



2009

The Dying Breath: A Forensic Mystery

Tessa McMillan

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Ferguson, Alane. *The Dying Breath: A Forensic Mystery*. Penguin, 2009. ISBN 9780670063147. \$16.99. 234 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Detective and mystery stories;

Subject: Stalking--Juvenile fiction; Forensic sciences--Juvenile fiction; Coroners--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Kyle O'Neil is back in town and this time he plans on killing Cameryn Mahoney. Kyle had mysteriously disappeared into the Colorado mountains after killing a teacher and sparing Cameryn's life. In his psychopathic mind he believes that his relationship to Cameryn can be eternally bound by their death. Before Kyle returned, Cameryn had gotten closer to death by becoming an assistant coroner and learning forensic science from Dr. Moore. One day Cameryn is called away from high school to view the autopsy of two dead bodies. When Kyle contacts her, she knows he is responsible for these and other murders. The sheriff's deputy, Justin, promises to protect Cameryn until Kyle is caught, and in the process Justin and Cameryn fall in love. While the police are supposedly tracking down Kyle, Kyle kidnaps Cameryn and stabs Justin. Kyle plans on driving his car over a cliff to seal his fate and love with Cameryn, but Cameryn distracts him and escapes. Kyle will not be captured and jumps off the cliff to his death. After Cameryn escapes, she visits Justin at the hospital while he is recovering.

This compelling, gripping, and shocking story is the fourth book in Ferguson's Forensic Mystery series. Any reader interested in pursuing a career in forensic science will enjoy this series. On the other hand, this book is just for young adult readers because of the graphic descriptions of dead bodies in the autopsy room, the crime scenes, and the morgue.

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