

LoveReading Reader reviews of Alone in the Dark by Karen Rose

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

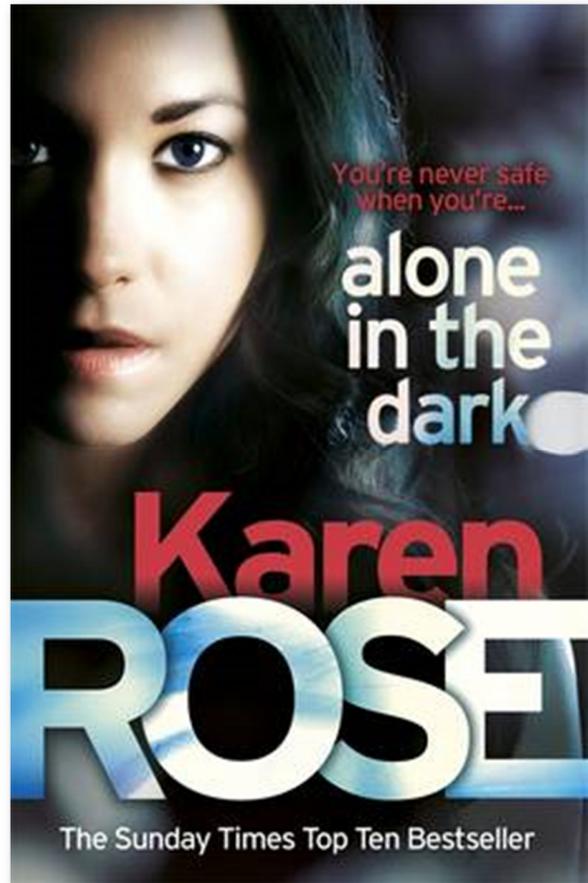
Catherine Bryce

A masterpiece story that is a must read from beginning to end.

'Alone in the Dark' is one of the best thriller/crime genre books that I have read in a long time. The book keeps you sitting on the edge of your seat with what befalls Scarlett and Marcus and what they have to deal with and the hurdles they have to face and cross

The story is written in a thrilling manner itself and at times I found myself rushing to finish one page so that I could turn the next to find out what was going to happen next. Not a light read, but full of descriptions that allows the reader to send their imagination into freefall the further you read into the book and feel that you are actually there in the book itself.

A book not to be missed.



Cathy Small

Karen Rose at her best - a chilling thriller that will keep you gripped until the end.

Marcus and Scarlett met nine months ago for the first time but on the night that Tala needed help Marcus knew Scarlett was the person to turn to and she recognized the voice immediately. The start of an investigation gets deeper and deeper into a human trafficking ring. The story brings our favourite past

characters as they join together to conquer the masterminds behind the venture. The book will keep you gripped until the end with an exciting and unpredictable end.

Phylippa Smithson

Fast-paced, full of red herrings, ruthless characters – great read but a bit disappointed the author repeats themes from her compelling ‘Closer Than You Think.’

Marcus runs an Ohio newspaper which seeks to get to the heart of many of the issues plaguing modern life – drugs, marital abuse, illegal financial dealings etc. Scarlett Bishop is a homicide detective investigating many of the issues written about in Marcus’s press. The two have history – Marcus survived an attempt on his life and Scarlett was assigned the case.

Their lives once again cross when Marcus calls on Scarlett in the dead of night to meet with him and a possible victim of abuse. By the time she arrives, the victim is dead and Marcus injured.

And so, at the usual remarkable pace of Rose’s previous book, Marcus and Scarlett seek to get justice for the murdered woman. However, they are challenged with the constant battle as to whether they can truly trust each other given their very conflicting careers. Will Marcus be driven to go to print with more than the police are willing to reveal to a public ever greedy for the gruesome details of crime? Will the police be willing to trust Marcus enough to take advantage of his help to solve the murder?

Totally loved me second read of Karen Rose but did get a little frustrated that she repeated what was refreshing in her first book but which felt like laziness on her part in the second e.g. the relationship between Marcus and Scarlett – different characters to ‘Closer Than You Think’ but the same idea, police woman falling in love with a victim.

Susan Wallace

I thought this was a great book, absolutely enthralling. I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more from this author.

Former army ranger Marcus O’Bannion, who is now a publisher, and homicide cop Scarlett Bishop have met only briefly, but when Marcus finds himself in

trouble one night she is the person he calls.

Scarlett goes to meet him to discover the body of a young Asian woman, who has been shot, as also has Marcus.

Marcus is a passionate advocate for victims' rights, and uses his power as the producer of a successful publication to help victims of abuse. However, this case proves to be more than that, and he and Scarlett discover that the victim is 'owned' by a local family and they are drawn into the world of human trafficking, where people are bought and sold as slaves.

The story has many twists and turns as they find out about the victim and her family and unravel the story of how she came to be a slave. Additionally, there is a great sexual tension between Marcus and Scarlett, who both have some major issues to overcome relating to past events and to their relationships with their families.

I thought this was a great book, absolutely enthralling. Although it is a large book, it didn't take me long to read as I couldn't put it down. I did feel that more could have been written about Scarlett's difficult relationship with her family, as I wanted to know more about them. Perhaps that will come in the next book? Lots of secondary characters were included who were well depicted and believable.

I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more from this author.

Shilawati Ab.Rahman

*'Alone in the Dark' is one of those books that will hook you till the end. The story about Marcus and Scarlett was written in such a way you'll be wondering what will happen next. Marcus is a 'broken' man after what happened during his childhood. Scarlett on the other hand likes to fix or mend anything broken including Marcus. They first met when Marcus's brother was kidnapped. Nine months later their path collided again and this time they working together to reveal the human trafficking business. **The plot are nicely laid out and keeps you wanting for more. Alone in the dark will not disappoint you.***

Kerry Bridges

A story full of twists and turns with likeable characters and definite villains. Definitely one I would recommend.

Marcus O'Bannion meets a young girl in a park. She won't come near him so he starts to sing. It takes a bit of time but she finally agrees to meet him.

Unfortunately, Marcus isn't the only one there. Who was Tala and why was she so desperate to get away? What made it safer for her to be alone in the dark? Marcus and Detective Scarlett Bishop must find out, before the monster in the dark finds them first.

This is the second book in Karen Rose's Cincinnati series which started with 'Closer Than You Think' and includes many of the same characters - although the emphasis here is on a different couple than last time. I like that idea as I could still read about the characters I enjoyed last time but also get to know some new ones which gives the story room to expand outwards much more.

Both Scarlett and Marcus are likeable but flawed characters (which does seem to be a theme in both the Karen Rose novels I have read). They are interesting people who don't always make the right choices but make them for the right reasons, so they resonate well as "real" rather than perfect and unlikely.

Before I read Karen Rose's novels, I was not a fan of romance really and I'm still not. However, there is also a very good main story to this series, meaning that the romance part is incidental rather than dominant, and this makes it much more fun to read.

All in all, this is another very long book but definitely worth investing time in and I did enjoy reading it. I am not sure if there would be anywhere to go with a third book in the series; but if there was, I would definitely read it.

<http://iamalwaysreading.wordpress.com/>

Jacki Moorcroft

Wow, Karen Rose does it again with a thrilling page turner full of juicy characters and steamy passages. *Once started you will be drawn into her world and won't feel satisfied until the book is over.*

Marcus O'Bannion answers a young girl's cry for help and immediately responds. He asks for assistance from Scarlett Bishop a homicide cop and the two of them become embroiled in the seedy world of human trafficking. Karen Rose continues to build on her family with these two characters who do not fail to deliver. The story is fast paced, the baddies are exceedingly bad, and the steamy relationship between Marcus and Scarlett will leave you breathless. A book which you want to continue long after the final chapter. A truly exceptional read, and I cannot wait for the next instalment!

Jacki Moorcroft @moorcoftj

Melanie Rose

Breath-taking second book in the Cincinnati series

I have been looking forward to this book since reading the first in this series 'Closer Than You Think'. This book focuses more on different characters to the first although Deacon Novak is still in the background.

Homicide cop Scarlett Bishop and Marcus O'Bannion are investigating the dangerous world of human trafficking where they soon realise they are going to have to become as ruthless as those they are hunting. Alongside this is their developing personal relationship which has you on tenterhooks.

*Without giving anything away, **it is a very good read - intense, complex, fast and furious - you'll just want to keep reading till you get to the end.***

Glenda Worth

An excellent read with many twists and turns. A real page turner from beginning to end. Scarlett Bishop and Marcus O'Bannion make a formidable team investigating human trafficking

'Alone In The Dark' is a brilliant read from Karen Rose. Scarlett Bishop teams up with Marcus Bannion both personally and professionally even though she is a cop and he's a publisher for a newspaper.

*A shooting in an alley starts the storyline off leading to the fearless two coming together. The story revolves around human trafficking, slavery and several low life people determined to profit at any price. As they trick each other and trust is non-existent, Scarlett tries to untangle the series of crimes with the help of Marcus when he's not being shot at. **The novel wends its way around family, romance, passion and treachery, lots of twists and turns, I couldn't put it down, best book I've read for a long time!***

Jocelyn Garvey

This is a blockbuster in all senses of the word. Around 600 pages long and unputdownable. Karen Rose at her best. Not a book for the fainthearted.

This is the second book in the new Cincinnati series and as in all her books some characters are from past books but lots of new ones.

Scarlett and Marcus met towards the end of the last book in the series 'Closer Than You Think'.

There was an instant attraction. However as Scarlett is a policewoman and Marcus a newspaperman, it probably won't happen. Not having read the previous book is not a problem as most of the history of these two and other characters is explained.

Marcus has stumbled upon a frightened Asian girl and tries to help her but they both get shot. Scarlett comes to their aid. It turns out that she is employed by a wealthy local family and the whole story of the girl and trafficking of people in the area begins to open up.

The traffickers will stop at nothing to keep their identities hidden and their lucrative business safe.

Twists and turns, cops, FBI and human trafficking investigators.

This book is in turn happy and a bit sexy and then stomach churningly sadistic.

A complex story that will keep you reading.

Enjoy – I did.

@JossG

Bev Farningham

Former army ranger Marcus O'Bannion and homicide cop Scarlett Bishop have met only briefly but when she receives a call from him to meet him in one of the city's roughest areas, she does not hesitate.

There she finds the body of a 17 year old Asian girl, shot twice. Marcus is the publisher of a local paper that champions victim's rights, sometime bending the rules to achieve this. He is convinced she was in the States because of a human trafficker - and so becomes a search that becomes deadly.

This book took over 60 pages for me to get into, probably because of the amount of narrative and also repetition and being drawn out.

Also I could have done without the erotic sexual scenes - though I am not a prude. It really was two stories in one and at 600 pages, too long.

I found it difficult to believe that 2 such troubled people could meet, not to mention others.

I am a great fan of Karen Rose but this was well off her usual mark and I would give it 3.5 stars.

Julie Faulkner

A tense fast paced psychological thriller with lots of inter-connecting threads. It loses its way somewhat in the middle but draws in the reader again towards the end.

'Alone in the Dark' portrays a complicated, dark web of murder, human trafficking and the press. The author tells the story from the point of view of several characters and it is events in their past that shape how they deal with what is happening today.

The novel is at its best when exploring the psychological secrets of the characters. As the investigation into the murder of a young girl in an alleyway progresses the reader is drawn into a web so complex it seems difficult to see how it can be unravelled. About half way though the pace and plot turns increase to such an extent that it becomes difficult to follow and I lost interest for a while. The violence becomes a little too gratuitous and frequent and I started not to care. The last third of the book however takes things back to a more manageable pace and we become interested in the psyche not only of the investigators, but of the perpetrators too.

Alfred Nobile

*I enjoy Karen Rose's books. Though not having read the previous book in the series, reading as a standalone the references to a back story was irksome at times. Once I got used to **this I found on the whole it was a very enjoyable book. All characters were well drawn and rounded. I will look forward to reading more in this series.** Like all of Karen's book a healthy suspension of disbelief helps.*