



Criss Cross

C.C. Warrens

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Holly is living on borrowed time, but when mysterious footsteps follow her home and a cryptic note shows up on her door, she realizes her time is running out. The man she's hiding from has found her. Or has he? When people start dying and old, forgotten memories begin to surface, holly finds herself wrapped up in a terrifying mystery with God, a pushy southern detective, and a killer with one thing on his mind: her.

Criss Cross Details

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Author : C.C. Warrens

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From Reader Review Criss Cross for online ebook

Robin Goodfellow says

-I received this book from Reader's Favorites.

Criss-Cross, by C.C. Warrens, is a Christian thriller about remembering what evil had taken away, and knowing that, in the end, you've always a home you can go back to.

Detective Richard Marx is investigating the death of two men, both of whom are connected to the attempted assault of a young woman named Holly Smith. Now, with a sadistic stalker on the loose, Richard must protect Holly with everything he has, even if it means giving up his own life. Holly, meanwhile, is a freelance photographer who can't remember anything from her childhood. When a card shows up at her door, asking her to come home, she dismisses it. However, after a series of frightening events, Holly finally realizes that she is in more danger than she realizes, and that the only thing she can do to save herself is remember. C.C. Warrens shows that, though the demons from a nightmare may be lurking in the shadows, having courage and faith can light even the darkest of places.

There's no doubt that Holly is haunted by forgotten memories. To be honest, I'm amazed Holly can still function as well as she does. Not only that, but when she does finally stop running, it's clear that she will do whatever it takes to protect her friends and survive. Her practice of writing down one thing she's thankful for to God helped keep her sanity as well, preventing her from drifting off into despair. Her faith also stemmed from the most unlikely of places; a ruined childhood, a stolen Bible, and a refusal to give up on life. I loved this part of her character, because it illustrates that while Holly knows that she's suffering, but she endeavors to endure, if only to reclaim her life.

This brings me to the concept of having faith in God, even in the most troubled of times. Holly was innocent in all of this; the only survivor of her family's massacre, and with only fragments of her memories left to her, she managed to pull herself together to try and live her. She was trampled on, abused, drifting from foster home to foster home, but she still pulled through. In God, she was strong, and for that I commend her.

As such, I would give this book a rating of a 4.3 out of 5 stars. With each memory returned, the story slowly begins to piece itself together, if only for the sake of a sorrowful truth. Readers will enjoy the gripping plot twists and evocative narrative. Those who love thrillers in general will also love this book.

Shannon says

Wow! I don't usually read suspense, but I decided to try this one after it was recommended by so many. I loved it! Wonderful characters that really grow on you throughout the story. The plot is amazing, and not at all predictable. I will definitely be reading the others in this series.

Anita Burkett says

Amazing!!!

I did not want to put this book down. It is action packed and many many twists and turns. It was hard to not

skip ahead to the bottom of the page because I couldn't wait to see what happened next. It definitely deserves more than 5 stars.

Connie says

This series is going down as my all time favorites. The characters are so real and endearing. I was hooked within the first few pages and not once did I feel anything less than captivated, as the story unfolded. I had to wait to review this book as it was a book club read, but I have already read book 2, and I can't wait for book 3. Five stars and then some!!! I am now following this author.

Amy says

This enticing story will be one you won't want to miss out on!! It kept me on high alert and very interested from the very beginning! Holly, the main character has long term, severe PTS and is on the run from her past. I feel as though I am in the lives of the main characters. I will definitely reread this superb suspense/murder mystery book with a Christian genre. It is one of my top favorite books I have read this year and I read a lot! I can't wait to read more of this author's books in the future. Try not to miss this exciting story....

Debbie says

Criss Cross (A Holly Novel #1) by C. C. Warrens

C. C. Warrens is a new Christian Fiction author and if she continues to write novels like her first, Criss Cross, I will continue reading them. The book is full of edge-of-your-seat, hold-your-breath suspense. And you don't know the whole story until much later in the novel, which I love! That's true suspense. If you are worried about bad language or sexual scenes, don't. It's a very clean novel, yet deals with tough situations and yet the author writes in such a way that you don't miss the bad language that most secular novelist think they must include to captivate the reader. The main character is a Christian, but the book is not overtly Christian, so I feel anyone could read this and love it.

Holly, the main character, is a photographer that lives completely off the grid. She has many quirks and a past that will not let go of her. Her quick, witty banter with her best friend, Jace, and later with Detective Marx is totally wonderful. A very tense situation can turn funny with the wit of Holly.

Holly's past has caught up with her and she needs help, yet due to her past, she is reluctant to accept it. She isolates herself and likes, no demands, her personal space. And getting her to trust is very hard, but totally worth it.

You will find yourself holding your breath because you are so scared for her and you will be sitting on the edge of your favorite reading chair wondering what's going to happen and how will it turn out. But you will also smile and a few times laugh and the funny things that happen during tense moments of suspense.

And the ending? Oh my goodness!!! I can't wait until Book 2, Cross Fire, comes out in November 2017. And I believe there will be a Book 3 also. Yeah!!!! Love this new author and her novel. Looking forward to

reading many more books to come.

Lillie says

There's nonstop action, and Holly's emotions and Christian faith come through strong and clear. However, I had a hard time imagining that one young woman could have two crazy men out to hurt or kill her. There were other discrepancies--she is a recluse but a freelance photographer. How can she get business without getting out in the world and meeting potential clients? I am not a fan of cliffhanger endings and usually give only 2 stars to any book that ends in a cliffhanger. However, there was a resolution of the current situation, and the cliffhanger was added to entice readers to the next book, which I don't anticipate reading.

Glenda Parker says

My review today is on the thriller, Criss Cross. This is the first book in the Holly Novel Series. This book was sent to me as a complimentary book because I enjoyed the second book in the series so much. I really enjoyed this book; well I'm not sure if enjoy is what you call a thriller about a serial killer. But the book is truly awesome. C.C. handles the situation in a very capable way. The book is well written, action packed, and full of terror due to the serial killer. I have been abused and I know that C.C. is right on in this character. Faith is also woven throughout all the book like a fine tapestry. I know you are going to love this one.

Holly Smith is a photographer in New York City. She is now leading a very quiet protected life. She is unable to remember the first ten years of her life. At the age of ten she remembers living with a family she thought was hers only to find that they were never her family and they were both taken to prison. Holly was then taken to one foster home after another. She had been abused and lived through things she had never been able to share with anyone. She doesn't even know who she is. She only has one friend, can't bare to be touched, and lives in an apartment that is more like a bunker. Holly is taking pictures in the park when she notices a man standing by a tree in her photos watching the shoot. She is attacked by two men. A dog rescues her and the police shows up. One of the men that attacked her was found dead with his throat cut. Is Holly in trouble? Does she know the man that killed one of her attackers? Is this killer a man from her past? The killer leaves a note on her door saying 'Holly come home.' Where is home?

Detective Richard Marx is called to the scene of a murder to find a young beautiful girl. Though she is a victim she refuses to consider herself that way. She keeps him at a distance and it soon becomes apparent that this girl is in trouble. A serial killer is on her tail and he is determined to have his way with this girl. Can Marx and his men keep Holly safe? What is she hiding?

A journey that takes them to Maine and then to Kansas trying to find out who Holly really is. This girl has become more like the daughter Marx always wanted. They must find out who Holly really is and what this animal plans to do to her. Holly must learn to trust again and know that God has a plan for them, a good plan and not for evil. God has a plan for you too; a plan for a hope and a future. Make Him Lord of your life and watch Him take control of your mess. Thank God most of us will never have to deal with serial killers but we can trust that if we do He will make a way.

Shauna Williams says

A definite thriller from the start! I didn't want to put this one down! The main character is nothing short of feisty, fearless, compassionate, and, at times, completely irrational, but those traits, when combined, are what matters most in the end. Her obsession with sweet treats, especially the chocolate and marshmallow kind, bring her a pleasurable respite from the horrors that not only plague her past but her present. She is anything but a victim. She is a survivor, in every sense of the word. Warren did an excellent job in allowing the reader to connect with Holly on an intimate level -- you will experience her fears, losses, pain, and triumphs. I especially loved who Holly's journal entries were written to -- very refreshing, authentically real, and exceptionally personal. The writing style in this novel was well-developed, descriptive, and entertaining -- no indication of this being from a novice author. The only drawbacks in this read, for me, were a few parts where the storyline was drawn out a little too much for suspense-sake (although at no point did I want to skip over anything) and where Warren had the opportunity to present a clear salvation message and instead chose to dub it as "an experience with God" leaving the reader wondering what "such an experience" exactly entailed. However, this is still a read I will recommend and a series I'd like to complete.

*I received a free copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

Heather Gilbert says

This'll probably be the final book I complete in 2018, and what a book it was! True stalker suspense that I couldn't put down and had to stay up late to finish! I just discovered C. C. Warrens because I've heard a lot of good things about this series, and I really enjoyed this very plucky and unusual heroine who, despite a terrible childhood and current imminent danger, still finds reason to hope. There were a few times I had to suspend disbelief, but overall it was a good story and I'll be looking forward to reading the next in series. An excellent new suspense voice in Christian fiction.

Julie says

Good suspense

I really liked this book. It's the first book I've read from this author and I want to read the next one. It has a good ending that leaves you having and wanting to find out what happened next.

The book covers some of the trauma that foster children can be subjected to and breaks a person's heart. It also shows that people can be survivors and stronger than they seem on the outside.

Chloe S. says

With a complicated and engaging protagonist, unique secondary characters, and danger and mystery at every turn, Criss Cross is a thrilling read.

Holly is an emotionally damaged, yet surprisingly compassionate young woman trying to escape the ghosts of her past. When an evil threat from deep in her childhood overturns her efforts to protect herself, she must face her darkest fears to survive.

The fast-paced action and suspense make the story exciting, but it's the poignant elements of faith and

friendship that make it so memorable.

Disclaimer: Do not start this book unless you have time to finish it. You will be powerless to stop reading!

Shirley McClay says

A rare 5

I rarely give out 5's but this book was excellent. I was so immersed in it that I forgot where I was. I read it straight through in one afternoon and was very disappointed to have it end. Loved the characters, the build up of the suspense, the unfolding of the mystery. Can't wait for the next book!!!

J.R. Thompson says

Criss Cross is a spine-chilling novel filled with mystery and suspense while quite impressively avoiding the use of foul language or unnecessary sexual scenes. The novel is written in first-person format, drawing readers into the thoughts, fears, and stubbornness of a lady whose entire life has been filled with terror.

This was the first book I have read by C.C. Warrens, but it certainly will not be the last! Criss Cross is a Christian mystery which will be thoroughly enjoyed by readers who like to feel strong connections to a book's characters, who enjoy letting a book set them on edge, and by people who enjoy, good, clean reads.

barbara conroy says

One of the best books I have ever read. The plot engaged me from the beginning, the characters had me hooked, the ending grabbed me to read the next book!
