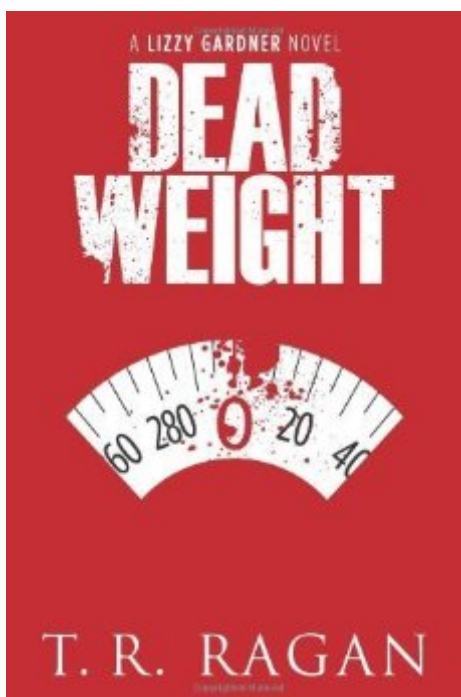


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Dead Weight (Lizzy Gardner Series, Book 2)



Synopsis

Private investigator Lizzy Gardner knows a thing or two about living in the past. As a teenager, she was terrorized by a serial killer, an ordeal that haunted her for more than a decade before the maniac was finally stopped. So when terminally ill Ruth Fullerton begs Lizzy to reopen the cold case into her daughter's disappearance, it's hard to say no. More than twenty years have passed since Carol Fullerton vanished, abandoning her car by the side of a California freeway. The police wrote her off as a runaway, yet something tells Lizzy the truth isn't so simple. Carol's cold case has barely begun to thaw when Andrea Kramer shows up at Lizzy's door. Andrea's sister, Diane, has been missing for months, and she's convinced a charismatic weight-loss guru "part Tony Robbins and part Richard Simmons" is responsible. Diane was obese, but could her obsession with losing weight have led to her disappearance? As if two active missing persons cases weren't enough, Lizzy is also trying to manage her two teenage assistants, including one as wounded and haunted by her past as Lizzy. Fast-paced and deftly plotted, this impressive follow-up to the best-selling *Abducted* finds Sacramento PI Lizzy Gardner in over her head "but more determined than ever to help those no one else will."

Book Information

File Size: 2656 KB

Print Length: 312 pages

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer (July 17, 2012)

Publication Date: July 17, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007ZDKDS4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

I downloaded *Abducted* on my Kindle this fall, and absolutely could not put it down. I finished it in about a day. I was thrilled when I was browsing the other day and saw that the author is making a series out of these characters and that there was now a second book. I downloaded it immediately and again finished it within 24 hours. The plot is engrossing and completely sucks you in. The only criticism I have is that I wish the author had explored and explained the killer's motivations in greater detail... it seemed kind of rushed and it didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. Haley Hansen reminds me a lot of a young Lisbeth Salander from the *Millenium* trilogy, one of my favorite literary characters of all time. I can't wait to see more of her!

I've read both of the first two books in this series. While they are light reading & can be finished in a day or two due to being an "easy read," they are fun enough to keep my interest. I agree with other reviews that some of the writing is a bit cliché and unrealistic, but it is fiction after all. Personally I felt like sex scenes seem out of place in a book of this nature, or maybe it was the style of writing- I'm not sure which, but the characters are enjoyable enough. I only paid \$2.99 for this book so I consider it worth the money. I didn't find it "riveting" as some people described, but if you're just looking for a fun story to pass some time, I say try it out

This was a great follow-up to the first in the Lizzy Gardner series. Lizzy is still damaged from all she's been through, but is determined to keep her business and her life somewhat together. Hayley and Jessica are still very much a part of Lizzy's life and we get to learn even more about what makes Hayley tick. Just as in the first, no one moves on too easily from the scars they've had to bear in their lives and in my opinion, that makes all of the characters feel more realistic. There were a few points in the story where I thought it was getting too predictable, only to find out my predictions were completely wrong! I ended up happily surprised at every plot twist and turn. The two main mysteries that Lizzy is working on, along with the smaller side cases, are interesting and the cold case in particular, reads like something I'd watch on *Dateline* or some such show. It held my interest and I was shocked at its conclusion. The weight-loss mystery is a bit more contrived, but entertaining nonetheless. I am really looking forward to seeing more of these characters in future books!

When I read *Abducted*, the first Lizzy Gardner book, I had some reservations. These were principally that the characters did not seem very real and hence it was quite difficult to take the story at all seriously. Despite this I decided to give the second book a try and to my mind it is a considerable improvement and is quite an enjoyable story. I am not sure if this is because the main players are somewhat familiar, having read about them before, or because it all seemed a little better put together. I suspect a combination of the two. This time round Lizzy is investigating the disappearance of two women. These two different cases are some twenty years apart and are not related. Of these the latest case is the key one in this tale, and the older one is more peripheral to the main plot. Diane was very overweight and the evidence regarding her disappearance points towards a weight loss guru whom she was in awe of. Diane's sister, Andrea, asks Lizzy to investigate and she is soon involved in an apparently baffling case. Meanwhile Hayley, who is working with Lizzy, has her own personal agenda to pursue against the people who abused her as a child. There are several different sub plots going on here, and we move from one to the other. However the result makes for an interesting tale and is coherent rather than confusing. The only personal issue I had is that there were quite a few female characters and I had to keep doing a mental exercise to place them when they reappeared, but that may have just been me. Overall an enjoyable, competently written story. I will be looking out for the third in this series.

I enjoyed reading *Abducted* (Lizzy Gardner Series #1) so much that as soon as I finished it I went and purchased "*Dead Weight*". Both books were fast paced and a quick read. I look forward to reading Ms. Ragan's next book in the series.

I loved this book. I also got some of the other ones in this series. It grabbed me from the beginning. I felt I was there instead of just reading it. That is what I love about reading a good book. Becoming part of it. A friend told me about the others writing and recommended I read *Dead Weight*. I am so glad I did. I would recommend this book to people who love mystery, suspense.

I really liked this sequel. The Lizzy Gardner character along with Jessica and Haley are likeable and believable, faults and all.

What a disappointment this book was after reading Ragan's *Abducted*. A confusing cast of characters, none of which was fully developed, kept me waiting for a story plot that just never seemed to come together. I've decided Lizzy Gardner isn't my cup of tea after all.

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