



The Body and the Blood

Michael Lister

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It's known as the Protective Management Unit. It's a closed society within a closed society, housing Florida state inmates who wouldn't survive in open population at Potter Correctional Institution. In it, John Jordan witnesses the most baffling crime of his career—a seemingly impossible murder he would swear could not have happened had he not seen it with his own eyes.

John has come to the PM unit because of a note he received announcing a murder would take place during the Catholic Mass. As he observes the priest offering up the body and the blood, an inmate enters the unit, walks over to his cell, and is locked inside alone. A little while later, John notices a pool of blood spreading out from beneath the cell door. The inmate is dead, his body and his blood separated from one another.

The inmate, a talented artist and quite possibly an innocent man, was sensitive and kind, just a few short days from parole. Who would want to kill him and why? Before John can answer these questions, he's got to figure out how he was killed.

Suspects abound, including the Catholic Priest conducting the mass, the two PM officers, the victim's sister, who visited him just prior to his death—something she hadn't done in four years—and a handful of inmates, one of whom was the victim's lover.

As the investigation proceeds, John uncovers crime after crime, and an openly racists family with plenty they aren't open about. After taking a closer look at them, John's best friend, Merrill Monroe, disappears.

Attempting to balance his fragile reconciliation with his ex-wife and the high-stakes investigation, John is soon overwhelmed and wonders if the life he's hoped for is even possible. Just when he thinks he can't take anymore, a second disappearance brings with it the demand for a dangerous prison break and a daring exchange. When John finally figures out how the crime was committed and who's behind it, an exciting climax follows that reveals the shocking solution, sees someone close to John shot, and carries for John the ultimate personal price—one he's not sure he can pay.

The Body and the Blood Details

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From Reader Review The Body and the Blood for online ebook

Vickie says

Good characters & plots in this series.

Mark Slocum says

I enjoy the John Jordon works by Lister, but I was REALLY disappointed with the quality of the first six series anthology. There are formatting errors which actually distract from the reading experience.

I decided to BUY the #4 volume again as a stand alone, so as to not mar the reading experience.

Cottero says

This was my third Michael Lister mystery but the first of the John Jordan series. The Body And The Blood has a creative plot that makes you want to keep reading until the exciting end. A terrific book!

Bob says

This is about the fourth book in this series that i've read and i find myself enjoying each one. Unlike a lot of mystery books, in these the main character struggles with his humanity. He's a prison chaplain and a former cop. He's also a recovering alcoholic with an estranged wife, whose father is his boss, a woman at work who he also yearns for, and he has violent tendencies that he has trouble suppressing in a prison situation. This time he's trying to solve a murder inside the prison. There is much mystery, much angst, much self-doubt before a resolution is reached.

Dawn Peterson says

What can I say besides "I love John Jordan". He is a one of a kind hero. There has never be a book about him that wasn't awesome and this is no exception. The Body and the Blood is excellent.

Monnie says

After I read *Blood Sacrifice*, which is No. 5 in the series featuring North Florida prison chaplain and former cop John Jordan, I loved it so much I knew I wouldn't stop until I'd read others - even if it meant reading them out of order. If my experience with that one taught me nothing else (except what a terrific writer Michael Lister is), it's that these books can stand alone (read my review of that one at

[https://www.goodreads.com/review/show..."\).](https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...)

Since I'm always looking for bargains, I didn't rush out to buy another one, though, and as it turns out I'm glad. Not long after I finished *Blood Sacrifice*, I was notified of a credit to my Amazon account as a result of a class-action settlement regarding Kindle book pricing, and I was able to snag two more of the series including this one. It's No. 4, and I had zero problem with reading it even though I'd already read the one that follows.

And happily, it didn't disappoint. This one takes place in the Potter Correctional Institution's Protective Management Unit, which houses inmates who, for various reasons, aren't likely to live long and prosper in the "regular" part of the prison. Jordan is here because he received a note claiming that a murder will take place during the Catholic Mass. Just after the elderly priest serves communion - the body and blood - Jordan sees an inmate enter a cell alone, and shortly thereafter blood begins to spread out from under the locked door.

Sure enough, the inmate is dead - his throat cut quite recently - but no one else entered or exited the cell. It turns out that the inmate, a very talented artist, may have been an innocent man - and a man who, for a different reason, was to be released in a few days. One question, of course, is why he was killed, but an even more puzzling one is *how*. It seems impossible that anyone could have gone in or out without being seen.

As the story moves along, still more crimes turn up, and the number of suspects grows as well. On the list of possibilities are a couple of unit officers, the victim's sister, a few inmates (one of whom is the victim's lover) and even the elderly priest. Meantime, Jordan is trying to get his jumbled personal life in order, having recently entered into a tentative reconciliation with his estranged wife Susan.

Interspersed is a bit of humor - in his car being followed by two suspicious characters, for instance, Jordan muses that if they catch him, he'll have to pull out the only weapon he has at hand - a Barry Manilow CD.

Lister has another winner on his hands, and now I can't wait to start the other one I have (*Rivers to Blood*, which is book No. 6.

Rosemarie says

I have to say, I'm enjoying the progression of these novels. Not only are the characters presented in more depth (as the reader gets to know them better), but so is the author's writing. Not, by any means, that he was a poor writer in the beginning. I'm truly enjoying his witty turns of phrase and his unique metaphors, skills he is honing with each novel. His talent with weaving a mystery is also quite evident in this story. A jail cell murder seems almost impossible to solve - because it seems to have been impossible to commit. The warp and weft of plot and subplot leave the reader wondering if this murder will ever be solved. But it is - at the very end, in quintessential Hitchcock manner. I was totally surprised, yet it all made sense. Lister is a true mystery marksman!

On to book #5.

Joan Barstad says

An impossible murder! Who do you call? John Jordan, of course!

So many twists, and everyone is a suspect. But Michael Lister takes us through everything so easily.

I will be reading more of them.

Charlene Childers says

This book is very near and dear to John Jordan because he sees someone really close to him kidnapped and someone else later on shot so he feels like he has to solve this crime in a timely manner

Tim Flanagan says

Another excellent book and another unexpected ending. That's twice Michael Lister's caught me out!

Sonia Cristina says

[O sogro de John Jordan, para vingar a violação de que a sua mulher foi algo por outro prisioneiro! Tive tanta pena que isto levasse a que Susan se separasse de JJ e ainda por cima ameaça abortar o bebé... Espero que não o faça. (

Treva Parkins says

Emotions were all over the place

One of the best yet!!! I found myself cheering, holding my breath, and was practically mentally yelling.....NO!! This one moved faster than the rest and I loved the ending! Now I'm going to have to get Book 5 to see what happens next!

Murrel Lowry says

Very good book from author Michael Lister. Kept me involved for the last couple of days just trying to figure out whodunit and then it didn't play out quite the way I thought. Well worth my time and now I'll figure out where I go from here.

Marcia says

John Jordan is a complex, conflicted clergyman in a state penitentiary. His ability to switch between his former profession as a cop to his current profession as a chaplain leaves him in a personal no-win situation. This is a great book series and this #4 is an indication that the stories to come will be thought provoking and exciting. Love it!

Ellen White says

THE BODY AND THE BLOOD by Michael Lister. We find John going to the PM (protective management) in which inmates that haven't long to live, for one reason or another. The nightly mass, communion is given, symbol of the blood and body. John had gotten a note saying there was to be a murder, at the mass. Inmate goes into a cell alone, the next thing John sees is the blood coming out from under cell door. Puzzle of HOW as John try's to figure out. More crimes pile up as well as suspects. Another pace paced story with a touch of humor, by John. Well done, enjoyable for all who want a good mystery. Given ARC for my voluntary review and my honest opinion.
