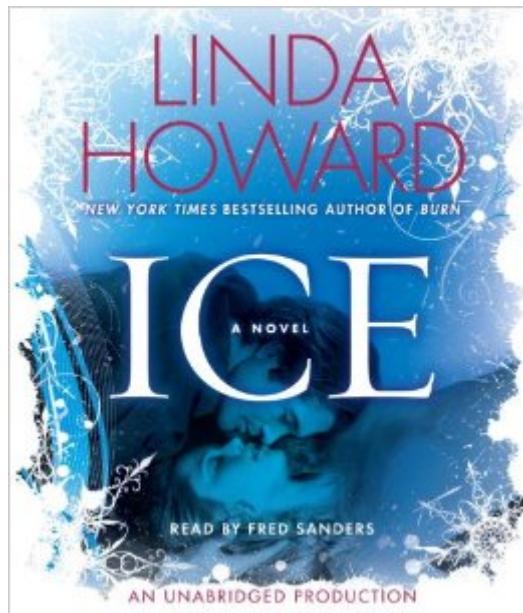


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# Ice: A Novel



## Synopsis

â™Tis the season for mistletoe and holly, Santa . . . and suspense. And the gift that keeps on giving is *Ice*: premier thriller author Linda Howardâ™s breathless tale of a man, a woman, and a battle for survival against an unforgiving winterâ™ and an unrelenting killer. Oh what fun it is to read. Gabriel McQueen has only just arrived home on holiday leave from the service when his county-sheriff father sends him back out again with new marching orders. A brewing ice storm, and a distant neighbor whoâ™s fallen out of contact, have the local lawman concerned. So he enlists Gabriel to make the long haul to the middle of nowhere, and make sure Lolly Helton is safe and sound. Itâ™s a trip the younger McQueen would rather not make given the bitter winter weatherâ™ and the icy conditions that have always existed between him and Lolly. But thereâ™s no talking back when your dad is the townâ™s top cop. And thereâ™s no turning back when night falls just as Gabriel arrivesâ™ and discovers that the weather outside isnâ™t the only thing thatâ™s frightful. Spotting strangers in Lollyâ™s homeâ™ one of them packing a weaponâ™ is all it takes to kick Gabriel into combat mode. And his stealth training is all he needs to extract Lolly from the house without alerting her captors. But when the escape is discovered, the heatâ™ and the huntâ™ are on. And the winter woods are nowhere to be once the ice storm touches down, dropping trees, blocking roads, and trapping the fleeing pair in the freezing dark.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 starsâ™ See all reviewsâ™ (198 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #986,757 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inâ™ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Howard, Linda #657 inâ™ Books > Books on CD > Romance #1647 inâ™ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## Customer Reviews

Linda Howard is on my short list of auto-buy authors and several of her older books are on my keeper shelf but this one won't make it! The story is short and thin, the characters are flat and

uninteresting. The only thing we really know about our hero is that he loves his son and can kill a man with his elbow. We find out a little more about the heroine but it's more disturbing; she grew up as the daughter of locally influential, well known people, but somehow she got through the first 18 years of her life without making a single friend. Her redeeming feature now seems to be that she can kill the villainess with a ball peen hammer and not suffer any guilt. Quick sex in the shower and it's happily-ever-after for these two. If, like me, your hand twitches to reach for any book with Linda Howard's name on it, here's my advice - wait for the paperback of this one and then buy it used, or better still, borrow it from your local library.

It's never a good sign when you finish a \$22.00 hardcover in about an hour, maybe a paperback but never a hardcover. Overall, I echo the thoughts of others - the book was too short and needed more character development. Burn was better than Ice. That's rather sad when you consider that Burn was a three star book. It's a shame that Linda Howard is now putting out this type of book. She's a better writer than this. Even at the price of \$11.00 I'd recommend checking the library for this title.

**STORY BRIEF:** Gabriel is an army sergeant in the military police, based in North Carolina. He comes home to Maine just before Christmas. His father is sheriff and asks Gabriel to go to the Helton home outside of town. An ice storm is coming, and the sheriff is worried that Lolly may not know about the storm and may be stranded. There is no cell phone service near her home. Gabriel and Lolly attended high school together. Their high school relationship was antagonistic. He taunted her. She insulted him. Her father was mayor at the time. He thought of her as Miss Hoity-Toity Helton. Lolly's family moved away years ago but kept the mountain-side home. Lolly recently came back to pack things up and arrange to sell it. A couple of meth addicts needing money, follow her home with plans to beat, rape and rob her. Meanwhile Gabriel is on his way to her home.

**REVIEWER'S OPINION:** I love this author. She knows how to tell a good story with good characters. This was an enjoyable escape. The downside was that it was a "short story" - half the size of a normal book. It would have been nice to have more time for more relationship development. But as a short story it was good for suspense, action, conflicts, and some romantic development. There was one lovely sex scene. Unfortunately I'm in the minority. I think many reviewers did not like this book because it was too short. I paid \$9 which was a bit much, but it would be worthwhile to get from the library.

**DATA:** Story length: 196 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: one, three pages long. Setting: current day Wilson Creek, Maine. Copyright: 2009. Genre: romantic suspense.

**OTHER BOOKS:** For a list of my

reviews of other Linda Howard books, see my 5 star review of "Burn" posted 7-11-09.

Look, I'm a die hard LH fan. Have been for years but this book SUCKED! Am I the only one who's noticed that the heart has gone out of LH's work? I don't mind that the story was short, I mind that the story was bad. The first LH story I ever read was a short story and I was hooked ("Lake of Dreams") and have been a fan ever since then but the last 6 books or so have not been nearly as good as her earlier works like "After The Night" or "Dream Man". The story didn't make sense to me. LH spends a lot of time describing how hard it was for our hero and heroine to get around in the ice but the bad guys don't seem to have the same problems. I mean, come on, Nikki made it up a 150 foot incline in no time after wrecking her truck and injuring herself, but it took forever for Lolly and Gabriel to make it back to the house. Unbelievable! It seems to me that LH is now relying on fans like myself to keep buying her books in hopes that she will finally produce something that compares to her earlier work. I'm done now. I'll never buy another LH book until I read it first and if it's good I'll buy it for my "keep it" shelf. I'm tired of LH taking her fans for granted and thinking it's ok to keep writing junk because we'll buy whatever she writes. As for me, I'm done.

I've never read anything so dreadful from her word processor before. The plot was well...far fetched is the easiest description I could come up with. How many times did we get to hear about the hero being Big and Muscular? How many times did the villains irrational acts be explained away because they're Meth addicts? How many times was the heroine being plucky and having gumption? The romance, though I don't think it can be called romance, was non-existent. Pardon me, I like a little bit more in the foreplay department than, "I'm cold, let's take a shower together and warm up." And despite all that occurred in this book, and I had to try and suspend my disbelief throughout this book, I honestly don't think that the hero and heroine really needed to start talking about getting together. There wasn't anything there except extreme circumstances and a shower scene. I liked Burn, but even then...Linda, step away from the computer and go outside for a couple of months. Play in the yard, Adopt a Highway, or just go shopping. Do something other than write drivel that's forced. Wait for inspiration to strike, don't force it.

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