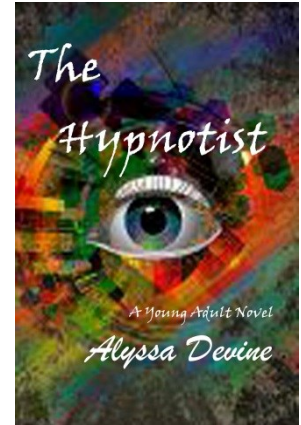


The Hypnotist

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When, on an afternoon outing in Bayou Vermillion, Lafayette, LA, teenager Amanda Wilcox has her fortune read by Madam Zu-Zu, she and her classmate, Tom Lassiter, never thought it would lead to her having a nightmare in which she dreamed she was being choked to death. Under hypnosis, Amanda reveals to Tom that she once was a woman named Kyla Decker, who disappeared 25 years earlier after being stopped by a policeman while driving home early one morning after partying with her girlfriends. An Internet search reveals the name of another woman, Cindi Lathrop, who disappeared some years after Decker under similar circumstances. As their relationship blossoms, Amanda and Tom uncover evidence linking a former Lafayette, LA, policeman and a funeral home employee to the abductions, men who they suspect murdered the two women. But then, in what appears to be a real-life enactment of what the fortune teller told Amanda, Amanda and Tom find their lives threatened by one of the two men they think was responsible for the murders committed 25 years earlier. Can the teenagers survive, knowing the last of the five tarot cards read to Amanda by Madam Zu-Zu was Death? The only way to learn the answer to that question is to read *The Hypnotist*. (Mild adult language)

A note from the author,

*You no doubt found *The Hypnotist* after searching for exciting, unusual, and yes, perhaps, even compelling Young Adult fiction. Whether you are a young woman or a young man between the ages of 13 and 17 (or for that matter, even an adult), this novel will, I assert, meet those criteria. Reading it, you will discover a contemporaneously realistic story about two teenagers in settings similar to those found in your own homes, schools and towns. And while I hope none of you will encounter murderers and other major criminals in your lifetimes, my young characters (fortunately) do. This gives you a front-row seat as they go about solving crimes that would stump even the most seasoned investigator. The voices you will 'hear' within the pages of this novel are those of the current generation, so don't expect the ladies to take a backseat to the gentlemen. All of my female protagonists are strong, independent-minded women, every bit the equal of their male counterparts . . . something that portends rapid-fire dialogue as well as super-charged action. Throw in a sprinkling of unexpected plot twists and you have a recipe for 'killer' mystery/thrillers that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the last page. Enjoy!*

Alyssa

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