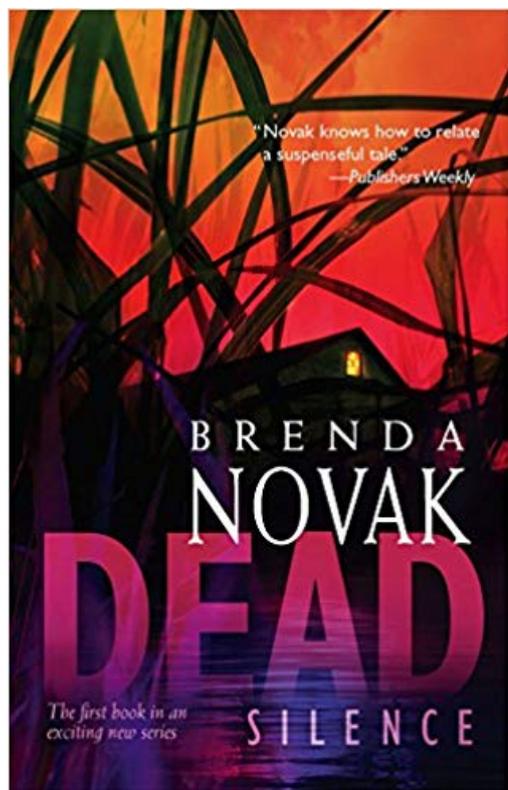


## Dead Silence (The Stillwater Trilogy, Book 1) by Brenda Novak



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**Author:** Brenda Novak

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There's a body buried behind a Mississippi farmhouse Grace Montgomery knows who it is, and she knows why it happened. She was only thirteen the night it all went wrong. And now, like then, she has no choice but to keep her mouth shut. Grace left the town of Stillwater thirteen years ago, trying to forget, trying to make good. As an assistant D.A. in Jackson, she's finally achieved the success that was supposed to change her life. But it hasn't—so she's come back to confront her own history. Which means returning to the farmhouse now owned by her brother and facing the people of Stillwater, a number of whom suspect the truth. Widower Kennedy Archer is one of those people. He's running for mayor and needs to stay as far away from Grace as possible. And yet she's an enigma he can't resist. Even though her enemies are close to finding out what really happened—and that could ruin them both.



# Reviews of the **Dead Silence (The Stillwater Trilogy, Book 1)** by Brenda Novak

## **Kamick**

Another wonderful read by Brenda Novak. I haven't found a book that I did not like yet. I'm relatively new to her work and I cannot wait to read more of it. She can definitely write a good romantic suspenseful novel. My favorite :)

I LOVED this story line. Normally, I am reading about a story where the killer is trying to kill someone or the story starts out with a murder. Technically, this novel started out with a murder but not in the way you would imagine. I loved how this story was written and how the story was told. You kept getting hints on what happened that fateful night that Reverend Barker disappeared but were still in the dark most of the book. I had it narrowed down to a group of people but still hadn't figured who exactly had been a part of what.

I loved Grace. She was confident yet still unsure of herself. I think most people can relate to that. And I loved the relationship between Grace and Kennedy. Of course, I fell in love with Kennedy. I even loved his name. So strong and male.

I would definitely recommend this book if you were a fan of romantic suspense!

## **Prorahun**

I really wanted this book to be better. Of course, this is only my personal opinion, but there was too much romance and not enough suspense for my liking. Especially toward the end, and quite unrealistic. I found myself saying out loud, "What? Are you kidding me?!" Oh well, it was a fast paced quick read and other readers may enjoy much better than I did.

## **zzzachibis**

This was a hard book for me to read. I almost gave up on it because of the set up. Assistant DA Grace Montgomery had secrets and went back home to deal with them, opening up a can of worms better left buried. She was involved in the murder of her step-father while a child of thirteen. Now with her return to Stillwater the community wants answers to what happened eighteen years before.

Widower Kennedy Archer is running for mayor. He doesn't like the way the community treats Grace because of her bad reputation as a teen. While he didn't abuse her back then he also didn't do anything to stop it. He tries to make up for it. Grace knows what being with him will ruin his chance for election.

The story is well written, and others may have loved it, but it was too dark for me.

## **Mamuro**

Dead Silence is part of a series set in Mississippi. Grace is an ADA who has come back to her home town to settle some issues. Kennedy is a banker who is widowed and has two boys to raise. Grace and her family are not well liked as they were suspect in the disappearance of her stepfather many years ago. Although they went to school together, Kennedy is seeing her in a new light since her return. There were many twists and turns that kept me interested and I read long into the night for a

couple of nights. I will definitely read the rest of the series as well as others by Ms. Novak. I highly recommend her books!

### **Cells**

The town of Stillwater seems like the idyllic, picturesque small southern town, but dang, there's some nasty things going on behind closed doors!! This book made me really FEEL for the main character, Grace; what she went through as a teenager, and how she's managed to pull herself up by the bootstraps to be as successful as she is. The only problem is that her past won't let her move forward emotionally, and she's back in her hometown to try and figure some things out.

Her return to town is not exactly heralded with balloons and a parade. The same bullies that picked on her in high school are picking on her now, with the exception of the one guy she always wanted, Kennedy. Kennedy has managed to grow up, unlike his old pals, and can now see Grace for the exceptional woman she is right now. His kids love her, he loves her, and that should be enough, but Grace and her family are hiding a secret that the entire town has been whispering about for nineteen years. The secrets are so horrible that Grace and her family - with the exception of her stepsister, Madeline - have vowed to go their graves (so to speak) without revealing the truth about that night so long ago.

This book kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time I was reading; I didn't even look at the last pages to see whodunit, like I usually do, because I truly wanted to be surprised. Great story, great characters, great romance - now I'm off to read Book 2!

### **Agalen**

Grace Montgomery has always known where her stepfather's body is buried. She's held on to the secret out of guilt and to protect her family. She's tried to rebuild her life from the devastation of her childhood and is now a successful D.A. in Jackson, but the past still holds a grip on her. In an effort to finally overcome the abuse, which is still controlling her life, she returns to the small town she grew up in, Stillwater. What she never expects when she returns is to find herself becoming more and more involved with Kennedy Archer. A widower, Kennedy had been among those to condemn her in high school, but the more time they spend together, the more they fall in love. When Grace finally confides the truth in Kennedy will their love be strong enough to handle it?

Dead Silence grabbed me from the first page and left me unable to stop reading. Brenda Novak has woven a tale of mystery, suspense, secrets and love with such skill that the story literally leapt off the pages. As the death Grace's stepfather, Reverend Baker, and the events that precipitate it are slowly revealed I became more and more involved with the Montgomery family. Added to this is the growing love between one of the town's favorite sons, Kennedy, and the girl with the bad reputation, Grace that no one approves of. As Grace opens up to Kennedy with the pain of her past I came to love her and to desperately want her to find the happiness that has eluded her for years. Kudos to Ms. Novak for delivering a tale of a family destroyed by one man's evil. I will be anxiously looking for Grace's brother Clay's story, Dead Giveaway to see how the secrets of Reverend Baker's death continue to unfold.

Melissa

Reviewed for Joyfully Reviewed

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