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Fatal Exchange (Southern Crimes Book #2): A Novel



Synopsis

Emily Hunt might come from a family of cops, but she never goes looking for an adrenaline rush. She lives the quiet--well, relatively quiet--life of a teacher and thrives on making a difference in the lives of her students. But she'll have to draw on a well of strength and savvy she didn't know she had as student Rafael Cerda takes her class hostage for ransom money to save his brother's life. Undercover cop Mason Taylor has been working with Rafael to find his brother and bring the cartel thugs who hold him to justice. Can he talk Rafael down from his impulsive actions? And is there something more sinister at work here than he realizes? Fatal Exchange draws readers into a complex matrix of intertwining lives and unraveling secrets, where every answer creates more questions. Romantic suspense fans will hardly want to come up for air.

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Customer Reviews

The second book in the Southern Crimes series by Lisa Harris thrust us into the life of Avery Hunt's sister Emily and Mason Taylor, who Avery believes is responsible for the death of their

brother. Emily is a teacher at a local private school where Tess, Avery's daughter attends. When Mason gets a panicked call from Rafael, a young boy he has been mentoring and who also goes to Emily's school, he goes to Emily for help. Rafael's brother has been kidnapped by a drug cartel and is demanding a lot of money for his release. Rafael has tried as hard as he can to keep himself and his family out of that kind of life and is having a hard time believing his brother could be involved in something like this. It has to be a case of mistaken identity. When Mason doesn't hear from Rafael again he knows he needs help. Even though most of the Hunt family doesn't want to have anything to do with him anymore, Mason still takes a chance and goes to Emily for help. She promises to get in touch with him if she hears from Rafael. Mason leaves to see if he can find any new leads and Emily prepares to start the school day. As she heads to her room her niece, Tess, comes to get a book from her before heading to her own classes. Before Tess has a chance to leave the room Rafael walks in with a gun locking the door behind him. He demands money be sent to an account so he can free his brother. With nothing as it seems and lives in danger, Emily has to do everything she can to stay calm and work a way through the situation, even though she has no idea how to do that. I went into Fatal Exchange a little hesitant. I enjoyed the first book but it didn't leave me dying for more. With that said, I am very happy I picked this one up and flew through. The story was different from the first in so many ways.

We met the Hunt family in *Dangerous Passage*, the first of the series with Avery's story. In *Fatal Exchange*, we see Avery's sister Emily again. Emily is the only one of the three siblings and their father that is not a cop. Emily and Avery's brother Michael was killed while working undercover with drug dealers. Michael's best friend, Mason Taylor, is also a cop and has worked undercover. Avery is investigating Mason in Michael's death and doesn't trust him. He has befriended a young poor Hispanic boy Rafael, who is a student in Emily's class where she teaches high school history. Rafael is attending the private school on a scholarship. On Monday morning Rafael contacted Mason in a panic because his brother has been taken hostage by a group of drug dealers who claim he owes them money. Mason let Emily know about the situation before school starts so that she knows what is going on. Unfortunately in a distraught state, Rafael arrived in the classroom with a gun. The kidnapers are using Rafael to try to get ransom money from the wealthy parents of the students in exchange for the release of his brother. As the police arrive at the school, the Captain on the scene agrees to allow Mason to be the negotiator with Rafael since he knows him. The day starts off with this scene and is jam packed with action and suspense from that point. As the hostage situation is solved, Avery's daughter Tess, a student in the school is kidnapped. One event

happens after another. When I thought things would settle down, something else would happen. Mason and Emily have each had an attraction to each other in the past but Emily has said that she would never date a cop. As the day goes on, they come to realize that their attraction to each other is still there. This book is hard to put down.

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