARA PHINNEY

FATAL SECRETS



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FATAL SECRETS

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With God we will gain the victory,
and he will trample down our enemies.
—*Psalms* 60:12



