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When young mother Debbie Fearnside goes missing, police interest is minimal. Then DCI Andrew Fenwick notices a curious set of coincidences with the case of Kate Johnstone and it becomes clear that they have both been murdered in revenge for a long-forgotten death.

Requiem Mass Details

Date : Published 1999 by Headline (first published 1998)

ISBN : 9780747261063

Author : Elizabeth Corley

Format : Paperback 437 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Crime

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From Reader Review Requiem Mass for online ebook

Susan says

This is a Colombo-type, British police-procedural: the reader knows what's going on before the detective, so we watch as he closes in on the bad guy.

The problem is that the last third of the book drags on for too long. After a while, what we know becomes something the police should have figured out way before they do. And an aspect of the murderer's character seemed to come out of left field and skewed the story line.

Regardless, the sleuth, a British Detective Chief Inspector, is extremely compelling, as is his situation. I will be looking out for the next book in the series for that reason, and because the first two-thirds of this book were un-put-downable.

Carol says

Requiem Mass by Elizabeth Corley

Andrew Fenwick series Book #1

3.5 ★'s

What's It About?

When young mother Debbie Fearnside goes missing, police interest is minimal. Then DCI Andrew Fenwick notices a curious set of coincidences with the case of murder victim Kate Johnstone. It becomes clear they have both been murdered, revenge for a long-forgotten death.

What I Think?

It doesn't carry much of a surprise. It is the first book in the series and I know they can sometimes be a bit awkward but there was just some points that were a bit fuzzy and not cleared up very well. I have read the second book and found that it's plot was more tightly construed. I still need to post the review for it but I will give this series the chance that I feel it deserves.

El says

This is the first book in the DCI Andrew Fenwick series and details some pretty explicit and gory murders. The clues lead back to a group of schoolgirls and a sudden death 20 years before and Fenwick is pitted against a seemingly invincible and ruthless perpetrator. If you can suspend your disbelief over the occasional copper's hunch, coincidence, lucky break, etc, this is a very good read, gripping and interesting right to the end with its twist in the tale. One strange point. Elizabeth Corley, for me, writes men better than she writes women who are often vaguely sketched in the book while the men are much more realistic.

Nikki says

I liked the story and it's progression but this book is just so damn long which halted my enjoyment on several occasions. I felt it could have lost about 100 pages and not lost anything just gained momentum. I felt we were given too much unnecessary detail. I enjoyed the end though (when I finally got there!)

Best Crime Books & More says

We meet DCI Andrew Fenwick who is back to work following the break up of his marriage under awful circumstances. He is trying to manage his family on his own with the help of his mother when he goes back to work and is given the mundane task of desk duty. Before long he moves on to a new case which takes him away from the desk and straight into the firing line. It involves five school friends who twenty years earlier were on a school trip when tragedy struck and one of those girls was killed in a freak accident. He has the help of WDC Louise Nightingale and Cooper who both prove to be valuable assets to the case. When Fenwick, Nightingale and Cooper realise that the women involved are now on a hit list they have to race against time to try and track down the man responsible before all of these women become victims. Will they manage to do it or will Fenwick's next call be a to attend a new murder scene? I enjoyed this book and felt that I got to know the characters Fenwick along with his two officers working on the case with him, Nightingale and Cooper. However if I am honest I struggled a couple of times where the book got quite detailed (hence the 4 star, although if I could it would have been 4.5 out of 5) but it didn't deter me and I finished the book with a sense of satisfaction. Corley is very detailed in her descriptions of crime scenes which both thrilled and scared me in equal measures. I am a fan of crime authors that use the same characters and create a series so I am pleased I have found a new author. I already have the next Corley/Fenwick book lined up which I have already started.

Danni Z says

I was intrigued by the abstract when I first picked up this book. It promised an intricate mystery entwined in secrets. I was disappointed to find it slow-paced, dragged out, and lacking suspense. At points I even considered moving onto another book.

The culprit is showcased from the start, there's no real mystery to how he commits his crimes, and the overarching secret connecting everything is rather bland. In fact, the entire book is told in a bland fashion. Perhaps it was going for a realistic feel. For me, it was a little too realistic. Pages and pages were dedicated to mundane procedural activities and at least a dozen times, the case seems to come to a standstill with no progress. It felt like the book came to a standstill too!

Pat says

Started with the murder of a school girl twenty years ago. The murderer was Olivia - now an opera singer - who was competing with the victim for a music scholarship.

Present time - the cousin of the murder victim decided to kill each of the girls who were with Carol (the victim) since he feels each of them had some responsibility for the murder.

Fenwick - the detective - realized that all the murders are connected. Climax takes place in a church during a performance of Verdi's requiem mass where Olivia, the famous opera singer is the guest of honor.

Good characters, good character development, complicated and well put together plot.
Kind of reminds me of Midsomer Murders.

Stephanie Thompson says

Just started listening to the audio book. I got the sense the violence may be too much for me - I like cozy. I read the reviews and decided not to go on. I might try book number 2.

zendegy says

More of a 3.5. One of my favorite things about this book, is that there is not one amazing detective who figures it all out and finds the villain. Several police personnel play a part in solving the crime, and both effort and serendipity do play a part, as is so often true in life.

There is well considered detail in just the right amount to give shape to the characters and the relationships between them are realistic.

The mystery itself is a bit far-fetched. Okay, a lot. And I just cannot begin to tell you how utterly sick I am of serial killers. Why is it no longer enough to kill one person?! It just seems like too many writers of police procedurals (which I LOVE) feel like one murder is never enough. Frankly, multiple murders sort of wear out my will to care and they just are not the norm (thankfully). Though, who knows? With so many books and movies about them, perhaps serial killing will just keep growing in popularity everywhere...

Mayo.More says

Mo?e czytanie krymina?ów to nie moja bajka, ale to ksi??ka, przez któr? nie mog?am przebrn?? LATAMI. Strasznie oporna w czytaniu. Przynudzaj?ca. Ale historia nie jest z?a.

Wendy Header-moan says

This is the first book in the series, but I had read the second previously, so it filled in some gaps for me. Additionally, I found it useful to go back and read some parts when I finished the third volume. It's a good book and it establishes Inspector Fenwick as a policeman with human failings as well as many strong points. However I still find some of the plot details a bit fuzzy -- probably the fault of the reader rather than the writer.

Irm Willcockson says

Great read for a first book in the series. Variety of complex characters. DCI Fenwick has just enough baggage to be believable, although some of his actions are predictable. Final resolution satisfyingly tied up loose ends. Looking forward to reading more by this author!

Mike Gabor says

DCI Andrew Fenwick is returning to work after an absence for compassionate leave. He starts to investigate what seemed to be a straight missing persons case but soon finds that this case is more likely a kidnapping. As the investigation moves forward more crimes are committed that seem to be related to the original case.

I enjoyed this book but, I really wanted to enjoy it even more. The writing is done very well and the mystery is well played out but, I felt that the author made the lead character, DCI Fenwick, a little too wooden. There was also one scene in the book that I felt made the police look quite foolish in their actions. However, these are just minor points and I am still looking forward to the next book in the series and would recommend this one to all British police-procedural fans.

Lisa says

This should be very high to read on anyone's Crime list. Superb opening novel for Fenwick I look forward to reading more of his cases!

Sally says

Detective Fenwick is on the case of a missing woman when the bloody murder of a school teacher occurs. It takes investigating skills to come up with who and why. For a mystery book - it went on and on. Should have cut at least 100 pages.
