



For All Our Sins

T.M.E. Walsh

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Years ago there was a silent witness to an act of evil. Now, a twisted killer is on the loose fuelled by revenge.

Called to the brutal murder of a priest, it is immediately clear to DCI Claire Winters that the victims death was prolonged, agonising...and motivated by a lust for revenge.

The killer has been clever, there are no clues, no leads. But Claire Winters has never let a killer remain on the streets. Looking for an answer at any cost Claire begins to get closer to the victim's family, but what it reveals turns her murder case into something far more sinister...

When one body becomes two, and then three, Claire finds herself in a race against time to connect the dots between a host of devastating secrets, before the killer strikes again.

For All Our Sins Details

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Author : T.M.E. Walsh

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From Reader Review For All Our Sins for online ebook

Clare says

I would like to thank Netgalley for this advance copy in exchange for an open and honest review. DCI Claire Winters and Sgt Michael Diego are called to the murder of Father Wainwright. He was found murdered in his own church, suffocated on a chain of rosary beads and then slashed from his throat to his abdomen.

The last person who saw Father Wainwright alive was good friend Mark Jenkins who attended his church. Father Wainwright worked at a home called Shrovesbury Manor, a retreat for spiritual enlightenment. Jenkins daughter Chloe and foster children Amelia and Stevie attended The Manor along with children from the church. The Manor was destroyed by fire some years ago and had to be rebuilt.

When Winters and Diego speak to Chloe she explains that she, Amelia and Michael were physically abused by the priests there. Amelia in particular was singled out for the worst of the abuse. She explained that the owner, Father Manuella was a disgusting man and that Father Wainwright spent a lot of time at the manor.

When the body of local drug dealer Ashe Miller is found murdered in his flat. Winters and Diego interview all the residents of the building. They interview a girl in her twenties called Amelia who lives two doors down from Miller. When Winters and Diego question Amelia, Amelia claims she barely knew Miller and kept out of his way. Amelia then started to cry, Winters became suspicious and suspects it is just an act.

When Winters starts investigating she finds out that Amelia is Chloe Jenkins foster sister. Although Winters suspects the murders have been committed by the same person, she cannot find anything to link the victims.

When Hawthorn, an ex priest who also worked at Shrovesbury Manor with Wainwright and Manuella is found murdered in his hotel room. Winters realises that The Manor is the link and that Father Manuella might be next.

After Amelia saw her best friend Rebecca murdered by the priests she decides to take revenge. Amelia is helped by the Guardian, but is the Guardian a man or women?

I really enjoyed this book and I did not guess the identity of the Guardian until I had read 80% of the book. I will definitely read more from T M E Walsh in the future.

Elaine Tomasso says

I was looking forward to For All Our Sins but unfortunately I found it not to my taste. It starts with the murder of a priest and the mutilation of his body and as the bodies pile up DCI Claire Winters and DS Michael Diego investigate.

I'm not sure where to start. It is an extremely choppy read as it switches from one viewpoint to another so just as you think you're settling down and getting a grasp on the narrative it switches again. You also know from the start that the killer is Amelia Williams so you get flashbacks to her past interrupting the flow of the present day investigation. I don't like this kind of novel as I really can't be bothered with the sob stories of abuse and cod psychology behind it all - as a frequent watcher of true crime documentaries it very rarely rings true and certainly doesn't in this novel. Lastly I would say the Claire Winters is an extremely

unpleasant character so it is difficult to identify with her or root for her.

I like reading and am well able to suspend my disbelief when engrossed in a novel but I never felt engaged in For All Our Sins so I have to rate it at 2 stars - I didn't like it.

David Highton says

A very violent series of murders - I hesitate to call it a police procedural as credible procedure seemed to be missing. Allied with poor character development, this book was a real disappointment, partially redeemed by a fast-paced end phase from 80% onwards. Not decided yet whether to read the second in this series

Petra says

This is the first book in a British crime series which introduces DCI Claire Winters who is investigating the rather gruesome murder of a priest, which is only the first of a number of grisly deaths that are occurring. Claire is an interesting character who is dealing with some relationship issues.

It is clear from fairly early on who is behind the murders, but the reasons behind them are slowly revealed through flashbacks. It wasn't so much the police procedural part of the story, but the background and history of all the characters involved and the relationships between them that were holding my attention. There is a really unexpected (well, to me it was) twist towards the end, which was great. Overall, this was a nicely paced, well written and suspenseful book. I'm certainly looking forward to reading The Principle of Evil, the next book in the series.

Thank you to the author and the publisher for providing me with a complimentary copy via NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review.

Linda Strong says

DCI Claire Winters is called upon to investigate the horrendous murder of a priest. With a rosary buried in his throat and his chest cut open, it's clearly someone with a lot of rage. But is the rage directed at the priest .. or at the church?

The reader learns early on the WHO .. the WHY is explained via flashbacks.

As other bodies are discovered, obviously killed by the same person, and the closer Claire gets to the truth, she finds herself straight in the line of danger. It's a race to connect the dots to reach the inevitable conclusion.

Being as this is the first of a series, I find myself really looking forward to the other books that follow ... THE PRINCIPLE OF EVIL and SKIN DEEP.

Claire is the kind of character I truly enjoy ... she's been strong enough and smart enough to work up to leading her own team of detectives. She's got a prickly outer shell, but yet on the inside, she's as soft as any woman. She comes with baggage ... a detective who works under her is an ex-lover ... but feelings on both sides still exist. She also has an aging father with whom she has a love/hate relationship.

The plot is tightly woven and knowing who the antagonist is early on does not detract from the story. It's the backstory that holds your attention.

My thanks to the author, NetGalley, and CARINA UK Publishers who furnished a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased opinion.

4.5 Stars

Bill Kupersmith says

Having been asked to help moderate a group may entail shortening one's DNF list, if only to avoid letting down the members of the group who voted the book in as a group read. Like Jane Casey's *The Burning*, this was one of those stories where I found the principal villain much more attractive than the detective. In the case of *For All Our Sins*, tho', it was unnecessary to finish to gain the artistic, spiritual & moral benefits it offered. Unfortunately, most of these bennies were examples of what not to do.

Some caveats: Don't introduce a character & then pretend that the narrators not only doesn't know said character's name, but keep referring to said character as 'they' to avoid indicating whether 'they' are (is?) a man or a woman - especially when the character is obviously acting alone. The reader will not only feel annoyed, but linguistically @ a loss. In this story T. M. E. Walsh is following the recent practice of having two villains, a (very attractive) villain known from the start, & a hidden bad-hat to be revealed later. In this case, both the sex & the identity of villain no. 2 are very easy to spot & revealed long before the end, but not before the reader feels treated like an illiterate & a toady.

In the case of the principal detective, Claire, we also learn that if you are the SIO it is not a good idea of have had an affair with a junior colleague, especially if it's someone you didn't even like (for good reasons). Creates bad morale on the team (including punch-ups). Add divorced parents who hate each other - esp. a non-compliant & querulous dad who is going to find out @ a care home either to become the most cheerful & compliant patient he can be or how debility & dependence can be absolute hell & a mum who ought to remember that it was she who chose to marry him. Of course Claire could reflect as well that she owes her existence to them. In favour of the villains we can say that all their victims deserve killing, tho' to have not just one but three paedophile abusive priests as victims seemed a trifle OTT. (For good measure, couple of thugs, a nasty rental agent, & a vicious dog also get what they deserve.)

In short, this story is thoroughly unpleasant & tho' cheap to buy, the time spent reading it can never be recovered. If you've read Erin Kelly or Angela Marsons, you've done a lot better. If like me, you are an aspiring fiction writer, you will also be encouraged to persist with your efforts. You can probably write @ least as good a story as this.

Cleo Bannister says

This book opens with the horrific murder of a priest who is then left discarded in the church. Enter DCI Claire Winters who is juggling a somewhat unruly team, not helped by the fact she has mixed business with pleasure with her junior Sergeant Michael Diego.

I'll be honest, it took me a little while to get into the swing of this book. I'm not a fan of explicit violence

and Father Wainwright's murder which occurred early on, didn't help. As is the norm with police procedurals there was a whole cast of characters with the police eagerly questioning those who were known to see the priest on his last day. The man identified as being the last to meet the priest was one of his close friends, Mark Jenkins who was also involved in Shrovesbury Manor, a retreat for spiritual enlightenment, where Father Wainwright worked as well as being a regular at his church.

Alongside the police procedural we had flashbacks from the murderer as well as the mysterious Guardian whose identity is shrouded in mystery. The change in viewpoints can be quite brief which can be a little disconcerting, especially early on in the novel. With the team of detectives on the case being well-represented, with banter and egos cropping up in equal measure adding another layer of credibility to the novel. I liked Claire Winters who was strong without ever becoming overbearing and I felt a far more realistic portrayal of a woman in her role than other books in this genre. With the glimpses of her personal life leaking into her time at work was a great, and realistic way of giving the detective character without making the book more about her than the murders.

Despite putting the hours into the investigation it isn't too long before another murder is committed! This time the victim is as far removed from a priest as is possible and the police struggle to find any commonality, except method, to link the two. As the police pick away at the few clues they have, they are left probing at half-truths and outright lies, with a few manipulative tears thrown in for good measure. With some of those they want to question are not willing to oblige, I felt we got a realistic view of a typical murder enquiry and the author handled this aspect really well, I felt involved rather than bored by the investigation because I was busy putting the same clues together, albeit with a bit of extra information.

Often when the identity of the murderer is half-revealed at the start, as in this novel, it is hard to keep the mystery element alive and kicking. After all we know the motive for the murders early on and we also know who is next on the hit-list but despite the author making life unnecessarily hard for herself, there was plenty still to discover and by the time I was a third of the way through I was busily turning the pages at a rate of knots to find out the missing parts of the puzzle. And I can reveal the ending... was terrific!

I'd like to thank Carina who sent me a copy of *For All Our Sins* which was published in paperback format on 6 October 2016.

Claire says

3.5 stars rounded to 3

I find it difficult to rate this book.

The idea behind the storyline was good, if not totally believable but that's usually not an issue with thrillers.

I don't mind being taken back and forth between past and present. But most of the incursions in the past were trying to dab into psychological issues which I thought the author was not handling very well. Generally speaking whenever the author was trying to hint at something rather than just telling it all, it was usually poorly done, which ended up making the "plot twist" predictable.

I don't mind multiple POVs either. But sometimes the POV was changing for a few paragraphs only and I felt it was not helping the overall story development.

This aside, the overall pace of the book was good, with mostly short chapters, until the story reached its "peak" and ... everything seemed to slow down. The plot seemed to drag burdened with too many details and (again) poor psychological babble.

So the book was good, the plot idea was good although the rendition sometimes lacked, I liked DCI Claire Winters although I found her quite complex (shrewd detective yet not always acting on her great deductions, tough and yet so weak a woman ...).

I will be reading the next book because of Claire Winters' character, to see what becomes of her.

Pat says

This book was a riveting read with a strong female lead character in DCI Claire Winters. Winters and her team are tasked with solving the grisly murder of a priest, there is a ritualistic element to the murder. A couple of days later a drug dealer is murdered and displayed with the same mutilations. There doesn't appear to be any connection between the two men.

As Claire interviews the last known person to see the priest alive (before the killer) she feels that something is a bit fishy with him. She goes to see his estranged daughter and the story she tells just confirms her suspicions. Jenkins knows something, but she can't imagine what it might be. Winters continues to track down seemingly unconnected leads and, although she can't see the whole picture, some shape is starting to emerge. Meanwhile, the reader becomes aware (well before the police) that the priest's murder at least is revenge for something that happened years ago.

Added to the mix is an on-going attraction between Winters and her sergeant who had a brief affair a few months ago. Is it distracting her from the case and making her unreasonable? More murders are committed and then a shocking revelation. A shocking end to a most enjoyable book. I'll be keeping an eye out for the next one.

Sharon says

I read this book after reading the 2nd in the series (which I loved) but found this one harder to get into. I liked the characters as they intrigued me, the plot was good as it was pretty gruesome - but I just found it a little drawn out in places - however it was certainly full of twists and intrigue and I'm glad I read the 2nd one first as I may have been put off if I'd read this one first!

Would recommend the author to others

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

What a fantastic kick-off to a great new crime series featuring a strong and likeable female protagonist known as DCI Claire Winters. I am really eager for book two in this series and not all first books inspire me in the same way and you know I read a lot of crime and love it.

DCI Claire Winters has her work cut out for her after finding a priest murdered and realising that this was no

quick death, that the killer had chosen to prolong death with long and agonising torture. What on earth was she up against? The killer and Claire play a game of cat and mouse. The bodies are piling up and the more she digs into the case the more secrets get thrown up!

The plot is great, characters are interesting and there is really nothing not to like. I was happily coming back to the book to read more, eager to find out what the grand finale was going to be. Overall this is a great new series that really impressed. 4.0-4.5 stars from me for this one. I already have book two read to read.

Thanks so much to the publisher for my copy to read and review via NetGalley.

For more of my book reviews, plenty of awesome books to win, and author Q&A events come to:
<https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

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Elizabeth says

I found this book annoying. DCi Winters was not a sympathetic character. She seems determined to screw up her life. She's angry or upset without giving the reader a clear understanding of why which starts to veer into the "hysterical female" danger zone for me. I have no patience for hysterical female characters. There were other gender issues I had with this book but I don't want to put in spoilers.

Breakaway Reviewers says

A grisly string of murders and lots of twists!

Open your crime thriller with the gruesome murder and mutilation of a priest and you're onto a winner, as far as I'm concerned. There followed a well-paced, and rather grisly string of murders with plenty of twists to keep me reading until I turned the final page.

The first in Walsh's series, *For All Our Sins* follows DCI Winters and her team as they track down this disturbed serial killer. A witness to an appalling crime years earlier, the murderer is on the hunt for revenge, and they're not alone. With help from 'The Guardian', they seem to be able to evade the police and leave no clues or forensics in their crime scenes.

A likeable lead, DCI Winters is a strong woman with a creditable home-life and there's just enough depth to each of her colleagues to spark interest without distracting from the story. I will be interested to see how the team develops across the series.

The story was strong and well written, although as with most crime thrillers, it's best to take everything with a pinch of salt. Disbelief suspended, I followed with morbid delight as the murders escalated in violence to their terrible conclusion, willing Winters and her colleagues along all the way.

One of my favourite books of the year and if you enjoy a good (fictional) flogging of the clergy as much as the next man (provided the next man is me) then this is definitely one not to miss.

Anouk

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.

BookwormDH says

Called to the brutal murder of a priest, it is immediately clear to DCI Claire Winters that the victim's death was prolonged, agonising...and motivated by a lust for revenge.

The killer has been clever, there are no clues, no leads. But Claire Winters has never let a killer remain on the streets. Looking for an answer at any cost Claire begins to get closer to the victim's family, but what it reveals turns her murder case into something far more sinister...

When one body becomes two, and then three, Claire finds herself in a race against time to connect the dots between a host of devastating secrets, before the killer strikes again.

WOW!! This book had me completely gripped after the first chapter. An exceptional piece of crime fiction and police procedural writing.

The plot, dialogue and the whole essence of the storyline, keeps you tingling with anticipation until the final pages. Very, very gruesome in parts, but all very in context with the whole dimension of the story.

Just a brilliant and shocking read - I can't recommend it enough!

5*

Nolene Driscoll says

I was given an ARC of this book from Netgalley in return for an honest review.

This book opened with a bang and certainly caught my interest. If you like a book with gruesome murders, a high body count and a clever twist or two well you certainly won't be disappointed. You are made aware of the murderer almost from the beginning but the Guardian remains hidden until the nail biting end, a complete surprise to me but looking back there may have been a clue or two cleverly intertwined into the story. The plot slowly unravels with flashbacks, which eventually show that the victims weren't such innocents themselves. Whether you believe they deserve the punishment metered out to them is up to you.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Cleverly written with lots of blood and gore and a maniacal murderer to satisfy any hardened serial killer crime thriller reader. I believe this is the first book in a new series and I look forward to reading more from T M E Walsh.

A book I would gladly recommend.
