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# Trial By Fire



## Synopsis

A new standalone novella from one of the top names in romantic suspense. Includes a preview of the first book in DiAnn's explosive new FBI Task Force series! Special Agent Savannah Barrett and her partner, SA Paul Winston, have been investigating a puzzling string of church arsons when she receives devastating news: her estranged son has been killed in a car accident, leaving Savannah sole custody of three young grandchildren she didn't know existed. As she and Paul investigate new fires, trying to establish an M.O. and a suspect list, Savannah is thrown back into parenting while trying to handle her own heartbreak. Paul becomes her biggest support on and off the job, kindling the fire between them. But when the case takes a personal turn and Savannah's grandkids are threatened, she and Paul must put everything on hold to stop this arsonist's reign of fire.

## Book Information

File Size: 3476 KB

Print Length: 88 pages

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (June 1, 2016)

Publication Date: June 1, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01G2AJW82

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #33,470 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #133

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Clean & Wholesome #150 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Romance >

Mystery & Suspense #156 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance > Mystery & Suspense

## Customer Reviews

Savannah's an FBI agent, investigating a string of church arsons with her partner and best friend, Paul. They're both nearing retirement, but with the sudden death of Savannah's son, the three

grandchildren she's left to raise pose a whole new challenge in *Trial By Fire* by author DiAnn Mills. I've read a little, just a little, of romantic suspense in my time, but what instantly got me interested in this book was a glimpse of the man and woman on the cover. Clearly not a pair of twenty or thirty-somethings, a fact that I was sure would bring a different and welcome flavor of romantic suspense than I had yet to try. I was right. This novella is smart, emotionally stirring, and engaging, with no lag or "yawn" time in the middle. There's believable dimension to the family dynamics as well as the chemistry between Savannah and Paul. Now, I felt that a particular scene was a pretty obvious setup for danger, and I'll admit the race factor included in the plot had me on edge, especially considering the current social and racial climate in the US. But a declaration of Savannah's to a pastor eventually put me at ease, whether or not her declaration was directly related to my cause for edginess. I found this to be a quick and satisfying story that many readers of ChristFic suspense should enjoy.

I like DiAnn Mills and her books, but I'm not a big fan of novellas. Too often they try to cram too much in too short of a space. I did like this novella, but it was very fast moving and I think some of the characters could have been developed a bit more had DiAnn made it into a full length book. That being said, I did have a hard time putting the book down though. I like the themes of forgiveness that came through and the peace that comes with that along with showing the other side and how much bitterness can eat at you and combined with grief can cause some serious issues even to the point of committing crimes as retaliation.

DiAnn Mills is a must-read romantic suspense author for me, so when I found out she was releasing a novella to introduce her upcoming FBI Task Force series, I immediately purchased it for my Kindle. Don't let the brevity fool you as Mills packs plenty of action into this quick read, including personal tragedy, crime, danger, and moments of heart-stopping suspense. I read it in one sitting. The novella also contains a preview to whet the appetite for *Deadly Encounter*, coming in August! Grab a copy of *Trial by Fire* for your e-reader or other device today!

As a special FBI agent, Savannah and her partner Paul hunt down and get the bad guys. They are working on mysterious church fires when Savannah gets word that a car accident has taken the lives of her estranged son and his wife, leaving their three children orphans. Between trying to solve the church fires and getting to know her grandkids, can she find time for work and family? Then when the unknown arsonist threatens her grandkids, is she running out of time?? Must read!!!

FBI agent, Savannah, had two years before retirement. She received a call telling her that her only son that she had not seen in ten years had been killed along with his wife. She was told to come and get her three grandchildren. Her world took a crazy spin; Her partner of five years finally convinced her of his love for her and they decided to become a family. One's never too old to fall in love.

This was a good story that had a good twist. Women 50yrs plus can find love too. So, many stories we read the women are young, blond hair and blue eyes. I'm glad for the twist in this book. That there are other ways to write a character for a woman.

"Trial by Fire" is a Christian romantic suspense novella. Savannah and her FBI partner, Paul, are investigating a series of arsons at churches. They question the people at the churches but make little progress until someone with critical information finally admits that information. More of the focus was on Savannah trying to care for three grandchildren that she didn't even know that she had. Savannah struggled to forgive herself for her past mistakes. Paul, who has long been in love with her and is a caring guy, also wants her to allow their relationship to become romantic. The mystery was not very developed due to the length. I didn't see how the arsonist was able to so successfully set fires and leave no useful clues behind. I was also dumbfounded that Paul rushed into a burning building to save a person when the fully-protected firefighters were right there and headed in to do the rescuing. There was no sex or bad language. Overall, I'd recommend this enjoyable novel to fans of DiAnn Mills, but it isn't her best work.

FBI agent Savannah Barrett has enough stress trying to solve the rash of church burnings in Houston when she gets the call that her estranged son and his wife had been killed in a car accident in Miami, and she's left with three young grandchildren. She didn't even know her son was married, much less had children. As both situations heat up, Paul Winston, her partner, becomes her rock and support. He's made no secret of his feelings for Savannah. Should she quit holding him off? I usually avoid books with less than a hundred pages, because I never like them. The characters and story never has a chance to develop enough for me. However, knowing how I like DiAnn Mills's mystery and suspense novels, I gave this one a chance, and I'm glad I did. Although it's not her best one, because there's not as much space for the tension to develop, it was still a great read and had more depth than most short novels.

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