

## *A Question of Mourning*

Streets lined with shade trees, yards filled with the laughter of children and sidewalks occupied by proud parents pushing strollers: a typical day in Clearwater, South Dakota. It is a tranquil community with little crime and citizens who hold traditional morals high.

Kyle and Bobbie Snyder make their home in Clearwater. Despite a miscarriage immediately following their nuptials, the couple is again trying to have a child ... a dream Kyle has treasured since Bobbie first came into his life. That dream is shattered, along with his life, when his wife's car is discovered abandoned and she is nowhere to be found.

Officer Kristine Amos shows up on Kyle's doorstep with news of the disappearance. Having witnessed Kyle's shock and anguish on hearing the news, she is convinced he is innocent of any wrongdoing. Yet, the young officer has a history of getting too close to those she assists on the job. And she finds herself attracted to the handsome, brawny suspect. Her sympathies run rampant and she can't help wanting to offer comfort to the devastated man. She is confused and frightened of the emotions that the man stirs within her.

Kyle is emotionally lost. Should he mourn, and if so, for what should he mourn? Is his wife dead or abducted? One after another, his feelings tear away at his insides. Facing each day becomes more difficult than the last and everyday tasks become impossible to perform. His persistent feelings for the stunning Officer Amos only add to his guilt and confusion.

In their investigation of the disappearance, local authorities first look to the husband. That first look reveals circumstantial evidence pointing directly at Kyle. The case is turned over to Detective Frank Carruthers, a power-hungry man with his eye on the position of chief of police. He sees the high-profile case as a direct route to his goal, a route that goes through Kyle Snyder. Carruthers vows to bring Kyle down no matter who or what gets in his way.

With the lead detective focusing his efforts on him, Kyle fights to remain free so that he can conduct his own investigation. The public, like the police, are ready to string him up. Although Officer Amos has been removed from the case, Kyle's only hope of assistance lies with her. Much to his consternation, he must continually fight off the allure of the attractive officer.

Although forced to deal with his wife's disappearance, the police, and public persecution, it is the secrets Kyle uncovers that cause his greatest pain.