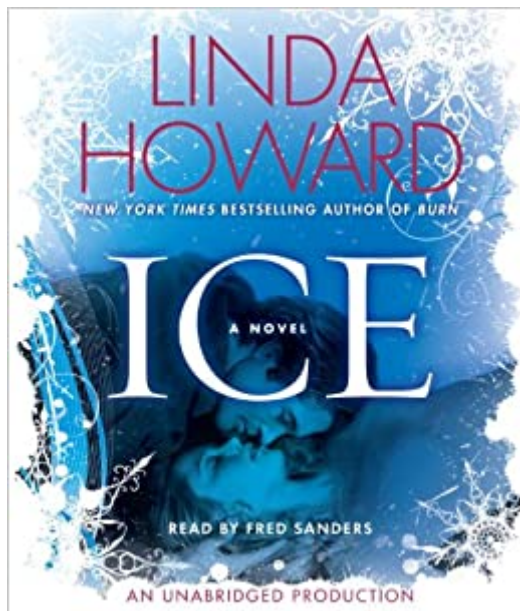


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# Ice: A Novel



## Synopsis

’Tis the season for mistletoe and holly, Santa . . . and suspense. And the gift that keeps on giving is Ice: premier thriller author Linda Howard’s breathless tale of a man, a woman, and a battle for survival against an unforgiving winter 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 who’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. It’s a trip the younger McQueen would rather not make given the bitter winter weather and the icy conditions that have always existed between him and Lolly. But there’s no talking back when your dad is the town’s top cop. And there’s no turning back when night falls just as Gabriel arrives and discovers that the weather outside isn’t the only thing that’s frightful. Spotting strangers in Lolly’s home—one of them packing a weapon—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 heat and the hunt 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

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,557,196 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Howard, Linda #2108 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #4442 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

## Customer Reviews

“If you want to whet your appetite for Christmas romance, this is perfect. . . . Guaranteed to

keep your pulse racing. • Tacoma News Tribune • “All the classic elements of a Howard romantic adventure.” • RT Book Reviews • “Linda Howard is a superbly original writer.” • Iris Johansen From the Paperback edition.

Linda Howard is the award-winning author of many New York Times bestsellers, including *Up Close and Dangerous*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, *Cover of Night*, *Killing Time*, *To Die For*, *Kiss Me While I Sleep*, *Cry No More*, and *Dying to Please*. She lives in Alabama with her husband and two golden retrievers. From the Hardcover edition.

\*An exciting romantic suspense by New York Times USA Today award-winning bestselling author ,Linda Howard.....Back in his hometown of Wilson Creek, Maine, while on military leave for the holidays, serviceman Gabriel McQueen was thrilled to be back home to be spending more precious time with his son and family but when his father expresses his deep concern of not being able to contact his neighbor in order to warn her of a severe ice storm headed straight towards them in Wilson Creek , the last thing Gabriel wanted to do was to check on Holly Hetton, the girl from his high school days who always gave the impression that she was better than everyone else who persistently argued with him left and right every chance she got. However, once he arrived at her house, the bitterness he felt drifted away when he saw two strangers through her window pointing a gun right at her, putting him in full combat mode. Escaping with their lives, Gabriel and Holly found themselves snowbound, stranded, unarmed and defenseless as two crazed killers were right on their heels every step of the way with vengeance on their minds. Not only are they forced to be in the hunt in order to survive through the treacherous night an undeniable heat was brewing between the two erasing all the harsh memories from their past. With the ice storm out of control and trees crashing down all around them, Gabriel and Holly had no other choice but to play a deadly game of cat-and-mouse with two deranged psychopaths if they ever expected to live through the night while at the same time, they were being faced with another enemy just as dangerous and more threatening. The ice itself!....Miss Howard never disappoints in any of her books.... thank you..

Gabriel McQueen thought his trip home was going to be a regular holiday break from his duties in the service. Then an approaching ice storm has him pitching in and helping his father (the town sheriff) prepare for the storm. When he's sent out into the middle of nowhere to check on Lolly Helton, there's more than the weather making him want to drag his feet on this task. The icy feelings the two felt for each other in high school was certain to make this an unpleasant trip. Lolly is only

back in Wilson Creek, Maine to pack up her family home after her parent's retirement to Florida. She never planned on the ice storm threatening to strand her on the side of the mountain or the gun toting meth addicts who barge in demanding money. She also never expected to be rescued by her high school crush. Now the couple is in a life or death race to stay one step ahead of the freezing weather and the two psychotic killers. Throughout it all, old feelings are surfacing. If the two can survive the night, they might just have a shot at a future together. ~~~Ice is one of those stories where I read a review and then added the book to my wish list. Because of the holidays, finances were tight and I kept skipping over the hardback price. Yet the idea and blurb kept calling to me until finally I couldn't ignore it any longer. I'm glad I didn't. This book is one of those stories that will stick in your head long after you've read the last page. Gabriel is one of the good guys you dream of meeting one day and Lolly is such a likeable character that you can't help but root for the two of them to make it. Linda Howard did an amazing job of ratcheting up the tension in this life or death struggle AND in such a short amount of writing space (208 pages). Ice has earned a place on my keeper shelf and will be one of the first stories I buy to add to my e-reader library. 5 Petit Fours 3 Hot Tamales Petit Fours and Hot Tamales Blog

But their recovery after getting back to the house was way too quick. They were near exhaustion and hypothermia and a few minutes of a hot shower and they were ready for sex. Come on!

This book should be read on a really warm day. It cooled me off. It is well paced and suspenseful. I enjoyed reading this book on a very warm day in July.

It looks like an author can sell books based on past performance. Linda Howard has written twenty-three other books; most of them have been laudable efforts; this one had potential, but it appears the author didn't feel like adding the necessary depth to make this the chilling story it might've been. Call this one "On Thin Ice", instead. I thought it had a chance of becoming a compelling tale; this is an award winning writer, but I'm afraid her two dozenth effort falls short of making this much more than a so-so piece of literature; filled with too many cliches and too few interesting characterizations or plot twists. After the first four chapters, I found myself predicting with remarkable consistency what was going to happen next. To her credit, Howard describes some of the agony a person would feel if they were wet and cold, having to battle everything the elements could throw at you, this side of Bangor. All that did was convince me I made the right decision to live in the Arizona desert; big deal. The sexual tension between the two main characters is laughable;

but I don't think that's what the author had in mind. Come to think of it, I don't think the author knew what she had in mind when she devised this whole story. With another couple hundred pages of character development, maybe this would've been a decent novel. Hype suckered me into buying this lemon, sight unseen. Do yourself a favor; save your hard-earned money for something more compelling.

2.5 stars. While this started out with a lot of intensity, it fell really flat at the end. In my opinion the ending was hurried, and left me wondering why I bought the book. Library reads of this author from now on.

I have read all of Linda Howard's books. She has a humorous look on life. Some of the sayings in her books remind me of comments I grew up hearing from my mother (and I realize I use too). Any of her books are worth the read. Since I had lost my copy of this book, I ordered it again. Which reminds me to add all of her books are good enough to read again and again. You always catch things you may have missed the first time around. Ice has danger, suspense, villains and heroes. And of course lots of ice!

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