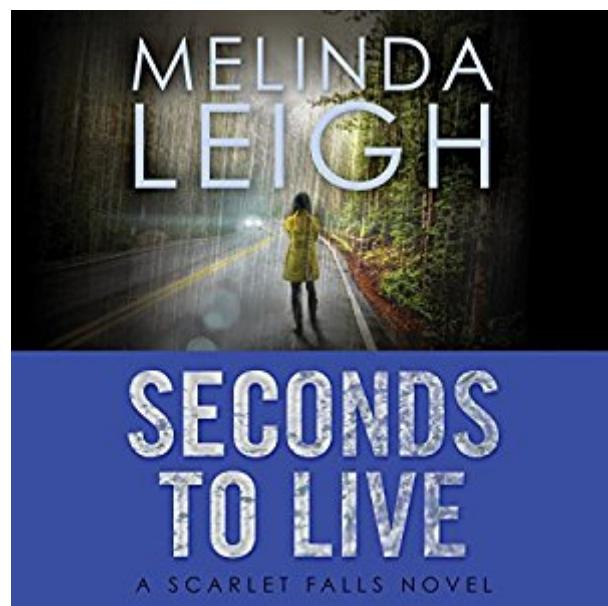


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# Seconds To Live: Scarlet Falls, Book 3



## **Synopsis**

Wildlife biologist Mac Barrett avoided his hometown of Scarlet Falls for years - too many bad memories. But when he receives the news that his father is dying, he rushes home only to discover he's too late. Shaken, Mac retreats to his remote cabin seeking peace and solace. Instead, he crashes his jeep to narrowly avoid running over the naked body of a woman lying in the road. Even more disturbing, when he regains consciousness, the body is gone. Police detective Stella Dane wants to believe Mac, even if his story about the vanishing body seems far-fetched. But when Mac's description matches the missing woman she's been searching for, it raises a disturbing question: How does a dead body disappear? Mac and Stella will have to work together to find the answer and catch a psychotic kidnapper - and quickly. The killer has a deadly message to send, and the case is about to become personal....

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The adventures of the Barrett family continue in Melinda Leighâ™s SECONDS TO LIVE. Leigh features the black sheep of the family younger brother Mac Barrett. The author takes the time to provide readers Macâ™s backstory and details of what it is like to be a member of the Barrett family. She explains Macâ™s reasons to avoid returning to his hometown of Scarlet Falls, and share some readers some of the secrets giving Mac bad memories. Readers follow the development of Leighâ™s storyline of suspense, intrigue, murder, and romance. Leighâ™s storyline touches on issues of family values, trust, relationships, and unconditional love. Barrett family members come

together to honor the loss of their father. Leigh describes what Mac is feeling and experiencing when he returns to Scarlet Falls. The author introduces her female protagonist, police detective Stella Dane, explaining her connection to Mac. Mac reveals to Stella that he crashed his car to avoid running over a naked body on the road. Stella responds to investigate Macâ™s accident. While the family focuses on planning their fatherâ™s funeral, Mac and Stella work together to find the missing womanâ™s body. Leigh takes her readers behind the scenes of drug rehab as Stellaâ™s investigation uncovers a relationship between one of her confidential informants, the missing woman, and a murderer. Leigh keeps her readers on the edge of their seats when Mac and Stella discover her confidential informant has been kidnapped. Leigh develops her characters and plot adding tension, intrigue, and suspense as she grabs her fansâ™ interest and takes them on a whirlwind roller coaster ride through the lives of each member of the Barrett family. Her readers watch changes in each of Hanna, Grant, and Macâ™s lives.

Book three in the Scarlet Falls Series by Melinda Leigh, brings Mac Barrett from the drug infested and bullet ridden jungles to his hometown of Scarlet Falls, as his father breathes his last. Even as his family buries the Colonel, the little town of Scarlet Falls is once again thrown into a gruesome murder. And that takes Mac right to Stella Dane, and his heart has never forgotten the detective. Taking the lead on the murder investigation, stakes are high for Stella as she races against time with her partner McNamara to stop a psychotic killer. As the killer targets reformed drug addicts, he comes too close to home as her friend is kidnapped and Mac gets into the crosshairs of the killer. With time running out and life hanging by mere seconds, it takes all of Stellaâ™s skills and the support of her department to save the people she cares the most. Mac has been my favorite Barrett sibling with is quite and lethal demeanor. Working for the DEA undercover has given him a hard edge, yet Stella is the only one who can calm him and his heart. Stella had always had a special place for Mac and working together to catch the killer only reinforces the love she has for him. Strong, independent and a good heart is what Stella is made of as she goes through her own demons of guilt and pain. Two strong individuals, two people with painful pasts and two protectors who would go to any length to keep their families safe, Mac and Stella make one amazing couple. I loved the way Melinda Leigh incorporated the plot around a mad killer and yet not lose sight of the dynamics of the Barrett family. Regrets, redemptions and secrets are out in the open, as Melinda brings the family together, with care, love and support.

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