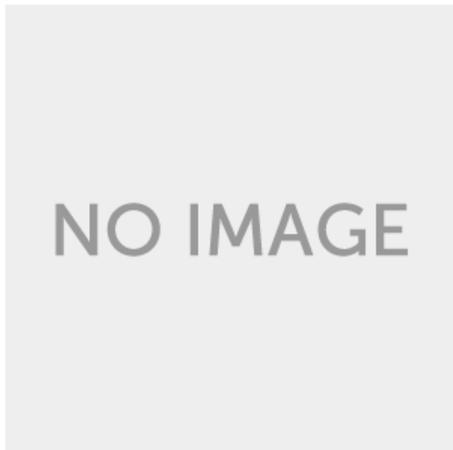


Red Light (Playaway Adult Fiction) by Tavia Gilbert,T. Jefferson Parker



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Reviews of the Red Light (Playaway Adult Fiction) by Tavia Gilbert,T. Jefferson Parker

Dranar

Merci Rayborn returns after her introduction in THE BLUE HOUR. She's back at work as Det. Sgt. in the Orange County Sheriff's Department and is raising her son, Tim Jr. fathered by Tim Hess, her partner, who died in a gunfight with the serial killer in THE BLUE HOUR case.

Merci is dating Mike McNally but still mourns the loss of Tim Hess. Mike is also a Det. Sgt. and is currently assigned to the vice unit working undercover to get evidence on the head of a large ring of prostitutes. He has gained the confidence of Aubrey Whittaker, and has dinner with her in her apartment. Not long after she is found shot to death and the evidence points to McNally.

Merci is assigned as lead detective which puts a tremendous stress on her relationship with Mike. Even more as the evidence against him develops.

As if that wasn't enough trouble to handle the sheriff assigns her a "cold" case concerning a prostitute who was murdered way back in 1965, about the same time her father and Mike's father were also working as deputies in the Sheriff's Department.

To collect crucial evidence Merci resorts to seduction to prowl Mike's house while he sleeps. The evidence is sufficient to lead to Mike's arrest for the murder of the prostitute.

An unknown person sends Merci a package with a cassette tape and a locker key. This evidence breaks open the "cold" case and leads to politicians, and sheriff's deputies from the mid-sized that were involved in a land development scheme to acquire a critical piece of land owned by a Latino who refused to sell and was nearly beaten to death in order to convince him he ought to sell his property.

The tape recording was made by the prostitute while she was discussing the Latino's beating with a politician client just as she was being shot to death.

Merci's interviews with the dirty politician and the secret tape recording linked the old cold case to the current case and the conclusion begins to come together at full speed. Here is where you don't want to be interrupted because it requires the reader to stay focused..fasten your mental brain belt and dare not put the book down for fear of having to 're-read the last chapters over again to find out who done it and who crashed and burned?

P

Roram

Merci Rayborn is a cop. She's faced a terrible foe and lost the love of her life. Trying to rebuild her life for the sake of her slain lover's son, she slips into a complicated relationship with Mike. Even though they work together, sleep together and enjoy each other's company, she can't make a commitment to build a life with Mike. Something is missing. It's not him, it's her.

Then everything changes. She's assigned a new case. A prostitute is killed and all the evidence points to Mike being the killer. Merci struggles with believing Mike is the killer, but in a drunken conversation, he admits to knowing her and laments to causing her death. Merci goes to the Captain with her suspicions after an illegal search. The D.A. gets involved and Mike is arrested.

Meanwhile, Merci and her partner is assigned a cold case. When she's kicked off the prostitute killing case, Merci and her partner focus on a resently assigned cold case. The cold case heats up when evidence from the cold case suddenly appears. The sins of the past come back to almost destroy Merci. Slowly Merci realizes the two case are linked...but how? 30 plus years is a long time....

Evidence is brought forward and names from the past and the current case coalesce into a picture that turns both cases upside down. Chips fall and Merci ends up being the catalyst for all the secret doors and windows to be thrown open for the world to see. Who will be left standing?

This is a good read and a book well worth the price. The author has created a character that is compelling with a situation that is a loose, loose for the main character but ever so entertaining.

Other than a couple typos that seem to be a translation problem..."corner" was repeatedly written "comer"....no big deal. Just distracting. I kept watching for it after the first couple times.

krot

Prior to retirement I was a Police Officer in Miami, FL and later a NC Magistrate Judge.

With that background my reading interest is primarily homicide cases and court room trials, it is so common to read a well crafted mystery then when guns come into the story the author loses all previous credibility because they make such fundamental errors such as stating the hero or villain inserted a full magazine into their revolver, or stating they were using a .16 caliber gun or some other fictitious caliber that has not been produced.

All the lengthy statement I typed above is to make the point that the author of this book DID NOT make those typical blunders but followed correct police procedure thereby established a great deal of credibility in my eyes and causes me to look forward to future books.

Billy

Umdwyn

I have read all three Merci Rayborn novels by this writer and they're all good reads. It's important to read them in sequence, because the characters appear continually and what happens to them is more coherent and satisfying for the reader if the story is allowed to play out temporally.

Faugami

Having lived in Orange County, CA in the late 1960s, I love the back story. I also like the fact that the main character is a difficult person and not really liked by her peers. Unfortunately, the awful editing in the Kindle version is distracting to me. For example, every instance of the word "corner" was changed to "comer" and burn changed to "bum". At first I thought it was my font (r and n running together), but it wasn't. For \$2.99, I won't ask for a refund, but this sloppy production took my attention away from the story every time I saw it.

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