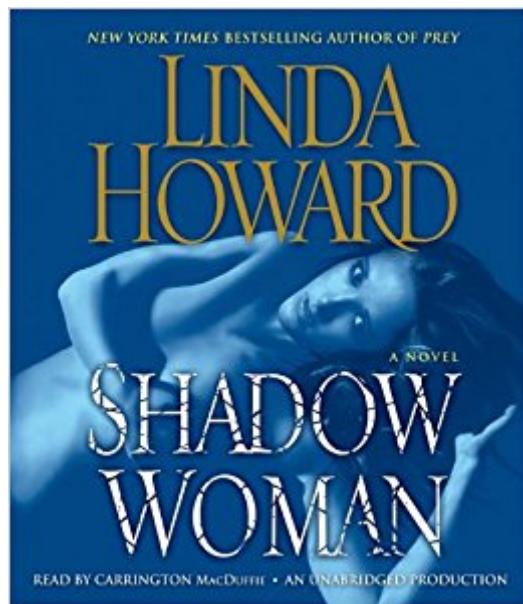


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# Shadow Woman: A Novel



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER From Linda Howard comes a thrilling and sensual new novel of romance, suspense, intrigue . . . and memories that can kill. **SHADOW WOMAN** Lizette Henry wakes up one morning and makes a terrifying discovery: She doesn't recognize the face she sees in the mirror. She remembers what she looks like, but her reflection is someone else's. To add to the shock, two years seem to have disappeared from her life. Someone has gone to great and inexplicable lengths to keep those missing years hidden forever. But the past always finds a way to return. Strange memories soon begin to surface and, along with them, some unusual skills and talents that Lizette hasn't a clue about acquiring. Sensing that she's being monitored, Lizette suddenly knows how to search for bugs in her house and tracking devices in her car. What's more, she can elude surveillance like a trained agent. Enter a mysterious and seductive stranger named Xavier, who claims he wants to help—but who triggers disturbing images of an unspeakable crime of which Lizette may or may not be the perpetrator. With memories returning, she suddenly becomes a target of anonymous assassins. On the run with nowhere to hide, Lizette has no choice but to rely on Xavier, a strong and magnetic man she doesn't trust, with a powerful attraction she cannot resist. As murky waters become clear, Lizette confronts a conspiracy that is treacherous and far-reaching and a truth that, once revealed, may silence her and Xavier once and for all. Praise for *Shadow Woman* **Dazzling . . .** From the opening line, [Shadow Woman] will grab readers and take them on an exhilarating and terrifying adventure! **RT Book Reviews** **Fast-paced, intricately detailed romantic suspense . . .** Readers won't want to put it down until the extraordinary conclusion. . . . Highly recommended. **Fresh Fiction** **An intriguing plot and captivating characters [with] lots of drama, tension, intrigue and suspense.** **The Star-Ledger** From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Four years after the first lady shoots the president and then herself, a woman in northern Virginia wakes up one morning, looks in the mirror, and sees a face that isn't hers. How could this be? As she thinks back on her life, Lizette realizes that there's a two-year gap in her recent memory. As she makes this discovery and works to recover her memories of those years, her handlers are starting to panic as they pick up her agitated mutterings via the bugs they've placed in her house. If she remembers everything that happened before they wiped her mind, the handlers will all be in deep trouble. Her former lover and now anonymous protector, Xavier, also knows what her awakening mind means: those who erased her memories will now want to kill her. Saving Lizette means going against protocol and aligning himself with what his superiors see as the wrong side. As usual, veteran Howard, the queen of romantic suspense, gives readers a roller-coaster ride of action, intrigue, and love. --Pat Henshaw --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

“Dazzling . . . From the opening line, [Shadow Woman] will grab readers and take them on an exhilarating and terrifying adventure!” •RT Book Reviews  
“Fast-paced, intricately detailed romantic suspense . . . Readers won't want to put it down until the extraordinary conclusion. . . . Highly recommended.” •Fresh Fiction  
“An intriguing plot and captivating characters [with] lots of drama, tension, intrigue and suspense.” •The Star-Ledger

Linda Howard is one of my favorite authors, and this book didn't disappoint. It's a great suspense story that kept me engrossed in the action and wanting to find out what happened next. I don't really understand the negative reviews. The only thing I can figure is that those readers were expecting more of a romantic story. The relationship between Xavier and Lizzy is there, but in more of a background kind of way (I don't really want to say more to ruin the story for anyone). I loved Xavier (truly drool worthy), and Lizzy was likeable and relatable as well. They don't actually get together

until about 75% of the way through the book, but again, there is a reason for that and context is provided throughout the story. You do get to see both characters before that point, just not together as a couple. For me, Xavier's absolute devotion to protecting Lizzy was romantic enough to get me through the first part of the book in which they weren't actually "together". Definitely worth reading!

What would you do if you woke up, looked in the mirror and didn't see the face you were expecting? Lizette has lived a quiet, unassuming life for the last three years and now everything is falling apart. She starts having hot dreams about a guy she bumped into at the drugstore and her life starts spicing up. The plot is a bit out there on this Howard offering but it IS fiction and I enjoyed it. The last part of the book seemed a bit rushed after all the build-up leading to the ending. And I never got a good sense of the antagonists. But I did enjoy Xavier and his and Lizzy's story. I've read Linda Howard books for years; she's a favorite author of mine. "Mr. Perfect" is one of my favorite books. "Shadow Woman" isn't up to the level of "Mr. Perfect" IMO but it was a fun read nonetheless.

I've always enjoyed Linda Howard's books and this one had such a promising start. A woman wakes up one morning and doesn't recognize her own face! Wow and woopdedoo...here we go with a great read. Oh so not the case. As the story progressed I kept thinking that, had I been behind it all I would have just put a bullet in the young lady's head to start with...why go to all the trouble the five 'baddies' went to...for what? I can't recommend this book...it seemed to me that Ms. Howard started it, then sat at her computer staring at a blank screen and wondered what to do next. What she should have done was hit the delete button. This book is not worth reading...it certainly is NOT worth 13.99 for an e-book.

When someone recommended Linda Howard, I chose *Shadow Woman* as my introductory read as it was similar to Sandra Brown novels that I have read. I was pretty excited and hopeful going in after reading the synopsis as I love intrigue mixed with romance. Keeping this review simple, I must say that I was disappointed on how the flow of the book went. The narrative took way too long to get to for me, and the relationship between Lizzy and Xavier was never fully developed or explored to my satisfaction. The mystery surrounding Lizzy was intriguing, but somewhat unbelievable. Without giving away the plot line, if she was trusted enough to perform her job, why wasn't she trusted enough to keep a secret. I just didn't have the heart pounding anxiety that would usually come with this kind of plot line. That being said, I am now reading another Linda Howard novel, *Running Wild: The Men From Battle Ridge*, and am enjoying it, thus far.

Linda Howard used to be one of my go to authors. I read everything she wrote and couldn't wait for her to publish her next book. I don't know what happened, either I became more discriminating or Ms. Howard lost her touch. Personally I think it was the latter. Several years ago I read two of her books and both bombed. At that time I decided not buy anymore of her books until her ratings improved. For several years I checked the reviews and they continued to be poor. So, I was pretty happy when the overall rating for this book had 4 stars. I even had send me a free sample to my Kindle before purchasing this book. The first two chapters (free sample) were pretty good and interesting, even the last several chapters were okay, but all the stuff in between was sorely lacking. There was no substance. Unfortunately I think this will be the last Linda Howard story I purchase. Very disappointed.

Linda Howard can write a romantic thriller like nobody else, and the plot of this one twists and turns and leaves the reader guessing who Lizette Henry really is. The reader doesn't wonder anymore than Lizette herself the morning she looks in the mirror and sees a face she doesn't recognize, a face that bears the almost invisible scars of plastic surgery. Immediately, Lizette is struck by violent nausea and a blinding headache. She recovers enough to call in sick at work, only to be told not to worry, that she hasn't taken a sick day in the four years she worked at the investment firm. Lizette realizes that she can't remember first going to work for the firm, and in fact, seems to be missing two years of her life. Again a violent headache strikes. Whenever she tries to recall her past, at least any past beyond the most recent four years, a painful headache renders her helpless. Then the dreams start--intimate dreams of her and a man she loves. But Lizette knows no such man and has hardly dated in the past four years. When she leaves her home to try to find answers to her missing past, she barely survives attempts to murder her. What is happening, and what does the handsome, but threatening man have to do with her? Why is he following her, and why does she suddenly find she has skills she never knew she had--marksmanship with a gun, martial arts, defensive driving, how to live on the run? A tightly plotted thriller that fools the reader almost to the end. I highly recommend THE SHADOW WOMAN to fans of romantic suspense.

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