



## Truth Dare Kill

*Gordon Ferris*

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**Truth Dare Kill** Gordon Ferris

LONDON, 1946

Memories can lie...

Especially when other people mess with your mind...

Danny McRae is a private investigator. He's no Philip Marlowe - but what else is a demobbed SOE agent to do now the war is over and the world struggles back to normality?

Not that anything will be normal for Danny until he fills the void in his memory which swallowed up an entire mission to France.

But first he has a case to investigate. Elegant, upper-class Kate Graveney has made a shocking admission, and Danny needs to get her off the hook. Danny sets off on a hunt through bomb-ravaged London, the bleak cityscape mirroring the ruins of his mind. The head injury which gouged his memory also gives him blackouts: hours, sometimes days, are a complete blank. Newspaper headlines about a brutal killer stalking London's red light district make him uneasy, and a visit from an old adversary awakens dark misgivings.

At least there's Valerie - but even she proves elusive. He is assaulted by the police and befriended by the madam of a cat-house. He is torn between his upper class client and the shop girl who believes in him.

The odds stack up against Danny and soon he fears for his life. The only escape is through that gap in his memory...

## Truth Dare Kill Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Atlantic Books (first published May 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9780857895530

Author : Gordon Ferris

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## From Reader Review Truth Dare Kill for online ebook

**Anita says**

4.5

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**Shirley Wells says**

I read the Kindle version which at £1 was great value. I love Ferris's writing and I love the landscape and characters he creates. No spoilers, but there was one aspect of this book that simply didn't work for me and that's why it only gets 3\*\*\*.

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**Steve Fellows says**

4.5

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**Nick Phillips says**

Really enjoyable thriller. Having read two Douglas Brodie novels I've gone back to read the Danny McRae stories before reading their crossover adventure and am really glad that I did. I was concerned that there wouldn't be much distinction between the two characters but they are clearly unique, as are the worlds in which they operate. This is definitely a thriller rather than a whodunnit since it is fairly clear within the first third of the book who the killer but there are plenty of truly unexpected twists before the end and it is genuinely a howaretheygonnaproveit since it all appear as dense as the London fog until the final resolution.

Can't wait to read the next in the series.

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**rabbitprincess says**

3.5

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**Ellie says**

This book took me a really long time to get moving and once it did I still wasn't really won over on the style.

I did eventually get into the characters and their backstories but at first it was so annoying that the main character seems to know everybody previously that he bumped into.

Also, a couple of historical inaccuracies that left me annoyed.

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### **Roger Neilson says**

I must have picked this up as a cheap deal and it has sat on my Kindle for ages. In truth the title didn't particularly attract me. However once started I found this a great book to read while not feeling well. Nicely atmospheric and unusual time setting. Will look out for the rest of the series.

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### **Andy says**

It was an alright read, an engaging character with the main protagonist Danny McRae. McRae being a Scot, Glaswegian to be precise who since the end of the war has relocated to the Smoke (that's London) & started work as a PI since being demobbed after a long period in hospital due to his war experiences.

The story revolves mainly around Danny's role as an ex-soe agent & his former boss & that of the local plod (that's police) not liking PI's. There's folk from Soho involved, criminals & also a glamour puss (a pretty lady...)

It's the beginning of a serial that I may take forward as the character kinda grew on me even if the main story/plot was a little secondary.

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### **Karen says**

1945 - World War 2 is over, and TRUTH DARE KILL is another book set in a post-war period that I've read recently. Set in London, this is the story of Danny McRae, an ex-policeman who has returned from the war after being captured by the Germans, incurring a severe head injury in the process. As a result he suffers amnesia and blackouts, which has to make working as a private investigator a lot more complicated than it needs to be.

Approached by a woman who wants the possible death of her married lover investigated, McRae takes the job. Partially because he needs the money, and partially because the missing man turns out to be McRae's commanding officer in France, and one of the few people in the world that can help him discover the missing parts of his life. The complication is that not only do the blackouts and amnesia make his job difficult, there are also a series of brutal murders of prostitutes in nearby Soho and McRae has some very valid reasons to wonder if he could be involved.

TRUTH DARE KILL felt very like a book aiming to create a lone wolf, stripped down, struggling character. Danny McRae is taciturn and introverted, he's probably not meant to be an easy man to find any connection with. I'm not sure whether that was a particular ploy on the part of the author (the character is, after all, having trouble coming to grips with himself after his war-time experience), whether it's an artefact of the book's "styling", or maybe because it's the first book in a series. Alternatively it could be a combination of the whole lot. Either way, I suspect some readers will struggle with McRae. I found him quite realistic, and everything about him consistent, right down to the problems of finding something about him to connect to. He felt at sea, awash with the complication of life, the difficulties of randomly losing control of your life,

making it seem feasible that he'd be disconnected from everyone and everybody (including a distant observer like - the reader).

There's a very noir feeling to the setting as well. There was something subdued, dark, shell-shocked about 1945 London that felt authentic, albeit deliberately washed out, tired, gritty, bleak.

Despite the overwhelming feeling of bleakness left behind by TRUTH DARE KILL, I did find it to be quite an interesting book, set in another post-war period that isn't like the world that I live in. I certainly engaged enough with the book to add the next in the series to my buy list.

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## **Joe Stamber says**

Got this cut price from Amazon after enjoying The Hanging Shed and its follow up Bitter Water. A different character this time but an equally enjoyable tale. Ferris tells his story in a straightforward style that makes for an easy and fast moving read. Danny McRae is a great character, physically and psychologically damaged following his experiences in the Second World War. He's trying to scrape a living working as a private detective in London and agrees to take a case on from a beautiful woman. He gets into all sorts of scrapes while investigating and at the same time trying to unravel the mystery of his own past. A great read.

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## **Richard says**

Slow in finding Gordon Ferris. Picked this book as it was set just after the second war world, London 1945. I've just read Icelight; so I was keen to see how another author tackled this period.

Danny McRae a returning SOE agent decides to set up in the Capital as a private eye but he is troubled by amnesia and severe episodes when he is unaware of time, sometimes losing whole days without any knowledge of what he's been doing.

A familiar theme of a returning memory which might be an unpleasant result as his brain may want him not to remember or are there other players who have an interest in him never finding the truth.

Good plot, well written and a good mix of suspense, thrills and surprises. We warm to our character who slowing learns how to be a good detective, comes to terms with his past and through the attention and simple trust of others learns to trust himself.

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## **Lizzie Hayes says**

‘Truth Dare Kill’ by Gordon Ferris

Published by Corvus, 6 October 2011. ISBN 978-0-85789-492-2

Danny McRae having survived the war has set himself up as a private investigator. The world is trying to get back to normality, but for Danny, who has no memory of a year of his life, what is normality? He knows that he was in France on a mission and he knows that he was captured by the Germans, but for the rest.....

His first case is very reminiscence of what we know of the Golden Age, as beautiful elegant, upper-class Kate Graveney hires Danny to investigate the death of her lover – she says she is not certain whether she

killed him, or if it was the bomb that ravaged the flat in which they were both staying.

Danny set's out on this his first investigation, but Danny is still subject to black-outs that are a result of his head injury which account for his loss of a year's memory. As he sets off on a hunt through bomb-ravaged London, he meets Valerie who seems to be on his side, something he dearly needs – someone on his side. But Valerie is elusive giving no address and just turning up out of the blue and disappearing just as abruptly.

As Danny attempts to establish whether Tony, Kate's lover died in a bombing, his blackouts raise for him questions, as he reads about a brutal killer stalking London's red light district, and he wonders of just what he could be capable of when out of it.

Gradually, he begins to piece together the events leading up to his arrest in France and as he does so he becomes a threat to someone, someone who cannot risk him recovering his memory. With his handicap of not knowing Danny is stabbing around in the dark and the fact that an Inspector Wilson has it in for him doesn't help.

This is an excellent mystery with a wonderful ambiance of the mysteries of the late 1940's. It has a truly wonderful surprise ending, and is highly recommended.

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Lizzie Hayes

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## **Neil says**

This book is set in London, soon after the end of WWII. The main character is Danny McRae, a policeman before the war, an SOE agent during the war, and now he has set himself up as a Private Investigator. Unfortunately, he suffers blackouts and undergoes periodic psychological treatment. He has a whole year gap to his memory, and every so often his blackouts throw up a small fragment of his past. One of his first assignments as a PI is to investigate the supposed death of a man, was it accidental or deliberate. The man in question was McRae's wartime boss, and perhaps he could have filled in some missing gaps.

I was lead here by Doulas Brodie, another character from this writer's pen, both who seem to have their own troubles brought on by the war. I am guessing that this was an earlier work, as it doesn't seem quite so polished. It is still a worthwhile read though, with plenty of plot twists and turns.

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## **Sonia says**

This is another bargain book on Kindle - just £1 if you're interested!

This is the first 'Danny McRae' book, with Unquiet Heart being the second. It is 1945 and Scottish Danny McRae is a private investigator in London - an ex-policeman, he has returned from the war after being captured by the Germans and suffering severe head trauma.

When he is approached by a glamorous woman to investigate the possible death of her married lover, who just happens to have been his commanding officer in France, and the one person able to help him piece

together the missing fragments of his memory, he takes on the job.

At the same time, prostitutes are being murdered in Soho, and it seems that the brutal killings are being committed at the same time as Danny has experienced blackouts due to his head wound.

This was an enjoyable enough book, although I found Danny rather difficult to like, so I'm not sure whether I will read the next one. There were some quite clever twists and turns, but I found the characters a little shallow, and the ending rather unbelievable.

Still, an interesting enough retro-thriller.

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### **Sheila says**

3.5 stars. A mystery set in London in the years after the finish of WWII. Danny had been a member of an SOE team during the war but ended up in Dachau for the final year. He subsequently suffered head wounds and consequently had black outs that lasted for days. After the war he became a private investigator and became involved in a straight forward case that evolved into something much larger where he was accused of the murder of 5 prostitutes. Corrupt policeman, corrupt major, his boss from the war and an incestuous family relationship all proved to test his mettle.

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