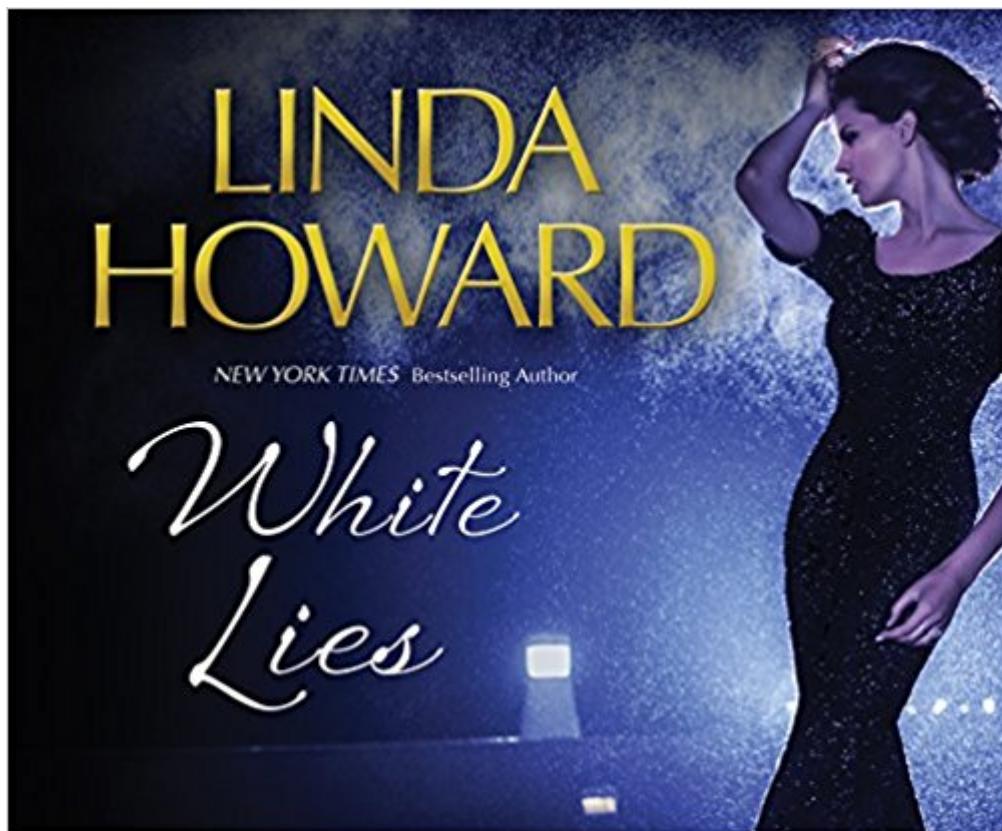


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## White Lies



## **Synopsis**

Nothing could have prepared Jay Granger for the arrival of two FBI agents at her door - or for the news they brought. Her ex-husband, Steve, had been in a terrible accident that had left him gravely injured. The FBI needed Jay to confirm his identity. The man Jay finds lying in the hospital bed is almost unrecognizable. Exhausted and afraid, Jay tentatively declares that he is Steve Crossfield. But the man who awakens from the coma is not at all as Jay remembers Steve. And he remembers nothing of their life together. Suddenly nothing is familiar. Not his appearance, not the intensity of his nature, not the desire that flashes between them. Will the discovery of his identity shatter the passion they share?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Howard's writing is compelling." (Publisher's Weekly)

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. Lesa Lockford is a professor in the Department of Theatre and Film at Bowling Green State University. She teaches courses in voice for the actor, dialects, acting, and performance studies. She is also a writer and performer. Before becoming a teacher, she was a professional actor in Great Britain where she appeared in a variety of roles in television, film, and on the stage. She trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

I thought this was kind of a thin story. LH showed a lot of skill, keeping my interest when the hero was, for the first half of the story, lying in a coma, almost completely swaddled in bandages. Even on the verge of death, his strength of character, his refusal to succumb and his responsiveness to her presence forged a deep bond with Jay, the heroine. But when he opened his eyes after the bandages were removed, Jay was stunned to realize that he wasn't her ex-husband (from whom she divorced five years ago) - but a total stranger. Now, this was where it made no sense. Jay now knew she'd incorrectly identified him as her ex-husband Steve. The government agents surrounding them (in particular, Payne) had known from the beginning the real identity of the man in a coma. Payne and The Man just wanted to protect their agent (the comatose guy) from the bad guys by shielding him with Jay's dead ex's identity. So why didn't they anticipate that Jay would know he was not Steve, now that she had seen his eyes? LH's apparent explanation was that both men had brown eyes; therefore Jay would still think he was her ex. And that was supposed to be the "little" detail the FBI, Payne and The Man etc., had overlooked. Hello? All brown eyes are exactly the same? Jay knows Steve's eyes were a deep brown, but the strange hospital patient whose hand she'd been holding throughout his stay turned out to have yellowish brown eyes. I guess because his face has been injured and altered, that's the reason they think Jay won't recognize him even with the bandages removed from his eyes. This absurdly weak spot in the plot kept some part of my mind preoccupied in puzzling over it instead of remaining deeply absorbed in the narrative. Not LH's best work - by far. The rest of the book was "Steve's" attempting to overcome his total amnesia and Jay's battling her guilt that she refused to tell him the truth, for his own protection - and because she didn't want the charade to end so she'd be sent away and lose him. Yeah - pretty lame. Of course, she gives in to his sexual demands despite her guilt. Jay came across as needy, desperate and dishonest. Lucas (he eventually remembered his real name) came across as having bonded with a woman just because she held his hand when he was helpless. I felt deeply skeptical that their bond was real, deep or enduring. The only reason I gave this book 3 stars instead of two, was because LH did a fabulous job describing Lucas and making his virility and sexual appeal so potent. He lacked refinement or sensitivity, but was completely convincing as a lethal, high value secret agent and as a man who made "women fall all over themselves" (as described by Payne). Too bad the hot affair (and marriage) between J and L seemed doomed (in my opinion) to a swift end. The whole story made little sense.

FINAL DECISION: An enjoyable story of a woman who falls in love with a man thought to be her

ex-husband but then she isn't quite sure that he is. **THE STORY:** Jay Granger's life changes when the FBI comes to her door to tell her that her ex-husband has been in a terrible accident and that they need her to come identify him. Although they have been divorced for five years, Jay cannot abandon Steve Crossfield. She is drawn to the man in the hospital bed but when he wakes he seems so different from the man she remembers loving before. **OPINION:** This story is not complicated and I figured out quickly what was happening, but the story is well executed and the characters are so interesting that I was engaged throughout the story. This book was originally published as a category romance and thus lacks some of the sophistication and complexity allowed in a longer novel. I liked these characters who fell in love without really knowing the truth about what happened to Steve. The connection of these characters is visceral -- a recognition of spirits. The real mystery in this one is how the truth about Steve's actions and identity will be revealed and what that will make for the hero and heroine. A fun (not funny) read. **WORTH MENTIONING:** Kell Sabin. **CONNECTED BOOKS:** *WHITE LIES* is the fourth book in the loosely connected Rescues series. It can be read as a standalone. **STAR RATING:** I give this book 4 stars.

USA Today & New York Times bestselling author Linda Howard brings to the table another romantic suspense that doesn't disappoint. It's a must read!.....Terminated from her job, Janet "Jay" Granger was not only furious of what just happened, but she had the overwhelming desire to strangle her boss. Realizing she had to find another job as quickly as possible, she had no idea that her life was about to take a drastic change of events when she was approached by the FBI on her very front doorstep requesting her help. After being divorced for five long years, Jay was shocked to learn that her ex-husband, Steve Crossfield was now lying in a hospital fighting for his life. As all the painful memories of their marriage resurfaced while staring at his sleeping face as he lied in a coma, Jay tried desperately to conjure up the happy times, except there weren't any, but the moment he woke up, she couldn't explain it when she felt the spontaneous magnetism, and their instant connection to each other causing her to remain by his bedside and refusing to leave the hospital. With his extensive injuries not to mention his amnesia, Jay found herself as she spent each day with him that she was beginning to fall in love with Chris all over again, a vow she swore she would never break, but the worst of it all, she was starting to have self-doubts if this man was even her ex-husband, especially when he seemed to be just the opposite to the man she once knew. This man was not only compassionate, kind, and powerful in everything he said, but each day, she was becoming more and more attracted to him. Jay also knew that while he recovered, he was attached to terrifying secrets and a dangerous past, but what? What was Chris up to for the last five years

when they were apart? Feeling closer to him that she never once felt in their entire marriage, Jay's fears that their passion for each other will eventually be over just like it did in the past, causing her to have overwhelming anxieties and insecurities of losing him all over again, but when unforeseen circumstances occur, she realizes it will be all her white lies that could very well destroy them both for the second time in their lives!....thank you..

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