



Bad Blood

Mark Sennen

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‘We’re going to find them, sort them, pay them back ...’

When the body of a six-year-old girl is found buried beneath a patio, nobody is surprised when a local paedophile is murdered shortly afterwards. But when a member of DI Charlotte Savage’s team is abducted and several men are executed in cold blood it becomes apparent that there’s a psychopath on the loose with no mercy for his victims...

It becomes clear that the killer isn’t selecting his victims at random and soon Savage is in a race against time to stop him. But what if this man has a message for Charlotte herself? One she won’t forget in a hurry. It’s payback time. Deadly payback time.

Part thriller, part police procedural, a must-read for fans of Mark Billingham and Chris Carter.

Bad Blood Details

Date : Published 2013 by Avon

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Author : Mark Sennen

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Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Bad Blood for online ebook

jeannette allerston says

Excellent

Better than the first book, a real edge of your seat story, brilliantly written has you guessing from the first page what is DI Charlotte Savage getting herself into next, I wonder about Charlotte and Darius ??? well done Mark Sennen 10/10. On to next book, thank you Mark for all your time and hard work that went into this series best wishes Jeannette allerston ?

Pat says

This book didn't quite live up to its predecessor's standard. So DI Savage's actions at the end of the previous book have, predictably, come home to roost and I'm not sure she handles this as well as she could. There are other examples of less than professional behaviour and it kind of let the book down a bit despite the apparently successful conclusion.

I'm also not convinced a pair of baddies as brutal and careless as the guys in this story could get away with things for so long in reality as the swathe of destruction was so vast. The plot was certainly tangled and I did finish it all with great interest.

Joni Duignan says

First Mark Sennen book I've read. I enjoyed it, and thought the scene and characters well described and detailed. A lot of character names to keep track of though, as the story jumps around a lot, (3 different story lines that meet at the end) well definitely check out the first book "touch" and look forward to 2014's installment, looks good :0)

ReadandRated says

Picked this one up because I liked the cover... (I am a walking cliche sometimes!)

It was almost brilliant. The story-line itself was really good and the individual characters were good but there was just something about it that didn't gel properly for me. I liked DI Charlotte Savage but her family and history were all just trying a bit too hard to be edgy. Her relationship with her partner was ridiculous and unbelievable.

There were either too many characters or not enough time spent building them, I'm not sure which. The story seemed to jump around all over the place and I found myself reading it at various points thinking 'I've no idea who this character actually is!'.

Given that the basis of the story-line itself was good, I can't help wondering why the editor didn't feel the need to suggest that the story was re-written to make it more cohesive and flow faster and better?

It's a shame. Should've rated higher and I've no plans to pick up another Sennen book :(

Alan Whitlam says

A very good book keeps you page turning

Michelle says

First book by this author. When I started reading it I wasn't overly fond of it. I found it didn't really keep my interest and it was a little hard to follow. There were a lot of names and a lot of jumping around from people and situations. I'm glad I continued on though because it was really good. After a few chapters in I was drawn into the story and it became a gripping page-turner for me. It's a police and thug story but with a lot of violence and gore. There is a lot going on but I got sucked in and really enjoyed it. The good guys may not be 100% good, which I like in main characters; and some of the bad guys are not 100% bad although they do terrible things. I ended up reading the last 70 pages or so in a mad rush to see what would happen. That's the kind of story I like :)

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 5 days

Publisher - Avon

Blurb from Goodreads

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My Review

This is the second in a series, I was given an ARC copy from the publisher so this is my first encounter with this author. I think, personally I would recommend you go and get the first book in the series instead of starting with this one as I believe it will make the story more enjoyable. The story opens with the prologue, we meet the mastermind bad guy, Ricky Budgeon and a very brief look into his views on what has happened prior and brings him to the actions that follow. A bit vague? I thought so too and the theme follows throughout the story but it does all come together and information is released in snippets.

We move on to Savage, who turns out to be DI Charlotte Savage, at home with her family when she gets a reminder from a colleague about the PSD (Public Standards Department) inquiry meeting regarding her actions in a previous case. I believe this is also something that happened in the last book although I am not 100% sure. We then go to another scene where a body is discovered and DI Savage is called in, our story really starts here. Soon a child's body is discovered, linked to an old residence of a paedophile and soon a paedophile is found murdered.

Shortly after that a member of DI Savage's team goes missing, bodies are turning up murdered in vicious and horrific crime scenes and Savage and her team are running out of time to solve the mystery and save their colleague.

Exhausted reading all that? It is quite a lot to take in and to be honest, had I read the first book and had a feel for some of the characters it would probably have been a lot easier to get into. As it was I felt there was a lot of characters to try and get to know, a few different stories lines going on and I had to re read bits to try and establish what was going on.

There is a lot happening and plenty to keep you interested and intrigued as to what is going to happen and who is linked to whom but I would suggest reading it in big chunks or in one go if you can. Reading this over a few days can be a bit hard going as it is such a busy story.

It is quite violent and gory, there is a lot of swearing and quite a few terms that are racist so be warned it may offend quite a few readers. DI Savage I found to be hard to like, she has been through a lot which may attribute to her attitude and almost total disregard for her professional standards and behaviour. She seemed like a loose cannon at times rather than a level headed leader of a police team and lead investigator in a high profile case. As I said I think maybe going back and reading the first book would give a bit of clarity and help with the enjoyment and understanding of this book.

All your ends are eventually tied up, most things are linked and explained although at the end of this book a character throws a curve ball that will pull followers from the first story to get the third book. I have only read book two however I want clarification and closure on this particular issue from the stories, a rather clever ploy from the author, always leave them wanting more. A rather mixed bag for me, it annoyed me on so many levels but got me there in the end and had enough intrigue to keep me going to the end so 3/5 for me this time. Thanks to Avon Books for sending me an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review and for introducing me to this author whom I will read again. This book is available to buy from all good retailers from the 26th of September 2013, in paperback format and for the kindle.

Susan Woods says

Better than the first book. the story flowed rather well, and the ending was far better.

Debs anderson says

Another cracking read Mr Sennen!!

Only a four because of too many main characters thinly spread. Brilliantly written though and very gritty, I really like Charlotte and her team and I'm hoping that their characters will develop too.

Richard says

It is good that Mark Sennen felt encouraged to write more about his cop, DCI Charlotte Savage. This second book shows real development in his writing, the handling of a complex plot and bringing a story together well to everyone's satisfaction.

Savage has her husband home but is still married to her job and perhaps too emotionally driven especially around children. Pete has a role in the wings while his wife remains centre stage; one wonders how this relationship might go but thankfully we don't have all the domestic joys reminiscent of Läckberg's Fjällbacka.

The story is quite harrowing initially with child abduction and murder but as horrific as this crime was it opens up into drug trafficking and brutal gang warfare that really gives this book an edge.

I liked very much the pace of the book, well developed chapters rather than the modern trend to switch continuously from scene to scene. I liked the sense of policing and the political dimension where you wonder who could be a police officer in modern britain where initiative is often suppressed and passion is dampened down to just do your job.

Some excellent characterisation; topical references to undercover police officers undermining convictions and corruption in all walks of life.

Great locations and interesting murder scenes or places bodies found. The book never really goes where you think it will go and the blurred lines between good and bad are cleverly left out of focus.

The sense of a criminal having power over a serving police officer reminded me of Rebus shaking hands with the devil and leaving his guard down with Big Ger Caffery. Sennen is a storyteller and a fine crime writer who will have to work his magic to help Savage out of her own vulnerability. I for one look forward to seeing the author weave that account in the coming books.

Angela Oatham says

Enjoyed the first in the series but found this a little too confusing. Lots of characters all with some connections in the past that impacted on the story, probably my fault for leaving too big a gap between reading the first one. I started expecting a hunt for a murderer but it was more about organised crime and didn't really hold my interest. However I am half way through the third book and enjoying it very much this one just wasn't for me.

Annie Dyer says

Bad Blood took a different direction, a more complex one, than its predecessor Touch, but this wasn't a bad thing. Charlotte Savage took another step away from being solely a good cop after her decision at the end of touch, finding herself subject to recriminations that weren't simply procedure. In Bad Blood she finds herself immersed in a corrupt underworld, involving a local councillor who I'm hoping hasn't met his final comeuppance yet and a criminal who lends an intriguing end and promise for the third in the series. Enjoyable, well paced, with characters who are fully formed and not two dimensional, this was a good read on a sun lounger in Greece!

Simon says

Okish a little cluttered with characters which lost me at times, the story lead by gruesome organised crime, the previous story catching up with DCI Savage but could of been better used, lacked procedure felt like it was being led rather than managed.

Denise says

I was pleased to receive this book from a goodreads giveaway. A great read which was instantly captivating, gripping throughout and thoroughly enjoyable. A great crime-thriller, I felt like I was watching a film and could really visualise the characters. I will definitely be reading more books by Mark Sennen.

Elaine Tomasso says

This is a good book with an interesting plot - a wronged drug dealer out for revenge - and plenty of plot twists and turns. DI Charlotte Savage is an interesting character but I think it is obvious she has been created by a man as there is nothing feminine about her, in fact she's almost androgynous. As I said I can appreciate this is a good book but it didn't really hold my attention and I kept dipping in and out and I can't say why as all the ingredients for an engrossing read are there. 3.5*
