



# The Surgeon's Blade

*Faith Mortimer*

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## **The Surgeon's Blade** Faith Mortimer

Mystery-suspense-thriller writer, Faith Mortimer is delighted to add book three to the best-selling Diana Rivers mystery thriller series. This latest novel, "The Surgeon's Blade" is chilling, tense and is described as a 'real corker of a read'. Nursing sister, Libby Hunter wakes up in hospital with amnesia after a traumatic sailing accident. The stranger she finds sitting by her bedside claims to be her fiance. As she cannot remember ever being engaged, she finds excuses to put him off until she is completely sure of her true feelings. Returning home, Libby finds herself in great danger when her house is broken into. Who is the intruder and what does he want? Is this connected in any way to a series of attacks on nurses in London and Southampton? Will Libby be the latest targeted victim? Distressed Libby turns to helicopter pilot, Robert for help and understanding, but is he as respectable and kind as he appears to be? Is her so-called fiance, Nigel trustworthy? The night time intrusion into Libby's house sets in motion a downwards spiral of cataclysmic and terrifying events, culminating in our favourite sleuth, Diana Rivers stepping in to help solve the case in this chilling mystery

## **The Surgeon's Blade Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2012 by Topsails Charter

ISBN :

Author : Faith Mortimer

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review The Surgeon's Blade for online ebook

### Jana Petken says

When nursing sister, Libby, wakes up after an accident she finds herself without memory. Something just doesn't ring true in her mind but guided by her fiancé she rebuilds her life. Her attraction for another man irritates her, She is working in a hospital where horrific attacks on nurses have taken place, and begins to suspect that she too, could be in danger.

This was a very good read, which gripped me because of the way the author keeps you guessing. I wanted to know who the villain was but it could have been one of a few characters. It was well written and descriptive. It had all the ingredients that good mystery murder books should have and was told in such a way that only towards the final chapters did I learn the truth. Good writing, well crafted dialogue and constant guessing games all contributed to a very good, highly recommendable novel.

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### Joey Paul says

THE SURGEON'S BLADE is the third in a series with Diana Rivers solving cases. This book does not focus completely on Diana who comes in at a later date, but with nurse Libby who first suffers an accident that causes her some amnesia. Things only get worse for Libby from there. Mixed in with a love story and never really knowing who the bad guy is you will follow the story and not want to put it down until it's finished. Then you'll sit back and think "wow!"

Faith Mortimer writes a good psychological thriller with sub plots, twists and turns that you'll never see coming. She knows how to keep you reading and interested and had great characterisation. I loved this book and although I have not yet read the first two, or the ones that come after, they will be added to my wishlist and to be read pile immediately. Awesome book, highly recommended!

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### Elva says

satisfying mystery and taut suspense. enjoyed it very much.

poor libby, whacked in the head during a boat race and loses her memory. when she awakens at the hospital (where she works as a nurse), she finds out she's engaged. that fact doesn't set right...but she's wearing a ring - so it must be true. her fiance is nigel, a big-headed, pretentious, handsome surgeon, and jerk.

but libby meets robert, the hunky helicopter pilot who lifts her to the hospital. and what a connection they have.

libby's a nurse and her hospital has been plagued w/a serial rapist. is it the mysterious, moody robert? her not-quite right and jealous fiance? the autistic, but seemingly harmless orderly? libby's now a target.

my one complaint is that it's a diana rivers mystery. diana has a very small part and in fact, she's hardly needed at all. she could have stayed in cyprus.

## **Aunty Janet says**

This chilling mystery has twists and turns galore! The plot is believable and the characters were interesting enough to hold my attention.

Libby, a nurse, wakes up from a coma with amnesia, following a sailing accident. Her handsome fiance is by her side, but she has no memory of him or anything else. Then accidents start to happen.....

You don't need to read the other books in this series to enjoy it, but they are good too!

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## **Ruth says**

Libby is working as a nurse in Southampton, outside of London. She felt that it was the perfect place to work because she would be by the water and could participate in her favorite hobby sailing. She has recently begun to date a doctor on the staff but per his request they are keeping their relationship a secret. One nasty, rainy day Libby and one of her best friends, Jem, a male nurse are set to be part of the crew for the doctor that she is secretly dating in a race. During the race, Libby is knocked overboard when their boat is hit and she suffers a head injury that leaves her with memory loss. When she wakes up, she finds that the doctor she is dating is sitting by her bedside saying that she is his fiance and that she should move in with him..... but it just doesn't ring true with Libby so she is trying to hold things off and take things slowly. As Libby is recovering she discovers that nurses are being attacked and one day it happens at her hospital. Libby is beginning to feel as though she is being watched and becomes very frightened. Just who are the people in her life that she can trust???

This was a good mystery that really kept you guessing right up to the end. I am perplexed that it is called a "Diana" mystery because I don't feel as though she figured into solving the case all that much. I felt that her part in this was poorly portrayed if she was supposed to have been the "sleuth". Other than that the book was a good one and I would read other books written by this author.

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## **Cathy Speight says**

I have said this twice before when reviewing Faith's books, and I will say it again, because the compliment is warranted all the more. There is no doubt that Faith is well on the way to becoming the 21st century Agatha Christie. Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Jane Marple will live on for many years; look out for Diana Rivers who will be making her name as a modern-day, fictional amateur sleuth. She appears in two of Faith's books as well as this one and this is one more mystery for her to solve.

Pretty blonde nurses are going missing and being stalked in two hospitals – in London and in Southampton.....

Libby Hunter is a pretty blonde nursing sister working in a Southampton hospital – a perfect employment location to pursue her love of sailing. Not only does she get to sail in prestigious yacht races, but she can indulge her passion in the sport with her new yacht-owner boyfriend, Nigel, a prominent, successful, wealthy, good-looking and eligible surgeon. However, a head injury sustained during a race on Nigel's boat gives Libby two dilemmas – temporary amnesia and an attraction to the helicopter rescue pilot who transports her to hospital for treatment.

As Libby's memory gradually recovers, she becomes confused by Nigel's behaviour and actions and by her feelings towards her hero pilot whose support is becoming invaluable. If that wasn't enough, she is further unsettled by an intruder into her home one evening – worrying because nothing was stolen or disturbed.....in the meantime, the hospital stalker is stepping up a gear....or two....

This is a page-turner that keeps you on your toes. Why does Nigel keep disappearing to his London flat? Why is his ex-wife there? Why is Robert so supportive, yet mysterious, especially about the attractive woman and baby Libby sees him with? Why is the gentle, amateur dramatics aficionado, but uncommunicative hospital porter, Peter, so worried about Libby? What is troubling him about his sighting of the stalker? Each time you are led down a path of suspicion, you are diverted down another. If you think you are going to outwit this author, think again.

Faith is a very methodical and organised author. Her attention to detail is impeccable. Her knowledge and/or research of the sailing fraternity and amateur dramatics is detailed and faultless. Faith sets an immaculate scene and no stone is left unturned. She carefully makes each character believable and imaginable and the dialogue is natural and uncontrived. The result is a perfectly flowing, effortlessly readable and thoroughly enjoyable book.

This is the third of Faith's books I have read and all I can say is, well done, very well done once again, Faith. Next please!

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## **Sarah says**

This is the third book in the Diana Rivers series but can easily be read as a stand alone though I think you will be intrigued and want to read them all.

I really am becoming a big fan of Faith Mortimer's book's. I love her style of writing, I know i've mentioned it in reviews on her other books but she really is the modern day Agatha Christie. I know without a doubt that when I pick up one of her book's I won't be disappointed.

This book had me gripped from the start, Diana herself is very much in the background of this story and only really comes into it near the end. The story focuses on Libby a nurse who is experiencing some weird going on's and doesn't feel like everything is as it seems in her current relationship. Due to circumstances she becomes friendly with Robert a helicopter pilot who is Diana's cousin. She turns to Robert to try and make sense of what is happening in her life. Not only are things not right in Libby's life but she is also having to be careful as someone is going around killing and attacking nurses.

Like the other two books before this one, I could not put it down and ended up staying up well past my usual bedtime so I could finish it.

Looking forward to seeing where Faith will take us with the next book. Cannot recommend highly enough.

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## **Michele says**

Now this is a murder mystery with psychological under tones and lots of suspense that you really won't be able to guess until the very end! There are about 3 or 4 of the character's who for one reason or another could be the stalker who is murdering blond nurses!! I read this one from cover to cover non stop and throughout kept thinking to myself--is it him--no--maybe him--wow-it must be him--only to be ultimately wrong!

There are lots of other books in this series all of which I plan on reading at some point--luckily they are all stand alone!! Faith Mortimer is definitely going on my list of favorite author's for this genre!!  
The Surgeon's Blade

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## **Vered says**

Someone is stalking nurses, and Libby's worried. She has every right to be. After waking up from a bad head injury, Libby can't remember anything apart from her name. And she definitely can't remember the man sitting by her bed who claims to be her fiancé. As she struggles to pull her life back together, other nurses are losing theirs to a serial killer and she may be next on that list.

What I liked about The Surgeon's Blade: I never knew 'who did it' until the very end. Faith Mortimer keeps you guessing.

What I didn't like: Needs more editing. Too much 'telling' instead of 'showing'. Some of the dialogue is not natural, like the characters are spelling everything out rather than revealing things as in a normal conversation. If this book were tightened up, it could be a 3.5, if not 4, star.

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## **Hilary Weinstein says**

Exciting, gripping, well written book that is a must read to any discerning reader.

I was kept guessing all the way through this book and therefore was compelled to read and read. I expected a twist which didn't happen, but far from being disappointed, this kept me hanging in there waiting to see what transpired. I did not guess 'who dun it' until the end as it could have been any number of people which is part of the beauty of the way the book is written.

I believe Behind a Twisted Smile was slightly better than The Surgeon's Blade, but nevertheless I would recommend it to all as a must read as I thoroughly enjoyed the very life like story which could actually happen to anyone. I will definitely be reading more of Faith Mortimer's books in the very near future.

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## **Lorraine says**

Rating: 3.5

Nursing sister, Libby Hunter wakes up in hospital with amnesia after a traumatic sailing accident. The stranger she finds sitting by her bedside claims to be her fiancé. The trouble is... she cannot remember him... Returning home, Libby finds herself in great danger when her house is broken into. Who is the intruder and

what does he want? Is this connected to a series of attacks on nurses in London and Southampton? Is Libby the latest targeted victim?

This is definitely a suspense thriller and will keep you glued to your seat. What is quite different about this one is that usually if the "who done it" is obvious you probably have the wrong person. But this time the clues to the stalker/killer so obviously point in one direction yet the author throws in so many red herrings that I kept changing my mind yet telling myself it had to be the obvious person. You'll have to read this one to find out for yourself. I would have given it a higher score, but the two date rape scenes though not graphic in any way bothered me. I also would have liked Libby to have a better sense of herself and more confidence in deciding about whether a relationship with a particular man was good for her. She seemed to often ignore her instincts. Nigel absolutely drove me nuts and was so self-absorbed and controlling.

A good suspense thriller if you like those that keep you on the edge of your chair.

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### **Kath Middleton says**

This book by Faith Mortimer, a new writer to me, is the third in a series but stands well alone. It's a thriller/mystery and I didn't have a clue until 92% who was the perpetrator. The book is nicely paced, there are enough potential perps to keep you guessing and the end turns out well for Libby, the heroine. If I had a quibble it is that she was a bit wet. Things happened to her that would not happen to me twice! Very few typos and a good standard of writing added to the enjoyment of this story. Well worth a read.

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### **Maggie says**

This has languished too long on my Kindle! I decided as I had a lull between things that needed reviewed it was this one's turn.

This was a a nice quick read with some interesting characters. I hadn't read any of the earlier Diana River's books but that really didn't matter as she seemed to be more of a background character.

I was kept guessing as to the identity of the villain & at some point I think I'd suspected everyone except the culprit!

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### **Kate Loveton says**

How do you know when you've got a good book on your hands? Answer: you can't put it down!

That was my experience while reading "The Surgeon's Blade," a psychological mystery/thriller by author Faith Mortimer.

It didn't take long for me to become caught up in Ms. Mortimer's book. From the start, the story's quick pacing grabbed my attention and then refused to relinquish it. I stayed up into the wee hours of the morning, unwilling to put the book aside. I had to know the answer to the question that every engaging author teases

us with: what happens next?

Indeed. Bleary-eyed and tired, I kept promising myself I would close the book after just one more chapter... and, then, just one more. Finally, better judgment prevailed (and the knowledge that a 5:30 a.m. wake-up call comes mighty early), and I forced myself to lay the book aside until the next day. That was no easy feat – Ms. Mortimer accomplished the aim of all good authors: she had the reader hooked.

“The Surgeon’s Blade” concerns the plight of Libby, a young nurse working at a hospital in Southampton, England. We soon learn that someone with deadly intentions is preying upon nurses at Libby’s hospital and that Libby may be next on the stalker’s list of victims.

Also employed at the hospital is Nigel, the brilliant, enigmatic surgeon Libby is dating. Something is not quite right with Nigel. He is secretive and controlling, and we see these qualities come especially into play after Libby is injured during a yachting race. With casual disregard, Nigel continues on with the race while the unconscious Libby is airlifted for treatment at the hospital in which she is employed. During the short flight, she momentarily awakens and attracts the attention of the handsome helicopter pilot, Robert, and soon we have a love triangle between Robert, Libby and Nigel.

When Libby regains consciousness, she has partial memory loss and this allows Nigel to manipulate her into believing the two of them are engaged. Deftly, Ms. Mortimer then weaves a tale of intrigue and mystery. She provides us with just enough knowledge of the characters surrounding Libby to make us suspicious of the motivations of each. A master of misdirection, Ms. Mortimer had me guessing to the end of the book who the stalker might be; I was constantly revising my notions regarding the identity of the madman.

Laying the pieces of the puzzle out for us, Ms. Mortimer encourages us throughout the story to try to fit them together. Just when I thought I’d figured out who the perpetrator was, she surprised me. The story has careful plotting and by the book’s end I saw how well the puzzle had indeed come together. Best of all, the story moves with confident assurance; never does it drag or get weighed down by needless description.

Kudos to Ms. Mortimer for an engaging mystery, and one so neatly tied together. This is a story that will keep you guessing and surprise you. Is there anything more a reader can ask of a good mystery? I don’t think so.

I’d like to thank Ms. Mortimer for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Desley (Cat fosterer) says**

An attacker targeting nurses, and a nurse with 2 mysterious men in her life - how will it end?

I really enjoyed this book, I didn't guess who had done it, and my only problem with it was that I had to go to work and do errands which stopped me being able to read it as quickly as I liked!! A nicely paced book, with plenty of short chapters that kept you wanting to read more, and also plenty of twists that kept you thinking. Can't wait to read more by this author.

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