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The Missing Ones: Detective Lottie Parker, Book 1



Synopsis

The hole they dug was not deep. A white flour bag encased the little body. Three small faces watched from the window, eyes black with terror. The child in the middle spoke without turning his head. "I wonder which one of us will be next?" When a woman's body is discovered in a cathedral and hours later a young man is found hanging from a tree outside his home, Detective Lottie Parker is called in to lead the investigation. Both bodies have the same distinctive tattoo clumsily inscribed on their legs. It's clear the pair are connected, but how? The trail leads Lottie to St Angela's, a former children's home, with a dark connection to her own family history. Suddenly the case just got personal. As Lottie begins to link the current victims to unsolved murders decades old, two teenage boys go missing. She must close in on the killer before they strike again, but in doing so is she putting her own children in terrifying danger? Lottie is about to come face to face with a twisted soul who has a very warped idea of justice.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Bookouture

Audible.com Release Date: March 15, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B06XK8RH86

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Police

Procedurals #49 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals #97

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

I got to a point in this book when I lost sleep staying up to keep reading. I was intrigued with the setting, though I had no idea Ireland was SO COLD! The historical basis for some of the actions was fascinating and is backed up by actual events I have read about in the press. Some of the "Irishisms" sent me to the internet to find out what things were, though most were evident from the context. At the end, I was very surprised to find this was Patricia's first novel. It shows much polish and lots of talent.

Lottie Parker is grieving the loss of her husband to cancer. She has three teenagers at home she's trying to raise alone. Lottie's relationship with her mother is sour, and she's battling alcohol addiction as well as teetering on the brink of a breakdown. As if she didn't have enough on her plate, Lead Detective Lottie Parker's life just got a lot more complicated when a string of murders in a matter of days tests her resolve as a detective. And what does that old abandoned, yet foreboding, former children's home have to do with a woman strangled in a Catholic Church, a man found hanging from a tree in his own yard, and the town's hot shots' plans to turn St. Angela's into a resort hotel complete with eighteen hole golf course? Read on to find out! I'm very good at figuring out "whodunit" but this book had me guessing to the very end! I loved it. You will too.

I wouldn't call this story "absolutely gripping", but it was better than some I've read recently. This murder mystery goes back in time and brings things full circle to present day, intertwining the lives of many of the characters. Have to be a fan of Lottie, trying to keep her family together and support them as a single parent. Similar to my life and the lives of many other women, made it very personable.

Wow. Found myself an author that I will continue to follow. I'm sure someone will write a synopsis of the book do I won't. I will say that if you want to read a novel that grabs you and holds your attention this one is for you. The author came up with a story that breaks your heart, but the heroine is wonderfully flawed and completely successful with a bittersweet ending. Read it.

Detective Lottie Parker is a widowed mother of three who is trying to manage her job and her family while dealing with problems of her own. She and her team have a very short time to solve several murders, all of which seem to be connected to St. Angela's, a Catholic institution for children, which closed many years ago. Plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader interested.

A thriller set in an Irish background, moving between 1975 and 2015. DI Lottie Parker is a workaholic, who doesn't hesitate to take on big business interests nor cover-up of abuses perpetrated by persons connected to the Church. She is an interesting character, though I did wish she would stop binning food....This is a gripping read, the kind of book that is hard to put down

I kept reading trying to understand who was doing what. There were so many children who had

been put in Saint Angela's in 1975 who turned up in the story I found it hard to follow. At the very end of the story Lottie unravels the twisted ending explaining the events. I would recommend this book to those who enjoy a mystery you will never guess the ending to and be right!

My favorite part of this book are the fantastic characters. No one is perfect, even the good guys. I'm looking forward to the next book to see more of them. The story itself was also quite good, with the many interweaving plots coming together nicely at the end. The only reason I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 is I felt it was a bit lacking in suspense. I still enjoyed it nonetheless.

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