



Walking After Midnight

By Karen Robards

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The nude male body lay on the embalming table, battered beyond recognition. Gingerly, Summer McAfee, chairman, CEO, and sole employee of Daisy Fresh cleaning service, reached out to touch an arm to reassure herself that she hadn't just seen the corpse move. Suddenly, shockingly, her hand was in the viselike grip of a man very much alive and desperate enough to take her captive on a no-holds-barred run from cops, killers, and his own decidedly complicated past...

Summer's former life as a New York lingerie model had gone south with her marriage, leaving her, at thirty-six, single and back home in Tennessee, on her hands and knees scrubbing other people's bathrooms. But the drab present vanishes in a flash as she's forced to flee into the Tennessee wilds with the stranger she calls Frankenstein, first as his captive, then his companion, as they run from the enemies determined to destroy them both--straight into a raging passion that could only be the last laugh of fate...

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

With intriguing twists and turns, Robards's (*Maggie's Child*) latest is a fast-paced romantic thriller, peopled by down-to-earth characters. The heroine, Summer McAfee—proud owner of Daisy Fresh, a janitorial company—has no inkling of the crazy spin her life will take late one Saturday night as she cleans the Harmon Brothers Funeral Home. Unnerved by the obviously spooky environment, she nevertheless is brave enough to investigate a noise. Before she can blink, she's nabbed by a corpse who turns out to be badly beaten but not yet dead. "Frankenstein" as she will call him, is none other than the infamous Steve Calhoun, a former detective who is now on the run not only from drug dealers but also from the ghost of Deedee, his former mistress, whose purported suicide in his office was the cause of his very public disgrace and divorce. Convinced that Deedee was murdered, Steve had been investigating her death when he stumbled on the drug dealers—crooks who have day jobs on the Tennessee State Police force. As Steve continues to outwit their pursuers, Summer begins to see beyond his rough exterior. Grudging respect becomes mutual admiration and, eventually, love. Dialogue laced with surprising humor makes this fine blend of ghost story, romance and mystery a diverting read. Doubleday Book Club main selection; Literary Guild alternate. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Summer McAfee is a former lingerie model who now makes ends meet as a janitor in her hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. While cleaning at a local funeral parlor, she's suddenly taken hostage by Steve, a man she thought was dead, and taken on a thrilling, violent adventure. Unfortunately, neither Summer nor Steve are particularly appealing characters to begin with, and the Southern accents reader Sharon Williams bestows on them do not create romantic images. While Williams excels in the narrative portions of the text, her dialog renditions leave much to be desired. Williams's Summer is constantly in whine mode with a backwoods drawl, and Steve is not clearly distinguished. Additionally, nothing in this gritty, violent story gives credence to the romance that sprouts between Summer and Steve. Robards (*Maggy's Child*, LJ 2/1/94) is a popular author, and there may be some demand for this unabridged recording. Otherwise, most public libraries can pass on this one.

Jodi L. Israel, Westwood, Mass.

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From [Booklist](#)

The novel begins with the words, "She hanged herself from a plant hook," hardly worth remembering except that before the page ends the reader learns that Deedee is a spirit; by the end of the second page Robards suggests that Deedee may have been murdered. The ghostly presence of Deedee seems hardly necessary to provide a haunting element to this fast-paced novel involving the kidnapping of cleaning service proprietor Summer McAfee from a funeral home by a half-dressed man so mutilated that, at first terrifying glance, he appears to be a corpse. Steve Calhoun, nicknamed Frankenstein by Summer for his awful, battered appearance, is actually a good cop pursued by bad cops. Steve is haunted, then helped by Deedee, a woman whose murder/suicide turns out to be the crux of the story, which is revealed only after the pair slow their escape down long enough to communicate and actually start functioning as a team. Robards is a deft hand with tossing in a new twist and a scary encounter anytime the action threatens to slow down or romance starts to steam up. Gripping romantic suspense from a pro. *Denise Perry Donavin*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Fentress:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a guide your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this Walking After Midnight book as nice and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Henrietta Roderick:

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Paul Steinbach:

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Erika Yoon:

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