



The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1)

By Karen Kirst

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst

A Kidnapper—and a Gentleman?

The ruthless criminal who took Juliana O'Malley hostage was a thief and an outlaw—or so she thinks. But on a perilous journey through the Smoky Mountains, he becomes her unlikely protector. And when he pledges to return her home safely, she somehow finds herself believing him.

Evan Harrison has risked everything to find the men who killed his brother. Saving spirited, strong-willed Juliana could blow his cover with a deadly gang. Yet her courage and unwavering faith make him dream of the home and family he thought he could never have. And suddenly, that future is incomplete—without Juliana in it.

 [Download The Reluctant Outlaw \(Smoky Mountain Matches Book ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Reluctant Outlaw \(Smoky Mountain Matches Boo ...pdf](#)

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1)

By Karen Kirst

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst

A Kidnapper—and a Gentleman?

The ruthless criminal who took Juliana O'Malley hostage was a thief and an outlaw—or so she thinks. But on a perilous journey through the Smoky Mountains, he becomes her unlikely protector. And when he pledges to return her home safely, she somehow finds herself believing him.

Evan Harrison has risked everything to find the men who killed his brother. Saving spirited, strong-willed Juliana could blow his cover with a deadly gang. Yet her courage and unwavering faith make him dream of the home and family he thought he could never have. And suddenly, that future is incomplete—without Juliana in it.

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #126275 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-09-01
- Released on: 2011-09-01
- Format: Kindle eBook



[Download The Reluctant Outlaw \(Smoky Mountain Matches Book ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Reluctant Outlaw \(Smoky Mountain Matches Boo ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst

Editorial Review

About the Author

An East Tennessee native, Karen Kirst attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she received a B.A. in Speech Communication. She divides her time between being a wife, homeschooling mom, and romance writer. She and her husband, along with their three sons, recently said goodbye to military life and are thrilled to be back home in Tennessee. Her favorite pasttimes are reading, visiting tearooms, and watching romantic comedies.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Gatlinburg, Tennessee June 1880

Blocking the entrance to Clawson's Mercantile, Evan Harrison tried to blend in with the overhang's shadows. He'd dressed in head-to-toe black, his hat pulled low to shade his eyes. Leaning against the glass-paned door, arms crossed and one ankle slung carelessly over the other, he could've been waiting for someone or simply watching the morning rush of people. What passersby couldn't see was his heart's sharp tattoo against his rib cage and the sweat sliding between his shoulder blades to trickle down his spine.

His narrowed gaze flicked to and fro, his muscles bunched and ready to spring should anyone head his way. *Hurry up, Fitz.* He wondered how Art was doing in the back alley.

This wasn't his first holdup, so why the unease? He scanned the crowd again, and the burning in his gut grew worse. He was worried about Fitz. The outlaw inside the mercantile was a wild card. Lenny Fitzgerald had proven time and again that he wasn't afraid to spill innocent blood. And he wasn't particular about his victims.

Evan had done his best to prevent the violence, but he could only do so much without arousing suspicion. He couldn't take a chance of blowing his cover. He'd worked too hard and waited too long to have that happen now.

He closed his eyes, wishing he could put off the inevitable. Then he remembered the reason he was there and his resolve hardened. He was on a quest for justice, and he *would* get it. No matter what.

He snapped his eyes open at the sound of someone approaching. Shifting his head to the right, he caught sight of a young woman striding down the boardwalk in his direction, her boots clipping the weathered planks with determination. She was on a mission, it seemed.

Please let her be headed anywhere else but here, he thought.

As she neared, he couldn't help but notice her bold beauty. Sleek red hair peeked out from beneath a navy-and-cream floral-print bonnet framing an oval-shaped face. He admired her ivory complexion, so rare in redheads, and the pert nose, regal cheekbones and generous mouth. Her sturdy navy dress outlined a pleasing female form, tall yet graceful.

She must've noticed him staring, for she quirked a cinnamon eyebrow, her lips firming in disapproval. Her

eyes raked him before meeting his gaze head-on. One jerk of her chin hinted of a stubborn streak.

"Excuse me." She speared him with her gaze. "You're blocking the entrance."

Her eyes were green, not the expected blue. Deep green, the color of spruce trees streaked with sunset gold.

Straightening, Evan plucked the hay from his mouth and tossed it to the ground.

"You can't go in there."

A line of confusion formed between her fine eyebrows. "Why not?"

"Mr. Clawson had to step out for a few minutes. He asked me to tell any customers who happened by that he'd be right back."

Annoyance flickered in those gorgeous eyes. "That's impossible. Mr. Clawson is dead. His son-in-law, Larry Moore, is the owner now."

Swallowing his frustration, he struggled to maintain an air of indifference. Could she see the vein throbbing at his temple? "My mistake. Guess I mixed up the names."

A loud shout, followed by a heavy thump, sounded through the door. Evan cringed, resisting the urge to turn and look. She craned her neck to peer beyond his shoulder, and he sidestepped to block her line of sight.

"Someone is in there," she snapped, her eyes narrowing. "What kind of game are you playing?"

"Trust me, I'm not playing—"

"Is there a problem, Miss O'Malley?" a male voice interrupted from the street.

This situation was going from bad to worse. Evan turned to see a well-dressed man observing them, his curious gaze shifting from the young woman to settle on him. As a stranger in town, Evan would naturally be regarded with a certain amount of suspicion. He had to fix this. Fast.

"Good morning, Lane," the young lady greeted the man with a slight smile. "This *gentleman* and I were just discussing—"

"How rude I was for not opening the door for her," Evan finished. Grabbing the door handle, he made a slight bow. Surprise flashed across her face. "I do apologize for the oversight, ma'am." Evan pulled the door open and with a light hand on her elbow ushered her inside, calling over his shoulder, "I apologize for the misunderstanding. Good day, sir."

"Yes, goodbye, Lane."

The door closed with a final whoosh, cutting off her farewell. Through the window, Evan watched the man hesitate a moment before planting his hat back on his head and walking away. One problem taken care of. One to go.

"What was that all about?" she demanded.

Evan scanned the room. Fitzgerald was nowhere to be seen, which meant he was probably in the back, tying up the owner.

He took hold of her arm, speaking in low, urgent tones. "You're in a situation way over your head, lady. I need you to walk back out that door and as far away from this mercantile as you can. Talk to no one. I can't guarantee your safety if you alert anyone to what's happening here."

She stared at him. "What—"

"No questions. There isn't time—"

"What's that girl doing in here?"

Evan stiffened at the sound of Fitzgerald's cold voice behind him. "Keep quiet," he murmured in her ear. Without releasing her, he faced the outlaw whose features were concealed by a red bandanna.

"She was determined to do her shopping," Evan drawled. "Looks like her impatience has earned her a stint in the storeroom with the owner. I'll tie her up."

"You will do no such thing!" she cried, attempting to pry his hand loose.

Fitzgerald shook his head. "Forget it. She'll have to come with us."

"No." Her chances of survival were slim to none if she went with them.

"She's seen your face. We can't leave her here."

"I thought we agreed—no hostages. I don't like this—"

"Then you should've done your job and kept her away," Fitzgerald snapped. "Let's go."

Evan hesitated in order to give Fitzgerald a few second's head start.

"A hostage will only slow you down, you know," she argued, her eyes large in her pale face. "Leave me here. I'll tell the sheriff I didn't get a good look at you. You have my word."

He didn't reply. What could he say at this point? His mind was whirling with too many scenarios—all of them unpleasant—to attempt rational conversation.

"You're making a huge mistake! As soon as people realize what's happened, they'll organize a posse and come looking for you."

He sensed her mounting desperation, but was helpless to do anything about it.

"Isn't the cash enough? Do you really want to add kidnapping to your list of crimes?"

Ignoring her questions, he forcibly led her past the stockroom and the floor-to-ceiling shelves overflowing with goods, past the storekeeper's office and, finally, to the private quarters. At the rear entrance, he warned her to keep quiet.

"Where's Mr. Moore?" she demanded. "Is he okay?"

He slipped the Colt Peacemaker out of his holster, making sure she got a good look at it. He wasn't above intimidation to keep her in line. Her life depended on it. "Whatever you do, stay close to me."

For once, she didn't utter a word. Evan hoped that she wasn't too strong-willed to do as he said. He didn't

know what Fitz would do if she made a scene.

He grabbed the bandanna bunched around his neck and tugged it up to cover his face. Opening the door a crack, he checked the alleyway. Fitz and Art were already saddling up. He hurried her down the wooden stairs to where his horse, Lucky, was hitched, prodding her forward with a hand on her back.

"Get on the horse."

She dug her heels in the rocky dirt. "Uh-uh."

"Do it or I'll toss you up there myself," he growled from his position directly behind her, letting her feel the tip of the gun barrel near her shoulder. Her resistance irritated him—didn't she have the good sense to be scared?

With a huff, she grabbed the saddle horn, placed her foot in the stirrup and hauled herself up. He replaced his firearm and swung up behind her.

Art's eyes bulged when he spotted her. "Who's that?"

Fitz barked, "Never mind. Let's ride."

"Might as well relax," Evan told his hostage, signaling Lucky to head out. "It's gonna be a long ride."

Juliana O'Malley seethed with anger. As the miles between her and Gatlinburg stretched endlessly into the distance, she passed the time dreaming up ways to get even with the man holding her captive—everything from pushing him off a cliff to hog-tying him and leaving him at the mercy of wild animals.

It was either that or succumb to mind-numbing fear. She was familiar with firearms all right, but never in her life had she had one waved in her face.

Lord Jesus, please help me, she prayed. I'm in a bit of a situation here.

If only she'd heeded her instincts. The moment she became aware of the man in black's blatant scrutiny, she'd known that he was no gentleman. Her cheeks burned even now as she recalled how his intense gaze had taken in every inch of her. Scandalous!

She squirmed in the saddle. His muscled arms tightened in response, imprisoning her against his rock-hard chest. His warm breath stirred the hair at her nape and prickles of awareness danced along her skin.

Juliana squeezed her eyes tight and tried not to dwell on his disturbing nearness. At least he smelled pleasant enough, she consoled herself. Beneath the smell of horse and sweat, she detected the clean scent of soap.

They would have to...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jose Tiernan:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to

take a wander, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

Daniel Hayes:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) book is readable by simply you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer associated with The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) content conveys thinking easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you even now thinking The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Adelina Foreman:

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

Patrick Bodin:

Don't be worry if you are afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. This particular The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) can give you a lot of good friends because by you checking out this one book you have point that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This publication offer you information that probably your friend doesn't recognize, by knowing more than some other make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? Let's have The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1).

Download and Read Online The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst #Y0OWNH8F172

Read The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst for online ebook

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst books to read online.

Online The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst ebook PDF download

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst Doc

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst MobiPocket

The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst EPub

Y00WNH8F172: The Reluctant Outlaw (Smoky Mountain Matches Book 1) By Karen Kirst