



Blind Alley

Iris Johansen

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This is an updated cover of this Kindle edition.

The New York Times bestselling author of Firestorm, Iris Johansen, returns with a psychological thriller so terrifying, so relentlessly paced, it won't leave you time to catch your breath before the next shock comes. A forensic sculptor is locked in a deadly duel with a serial killer determined to destroy her—one life at a time.

Eve Duncan's job is to put a face on the faceless victims of violent crimes. Her work not only comforts their survivors—but helps catch their killers. But there is another, more personal reason that Eve Duncan is driven to do the kind of work she does—a dark nightmare from a past she can never bury. And as she works on the skull of a newly discovered victim, that past is about to return all over again.

The victim is a Jane Doe found murdered, her face erased beyond recognition. But whoever killed her wasn't just trying to hide her identity. The plan was far more horrifying. For as the face forms under Eve's skilled hands, she is about to get the shock of her life. The victim is someone she knows all too well. Someone who isn't dead. Yet.

Instantly Eve's peaceful life is shattered. The sanctuary of the lakeside cottage she shares with Atlanta detective Joe Quinn and their adopted daughter Jane has been invaded by a killer who's sent the grimmest of threats: the face of his next victim. To stop him, Eve must put her own life in the balance and question everything and everyone she trusts. Not even Quinn can go where Eve must go this time.

As the trail of faceless bodies leads to a chilling revelation, Eve finds herself trying to catch a master murderer whose grisly work is a testament to a mind warped by perversion and revenge. Now she must pit her skills against his in a showdown where the stakes are life itself—and where the unbearable cost of failure will make Eve's own murder seem like a mercy killing.

From the Hardcover edition.

Blind Alley Details

Date : Published 2017 by Bantam (first published 2004)

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Author : Iris Johansen

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Thriller

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From Reader Review Blind Alley for online ebook

Alysha says

I have read a lot of this series and for the most part, have enjoyed it. I looked forward to reading more about Eve's adopted daughter, Jane. However, this book was difficult to finish. The only reason I did was to figure out some of the historical references mentioned in the books later in the series.

Jane was portrayed as vacillating between a whiny brat and a manipulative b*tch. I understand that Cira played a part in this portrayal, but it made me wish that Eve and Joe would act like her freaking parents and put their foot down instead of allowing her to run roughshod over them. I get it; her upbringing allows her more adult traits, but she's not an adult yet and her actions reeked of childish disrespect. Also, the so-called sexual tension between her and Trevor made me want to vomit. I don't care how mature she is; she's still 17 years old. Ew.

Phani Tholeti says

A 17 year old who is worse risk taker than a pro-gambler, and is yet mature than both her around-30 yr old foster parents. A mature teenager is fine, but a super-teen?? This is more in the Hardy boys/Nancy Drew lines. And why even call it a "forensic" mystery? All the forensics that was seen in the entire story is just two facial reconstructions, which could have been just anything else, maybe photos dropped at the crime scene would have served as well, the forensic part was kind of forced into the story.

Reincarnation is ok, but what does the author mean to convey by whatever her "Villain" was thinking? He's clever enough for the entire European police forces, and falls for a 17 yr kid? Would anybody believe it? Finally, I really wish to know what these breathe, drink and eat? They come up on top from the most impossibles childhood, resurrect themselves from the most damaging situations, and find time to excel in everything - EVERYTHING - sports, education, history, grades, work, love, adventure and what not. And that is the most important reason why one should never write about who are more intelligent than oneself, unless its a biography, because then unable to think at their levels of intelligence, we just end up making them unreal - exactly as the characters in this book are, except for Joe Quinn and Bartlett.

Scott Rhee says

Iris Johansen's "Blind Alley" is the 24th book in her series featuring forensic sculptor Eve Duncan, but it's the first one I've read. Duncan basically works for the police, who bring her bodies that are unrecognizable due to decay. Her job is to "reconstruct" the faces of the victims, so that the police can have a picture to work with. Apparently, this is an actual forensic science. In "Blind Alley", Eve's husband (a cop, of course) recruits her to reconstruct a body in a case he's working on. She does, only to find that the face is an exact match to her adopted daughter, Jane. A serial killer is terrorizing the East Coast, killing young women with eerily similar features, and Eve knows that Jane is somehow the key. This book was entertaining, although I was not very impressed with Johansen's writing abilities. Johansen is extremely heavy on the dialogue, much of it not ringing true or natural. She tells a lot without a lot of showing. Some more detailed description (characters, settings, objects) would have been helpful. The whole novel feels rushed, as if she was in a hurry to write it. (Considering this is her 24th book in the series, with more being published, that assessment seems plausible.) Incidents happen at break-neck speed, too quickly for the reader to catch a breath. Characters are introduced too quickly, without giving adequate time to describe them or figure out what their place within

the plot is. Johansen apparently has a big following, but I can't determine why based on this novel. It could be that this is simply not Johansen at her best, but I am willing to give her another try.

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

I read Blind Alley, which is the fifth book in the Eve Duncan series after reading book six, Countdown. Of course that was a fantastic idea . Either way, I wouldn't recommend it as this leaves you with a lot of spoilers for Blind Alley.

If you can set aside the complete unrealism that surrounds the story, it is actually quite an entertaining read. I read it a few years ago when I went to one of my suspense-phases in which I would read a lot of those book. (At the moment I'm not really in such a phase).

The characters were not the best or most sympathetic that I've encountered and the same goes for the story. Like I said, if you are looking for realistic or believable crime stories, keep looking, because you won't find it here. But if you don't mind from time to time, these aren't so bad.

Amy Burns says

I thought this book was just okay.
It was definitely not my favorite in this series.

I give it a C.

Here is how I rate my books:

- A+ - Awesome book - couldn't put it down.
 - A - Really good book - would read it again and again.
 - B+ - Good book - would maybe read it again.
 - B - Good book - wouldn't read it again.
 - C - Okay book - would definitely never read it again.
 - F - Worst book EVER.
-

Breia says

3.5 stars. I liked the plot but it was extremely unrealistic - not that I am looking for true crime but this was not plausible and I had a hard time linking the characters together.

And Jane and Trevor - That's not something I'm interested in. Yikes.

Jennifer Landy says

Couldn't finish it. Just weird. Usually like these characters.

Leann says

I was very entranced with this book. It kept me drug in and was better then the last two Eve Duncan books. I enjoy Iris Johansen and she kept me in this book from early on. I thought when I first started it "oh no another dud" but after a few more pages i was hooked. It deals a lot more with Jane and a new man and a maniac killer... What more could you ask for? I was grossed out by the new man (Trevor) having an interest in Jane, but then I realized that most young women in real life have romances with older men before they're 18. I'm happy that Johansen did not let it become a sexual relationship even though Jane's age mentally is far beyond her 17 physical years most of the time it would have made me lose respect for Johansen. However my one big fault with this story is one that I'm finding common now days is with Eve herself. She comes off as to weak to be a heroine in any book, even though of course she isn't meant to be one in this book. My also small disturbance was with how Joe and Quinne allowed Jane to do as she please with not much fuss. My last big disturbance that I honestly didn't think about until I started writing this is that the dreams that i thought might lead to Jane being an incarnation or psychic were left unexplained.

SheriC (PM) says

Slowly working my way through all the random books I've acquired. This one has been on my bookshelf for years, and don't remember the circumstances under which I acquired it. I usually give every book 50 pages (bound) or 20 minutes (audio), but gave it up when I started skipping paragraphs on p. 30. This is an example of why I try to stay away from endless romance/mystery/thriller series that feature a main character. The 30 pages I read were almost entirely exposition, catching the reader up on everyone's backstories while trying to introduce the new elements of the current story. It's mind numbing, and not at all entertaining. And even after 30 pages of explanations, I don't care about Joe, or Eve, or Jane, or Ruth, or why the killer is doing... whatever.

Dawn says

"Eve Duncan's job is to put a face on the faceless victims of violent crimes. Her work not only comforts their survivors—but helps catch their killers. But there is another, more personal reason that Eve Duncan is driven to do the kind of work she does—a dark nightmare from a past she can never bury. And as she works on the skull of a newly discovered victim, that past is about to return all over again.

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As the trail of faceless bodies leads to a chilling revelation, Eve finds herself trying to catch a master murderer whose grisly work is a testament to a mind warped by perversion and revenge. Now she must pit her skills against his in a showdown where the stakes are life itself—and where the unbearable cost of failure will make Eve's own murder seem like a mercy killing."

So several years later and Eve is still fighting Joe, although they still live together. She needs to grow up and I hope she does so soon. It's pretty sad that Jane has more balls than her. This one was a little odd in several ways, but not all bad. The possible mystical/premonition angle based on history and Jane's dreams could have been explored just a little more. Maybe in future books?

Elizabeth Noah Astle says

I liked this book a lot better than previous one as this one actually has Eve involved a little bit as the previous one was all about Sarah and no mention of Eve. I am an Iris Johansen fan though.

This story gives the reader more insight to Jane MacGuire, Eve and Joe 17yo adopted daughter. I enjoyed the fact that you got to know more about Jane and how she thinks and acts. She is devoted to Toby, the dog Sarah gave to her and Jane is very independent and stubborn and comes across as more mature than her age due to early childhood.

The story is actually centered around Jane mainly. Aldo is obsessed with anyone who has the face that looks like Cira, a woman from 2000 years ago, and will kill anyone who looks like her. Jane looks very much like her and Aldo decides that she must die.

Introduced in this story is Bartlett and Trevor (who if I remember correctly is in later books also.) Trevor is a bit of a con man who is trying to 'save' Jane from Aldo but, Trevor and Aldo know each other from years ago.

The story ends up taking all the characters to a place far away from Atlanta where they have lured Aldo into a trap to stop him from killing more women. In between all of this, Jane is having dreams that she is Cira and is trying to escape from a volcano that is erupting. Jane also is having a love interest with Trevor who is much older than her.

With the help of Sontag, an archeologist, they plant false stories in newspapers and magazine to lure Aldo to Herculaneum where Cira lived. They also concoct a false story that Eve will be doing a reconstruction of what they believe is Cira. Joe and Jane follow Eve here in order to set the trap for Aldo.

Thankfully, the love interest between the two did not develop into anything yet due to mainly Jane's age. One does have to wonder though how Jane managed to get everyone on board to let her lure Aldo to Cira's old city, and to let herself be used as bait. The only thing that I did not believe/like is the ending where Jane is hurt due to the stabbing from Aldo and she will not go and get medical attention as she feels that she needs to help Joe dig Eve from a cave-in. Eve is not injured and yet she does not tell Jane to get herself taken care of. I would have thought that any parent who is ok would tell their kids to get themselves taken care of before trying to help dig a cave-out.

Kim says

Characters are completely unrealistic. The plot is full of holes and also completely unrealistic. And the most annoying part of this is that the author seems to think, or pretends, that the story and characters are perfectly plausible.

I would not recommend this book.

Cj W says

Eve Duncan. She's lost a child. Not just lost, but the daughter was taken from her, kidnapped. And has never been found, and for any Mother, that is the most horrifying thing to ever imagine.

She finds ways to deal with her pain.

She becomes a forensic artist.

Using clay and skill to give faceless victims, their faces back. Giving hope to the victims survivors, and bringing the wrongdoer to justice.

She also has taken in a teenager. One who's past is fraught with despair and neglect. She has come to love her pseudo daughter, and the feeling is returned.

her name is Jane.

Jane's face is the reason for her demise though, in a very curious murder-thriller from Iris Johansen.

It's fairly fast paced, and it's pretty well written.

The idea of WHY the murderer is going after all of these women, with this particular face and facial features, is absolutely intriguing.

Their psychosis of childhoods and traumatic events are never less than wicked awesome.

- CJ

Jill Bratcher says

This is the third Eve Duncan book I've read. While I read it just as fast as the others I didn't think I enjoyed it quite as much.

I don't think the problem was entirely that the focus was on her adopted daughter Jane, but it just didn't captivate me in the same way. I liked it okay - not saying I didn't; it was just different.

This one was set several years after the others; Jane is 17, a licensed driver, thinking about the direction her life will take - and having nightmares that may or may not be some sort of psychic link to a 2000-year-old actress who may or may not have died when Vesuvius erupted and whom Jane resembles. Add to it that a

crazed serial killer (redundant, I know) has it in for anyone who looks like the actress because his father's infatuation with her caused dear old dad to neglect his boy. It wasn't that I don't like serial killer stories - HUGE Criminal minds fan. But the psychic link thing - just...meh.

A running thread / concept of an older man finding a young gal attractive / appealing (not just on looks), and her feeling feelings she's not used to, that just...sort of...well, meh to that also.

I have one other big gripe: Toward the end a main character says OMG about something ****which then IS NOT resolved in the book**** We are left hanging. *growls* That sort of thing just chaps my hide. A book shouldn't be like every dramatic TV show that seems to think they HAVE to end every season with a cliffhanger.

That all said, the story moves along at a decent pace, the characters are frequently imperiled and other than the minor details above, the story has a satisfying payoff / resolution.

Ada Iaboni says

I think I read this one way back... before I joined "goodreads" since I recalled several things as I read it. I think that may have been my first time reading an Eve Duncan book.

I like this series even though it has some psychic and ghostly things happening. The stories don't beat you over your head with their supernatural stuff... it's just kind of there and in small doses.

I probably liked it more this time around, since I've read four maybe five more of this series.

Worth a look.
