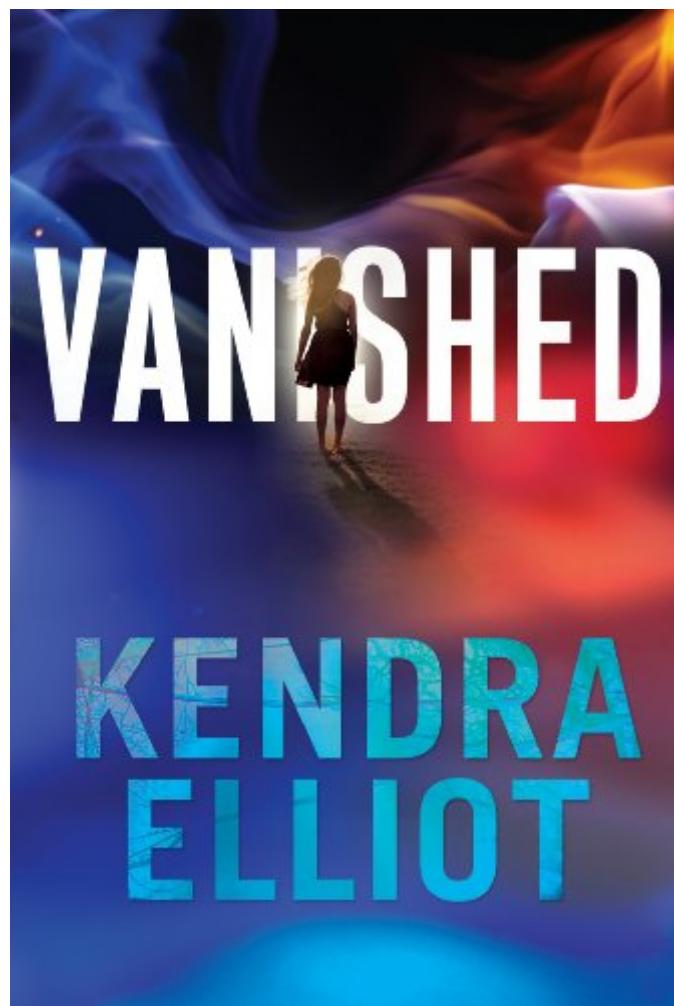


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# Vanished (Callahan & McLane Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

From Wall Street Journal bestselling author Kendra Elliot. When an eleven-year-old is abducted on her way to school, the FBI doesn't waste a moment, sending agents to scour the area and embedding Special Agent Ava McLane with the distraught family. In the eye of the storm is local detective Mason Callahan, whose life is crumbling to pieces. He's related to the victim, and his longtime confidential informant has just been murdered. Both he and Agent McLane hole up in the victim's family home. Every second counts in a kidnapping case, and the stakes keep rising the longer the girl is missing. As Ava and Mason struggle to hold the family together in their darkest hour, the two investigators find themselves drawn to each other. 2015 Overall Daphne du Maurier Award Winner

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

\*An excellent romantic thriller by bestselling author Kendra Elliot in book 1 of Callahan and McLane, it will have you captivated from beginning to end, Its a must read!.....As a Oregon Major Crimes detective, Mason Callahan looked into the dead eyes of Josie Mueller and he was at a loss for

words. In life, Josie was an ongoing prostitute but she lived by a golden rule, by not bringing home anyone to her house. Out of courtesy, Mason was called to the scene because Josie was his confidential informant but because of conflict of interest, he was out of the investigation. If his day couldn't get any worse than it already was, he kept getting calls from his ex-wife Robin. Why? His son Jake? When he calls her back, she begs him to come to her house right away. Someone has kidnapped her step-daughter, Henley Fairbanks and they need his help. Known to be a cowboy and dress like one, he was known as being a tough no-nonsense cop with a temper to match but in this case, it was going to take patience and due diligence for he would have to work as a civilian nothing more and if need be, he would be liaison for the family to represent them. With a missing child, all agencies were called in including special agent Ava McLane being part of an elite group known as Crimes Against Children coordinators. Hearing of a family liaison, Ava was not only pleased but in the same token impressed by Mason Callahan and it appeared that he felt the same way about her. Ruling out the family as suspects and being assigned as the agent to live with the family until the case was solved, Mason and Ava joined forces to work together as a team. However, Mason had bigger problems at his precinct as told to him by his partner. Someone was trying to frame him for the murder of Josie Mueller finding his prints all over her apartment not to mention a witness claiming to see a cowboy leaving her premises. Realizing that his career could be over, he does the only thing he can by allowing his cop-mode to go into overdrive until little Henley is brought home no matter what! When sparks begin to fly between Mason and Ava, so does the entire case, including Mason looking at murder charges right in his face. Before long, they will be faced with the whole undeniable truth that will come to a complete shock that either one of them ever thought possible. Not only was the motive all wrong including the "who, why, and how" but the discovery and trickery of a highly intelligent, cunning, cold-calculated killer who has always been ten steps ahead of them the whole entire time without even batting an eyelash!....thank you

you

I liked the suspense, with unexpected twists and turns that initially made everyone a suspect. The details of the sexual connections / sex between the two lead characters were unnecessary and could easily have been omitted.

I wanted to love this book after the first couple of pages but only made it as far as liking it. The "bad guy" was a good bad guy so my feelings about him are conflicting. I'm of the school that if you're going to be bad then be bad all the way, or why bother. That's what this book had me asking myself.

Why bother with the kidnapping and the twenty years of planning if you're not going to do anything? That's a lot of time wasted. There were so many things that could have been added to this book. It just left me wanting more.

Until this book, I had never heard of Kendra Elliot. Vanished is my first Elliot read, and its #5 in her Bone Secrets series. It's a testament to the author that the book worked perfectly well as a stand alone. I didn't notice at all that I was jumping in in the middle of a series. Pick up this book and you'll be immediately drawn into the action. A little girl has been abducted on her way to school, and the FBI is on the case, working closely with the family and a family connection who also happens to be a state Detective. Elliot does well imparting lots of information in a short amount of space. We're introduced to the characters via their interactions with each other • no long backstories given or needed. The book opens at a tension level appropriate to the storyline, and it opens well. Unfortunately, Elliot can't sustain the tension within the plot, and never seems to achieve it within the romance at all. Plot-wise, tension came and went in waves, with the lulls allowing (almost prompting) the reader to pull away from the story. I don't want to look up at the clock when I'm reading, or notice page numbers. I want to be completely sucked in end to end, to finish a story at 4 am and say, "I have to get up in two hours, but damn, it was worth it!" Reading this book, I looked at the clock at 9, said "I'll give it another hour," then looked at the clock at 9:45 and said, "OK, that's good, I can call it a night." Romance-wise, eh, pretty much a dud. Didn't even feel a bit of a sizzle until page 95/335, and then it was more or less just the two protagonists noticing, rather clinically, that they found each other attractive. The romance proceeded as if it were on a schedule, and it left me lukewarm. I think my biggest overall problem with the book was that it only grazed the surface. The story is there, the characters are there, the romance is there, but none of it had a whole lot of depth. I feel like Elliot could have done so much more with her material and maybe she will. This was an advance galley, so there's still another round of edits before it hits the shelves. I really do hope she spices up the characters. There should be a crazy amount of stress in a situation like this. And stress should make people freak out • make them mean, or at least snippy. Make them turn on each other, blame each other. Even all around lose it • if only for a few minutes. Instead everyone is just so darn nice to each other and supportive of each other. Seriously, there were parts

where I practically gagged on the Sunday School-ness of them all. The best idea the main character can come up with to get back at her boss for giving her a crappy detail is to hide his favorite coffee mug? Seriously? Verdict: I thought there was quite a bit of potential at the beginning, but by the end I was left wanting quite a bit more. 2/5

Only reason I read them all is they were downloaded on my Kindle app while we were in Alaska, it rained for multiple days and we were cabin bound, otherwise they were a little too predictable and sorta pat romance novelish...which is not my cup of tea. If you like romance and cop drama with characters that are woven from one book to the next this may be enjoyable. I just would have liked more suspense, and less predictable romance.

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