



The Ladykiller

Martina Cole

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George Markham has a nasty little hobby, one that erupts into an orgy of vicious sexual depravity.

Patrick Kelly is a hard man. His one soft spot is his daughter, and when she falls victim to the Grantley Ripper, Kelly wants revenge.

The DI in charge of the case is Kate Burrows. She feels for Kelly but her growing involvement with a known villain is putting her career at risk . . . As the forces of law and order and London's underworld converge in a huge manhunt, Kate fears she'll lose everything she's ever cared about . . . to the ladykiller.

The Ladykiller Details

Date : Published (first published 1993)

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Author : Martina Cole

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From Reader Review The Ladykiller for online ebook

Jenny Hilborne says

This is an excellent book which grabbed me from the very first chapter. The author has developed her characters so well that even the very bad ones - even the exceedingly awful George Markham, are likable. All throughout this book I wanted to give it a 5, however, without including any spoilers, I found the ending a little weak, which left me disappointed. Even so, I will definitely read more books by Martina Cole.

Chanel Lindsay says

This book follows George Markham, a man who has a nasty little hobby. He pursues it in secret, behind closed doors. But now George's hobby is becoming an obsession, one that erupts into an orgy of vicious sexual depravity. Patrick Kelly is a hard man - the most feared in London. His one soft spot is his daughter, Mandy. And when she falls victim to the sadistic rapist nicknamed the Grantley Ripper, Kelly wants revenge, with or without police help. The DI in charge of the case is Kate Burrows. It's a tough job and one that's already cost Kate her marriage. She feels for Kelly - she's a parent herself - but her growing involvement with a known villain is putting her career at risk. As the forces of law and order and London's underworld converge in a mammoth manhunt, Kate fears she'll lose everything she's ever cared about to...
THE LADYKILLER.

I absolutely love Martina Cole's books! I read a few years ago but have been getting back into them. While this book was a re-read, I loved it so much more the second time round! The whole book is very bold, powerfully-written and incredibly compelling. Martina Cole manages to deliver a truly fantastic book that is both highly detailed and gripping on every page.

The story is told from multiple perspectives and it really gives readers a full view of every aspect of the story. Normally with multiple point of view stories, I find one a lot more interesting than the other(s). This certainly wasn't the case with this book! Every single chapter, regardless of the pov, I found that I was addicted and completely drawn into the story. This one was extremely hard to put down!

With very dominating brilliantly-written characters and an exciting riveting plot that will have hearts racing at every turn; this book is a must read for EVERYONE that loves a great crime novel. Can't wait to read more from Martina!

Carolyn Storer says

3.5 Stars

Audiobook: A well narrated story that was both disturbing and intriguing in equal measure. My first Martina Cole book, which will definitely not be my last.

Mandi says

One of Martina Cole's best reads! I couldn't put it down. Some very violent parts!
Well written!

Mary Corbal says

Realmente merecería cinco estrellas, pero es una historia demasiado cruda para mí, no tanto como Secretos de una asesina, pero casi. La trama está muy bien, así como los personajes y todo lo demás, pero me resulta demasiado dramática.

Denise says

My favourite Martina Cole book. A gripping page-turner, the story has stayed with me for 20 years as I read it when it was released in 1993.

I have recommended this book to many friends over the years who also loved it, Martina gained quite a few new fans on the strength of this book and who continue to read her books to this day. I no longer own a copy of this book, but I intend to buy another to read again.

Mo says

Wow. Another new author. Thanks Elaine!!

Kate Burrows is a DI (Detective Inspector), the Filth to some. I really liked her. She was strong, independent, sassy, stood up for herself and didn't really take any shite from anyone.

Patrick Kelly, one step away from being a gangster. Tough, hard, rich, respected, feared.

Oil and vineger maybe. But there was an attraction.

Eventhough she was an Old Bill, a Filth, he trusted her somehow.

Christ, the "bad guy" - what an evil, sadistic bastard he was. Yes, appearances can be deceptive.

In the back of her mind she knew that the situation should never had got this far. The man was a villian. Patrick Kelly was as bad one, a robber, a violent repoman. 'The Snatchman' was his nickname. But at this moment Kate could not have cared less if he was a mass murderer.

She wanted him.

She had him.

**She kissed him.
She would worry later. Much later.**

There were quite some smexy times here which I enjoyed. Pat is quite the rogue in bed!

**"Now, what's this I hear about this madman driving an Irish Ford?
Kate's heavy brows knitted together.
"I'm sorry? An Irish Ford?"
"An O'Ryan ... Orion."**

LOL. I kinda liked Kenny Caitlin.

Fine Young Cannibals were singing "Johnny Come Home"

More musical references, which I do enjoy.

**Kate took a long pull on her cigarette and sighed.
What the hell had happened to her life?**

**Evelyn bustled back into the room with her Irish whiskey.
"I call this my Holy Water, it's as good as a tonic. My cousin from Coleraine sends it to me, may God bless her and keep her. It's the mountain water that gives it the taste. You know her name's actually Katie Daly. It's true."
Patrick laughed.
'Katie Daly' had been one of this mother's favourite songs. It was about a girl who made poteen, an illegal Irish whiskey, and the troops who came to arrest her.**

Sure have an ould listen to "Katie" while you are at it ... Hup ya boyo!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWdNb...>

Gotta love an Irish singer who thinks he is from Nashville.

Cphe says

What I enjoy about the books of Martina Cole are her fast paced plots and great characters, especially the women characters. The hunt for the serial rapist/killer of Grantley takes a back step to the relationship between DI Kate Burrows and her involvement with the shady but quite delicious Patrick Kelly. The novel isn't quite the police procedural which I first thought it would be.

I enjoyed the style of writing, the seediness and grittiness of these novels and the underbelly of a darker England. The only quibble of this second read, there was a bit of repetition describing some of the characters but other than that an entertaining read.

Elaine says

So excited this is being made into a film...

Book Addict Shaun says

Another mammoth read from Martina and another - in my opinion - five star book. An unputdownable read that I have just spent the last two hours finishing, and that's the thing about Martina's books. They keep you reading long into the night, 1.30am to be precise.

I was looking forward to this book because readers often name it as one of her best books, and so far it is one of the best books of hers that I've read. The story focuses on the Grantley Ripper, DI Kate Burrows and Patrick Kelly who is brought into the story when the Ripper murders his daughter Mandy.

The Grantley Ripper is George Markham and this is made known to the reader at the start of the book. I had trouble with this character, some reviews have said that even though he was a murderer he was still a likeable character but after reading the book I have no idea how anyone can say this. Readers will look at George in one of two ways; blame psychology and blame his mother for his upbringing and abuse and say that is the reason for the way he turned out as an adult or just say that he's evil and his upbringing doesn't matter. After all plenty of people are abused as children and don't turn into murderers years later. I think George was a vile character with no likeable qualities whatsoever. I've read many crime fiction books, many true crime stories but the character of George was one of the worst I've ever read. Some of the things he did were horrific and the (view spoiler). I thought my wide range of crime fiction reading left me immune to feeling squeamish etc but I guess I was wrong.

As for the other characters I liked Kate and Patrick and the relationship they have and know that this is carried on in other books which I will eventually read. Overall though it was an excellent read, it flowed really well and, as you expect from Martina is not just a rushed story, but one full of history and detail. Whilst what happened to George was terrible, there's no excuse for the way he acted and the murders he carried out and, forgive me for saying it but I was disappointed that George (view spoiler). Despite the book being set in Essex, a Google search doesn't show anywhere named Grantley so did Martina fictionalise this place because of how horrific some of the scenes were? This certainly isn't a book for the faint hearted that's for sure.

Joseph - Relax And Read Reviews says

"What's bred in the bone comes out in the blood."

I was 'pressed' into reading this book by my dear wife who has practically devoured it on a recent holiday and who without divulging any details has spent all holiday telling me what a great book she was reading.

Finally I gave in and read 'The Ladykiller', this being my first Martina Cole book ever. Now I know that my wife didn't exaggerate at all when she praised this book so much and I'm so glad to have read it myself. Written in the third person, this book showcases Martina's excellent writing skills. It is the first book in a series featuring DI Kate Burrows and Patrick Kelly.

Everyone knows that Martina Cole is up there at the very top with the best crime fiction authors, but seriously I didn't think this book would be this good. Written back in the 90s, the thoughts it evoked in my mind as I was reading are still valid today, more than two decades later.

The Grantley Ripper is making news by savagely raping and murdering women. He is terrorising the whole community. The ferocity of his attacks indicates that this man really Hates women with a capital H. One of these victims happens to be the young daughter of a local hard man, a repoman, a man feared by many, Patrick Kelly, known for his not so legal businesses around London and other places. Kelly vows to use all his means and connections to catch this sadistic murderer and make him suffer a very slow, agonising death. His daughter was the most important person for him.

DI Kate Burrows is assigned the Grantley Ripper case. She's an excellent, bright detective and she's determined to find the Ripper and lock him away for ever. But Kate Burrows has personal problems of her own.

Being assigned to the case, Kate meets Patrick Kelly and finds herself wanting to help this distraught man in this difficult moment. Though they come from very different backgrounds and with opposing ideas and beliefs, they are both immediately attracted to each other, however such a relationship is bound to compromise her career. Can a police DI have a relationship with a notorious ruthless villain?

From the beginning we know who the ripper is, just an ordinary-looking Englishman but with a secret nasty interest. All characters brought to life by Ms Cole in this thriller are multi-dimensional, realistic people with a background. I loved all the characters (except the Ripper and his mother of course), especially Kate Burrows and Patrick Kelly. I also liked a lot Willy, the scary-looking bald giant who's also Patrick's minder.

All circumstances and story lines in the book are also very believable. The murders are all gruesome and different.

This book is very realistic as it shows what horrible consequences sexual, physical and emotional abuse of children can bring about. The monster in this novel is the production of such abuse. It makes you shudder to think that nowadays in real life there are children suffering the same things this murderer has suffered as a boy. By the end I have to say that I even felt pity for this sadistic killer.

I would have preferred the Grantley Ripper case to be solved in a different method to the one chosen by the author, however, I then understood her reasoning behind this decision and it made sense. I would have also preferred shorter chapters as they are a bit longish.

Having said that, I highly recommend this book to everyone as it is certainly one of the best thrillers I have ever read.

Ribbon Sixx says

George Markham has a nasty little hobby.
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But now George's little hobby is becoming an obsession,
one that erupts into an orgy of vicious sexual depravity.
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but her growing involvement with a known villain
is putting her career at risk...
As the forces of law and order
and London's underworld converge in a mammoth manhunt,
Kate fears she'll lose everything she's ever cared about to...
the ladykiller.

My nanny told Me before I read the book,
that I should definately read this book:
-its the best Martina Cole has ever written-
She said she cried; it was so sad.
To be honest I didn't cry,
but dont expect it to have an effect on the book:
as I never cry!
This book, is 'the' book.

Kelly Furniss says

Warning-You need a strong stomach for this book!
I have read a lot of Coles latest work but have many times seen this mentioned as one of her best books and I
now agree and was not disappointed.
This author has such a style of writing that keeps you wanting to read on & on and I truly could not put this
book down over Christmas.
Cole is my trusted author I can always rely on for a good read. I have never found myself wanting to skip
pages/chunks of her books there is just too much suspense!
After telling my Mum how I enjoyed this book she told me she has six other Cole books she can lend me
(earlier works that I have not read)So I'm looking forward to reading even more of her work now!

Jennifer says

So good that I was on edge walking down the street afterward... George Markham a man you'd see everyday walking down the street...

Kerry sullivan says

i really enjoyed this it was complex with out being confusing and i loved how it weaved together
