



Gavin

Russell .

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The Chicago summer is heating up...

In a luxurious hotel off Michigan Avenue, Detective Gavin Nolan arrives on a grisly scene. Two men have been brutally murdered, and one of the victims has a familiar face. The twisted display is like nothing Gavin has ever seen, but it's the message scrawled in blood on the bathroom mirror that leaves him reeling: Gavin, you could have saved me.

Other men have been viciously slain as well over the last few weeks. As he dives further into the victims' lives, Gavin and his partner, Derrick, discover that each of the men have a common thread—one that Gavin shares. It's a reality he has suppressed for years.

On top of Gavin's personal chaos, the killer is displaying the bodies in a series of specific designs to depict a long ago memory. Recognizing the pattern, Gavin soon is forced to recall the dark event. In order to catch the killer, Gavin must reconcile his past.

Before he becomes the final victim himself.

GAVIN is a sexual thriller that will leave you breathless...

WARNING: This book contains graphic scenes, explicit language, and violent, sexual situations.

Gavin Details

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Author : Russell .

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From Reader Review Gavin for online ebook

Lena♥Ribka says

WARNING: This book contains graphic scenes, explicit language, and violent, sexual situations.

MORE WARNING: This book contains also rape and child abuse. AND It is NOT a ROMANCE. If you look for a sweet emotional relationship drama, with a little bit mystery in a background, then it is not for you. I'm not even sure that I can recommend this book to a *vanilla* mystery reader, because **this book IS BRUTAL.**

I am glad that I gave this book one more chance, because I was VERY closed to give up at 10% . I actually HAD given up, but this decision left me feel rather uneasy, and after a bit more deliberation I picked it up again.

The book starts with a crime scene (yes, with a graphic and brutal one). When Detective Gavin Nolan and his partner detective Derrick Williamson arrive at the scene they find two men brutally murdered - I will spare you the details- and a message, written in blood upon the mirror: *Gavin, you could save me.*

My main reason why I wanted to give up at around 10% was a presumption that this book was solely about a hate crime. I was not in the mood for a serial killer who hates gay men, hunts them and carries out his sick fantasies killing them in a especially perverse way. Homophobia/bigotry is not my thing.

However, the main character, Gavin Nolan got my attention from the very beginning: recently divorced, he's just moved into his new apartment in downtown. It was something mysterious, enigmatic about an attractive athletic and smart detective by the Homicide Division in Chicago that kept me on reading.

Does Gavin have something to hide, from the world? Was there something in his past that he does not want to recall and tries to forget? What kind of connection can have a CPD cop and a murderer?. The victims didn't know each other, they have various age ranges, different backgrounds, social circles, but it doesn't look like the killer chosen them randomly. It has to be a connection between all the victims. Though what can they all have in common? And how Gavin could fit in this schema?

It is a tough (because of the topic, see the warning) but extremely thrilling read. After my initial difficulties to get into the story (mostly because I misinterpreted it), I couldn't put it down, and swallowed almost 500 pages in three days (it is a very unusual reading speed for me).

I normally do not like when flashbacks take a lot of place in the plot, but here exactly the interplay between past and present, memories and actual places made the story.

I found the writing became also better as the story unfolded. I would describe it simple but fluent and entertaining. There were some really shining moments, but there was also some parts that appears amateurish. To say it in other words, this book is not perfect, it has its issues, but all in all I honestly enjoyed

it (I know that to talk about enjoying sounds a bit perverse, considering the topic), and I am looking forward to the next sequel.

A horror fast paced mystery full of surprises, a provoking and gripping story-line, complex and unusual characters.

****ARC provided to Gay Book Reviews by the author in exchange for an honest review.****

J.C. Brennan says

No-nonsense detectives, a sexy flirtation medical examiner, and a pile of brutally murder people with their eyes remove and their bodies displayed in vile, sadistic poses specifically for detective Gavin Nolen, what more could a mystery read want—grave dark secrets that tie the detective to the victims possibly?

This macabre crime-mystery is admirably written and composed—though lengthy. The story evokes a dark graphic sexual theme with raw violence that some reader may find too intense.

Russell has created a tense twisted tale this is not for the faint of heart. A suspenseful yet complicated story that brings its readers to the pinnacle of a meandering tangled climax.

Giulio says

A great thriller about a gruesome savage serial killer chased by a cop with a dark past and lots of secrets.

Unfortunately, I didn't find the writing as good as the plot. The sex scenes were quite awkward and somehow prudish compared to the extremely graphic murders

Sally says

First, this book's warning about graphic violence and sexual situations should not be taken lightly. If you're squeamish about descriptions of gay sexual encounters and horrific murder scenes, this is probably not the book for you. With that in mind, I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a psychological thriller that keeps you guessing right up to the end. The story revolves around Gavin, a recently divorced Chicago homicide detective. He and his partner investigate a series of brutal murders with taunting messages left for Gavin at each crime scene. The author keeps the story moving at a good pace, with new clues and past memories combining to a great conclusion.

Michael McLellan says

Oh, Gavin...

I did not like this book at first. I did, in fact, almost put it down after the first twenty-five pages or so.

It wasn't the sexual subject matter, or the language. It wasn't the graphic descriptions of violence, and it wasn't the blood. I don't fear these things when they're necessary to a story. To be honest, I don't know exactly what it was that nearly made me close the book prematurely. Going through other reviews of Russell's novel I found I'm not the only one who felt this way. Maybe it's something the author will take note of for future work.

The point that I'm taking way too long to get to is that this is a good book, and I'm glad I stuck with it. If you're a fan of the genre, you shouldn't be disappointed. It's a solid murder mystery; one that left this reader guessing all the way to the end. The title character is well fleshed-out and makes an interesting protagonist. The secondary characters are also well-drawn and believable. I don't do spoilers but the ending suggests this may not be the ending at all.

So if you're not too queasy, and like a good suspense thriller, pick up a copy of *Gavin*...just don't eat first.

Rich says

I red this novel on my e reader indle. This was a hard novel to rate for me. I am pretty tired of the serial iller genre, really don't read it that much. That being said this was novel. The victims were not the normal female. The first half is very gritty and intense and has the feel of 7 or silence of the lambs to it. I thought it moved at a good pace and did not get bogged down. I did not enjoy a few things however and that's what made this a hard rating to give. I though the two scenes mid point between main character and captain should have been severly edited and maybe be one more scene towards the end. This is a 500 page novel, saying a lot should have been edited. I will not read the next novel in the series which I hate to say because of the main characters life style choice which is not mind. I would say read the novel. I give 4.0 on the dot.

Michelle says

This is my kind of mystery, **dark** and **thrilling!** Love when authors "go there."
Highly recommend!

Javier Carrasco says

I received a copy of this books as a Goodreads giveaway. that being said I think that this book is nothing at all like I expected of a typical murder/mystery. Definitely full of very adult content. Held my attention from start to finish. The writing just pulled you close in to each of the characters. Definitely kept me guessing until

the end. So different and unexpected from most of what is out there. I highly recommend this book and am looking forward the the author's next book

Regina Puckett says

Gavin is a sexy, gritty murder mystery. This is a wonderful dark story filled with true to life characters and a carefully crafted storyline that hooks you in on page one.

There is only one small warning though - this is book is meant for 18 and over. There are a few sex scenes and Mr. Russell does a great job of describing the horrific murder scenes, so be prepared when you jump in for the ride of your life. I loved it.

Martha Perez says

I was intrigued by Gavin and Nolan they were Chicago finest Detectives at there best had me in the edge of my seat with ghastry mysteries with flashbacks secrets brutal and ruthless murders. I thought there lifestyle gave the story some spice and the tremendous plot was amazing! I was drawn with every word on every page it was well written this story will make you think days to come. I recommend this astonishing book.

Ashley Gillan says

To start: This book is dark. Very dark. It contains some very intense scenes involving sexual abuse and childhood abuse. Those that are looking for a light, warm-hearted read should pick another book. But for those that want to try a mystery/thriller with just a touch of horror: this book is an amazingly suspenseful thriller that will leave you begging the author for more.

The novel begins as Gavin Nolan and his partner - homicide detectives in the Chicago PD - are summoned to a crime scene in which two men are brutally murdered. The killer, who they've been investigating for weeks, also leaves a personal message for Gavin: "You could have saved me." The investigation doesn't seem to be going anywhere as Gavin wracks his brain for any connection between the victims. How are these seemingly random (and quite, frankly, douche-baggy men that no one seems to really miss) victims connected? And how doe Gavin fit in? We're about to find out.

Like I said, this novel does not shy away from anything, from the descriptions of the crime scenes, to the events that ultimately connect all the dots. It is not for those with a weak stomach. But I couldn't stop reading; I was sucked in from almost the very first page. The author leaves a trail that is intriguing and keeps you guessing, while handing you little clues throughout. For example, I had a theory that I formed about halfway through - I was wrong. But that's part of the fun with these types of novels.

The personal storylines were also good. They contributed to the storyline, but didn't take away from the mystery. And the author does a good job of advancing them throughout the story - the characters grow and develop throughout the novel in a way that is really satisfying - I hate when characters stay stagnant.

The ending also promises more from these characters, which is great. Normally, I'm not a fan of

cliffhanger-type endings, but this one was done in a really great way that gave closure to the story at hand, while promising more excitement coming.

I'll definitely be reading the next in this series.

Karl Holton says

'Gavin' is a deeply descriptive murder mystery based in Chicago. The characters are very well constructed and realistic. You feel what they are going through as the writing pulls you in and almost forces you to explore what happens next (in a good way). It's almost the definition of gritty but with the quality of writing and plot that keeps you enthralled. As you go deeper into the present and previous life of the main character, Gavin, you discover how this is intertwined with the gruesome murders. This is neatly constructed in the narrative.

The writing style is raw with the darkness in the plot shown in great detail, creating the nasty world the characters are experiencing. It's well written and effective but certainly for 'grown-ups'. I enjoyed it. This is a highly recommended read for all grisly noir crime thriller readers.

MJ LaBeff says

A dark, disturbing, shocking thriller

This edge-of-the seat read kept me turning pages late into the night. It has shocking twists that I didn't expect and a big reveal about detective Gavin Nolan that I didn't see coming. For fans of grisly thrillers, I highly recommend Gavin but reader be warned: The novel contains graphic, violent sexually explicit content. The crime scenes are depicted in detail with the killer leaving clues especially for Nolan. Some of the scenes in the book aren't for the faint at heart, and I even paused to take a breath before reading on.

I enjoy a suspenseful story with multiple plot lines where the stakes are high, and the author definitely delivers on the promise with a powerful conclusion, tying up every loose end and bringing every character to a close.

Russell's writing is superb, and pacing is spot-on. I'm looking forward to the next book in the Gavin Nolan series, Derrick.

Keith says

An adult Detective story, with some twists that might not be to everyone's tastes. But if you like a good crime story and have an open mind I think you will enjoy Gavin.

Linda Strong says

Over the last few weeks, several men have been brutally murdered, tortured, strangled, eyeballs taken, and posed by hanging wires. Today, Detective Gavin Nolan and his partner, Derrick Williamson are called to a hotel to look at two more bodies... both men, tortured, strangled,, but this time there is a message written in blood for Gavin.

Each of these men had a secret ... one that Gavin shares.

And Gavin must come to terms about his growing up years to catch this killer ..before he becomes the next victim.

WARNING: This book contains graphic scenes, explicit language, and violent, sexual situations.

The book goes back and forth between the present day investigation and Gavin's childhood. It's not a childhood he is particularly proud of, but he must remember what really happened.

Well written, the book is dark and scary and realistic. Characters lend credibility to the story. The ending is explosive! There is a small cliff hanger which segues into his next book of the series ...Derrick.

Many thanks to the author / Russell Publishing / Netgalley for the digital copy of GAVIN. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.
