



I Know A Secret

Tess Gerritsen

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Librarian's note: This is an updated cover of this Kindle here.

Two separate homicides, at different locations, with unrelated victims, have more in common than just being investigated by Boston PD detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles. In both cases, the bodies bear startling wounds—yet the actual cause of death is unknown. It's a doubly challenging case for the cop and the coroner to be taking on, at a fraught time for both of them. As Jane struggles to save her mother from the crumbling marriage that threatens to bury her, Maura grapples with the imminent death of her own mother—infamous serial killer Amalthea Lank.

While Jane tends to her mother, there's nothing Maura can do for Amalthea, except endure one final battle of wills with the woman whose shadow has haunted her all her life. Though succumbing to cancer, Amalthea hasn't lost her taste for manipulating her estranged daughter—this time by dangling a cryptic clue about the two bizarre murders Maura and Jane are desperately trying to solve.

But whatever the dying convict knows is only a piece of the puzzle. Soon the investigation leads to a secretive young woman who survived a shocking abuse scandal, an independent horror film that may be rooted in reality, and a slew of martyred saints who died cruel and unusual deaths. And just when Rizzoli and Isles think they've cornered a devilish predator, the long-buried past rears its head—and threatens to engulf more innocent lives, including their own.

I Know A Secret Details

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From Reader Review I Know A Secret for online ebook

Fred says

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2017 Group Read Discussion

Holly Devine (27) Is the book's first person ("I"). Holly has seen Dr. Maura Isles & Det. Jane Rizzoli on Boston's TV news which allows her to recognize them when seen in the story in many chapters. 20 years ago, Holly & 4 other children were lead by lawyers as witnesses to "prosecute" the Stanek family for child abuse - in their "Apple Tree Day Care".

The Stanek parents died in jail. Martin Stanek(son) was 22 at the trial, now 42, had his life beaten out of him by others in jail & is out.

Maura & Jane find 2 recent murders were "Apple Tree Day Care" students.

1. Cassandra(26) found dead holding her eyeballs - was killed Dec 13 - correlates to St. Lucy of the blind.
2. Timothy(25) killed Dec 24 by 3 arrows - St. Sebastian patron saint of archers & policemen.

Father Brophy helps research murder dates to the Liturgical calendar & Martyr Saints for method of murder used.

Next:

3. Billy(31?) is missing - Apr 28 is his birthday, St. Vitalis was buried in the ground.
4. Lizzie(9) - her skull is found buried for 20 years behind Billy's old house. They don't know the date killed hence cannot associate to Saint.
5. Holly(27) needs to be protected.

20 years ago...Holly was 7, Cassandra 6, Timothy 5, Bill 11 & Lizzie 9 years old.

A great end, they have found Cassandra, Timothy & Lizzie - 3 out 5.

Will Martin Starney (released from jail) kill Holly?

What happened to Billy's body?

Who buried Lizzie's skull - 20 years ago?

Note:

- In "Body Double" (#4 in Rizzoli & Isles series) Jane swore she would never see her crazy mom again (Amalthea Lank) for killing 2 pregnant woman - let her rot in Framingham's MCI (Massachusetts Correctional Institute). But she visits her in a ICU hospital (Intensive Care Unit) where she is sick & dies.

Diane S ? says

I have watched the television show featuring these two women, off and on. Enjoyed the actresses who played Maura and Jane. It also added to my reading enjoyment, since now I picture these two in my head, while reading the novel. Like a episode of the teller show playing in my head. Luckily I did like them because ever

since Tom Cruise has played the lead in Lee Child's books, I can no longer read them, and they had been among some of my favorite reads. I apparently have a very strong, pictorial imagination, and as I'm sure you gathered, I dislike Cruise, immensely.

Many twists in this one, which will eventually blend with a scandalous twenty years old. Dead bodies, killed in gruesome ways, a selective circle of victims, with ties to the Catholic saints. A good blend of Jane's life, her parents and brother Frankie, always interesting. Maura, and her mother, the murderous family she was born into, but thankfully not raised by, will make an appearance. Something old will be reawakened. These pages fly by, so much is always happening, either in the case investigation or on the personal front. A worthy addition to this series.

ARC from Netgalley.

Miriam Smith says

Tess Gerritsen is onto another sure winner here with "I Know A Secret" the 12th in the Rizzoli and Isles thrillers!

You can read this as part of the whole series (recommended) or as a standalone novel (also recommended) but you won't be disappointed either way as this is a cracking book that has a fantastic storyline, is easy to follow and will have you flipping the pages as quickly as you can turn them.

Half way through the book I had it all worked out, who it was and why, but oh no, Ms Gerritsen had other ideas and I was completely thrown off track - excellent ending I didn't see coming that truly fitted the story.

I love the relationship homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and forensic pathologist Maura Isles have, true friends, dedicated work colleagues and their banter at times is just brilliant. The Rizzoli & Isles duo has inspired the American TV series of the same name which is also a huge hit and reflects true to the books.

What I like about Tess Gerritsen's writing is that she incorporates her forensic knowledge into the story but doesn't overdo it like another famous forensic crime writer whose books I always seem to struggle with when it comes to the terminology.

I've loved reading a lot of Tess' books over the years, I've read many though sadly not necessarily in the right order but that hasn't spoilt the series, they are all so easy to follow and pick up in whichever order you read them and I guarantee if you like crime thrillers you will love this one!

5 stars.

PattyMacDotComma says

3.5★

“‘This guy was so clean he would’ve squeaked.’

‘Or so everyone believes.’

‘Yeah.’ Jane shrugged. ‘You never know what the truth is.’ Every human being had secrets, and too often it was Maura who uncovered them: The upstanding citizen found dead with child porn clutched in his lifeless hand. Or the perfect society wife with the syringe of heroin and a needle still embedded in her arm.

Jane Rizzoli and Maura Isles are the popular duo who inspired the TV series “Rizzoli and Isles”. Jane does the policing, Maura the scientific evaluation. I’ve not read others in the series, but this works fine as a stand-alone.

A macabre killing followed by another macabre killing has them puzzled. Is there a connection and if so what? As they question and investigate, they find a possible link to an older murder.

Points of view change with various chapters narrated by them or by another character. Holly works in PR, promoting the ghosted autobiography of a popular actress.

“Hundreds of brainiacs, the future leaders of the free world, have come to worship at the feet of Victoria Avalon, who, and I swear this is true, once asked me: ‘How do you spell IQ?’ The large crowd has made Victoria very happy tonight.”

Holly hates her job and has plenty of reasons to drown her sorrows and find pleasure where she can. She’s pretty free and loose and quick to judge.

“He’s a few years older than I am, in his mid-thirties, with a lean athletic build, blue eyes, and wheat-colored hair. I deduct a few points because he’s drinking a latte, and at this time of night, real men drink espresso. I’m willing to overlook that flaw because of those gorgeous blue eyes.”

So, one thing leads to another and he becomes a bit unexpectedly clingy. Hmmm. . . .

“It has been my experience that 90 percent of men my age don’t want to wake up with a woman. They’d rather hook up with a girl they found on Tinder, enjoy their quickie, then go their merry way. No dinner, no date, no need to rack their poor little brains for topics of conversation. We’re all like billiard balls these days, briefly bouncing up against each other and then rolling away.”

Maura and Jane probably wouldn't share Holly's opinion! Jane has a small child, and Maura visits her evil, estranged biological mother in hospital, which deeply affects how she views the grim facts of this case. Her kindly adoptive parents (Mr and Mrs Isles), have died, so she's got no family support.

“Through the cubicle window, Maura saw Amalthea’s eyes slowly open. One bony finger beckoned to her, a gesture as chilling as the command of Satan’s claw.

Her mother says Maura has inherited her interest in death (autopsies, etc) from the dark side of her mother's nature. She sure hopes not, but it's a frightening thought.

Needless to say, this is a who-dunnit, but I have to admit that I didn’t really much care who did what, and I also pretty much guessed, but I’m sure fans of the series will enjoy it. Perhaps it is more enjoyable for those familiar with the back stories of Rizzoli and Isles.

I really enjoyed her stand-alone mystery *Playing with Fire* a couple of years ago, and you might, too.
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Thanks to NetGalley and Random House for the preview copy from which I’ve quoted.

Sarah Joint says

This is my first Rizzoli and Isles book, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I have seen a few episodes of the tv show, so in my head I'm picturing those two characters as the talented and lovely actresses who portrayed them. **It really added something to the experience of the book, the ability to picture them so vividly.** I Know a Secret absolutely works as a standalone. It's quite impressive how the author fills you in on little details of the history of the characters without doing it in an overly obvious way that could annoy readers who have read the entirety of the series.

I really enjoyed my introduction to book Jane, Maura, and their cohorts. Their relationships with their family and co-workers seem to be well-developed. **I wish we had gotten more of Maura's chilling biological mother, but I think I would find that in earlier books.** One more reason to look into this series more!

The body of a young, promising horror film producer has been found lying peacefully in her bed. At first glance, you might not even notice something was amiss... until you notice *she's holding her eyeballs in her hands*. That's a brutal message to send... who is it for, the police? **Or is the killer mocking the young woman's taste in feature films and fledgling career, emulating the bloody posters she had framed and hung in her house?**

This first death is chilling enough, but it's not long before they find another victim staged in a highly unique way. Medical examiner Maura Isles finds both victims were subdued in the same manner, and Detective Jane Rizzoli connects the two victims and thinks she may have the killer in their sights... but can it be proven?

We also get a prospective from a young publicist, who may be in danger from the murderer but seems exceptionally unconcerned. She's hard to figure out, but endlessly entertaining.

Digging up old cases from twenty years ago, searching for connections, and trying to keep some semblance of a normal personal life... we have Rizzoli and Isles. Great characters, great plot. This wasn't a five star for me because I predicted quite a few things and my interest started to wane a little bit towards the end but it picked back up. Solid four stars.

I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Brenda says

When medical examiner Maura Isles was called to the murder site, homicide detective Jane Rizzoli was already on the scene. She was pale and Detective Frost, Jane's partner looked ashen. The sight of the young woman, lying as though peacefully sleeping was only broken by one thing – and that was horrifying...

When the autopsy was conducted, Maura could find no cause of death – and her puzzlement was to continue with a second victim discovered only a few days later. His staged body was decidedly grim; but once again, she could find no apparent cause of death.

The suddenness of the revelation that connected the cases had Rizzoli and Isles scrambling for facts. The circumstantial evidence was strong – the actual proof; the evidence they needed to convict – was missing.

And when another woman who could well turn out to be the next victim refused their protection, Jane and her team struggled to know what to do next.

Would the secrets and lies being held tightly to the chest of one particular person be brought to the surface before it was too late? Or would there be more deaths before it was all over?

I Know a Secret by Tess Gerritsen is the 12th in the Rizzoli & Isles series and another brilliant thriller! It's been a long time between books and I devoured this one – the twists, the intrigue and the usual interaction between the two main characters was excellent. It was great to catch up with Rizzoli and Isles, Detective Frost and Daniel once again. I have no hesitation in recommending this fast paced, intense thriller to all fans of the genre.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

This is the twelfth book in the Rizzoli & Isles Series. This is one of my favorite series. I have read every book in this series and Tess Gerritsen does not disappoint. I loved every book in this series and I was so ecstatic when I received this copy of the book. **This book was the bomb! It just rocked. I just loved it. This book is filled with suspense and rich in character development for characters we have come to know and love over the course of the Rizzoli and Isles series, this book is a true page turner with dark and disturbing plots. and one that should not be missed.**

The book starts out with a girl found dead in her apartment, her eyes gouged out and placed in her hands. As the cause of death goes unanswered, another body is found, this one with arrows through his chest. I loved the back story of Maura and her evil serial killer birth mother Almathea, definitely keeps things interesting. This centers on a twenty year old case involving children abused at a day care center known as the Apple Tree Nursery. "The Apple Tree" mystery was very intriguing and had me quickly turning the pages. A female character has a secret! The book goes back and forth between this character and Rizzoli and Isles.

I highly recommend this book for those that love a dark thriller and suggest that you read them in order.

I want to thank NetGalley, the publisher and Tess Gerritsen for the copy of this book in exchange for a honest review.

Daniel Balici says

Imagine the exhilaration I felt when I noticed on Goodreads that a new installment of the Rizzoli & Isles series was due to get published this summer, considering that I have said countless times that Tess Gerritsen is one of my favourite contemporary authors of mystery/thriller. The Rizzoli & Isles novel series also served as a source of inspiration to the popular TNT police procedural and crime drama starring the talented Angie

Harmon and Sasha Alexander, which, sadly, concluded last year. However, I am happy because it seems that Tess Gerritsen has no intention of ending the novel series at the moment.

As anticipated, Tess Gerritsen returns with yet another installment of the long-running Rizzoli & Isles series with a **well thought out plot** and **excellent writing**. *I Know a Secret* features the well known eponymous characters police detective Jane Rizzoli and her colleague and friend, medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles. Initially, the two are faced with an interesting and odd homicide case: a horror film producer is found dead in her apartment with her eyeballs cut and placed in the palm of her hand. The problem is that Maura cannot determine the cause of death as there are no obvious signs of the manner in which the perpetrator committed the murder. Subsequently, Jane and Maura are examining another bizarrely staged crime scene. This time the victim is a man and his body was stabbed with arrows. The two murders appear connected and lead the Boston PD homicide unit to a notorious case of child abuse and presumed child abduction which took place 20 years ago.

In addition to the homicide cases that must be solved, some chapters focus on the personal lives of the main characters: the complicated relationship between Maura and her dying and villainous mother Amalthea Lank who featured for the first time in *Body Double*; the on-again, off-again relationship between Maura and her love interest, the Catholic priest Daniel Brophy; the funny drama of the Rizzoli family; the romantic reconciliation between Frost and his ex-wife, Alice.

In *I Know a Secret*, Tess Gerritsen proves that she is well versed not only in forensic medicine and police procedures, but also in filmmaking, religious symbolism and child psychology. She is able to readily transpose her vast knowledge into writing and this is the reason why all of her books in the mystery/thriller genre are so **well-documented** and **credible** at the same time. In my opinion, one aspect that differentiates each installment of the Rizzoli & Isles series from the ever increasing number of other crime fiction novels is **the graphic and informative description of the medical procedures** Maura has to perform in order to determine the cause of death of a certain person who was involved in a crime scene. This type of description unquestionably abounds in *I Know a Secret*, as well.

While I definitely enjoyed and quickly read this 12th installment, I found **the mystery** and **the twist and turns** of *I Know a Secret* a little weaker and less thrilling as compared to some previous books of the series, such as *Last to Die* or *Die Again*. Due to this, I am going to rate Tess Gerritsen's newest novel at 4 stars instead of 5.

All in all, *I Know a Secret* is a valuable addition to the Rizzoli & Isles series and it leaves you eager to encounter once again the great characters you have been constantly rooting for, over 12 books.

Gary says

This is the 12th full length novel in the popular Rizzoli and Isles series by author Tess Gerritsen. I enjoy both the novels and the TV series but although there are a lot of similarities the books in my opinion are so much better. Like most series the more you read the more familiar you get with the characters and 'Rizzoli and Isles books are no different, each character is so much more interesting once you get used to their mannerisms.

In this novel a young woman's body is found in a house decorated with horror movie poster. She lies on her bed, two bloodied objects clutched in her palm. Detective Jane Rizzoli and Forensic Pathologist Maura Isles are called to the murder scene, but even faced with this gruesome sight they are unable to identify the

immediate cause of death.

Their investigation leads them to a high-profile murder case that was seemingly solved years before. But when another body is found in horrific circumstances, the link between the two victims is clear. Was the wrong person sent to prison? Is the real killer out there right now, picking off new targets?

One woman knows the killer is coming for her next. She's the only one who can help Rizzoli and Isles catch him. But she has a secret that she has to keep.

A very good read that is well paced, full of twists and away from the plot has a good balance of family issues. Another success and probably the best book in this very good series for a while.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Random House UK, Transworld Publishers for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Kacey - Traveling Sister says

Fantastic addition to the series!

Detective Jane Rizzoli and colleague, Medical Examiner Maura Isles are once again called into action. This being the 12th installment of the highly successful series. So successful in fact, it's become a long running TV series. (Might be cancelled now?) Though I must confess I've never watched it. I much prefer reading the books.

So away we go! The first victim is found in her own bedroom with her eyeballs in her hand (ewww!). The second victim has 3 arrows straight to the heart. Finding the cause of death or a connection between the killings is not as easy as it may have first appeared. But someone out there knows how and why these murders are happening. The past may have finally caught up to her. She's also aware she may be next on the list!

Rizzoli and Isles chase down the leads, attempting to piece the clues together before the killer strikes again. Valuable personal time is spent away from the hunt, addressing the drama in Jane's family, and Maura's troubled personal life. Equally important to the series as the murders themselves...in my opinion!

I really thought I had this one figured out half way through. Not even close! Best in the series in a long time and finished it in 2 sittings. (OK, reclining by the pool!)

4.5* highly recommend for fans of the series.

Thank you to NetGalley, Tess Gerritsen and Random House Publishing Group – Ballantine.

Emma says

Despite some thrillingly gory deaths inventively used, this book felt formulaic and lacked any real tension. The family drama was all stuff we'd seen before and the main plot, while having a solid foundation in the mix of child abuse scandals, moral panic, and psychological testing, failed to live up to its promise thanks to the hugely unsurprising and unsatisfying ending.

It's good enough to fill a few hours, but it's not her best, and I wouldn't rush out to get it.

ARC via Netgalley

Maureen says

Before you take a peek inside the book, take time to savour that beautiful cover (I absolutely love it) and whilst a cover does not indicate a great read, fear not, because the storyline certainly lives up to this alluring work of art.

Homicide Detective Jane Rizzoli, and Medical Examiner Maura Isles are back for the twelfth instalment of this ever popular series from Tess Gerritsen.

The opening chapter takes us straight to the crime scene of a horror film producer found dead in her apartment. Though there are no obvious signs of the cause of death, the victim's eyes have been removed and placed in her hand. Another murder soon follows and again the body is displayed in a grotesque manner, and so the race is on to discover a link between these murders in order to prevent further victims. However, this proves to be an extraordinarily difficult case to crack.

Eventually clues lead to a 20 year old investigation of ritual child abuse at the Apple Tree Nursery and the case of a missing 9 year old girl whose whereabouts still remain a mystery.

Interestingly, Maura's biological mother features initially in this particular storyline, and she certainly adds plenty of interest in quite a sinister way! Jane's personal life too interrupts proceedings, but of course it all adds to an already gripping read.

Rizzoli and Isles give this case everything they've got, and it's both gripping and disturbing. I actually thought I had this one figured out about half way through, but I was SO wrong - wasn't even close, so what do I know? (not so clever eh?)

Avid fans of this series,(and newbies alike) will find this an utterly compelling read

I was offered an advance copy by the publisher Penguin Random House UK, Transworld and have given an honest review in exchange

Matt says

Returning with the twelfth novel in her popular series, Tess Gerritsen shows that she is still able to captivate audiences with her Rizzoli and Isles police procedurals. When the body of Cassandra Coyle is discovered, her eyes surgically removed, Detective Jane Rizzoli is concerned that there is a new and sadistic killer on the loose. The detail of the bilateral globe enucleation has even Dr. Maura Isles baffled, especially with no real clues as to who the killer might be. When another body is discovered a few days later, Rizzoli and Isles wonder if Timothy McDougal's arrow riddled body could be the work of the same killer. With nothing linking the two victims, Rizzoli and her team try to find anything that might prove similar, finding a scrap of something in their funeral attendees. When Isles mentions the cases to a close personal friend, he makes the

sweeping suggestion. Might these killings be tied in that both victims were killed in a way by which certain Catholic saints met their demise? Rizzoli cross-references the murders and makes some disturbing parallels, only further exacerbated when she makes another connection between them from decades past. Could there be a degree of retribution at play here and, if so, how might they locate the next victim? Meanwhile, Isles must come to terms with the realisation that her birth mother, Amalthea Lank, is a sadistic serial killer whose days are numbered as she suffers with end-stage cancer. Forced to come to terms with her feelings on numerous levels, Isles must face the reality that this is the last connection to her bloodline, real or adopted. As the case heats up and suspects emerge, Rizzoli and the rest of the Boston PD Homicide Division race to find a killer with deep-seeded resentments, but nothing is quite as it seems. Gerritsen returns to her former glory with this captivating piece that taps into the depths of the cat and mouse game found in superior police procedurals. Series fans will surely be pleased to see the caliber of writing is back and the plot is filled with twists to keep the reader guessing.

I have long been a fan of Gerritsen's work, particularly with this series. I was a fan of the television programme when it aired as well, though did find myself trying to place the two protagonists into a small box as I watched or read, which might have hampered my ability to enjoy the characters in these two mediums. The banter between Rizzoli and Isles usually proves the most interesting aspect of the novels, working together and yet in their own sphere to solve these murders. What some might consider the greatest secret of all is how Gerritsen took a series that was beginning to turn stale and breathe new life into it. I was forced to play a little mental catch-up to reacquaint myself with the characters (not helped by the alternate development made on television) before I could feel entirely comfortable with the larger plot, remembering how I skimmed through the lesser quality novels preceding this one. Gerritsen does well to pace this story and keeps the reader wondering, while plucking breadcrumbs from the early narrative to spin wonderful branch-offs throughout. The story's development is slow and methodical, taking the reader on a few major twists before revealing what seems like the true path towards the killer. These literary forks in the road serve to advance the story and keep the reader unsure what awaits them. While some past novels fell flat, Gerritsen seems to have found her groove and one can hope this will continue for as long as the series remains an active project.

Kudos, Madam Gerritsen for a wonderful novel that keeps the reader guessing and shows that you have not lost your writing spark.

Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Phrynne says

I know this was a good read because I finished it in one afternoon and evening! It was too interesting to put down!

I enjoyed the way the book was written from different POVs as it was nice to get into the head of one of the key players as well as knowing what Maura and Jane were thinking. I was a little annoyed that no one thought to look at the victim's pasts as the school link seemed pretty obvious to me, but that is only a tiny criticism.

As usual Tess Gerritsen delivers an exciting murder mystery with lots of clever police work and some very interesting forensic science. Well worth a read especially if you are already a Rizzoli and Isles fan.

Brenda says

Tess Gerritsen writes her characters very well. I would think sociopathy comes in varying degrees, and as you read this book, you will know which characters I'm talking about. The two main characters, Jane Rizzoli and Maura Isles, are true to form as they have been in previous books. Even Jane's family is still in turmoil. Maura's life just might be on the verge of a major change. For the life of me, though, I can't recall which bits of history are in previous books or from the television show.

The murder investigations here are related to past crimes and someone already convicted for them. There are some twists that had me changing my mind a few times, and I happily followed where the author wanted me to go. This was an easy, evenly paced read.
