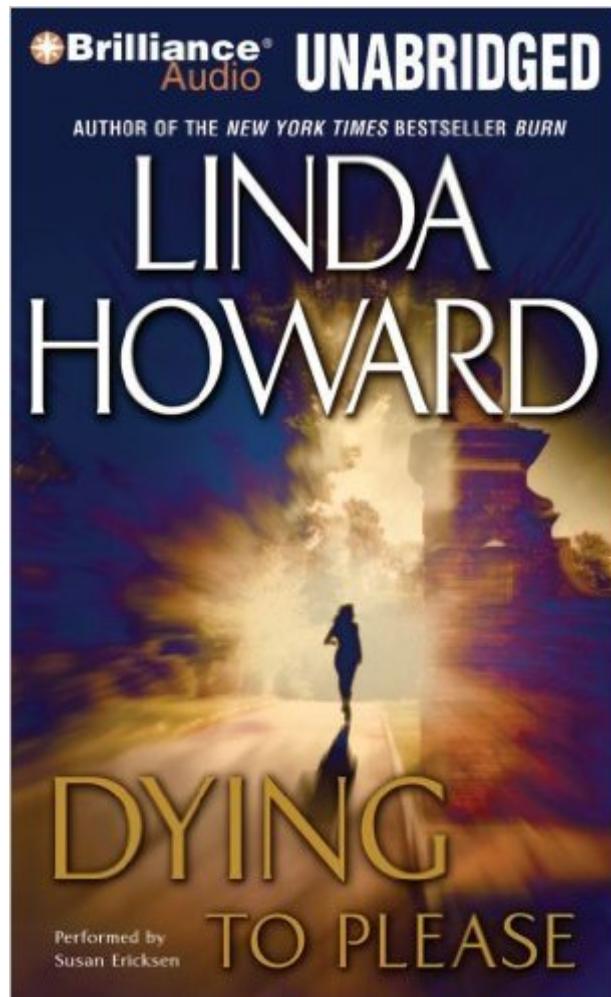


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## Dying To Please



## Synopsis

Loyal. Beautiful. Professional. Impeccably organized. Potentially lethal. Sarah Stevens is a woman with many distinct qualities. First and foremost a butler par excellence, skilled at running large households smoothly and efficiently, she is also a trained bodyguard and expert marksman - indispensable to her elderly employer, a courtly gentleman whom Sarah has come to respect and love. Then one night she thwarts a burglary in progress, a courageous act that awards Sarah her requisite "fifteen minutes of fame" with the local press. But the exposure is enough to catch the attention of a tortured soul who, unbeknownst to Sarah, will stop at nothing to have her for himself. Sarah's perfectly ordered life is shattered when tragedy strikes: her beloved employer is brutally murdered. The detective investigating the case assures Sarah that she is not a suspect. Until lightning strikes twice. There's a second killing - and this time, despite a lack of evidence connecting her to the crime, Sarah cannot escape the shadow of guilt. The only option left for Sarah is to carry on with her life. But she doesn't realize that a deranged stalker is luring her into an elaborate trap...one in which she, once ensnared, might never escape. For Sarah soon finds herself at the mercy of a man who will tend to her every whim, smother her with affection, and crush her in his all-consuming embrace.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,741,814 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Howard, Linda #2533 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Romance #5269 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## Customer Reviews

I am NEVER disappointed with a Linda Howard creation. Her latest, 'Dying to Please' was exceptional. Packed full of strong characters and great dialog along with a fast-paced storyline had me reading this in 6 hours! The not-often used story of a very intelligent and strong woman who can

not only take care of herself but can also protect herself had me smiling. She is a woman butler and a bodyguard for a retired Judge! Loved it! She doesn't need any man to pick up the shattered pieces of her heart or sanity even when she is faced with a murder charge. She stays strong throughout the entire story and shows her weaknesses appropriately. Oh and the hero...Ms. Howard sure delivers on the heroes as always. :) He is strong, as strong as the heroine and Alpha male to the max. These two were explosive and made for each other. As always Ms. Howard creates a web of suspense and romance that just can't be done by many authors. And her villains are always creepy and real...in this one, the villain is definately not someone you'd want to run into anytime soon...~Sarah Stevens is not only beautiful and intelligent, but she is the impeccably organized, efficient, professional woman butler/bodyguard for a retired Federal Judge. She takes her work very seriously. She loves her job and she adores the Judge. Thwarting a failed burgarly with her martial art skills, her life is thrust into the limelight for her '15 minutes' of fame. Not enjoying the spotlight, Sarah is disturbed when she recieves an expensive gift from someone and then suddenly finds herself the prime suspect of the brutal murder of the Judge.

Die hard Howard fans will enjoy this book, as her trademark style is readily apparent. I did so myself, but not as much as I expected. Howard's plot in this one is so thin as to be transparent. There is no attempt to hide the identity of the villain, and he isn't especially menacing. Nor was it totally believable that he was so enthralled with Sarah that he would kill four people to get her. Contrivances were abundant to further the plot, stretching credibility and patience. (I found myself rolling my eyes at the way the heroine landed in the villain's clutches.)However, many of Howard's recent single titles carry the same faults and are more forgiveable when the romance is more compelling. Unfortunately, the romance doesn't ring true in this one either. The story got off to a slow start, and the romance to an even slower one. Then when things heated up between Cahill and Sarah it happened so suddenly it wasn't totally credible.I'm going to have to re-read my earlier Howard novels to discover if the endless tedious introspection her characters engage in is a new development of hers, or if I'm just losing patience with that element. It seems a way to fill pages to avoid having to pad it with real plot. There is so little meaningful dialogue between the characters that one wonders how Cahill and Sarah could ever manage to fall in love. Certainly they don't ever really know each other on any real level.My biggest disappointment with the book is that Howard cheated the readers during the two most emotional moments of the book. Sarah is devastated when Cahill suspects her for a short time of being the killer, but this is glossed over relatively quickly and then never alluded to again.

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