



Killing for Keeps

Mari Hannah

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The next gripping novel by Mari Hannah.

THEY KNOW HE'S COMING. Two brothers from the same criminal family die within hours of each other, five miles apart, one on the edge of a Newcastle industrial estate, the other in a busy A & E department of a local hospital, unseen by the triage team. Both victims have suffered horrific injuries. Who wanted them dead? Will they kill again? Investigating these brutal and bloody killings leads DCI Kate Daniels to break some rules, putting her career as well as her life on the line.

As the body count rises in the worst torture case Northumbria Police has ever seen, the focus of the enquiry switches, first to Glasgow and then to Europe ending in a confrontation with a dangerous offender hell-bent on revenge.

Killing for Keeps Details

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From Reader Review Killing for Keeps for online ebook

Christine says

It is hard to believe that Mari Hannah's Northumbrian crime series is now at book five. It really is. This is one series that I absolutely have to read. It combines a very modern lead in Kate Daniels, great gritty crime for those of us with strong stomachs and it's set in the north.

Kate Daniels is a rather exhausted and over-worked DCI. Those around her notice that her judgement is not always spot on. She is very grumpy, over emotional and not entirely professional. Kate is in desperate need of a holiday. Unfortunately for Kate, she has to deal with the escalating brutal murders that are happening on her door-step. Kate and side kick Hank Gormley are on the case, looking into gangland murders with their connections, home and away.

This time we get some very brutal crimes. Mari Hannah really ups her game to show how these individuals suffered and we see the shocked reactions in Kate and her officers. Kate is still determined to seek justice. We see Kate going down hill quite drastically and appearing to be on the edge of a breakdown. She has colleagues looking out for her, like the funny Hank and of course, Jo.

One of the things I enjoy about this series is the whole Kate/Jo relationship. Kate is extremely reluctant to reveal her sexuality to those around her. Her closest friends know. Kate is not at the point, where she can be open at work and in her everyday life. She is a workaholic, who puts work before relationships. Kate has an on/off relationship with Jo, that we have seen over the past few books. It is beautifully drawn. I can believe it. The caring is there and the support. More of this please!

Another winner for Mari Hannah. I hope we see the return of Kate soon, after she has had a nice long holiday.

Pat says

Another one off the production line. I do enjoy these books very much indeed and I am amazed at the way the plot lines keep on coming. However, I found this one just a bit too formulaic. You know that Kate is going to prevail in the end but the element of surprise and suspense was a bit thin in this book. Having said that, I will go on to read all the others!

Martin says

Good but I iterate EDIT EDIT no need for this story to be 400+ pages

Miles says

I'd intended reading Mari Hannah's latest book – Killing for Keeps – in November last year and despite all the very best intentions from yours truly it has remained gathering dust on the bookshelf. I was reminded subliminally to pick it up in December when the Geordie penguin - John Lewis spoof - video was doing the

rounds “I’m blind Dec, I’m blind” but it wasn’t until I had a few moments peace this week that I succeeded in not only wiping off said dust but actually reading it! It’s hard to believe that this is the fifth instalment in the DCI Kate Daniels series, where has the time gone?

I read – and loved – Mari’s debut thriller *The Murder Wall* but haven’t had the opportunity to read any since her explosive introduction to the literary world of gritty crime writing and police procedurals. Having read this latest adventure I wish I had, it appears I’ve missed a lot of water under the bridge!

The beginning to this story is incredibly dark and bloody, it took my breath away in parts and I guarantee you’ll be counting your digits after the opening salvos. This is what Mari does best, she sucks the reader in and allows your imagination to run riot. Graphic in parts, brutal in others, the narrative affords an expeditious read, one that is both swift and intelligent. There’s never a dull moment and one chapter seamlessly morphs into the next.

Both characterisation and plot are well thought out as are the policing aspects of the story as you would expect, written with confidence and strength this transfers to the reader effortlessly and you are left with a bloody good and entertaining read.

Talking of characterisation, for me Kate isn’t in a particularly confident place, she questions herself, is uncertain on numerous occasions and is definitely fallible but it’s this fallibility and hesitation that makes her so realistic and likeable. Another assured book by crime’s Queen of the North.

Nicola Richardson says

The first one of hers I have read and I really enjoyed it. Will definitely read more.

Alena says

This one left me kind of cold, even though I thought it had a strong start.

The case had a lot of potential but somehow got messy. Not everything made sense and even the fast pace couldn’t cover that up.

Also, someone please tell writers of crime series that there surely are alternatives to protagonists having on again, off again relationships over the course of the series... it bores me endlessly, especially when nothing really changes in regard to character development.

Andy Walker says

The fifth Kate Daniels novel is a rip roaring read. Author Mari Hannah studied at Teesside University and as a Boro lad myself, I hope she will appreciate it when I say that *Killing for Keeps* is an absolute brahmer of a book.

On the trail of brutal gangster-related killings, DCI Kate Daniels and her team, encounter torture, deception, family feuding, inter-force cooperation, Spanish sunshine, tapas and golf as they try and track down the

perpetrators.

Hannah writes with such knowledge of police techniques and working practices that you feel like your on the inside of a real investigation as you read this book. Clearing having an ex-murder detective as her partner helps Hannah in that regard and it's no wonder that she's become known as an author who writes authoritatively about the way cops work.

This particular case takes Daniels on a trip to two countries - Scotland and Spain. Her trip to Spain with her trusty and trusted colleague DS Hank Gormley is brilliantly described and reading Hannah's description of sun-kissed beaches and golf courses as I travelled down to London by train on a wet and damp April morning made me want to hop on the first available flight to the Costa de la Luz for some much needed R & R with my clubs that I've not used for years!

The best books do that - transport you out of your current surroundings to somewhere else and Hannah's writing certainly does that. She certainly writes brilliant novels and I'm so glad to have discovered her work. I've also met her and can report that she's also a good egg too.

I'm now reading her latest novel, The Lost, which is the first in a new detective series as she puts DCI Kate Daniels on ice for a bit. Luckily for me, I still have Daniels book #6 to read after that so any withdrawal symptoms should be kept to a minimum.

Anyway, my verdict on Killing for Keeps? Another absolute triumph from the adopted Northumbrian. So do yourself a favour and go and buy it, along with the rest of Hannah's canon.

Ruth says

Two brothers from the same criminal family die within hours of each other, five miles apart, one on the edge of a Newcastle industrial estate, the other in a busy A & E department of a local hospital, unseen by the triage team. Both victims have suffered horrific injuries. Who wanted them dead? Will they kill again? Investigating these brutal and bloody killings leads DCI Kate Daniels to break some rules, putting her career as well as her life on the line.

As the body count rises in the worst torture case Northumbria Police has ever seen, the focus of the enquiry switches, first to Glasgow and then to Europe ending in a confrontation with a dangerous offender hell-bent on revenge.

Really enjoyed this and loved the fact that we see a more vulnerable side to Kate Daniels and a warmer side. On a personal note, I liked the little reference to Croy station, not being a place DCI Daniels had heard of, however it's a place I know quite well having grown up in the town of Kilsyth close by and it's the station we need to use, to travel to Glasgow/Edinburgh.

This was another page turner and I am looking forward to the next in the series and hoping Kate finds lasting happiness.

John Roberts says

Good book in the end with nail biting scenes! Nice to catch up in the Kate Daniels series. Look forward to the next instalment. Hopefully others by Mari in the coming months.

Raven says

Killing For Keeps is the fifth instalment of the excellent DCI Kate Daniels series, and once again consolidates Hannah's growing reputation at the core of the British crime genre, alongside the names of Denise Mina, Ann Cleeves and Sharon Bolton.

Two brothers from the same criminal family die within hours of each other, five miles apart: one on the edge of a Newcastle industrial estate, the other in a busy A & E department, unseen by the triage team. Both victims have suffered horrific, brutal and bloody injuries (rubs hands with ghoulish glee). As the investigation in the toerags' deaths gathers pace, our estwhile heroine Daniels, gets drawn into some moral conundrums, which inevitably lead to her breaking of the rules. As the body count rises, Hannah transports us from Newcastle, to Scotland and then to the warmer climes of Europe, as Daniels and her intrepid sidekick DS Hank Gormley navigate the dangerous waters of this particularly testing investigation to its bloody conclusion.

Being a little disillusioned with some of the British crime thrillers over the past year, Hannah has delivered a breath of fresh air once again. Although I would hesitate to say that Killing For Keeps was as good personally as the previous book, Monument To Murder with its near perfect rendition of police procedural and location, even a slightly less good book from Hannah still steals the competition amongst her peers. As usual Hannah is spot on in terms of her forensic detail, the inner workings of a murder investigation, and the professional demands this places on Daniels and her team. Although I felt myself less engaged with the tit-for-tat killing of the brothers grim, and its consequences among the criminal fraternity, it is the allure of Hannah's characterisation of Daniels and her cohorts that really carries the book.

Up to now most of the books have been driven by the knotty emotional entanglement of Daniels and her very off/on lover psychologist Jo Soulsby. Although this story goes some way to resolving the ups and downs of this personal relationship, what I found most engaging were the slight chinks that appeared in Daniels' professional armour. With the distressing death of one of her unofficial informers hitting her hard, this investigation causes Daniels' to fly beneath the radar of professional standards. We bear witness to a previously unseen side of her that makes the morality of her actions come under scrutiny, and Daniels goes a bit maverick. And I liked it. With the unfolding of the investigation, Daniels forms an unlikely respect for a member of the criminal fraternity, particularly when he saves Gormley's skin, and it was good to see her loosen her fixed ideals as the book progressed. As usual I enjoyed the repartee between Daniels with not only her partner, Gormley, and the rest of her team but also the spiky but respectful relationship with her superior officer Superintendent Bright. And it was nice to see a little touch of Cupid's arrow, with everyone's love lives being placed on a more even keel...until something or someone upsets the apple-carts I suspect!

Another good addition to the series, and thanks to Hannah's assured control of back story, this is a series you can dip into at any point. But why would you dip? Start at the beginning with The Murder Wall and give yourselves a treat. Happy reading.

Myshelle says

Fantastic book 5 in the DCI Kate Daniels series. Hoping there is a 6th

Margaret says

Another excellent DCI Kate Daniels novel.

In this one two brothers, members of a crime family, and found murdered in different locations, several hours apart.

Kate and her team have a job on their hands to identify the killers - then one of the suspects turns up dead and the race is on to find HIS brother before he too is killed.

Intricately plotted, well written, and a thoroughly enjoyable read. Mari Hannah creates some fairly gruesome ways for her victims to die.

Highly recommended.

PrettyFlamingo says

This is the 5th instalment in a series featuring detective Kate Daniels although it doesn't matter whether you'd read the previous books or not – I hadn't. Immediately the reader is thrown into the violent, horrific world of Glasgow psycho gang members, retribution and torture. The images this brings up aren't for the faint hearted and though I accept it was necessary to set the scene I didn't enjoy reading about it. Neither do I like anything about gangsters. I'm surprised I liked anything about the book actually; I read it simply because the village of Blanchland, where I had passed through earlier this year and which fascinated me, was featured and because as a die-hard Peter Robinson fan, I quite fancied a new crime series. We follow Kate and her team as they track down who killed John and Terry, and why. It's sometimes difficult to work out who is the hunter and who is the game, and who you're meant to sympathise with.

Though I don't know anything much about Kate's back story, I could see she was at breaking point and was also allowing her personal life to affect her work. The gruesome discovery of the bodies of two brothers from a notorious criminal family distresses her far more than I would have expected for a seasoned DCI and points to her state of mind being seriously affected. She struggles to remain totally professional at times and often blows her top. I'd have liked to have seen more of Kate at home and heard about what she did when she wasn't at work. The story was so fast paced and timebound there was little time to develop the character as a rounded individual – other than showing us her relationship with Jo, her ex.

What I did like was the portrayal of the criminal investigations team. Kate has a fabulous working relationship with her DI and the whole team are dedicated and mostly very professional in that they're determined to seek justice for very unpleasant individuals. I really enjoyed the procedural aspect and how they pieced all the clues together.

What I wasn't so keen on was all the local slang. I found it difficult to get my head around, and I'm from Yorkshire, not a million miles away. I'd never heard of a prig, I don't know what bait is, saying "Makes you say that?" omitting "What" was irritating and a dog having put his paws up?? Thought I might need a translator! Some idioms became obvious after a while, but others I still didn't understand when I'd finished the book. Perhaps it helped to set the scene in its locality but if I had difficulty, I imagine readers from other English speaking countries would be mightily confused.

Another trait in this book was giving us Kate's thoughts in italics. That worked fairly well, but there were too many short sentences, paragraphs in fact – some of only three words, which gave a very disjointed feel to the narrative at times. I also thought the scene just before the end(view spoiler) was ridiculous. I thought the ending was a little unsatisfying, if I'm honest.

My verdict is that it wasn't bad, but I'm not enthralled enough to read the rest of the series.

3.5.

Thebooktrail says

Killing for Keeps is the fifth installment in the Kate Daniels series - set in and around the North East - in this instance Newcastle and Blanchland. This is a hard-hitting and chilling case for Northumbria Police, the worst torture case they've ever seen.

Mari Hannah has raised the stakes this time - the prologue sets the scene for what will follow. And the first chapter (six weeks later) opens the door to a thrilling narrative when we see just what has taken place and what Kate and her team are up against.

Story in a nutshell

Two brothers from a well-known criminal family are found dead within a few miles of each other - tortured to death.

Ripples start to spread across the city - associates of the men are uneasy and witnesses scared. Kate has to break some rules, putting herself and her career in jeopardy. But there is someone out there who lives by his own rules and is prepared to remove anyone who gets in his way.

This is one investigation that Kate and the team will never forget.

Booktrailer recommended!

Killing for Keeps is dangerous, chilling and skillfully plotted. Mari's best yet. It's darker and the first chapter is not an introduction to the story but rather a gateway to Kate Daniel's worst nightmare.

If you thought the other cases Kate had to deal with were horrific and hard to deal with, the ones here are, well, something else entirely. And it's not what the cases are, but what they represent and how they affect Kate and the team that is the most fascinating of all.

The darker undertone of this book works well as the shady and shadowy parts of the North East - an industrial estate and the underbelly of the nightclub area are chillingly brought to realisation. Contrast remote scenes with the busy and chaotic setting of the police HQ and the confusion of the local city hospital provides an eerie picture of Newcastle. Then the action moves to Blanchland - a local beauty spot and remote yet popular village much loved by tourists and the contrast with the subject matter is greater still. Just when you thought you knew and recognised Kate's world well, she's off on a trail to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Spain. A booktrail on a grand scale you will agree and a fascinating insight into how police forces work together on such complicated and far reaching cases such as this.

Recently, the Kate Daniels series has been optioned for television and she has been shortlisted for the CWA Dagger in the Library award proving, beyond doubt, that she is a crime writer we're going to hear a lot more about. We're proud to say that she's a local author and has put the North East region firmly on the literary map.

Booktrail with map of the locations in the novel coming soon on The booktrail link: [Come to the North East of Kate Daniels t](#)

Kate says

First book of this author I have read. The plot was good the story was OK. But the characters were, for the most part, not particularly interesting or sympathetic. I am going to get cranky here and probably very non PC but why is it necessary to get into someone's sexual orientation in a murder mystery unless it is germane to the plot? It seems like every third book I read where there is a female detective she is a lesbian. Guess what? I don't care. I stopped reading Patricia Cornell's books once she introduced her gay niece and went off on a personal hobby horse of lesbianism. The issue became second to the plot and killed the books for me. The Alex Delaware/Milo Stugis books handle Milo's sexuality very neatly. It is not a big issue. I have gay friends, I don't hate them or think they are evil etc but why must author shove them in the reader's face when you are only trying to get a good MYSTERY story. End of gripe.
