



Alone

Lisa Gardner

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Alone . . . Massachusetts State Trooper Bobby Dodge watches a tense hostage standoff unfold through the scope of his sniper rifle. Just across the street, in wealthy Back Bay, Boston, an armed man has barricaded himself with his wife and child. The man's finger tightens on the trigger and Dodge has only a split second to react . . . and forever pay the consequences.

Alone . . . that's where the nightmare began for cool, beautiful, and dangerously sexy Catherine Rose Gagnon. Twenty-five years ago, she was buried underground during a month-long nightmare of abduction and abuse. Now her husband has just been killed. Her father-in-law, the powerful Judge Gagnon, blames Catherine for his son's death . . . and for the series of unexplained illnesses that have sent her own young son repeatedly to the hospital.

Alone . . . a madman survived solitary confinement in a maximum security prison where he'd done hard time for the most sadistic of crimes. Now he walks the streets a free man, invisible, anonymous . . . and filled with an unquenchable rage for vengeance. What brings them together is a moment of violence—but what connects them is a passion far deeper and much more dangerous. For a killer is loose who's woven such an intricate web of evil that no one is above suspicion, no one is beyond harm, and no one will see death coming until it has them cornered, helpless, and alone.

Alone Details

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From Reader Review Alone for online ebook

Michael says

As a Lisa Gardner fan and in particular her detective D.D. Warren series this was such a thrill for me to read the opening book in the series. The story goes of Massachusetts State Trooper Bobby Dodge finding himself in a terrible position after he sees an armed man seemingly about to pull the trigger while pointing the gun at his wife and young son in their home. Bobby has only a split second on what to do and in the moment fires his sniper rifle and kills the man. Unfortunately for Bobby the man he seemingly kills is the son of the powerful judge Gagnon. Gagnon believes his son Jimmys wife Catherine is deliberately responsible for the ill health of his grandson and the death of his son and will try and use his power and influence to destroy the career of Bobby and completely ruin Catherine.

Things become more complicated with suspicious deaths the most curious being the death of nanny Prudence who looks after Nathan. This makes things even worse for Bobby and Catherine who are accused of not only by the judge of arranging for the killing of his son but also from detectives D.D. Warren and Harris. Bobby feels like the world is falling in on him but despite the pressure put on him develops a strong mutual relationship with Catherine. The other big question was how was Richard Umbrio who is released from prison after 20 odd years after he had abducted and molested Catherine when she was a child intertwined in what happens and what was The Judges role in this. Towards the end the horrible truth about certain characters will be revealed that left me shocked and amazed.

Lisa Gardner debut in the Detective D.D. Warren series is a wonderful start to what is a great series. In my view arguably the best in the series. Not even Warren seemingly having a small role first up could diminish what was a super read. The best bit for me was even at the end you the reader was left to wonder about certain characters and what roles they played in the overall outcome. things that only the characters themselves would know. Overall Gone is a masterful piece of writing by one of the finest crime writers of the modern era.

Brenda says

Bobby Dodge is a police sniper. He was called out to a domestic dispute in an elite area, where an armed man had his wife and child hostage. The neighbours reported shots being fired...

After Bobby was briefed, he ran to the top floor of a neighbouring house, where the bedroom window overlooked the subject's master bedroom, and the standoff was taking place. He followed procedure, reporting to his captain, identifying the subject through the scope of his sniper rifle...then made the split second decision which would change his life forever...he pulled the trigger.

Bobby found out the man he had killed, the 'subject', was the son of Supreme Court Judge Gagnon, and the victim was Catherine Gagnon, who at the age of 12, had been kidnapped by a pedophile, and kept in an underground cave where she suffered abuse for a nightmarish 28 days before she was found and released...she put her tormenter in jail for 25 years...but she has never been the same since.

Judge Gagnon throws around a mighty amount of power and money, and he blames Catherine for his son's death...he is going to charge Bobby with murder...But Bobby's life is spiralling out of control, and Detective

DD Warren is having a hard time convincing herself he is innocent! Catherine needs Bobby's help....A killer is on the loose, and death is surrounding them, catching up with them...

This psychological thriller keeps you on your toes, catches you unaware, and is so incredibly worth the read! Lisa Gardner weaves a brilliant tale!

Mike French says

After seeing the great reviews from my GR friends on Lisa Gardner's work, I decided to try one. I started with *ALONE*. Very enjoyable and entertaining from beginning to end! Thank you GR friends for the recommendation.

Nicole (Read Eat Sleep Repeat) says

After enjoying other of Gardner's books, I decided to go back to the beginning of her series and read them through. This wasn't my favorite but I am glad to have read it, and I'm curious to see how she progresses in the next book.

Full review to come soon.

Rebecca McNutt says

Suspenseful, riveting and exciting, *Alone* never lets up on its thrills and originality. Definitely a great crime thriller! :)

Jim says

This novel is identified as Book 1 in the Detective D.D. Warren series but she does not make an appearance until about one third of the way into the story. The central character in the story is Bobby Dodge, a Massachusetts State Trooper and sniper, who is called to a hostage scene at the end of a long day. A man is barricaded with his wife and child in their wealthy Back Bay, Boston home. In a split second, his hand on the trigger, he makes a decision. A decision that will forever change his life and his career.

Twenty-five years ago Catherine Gagnon had been kidnapped and kept underground for twenty eight days. Although she had survived the ordeal her life was forever altered and she never fully recovered. Now her husband has been killed and her father-in-law, the powerful Judge Gagnon, blames Catherine for his death and for the unexplained illnesses that have sent her own young son repeatedly to the hospital.

The lives of Bobby and Catherine become linked because of one incident but it is hard to believe that they would have any kind of interaction with each other except possibly in a courtroom. But that is the basis of this story. It was hard to connect with any of the characters. Detective D.D. Warren only has a few appearance in the story, appearing at a crime scene; breakfast with Bobby; a phone call here or there. The

ending kind of left you wondering. I enjoyed reading this book and will probably read other books in the series. It is a good psychological thriller and it reminds me of Harlan Coben books that I have read.

SUSAN *Nevertheless,she persisted* says

I read this book with my book pal Freda from " A Good Thriller" group. Freda chose this book for me from one of my shelves.

"Alone" is a enjoyable read,filled with action and a lot of twists. Very readable,well written,believable characters. If you enjoy thrillers,you will enjoy this.

Unapologetic_Bookaholic says

This was my first Lisa Gardner book. I was an instant fan. I remembered thinking "Wow! This book is really good and I can't think of what is it, but wow." The begining, middle and end kept you engaged and that's what I like about any new authors I come across. I don't expect all thier books to be perfect but I am glad this first book I read was good. Looking forward to more.

Helen says

I liked this. I was hoping to love it in ways that would leave me giddy, but the spark just wasn't there. So, no serious love connection, but it was still good, solid entertainment. It kept me interested and moved at the right pace when It got down to business. In the end, I enjoyed myself, and didn't feel bad about it.

I have no regerts, and I'll probably give the next book in the series a chance at some point. Still, I'm not overly eager to rush things, and I'll probably spend time with some other books first.

Labijose says

El primer volumen de DD Warren, en el que la misma aparece como mucho en tres capítulos, y apenas tiene repercusión alguna en la trama. El verdadero protagonista es Bobby Dodge, francotirador de los SWAT, que se ve envuelto en un follón por haber cumplido con su deber.

Lectura facilona, pero que tiene demasiados clichés entre sus páginas como para ser considerada obra maestra. Aún así promete, por lo que seguiré leyendo alguna posterior. La autora tiene bastante buena fama, así que supongo que será merecida.

Jane Stewart says

I did not enjoy the characters, the plot, or the narrator. I wanted it to be over.

Gunshots are heard. Neighbors call the police who surround the house. Inside Jimmy is pointing a gun at his wife Catherine. Bobby is a sniper and member of the police SWAT team. He sees Jimmy's face change, and he believes Jimmy will shoot, so Bobby shoots and kills Jimmy. Now Jimmy's father James is suing Bobby. If James wins Bobby goes to jail. If James loses, he will repeatedly appeal because he is wealthy. He can afford to. The problem is that the city and union will not pay Bobby's legal fees because James is filing suit through a clerk magistrate which is not the normal process. Bobby did what he was trained to do. If he didn't shoot Jimmy, then he believed Jimmy would have killed Catherine. Now Bobby has to pay \$5000 to a defense attorney. I was furious. Policemen should not be forced to pay their own legal fees for following orders and doing their job. I don't know if this exists in real life, but if it does, then something is very wrong. This part of the plot made me so angry that I had a hard time enjoying the rest. This legal-issue-stress hangs over Bobby until the last few pages of the book.

Was the rest of the story good? Parts of it maybe. Catherine was kidnaped and raped by Richard when she was twelve. When her only child Nathan was born, Catherine had some mental problems and did not appear to be a good mother. The child has been raised by nannies. Nathan is frequently sick and the doctors don't know why. Some fear it is Münchausen syndrome by proxy, which means the mother is purposely doing things to make the child sick to get attention for herself. For most of the book, the reader wonders if Catherine is good or bad for her son. James is also suing Catherine for custody of Nathan.

Richard has been in jail for twenty-five years. James uses his influence to get Richard released on parole. Someone is now paying Richard to murder people connected to Catherine or the case.

I did not enjoy the characters. I felt anxiety and depression rather than sympathy. I didn't feel fun anticipation rooting for someone. We don't know if Catherine is good or bad, but she's not likeable. James and Richard are too one-dimensional, powerful, and evil. Bobby spends too much time suffering and second guessing himself, wondering if he did the right thing. He was having problems with the concept of killing someone. He talks to a psychiatrist several times about this as well as troubles from his early life. Some of this was ok, but it seemed a bit much. He also did some illogical and stupid things which made him less sympathetic. Regarding the plot, I had questions unanswered at the end. But maybe part of those were necessary. I understand Catherine has some kind of role in the sequel "Hide" which I have not read.

NARRATOR:

I did not like the narrator Anna Fields. The voice she used for Bobby and some of the men was so deep that it sounded like a mentally slow person who is groggy and slurring his words. Some of her general third party narration was too sharp and hurried, almost like she was reading a report and not thinking about what she was reading. When talking about a sniper she said "he breathed in, he breathed out." That phrase should have been read slowly and calmly, yet the narrator's voice was sharp, staccato, and fast.

DATA:

Unabridged audiobook reading time: 10 hrs and 12 mins. Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual content: some references to sexual activity but no details shown. References include the rape of Catherine when she was 12. Setting: current day Boston, Massachusetts. Copyright: 2005. Genre: mystery suspense thriller. Ending: Good guys win.

OTHER BOOKS:

This is the first book in the D.D. Warren series. D.D. is a female cop. She has a small part in this book. In the sequels I believe she and Bobby work together as a team.

Jean says

Lisa Gardner has crafted a fine psychological thriller in *Alone*. While I found myself immediately immersed in the drama, I got about 160 pages in, and I still wasn't sure where she was taking me. It was that complex.

Bobby Dodge is a Massachusetts State Trooper who is a sniper called in as part of a crisis team to handle a hostage situation in a wealthy Boston neighborhood. From a window across the street, he sets up his rifle. He sees a woman, a young boy, and a man with a gun. As the man's finger tightens on the trigger and his face contorts into an evil smile, Bobby has to make an instantaneous decision. He does. Lives change forever.

Catherine Gagnon, the widow of the man Bobby shot, is incredibly beautiful. She is also manipulative and dangerous. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sexually molested. She was rescued, and her abuser was put in prison. But she carries some deep scars.

The story has multiple layers, as we learn that Jimmy Gagnon, the dead man, was the son of a powerful judge, who wants to gain custody of Catherine's young son Nathan. Judge Gagnon is having murder charges brought against Bobby unless he lies about what happened the night of the shooting. And then people begin to die.

Who is behind the killings, and why? Bobby knows he should stay away from Catherine, but he also sees her as a woman who needs help. Can he really help? And can he heal the wounds of his own painful past? Did he do the right thing, or will doubts plague him the rest of his life?

This novel is billed as a Detective D.D. Warren book, but we don't meet her until midway through the book, and we actually see very little of her in this first of the series, so I didn't feel that I got to know her. Bobby and Catherine were both well-developed characters. Messed up, but well written. Actually, there are lots of messed up people in this book. Although I was able to predict some of what happened, I did not know what motivated the characters, at least not all of them, and I liked that.

There were a few minor things, editing errors, which stuck out. Also, the puppy is said to lick the child with a rough tongue. I know cats have rough tongues; dogs do not. That would have been a wet, sloppy kiss. Some of the events seemed rather unbelievable, especially the final scene in the hotel. That seemed to me like a made-for-TV scene. But for the most part, I did not want to turn off the lights and be alone while reading *Alone*, so I think the author did her job in writing a great thriller.

I'm giving it 4 1/2 stars.

Mo says

3.5 stars.

While I enjoyed this one and it kept me on my toes, it didn't quite hit the mark for me. I wasn't really connected to any of the characters. Even the main male character, Bobby, had his shortcomings. It's an

introduction of D.D. Warren and future books and even she didn't enthrall me.

It is set in Boston, a city I love.

Sex scenes? Forget it. I think that might have been part of my problem. I love a bit of romance in my RS books.

It doesn't even have to be explicit sex scenes, just a little romance.

Sorry I cannot be more flattering about the book. Will I read some more of the series? I probably will. Writing was excellent. Plot was good and some twists and turns I didn't see coming.

Suzanne says

Tremendous! This is the series to read if you want to breeze through a book and be thoroughly engrossed. Did not want to put this down for one moment, and am very glad I discovered Lisa Gardner, much like my discovery of Harlan Coben. I started reading this series at number 3, and thought this was why I didn't feel a close affinity to Detective D.D Warren, but I think on reading this book, I have realised she must not be the focus of the series.

The character of Police sniper Bobby is very likable, I really felt I knew where he was coming from, and his plight had me from the first page. I look forward to reading about Bobby again straight away, and will be doing so momentarily as I just picked up my copy of number two. I was on the hunt for the next book even before finishing this one, and it's not a common feel for this reader to go out and get the next installment immediately.. He's smart, straight forward, and oh so flawed. He's someone I want to get to the bottom of, his complexities are very appealing. There are many layers here where the author expertly peels away for us in an unobtrusive and expert way. This particular story line had many many bends in the road, and I was on a constant ride of emotion, and enjoyed a few back flips along the way.

I'm sure most of you out there are aware of this author, but I'm just so happy I didn't miss her completely.

Theresa Alan says

I listened to this on audiobook. The female narrator did a pretty good job even when she had to imitate the voices of a cop trained as a sniper who kills a husband brandishing his gun at his wife and small son and when she had to imitate the voice of a pedophile released from prison after twenty-five years.

Twenty-five years ago when Catherine was just twelve years old, she was snatched into a van and survived twenty-eight horrifying days in a pit in the woods where she was either being sexually abused or left all alone in the dark. Now, she has married an abusive man who cheats on her and has a son with a mysterious

illness that the doctors can't identify, no matter how many tests they run. When officer Bobby Dodge kills her husband, the parents of Catherine's dead husband swoop in and try to claim custody of her four-year-old son. While she's struggling to keep custody, her former abuser is out on the street, killing her nanny, her son's doctor . . . is she next?

Is she making her son sick? That's what the grandparents claim. While Bobby is under investigation for whether the shooting was justified, he gets entangled in Catherine's drama.

It's strange that this is the first book in the D.D. Warren series, which I didn't realize when I downloaded the book. It's strange because she plays a minor role in this novel. This story is about Bobby and Catherine and a deranged pedophile serial killer. I liked the other books in the series that I've read more, but Gardner can consistently turn out a gripping tale.

For more reviews, please visit: <http://www.theresaalan.net/blog>
