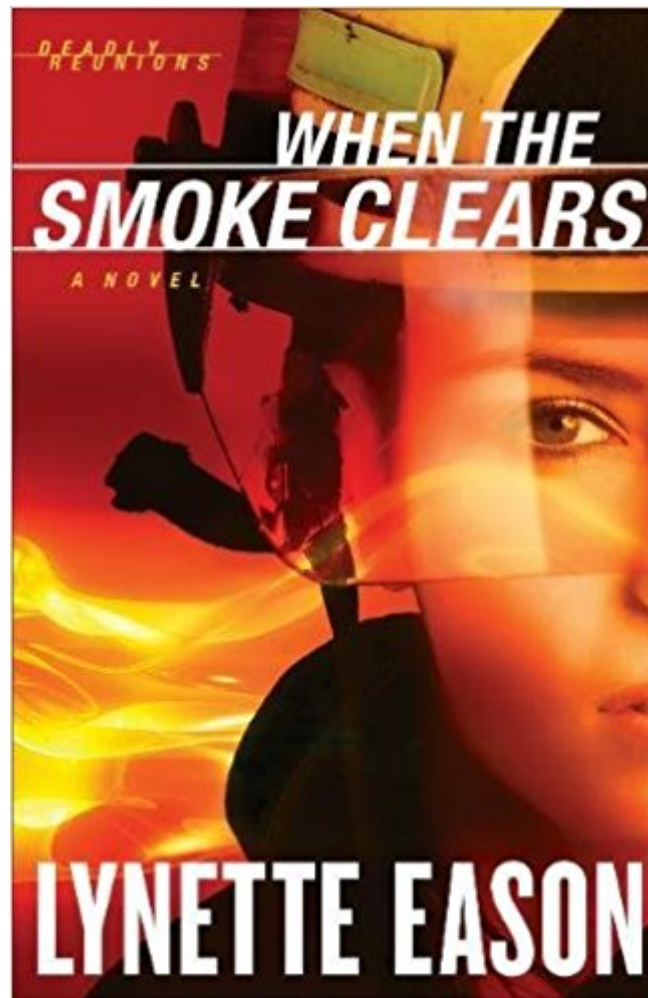




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# When The Smoke Clears: A Novel (Deadly Reunions) (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

In this thrilling romantic suspense, smokejumper Alexia Allen returns home to face her past only to find a long-buried secret that threatens her life.

## Book Information

Series: Deadly Reunions (Book 1)

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: Revell; Original edition (February 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0800720075

ISBN-13: 978-0800720070

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 633 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #106,622 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Mystery](#) #275 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Romance](#) #470 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance > Mystery & Suspense](#)

## Customer Reviews

"I love this book. It will keep you guessing until the very end."--Dee Henderson, bestselling author  
After a brush with death due to equipment failure, smokejumper Alexia Allen is ordered to take time off while the incident is under investigation. She makes a last-minute decision to recuperate at her mother's home and attend her high school reunion. Yet trouble seems to be following her, and within hours of arriving home she is confronted with murder, arson--and a handsome detective. But the conflicts ahead are nothing compared to the ghosts of her past. As she struggles to accept and forgive her family's past, she must also decide if the secret she's been guarding for the last ten years must finally come to light. Chock-full of the suspense and romantic tension you've come to expect from Lynette Eason, *When the Smoke Clears* is the explosive first book in the *Deadly Reunions* series. Lynette Eason is the author of several romantic suspense novels, including *Too Close to Home*, *Don't Look Back*, and *A Killer Among Us*. She is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. Lynette graduated from the University of South Carolina and went on to earn her master's degree in education from Converse College. She lives in South Carolina with her husband and two children.

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I really liked this book until I got to the end. Oh right . . . there wasn't an end. I am OK when a book ends and they set you up with a teaser for the next book in the series. But this book did not resolve any of the main plot lines. Oh you found out who 2 paid bad guys were but you never found out what the mysterious event from years ago was that set up the whole chain of events in the book, or where the missing person in the story was located, or where the other missing person in the story was located, etc., etc., etc. If you want to know you have to buy book 2 in the series. Or maybe books 2 and 3 and 4.

Alexia Allen is forced to take time off from the firefighting job she loves, because her equipment failed, she ran out of air, and she disobeyed an order to save a child. She had been thinking about going home for her high school reunion, so maybe this is the push she needed. Because her family was so dysfunctional, she hasn't seen any of them in ten years. As soon as she returns, however, people start dying, and someone is trying to kill her. Hunter Graham, the police detective who was three years ahead of her in school, is the one bright spot. He seems determined to keep her safe and find out what's going on. As the dangerous incidents pile up, the mystery gets even more muddled. I loved this book to start with. It is one of the best I've read by Lynette Eason and an excellent mystery. It became so good I stayed up much too late to finish it and see who else was involved. It was apparently someone close to Alexia or at least knew her well. Then, the book just ended without anything being solved. I was so disappointed and felt cheated. I think an author has an understood contract with a reader to provide a complete story. To do otherwise, especially without indication, is dishonest. Such practices are bad enough on any level, but, for a Christian writer, it is even more despicable. I feel sure this is not God's will. It is undoubtedly a marketing ploy to force readers to buy the rest in the series. Well, it does the opposite for me. I will not be manipulated in such an underhanded way. I would never buy the other books in the series now. And, as much as I like Lynette Eason's writing, I will be leery of her books from now on. I considered whether to give the book one or two stars, for, despite the lack of an ending, it is well-written. However, considering how much I hate this practice,

I'm always going to rate books with no ending and no warning of that a one.

I was extremely disappointed in this book since the mystery was never resolved. Who writes a mystery without an ending!!!!

I chose this rating because the story never really ended-just abruptly stopped!!! It really kept me wanting to read more, but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone because it just leaves you hanging!!!

I'm giving this 2 stars, but that's it. The action was good and the lesson on God was inspiring without being too "preachy". While I do like to read "series" of books, I like each book to resolve itself. Dee Henderson does this expertly in her O'Malley series. Each book is about a different person in a family, but you get to know the whole family better with each book. With this book just when you thought you would find out who really was doing the dirty deed, the book just ended. I had to flip back through the pages to see if I'd missed something. I really wished I'd read the reviews about this book before I read it, I would not have bothered with it. The one phrase that the author used TOO MANY times was, "She chewed on her lip," or a variation of it. Even though the main character got beat up pretty badly in the end, I was surprised she had any lip left to bloody. She just kept chewing on it.

NOTE: This is book 1 of a series and it does not stand alone, nor can these books be read out of order. Also, this is a Christian Romantic/Suspense story. I didn't learn any of this from the reviews I read. Now that I have finished the book, I found out in the last 10 minutes of reading that there is no real end to the book. We have to buy the rest of the series to learn the ending of the story. I am offended as a reader to not be told all this before I read the book. I won't be buying the rest of the series as it's too expensive. I won't tell you what the story is about as you can read other reviews to find that out. I will tell you the story line is confusing. I'm giving this book 1 star because I am sorry I wasted time reading it for all the reasons I just described.

Strongly disliked it. Any book should be inclusive in itself. This one is NOT. Most questions raised from beginning are NOT answered and you must get the next book, and probably the one thereafter to finally (hopefully) find the answers you were anticipating from almost the beginning. Will NOT buy any books by this author again. If I do, it will be because I've put her name out of my mind and will probably rate the new book(s) the same way. The author needs to learn to write her books in such a

way that the reader DOES NOT HAVE TO BUY THE NEXT BOOK in the series to get answers (or reasons for character's actions). If she had done that, I probably would buy every book in the series as they come out. NO MORE.

I gave this 2 stars. It would have been four except for the fact that it doesn't finish. It's part one, without an ending. If it's an unfinished, to be continued plot, the reader should be warned. I won't pay to read the next part, because I see there's more to the series and I am reasonably certain there won't be a satisfactory ending after book to either.

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