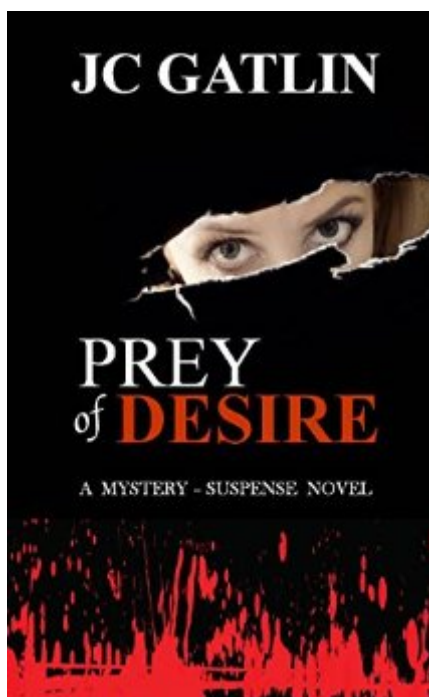


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# Prey Of Desire: A Mystery - Suspense Novel



## Synopsis

They said the disappearance of two high school students over twenty-five years ago was a mystery that couldn't be solved... No one ever said it shouldn't be. Following the abrupt end of a relationship, college student Kimberly Bradford finds comfort in the friendship with her over-the-top neighbor, Mallory. And, Mallory encourages her to get back out there. She would of course if it weren't for the thrilling little love notes and gifts she's been receiving. Kim thinks they're from her ex-fiance, not realizing he's been murdered. Worse, whoever is sending her all the extra attention is not only in her inner-circle, but has a connection to that unsolved murder some 25 years ago. That connection puts her life in danger, and exposes secrets around her closest friends and family that are better left buried. A Florida Mystery that readers are calling "Absolutely Suspenseful" with "an ending you'll never see coming!" Grab this book before you go to bed -- Prepare to stay up all night to finish it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Prey of Desire focuses on Kimberly Bradford's life in a small Southern town. Gaitlin's story idea is captivating and the story sounds intriguing â how can the death of two students 25 years

ago be related to murders happening now and what does this all have to do with the main character of Kimberly? The finale was exciting and action-packed, but unfortunately, the suspense was not properly built-up in the story until that point. The mystery aspect could also use some work as some questions were not answered. It would be interesting to see more clues come out in this respect. Although the writing was decent, there were generally too many details written. Who cares to which channel the television is turned? I found it hard to sympathize with the character of Kimberly as she seemed very immature for her age, especially considering her past. The relationship between Kimberly and Mallory was difficult to believe. The two were so very different and their discussions/interactions didn't come across as realistic. There is definitely a lot of potential in this story and book that with proper editing and perhaps more attention to the mystery aspect could make it a great story. I recommend this book to beach goers looking for an easy read on a hot, summer day.

Enough people have given a synopsis so I won't leave another. The book is an unexpected mix of chick lit and murder mystery, but I found the female characters a little stereotypical, especially Mallory who seems to be a completely shallow, immature individual, happy to live off various men and use them for money. I also wondered how the heroine financed her life, if there was an explanation of how a college student supported herself in a town house with no job, I missed it. Saying that, the author kept the suspense going about who the murderer was, right to the end, although a little more explanation about why he thought the heroine was a relative wasn't sufficiently explained. All in all, an absorbing read, even if the female characters were a little stereotypical.

What a disappointment. I was looking for an engrossing read, but this book fell far short. We were never told the motivation for at least one of the attacks and when the book ended I felt I had wasted my time. Additionally, the book was poorly edited for grammar and usage, which I found annoying.

Kim Bradford's boyfriend, Ross, broke up with her. Or did she break up with him? But it wasn't the first time they'd broken up over some silly lover's quarrel, so after three weeks, four days and 16 hours (but who's counting), she was thinking that Ross would contact her any moment. Until then, she was going to live her life and go out with whoever she wanted. She went with her friend Mallory and her boyfriend, Addison, to meet a blind date December 31, 1999 at a fabulous New Year's Eve party. Then murders begin and she receives things - a poetry book, strange notes and yet stranger calls. She keeps thinking they are from Ross trying to contact her -- trying to apologize. She has no

idea that something from twenty-five years ago has resurfaced and she is right in the center of it. This was a really good mystery. I was actually pretty thrown by who the 'bad guy' was. In many ways, this felt like a cozy, but it is more graphic than most cozies. A couple of pieces didn't entirely mesh for me. For example, while at the New Year's Eve celebration, Addison had disappeared for a time. When Kim saw him later at the party, he appeared 'frantic and upset.' She asked him what happened; he never answered. It never came to anything, so it felt like a loose end. I rated *Prey of Desire* at 3 out of 5.

I don't remember how much I paid for this book, but whatever the amount, it was too much! I realized at the beginning that I was delving into a worthless cause, but I kept on reading, simply because I thought that eventually the plot would reveal itself and make some sort of sense. Unfortunately, it never did. The plot was never revealed in any form until the very end and even then it didn't make sense. Characters were introduced that literally played no part whatsoever in the plot. I was constantly asking myself, "Why?" "What did that character contribute?" In most cases, they contributed absolutely nothing to the story line. The writing itself was childish and uninteresting. I don't recommend this book unless you are looking for something relatively worthless to do on a rainy afternoon.

The exciting pace of this well-written murder mystery starts from the first page and never slows! Gatlin's writing style keeps your attention with lots of twists and turns, clever and fresh dialogue, and intrigue. The characters are well-developed and unpredictable, and Kim is very likeable. There isn't a dull moment- but there sure are some tense ones! This suspenseful intelligent thriller is so well-crafted, and I can't wait for another J.C. Gatlin book! This is a genuinely gifted author!!!

I'm having a hard time putting J.C. Gatlin's *Prey of Desire* into a genre category. It definitely has elements of a thriller/mystery, but also focuses heavily on the relationship between the main character Kim and her friend Mallory, and reminded me of a tame episode of *Sex and the City*. For the first half of the book, they seemed to be disparate elements. I felt like I was reading two separate books, touching only occasionally. Fortunately it came together in the last half, but the road getting there was a little bumpy for me. I felt a little desensitized to the series of murders which opens the book, partly because the victims came and died so quickly that I never developed any emotional connection. I think that adding some personality quirks, making the victims more sympathetic by revealing some vulnerabilities, etc, might increase the level of shock and horror and

escalate the "thriller" aspect of the story. I love rooting against a good villain, but never felt obliged to boo and hiss because I didn't feel I was given enough reason to. The other issue for me was the punctuation, grammar and formatting errors that beset the version of the book I received. Lines of dialogue or bits of description were sometimes repeated. I'm willing to overlook a few editing mistakes, but there were enough to distract me from the flow. I think investing in a quality editor would really help bring the book to a different level. Again, the last half of the story picked up dramatically, and I enjoyed the conclusion. Very exciting! The story as a whole had some really funny, laugh-out-loud moments too, especially from Mallory, which I appreciated as well.

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