



Pushed Too Far

Ann Voss Peterson

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A TOWN'S TERRIBLE SECRET

Two years ago a woman was brutally murdered, her body burned until only ash and shattered bone remained. Police Sergeant Valerie Ryker solved that case, putting psychopath Dixon Hess in prison for life, and becoming the first female police chief of her tiny Wisconsin town.

A COP'S UNFORGIVABLE MISTAKE

Then the original murder victim turns up in a frozen lake, all in one piece and only recently dead, and Val must enter a race against time. In only forty-eight hours, Hess will be set free, and he wants payback. And Val, her town, and everyone she loves are at the top of his list.

A KILLER'S NEXT VICTIM

But surviving Hess's vengeance is only part of her dilemma. For there's another killer in Lake Loyal. One who may be closer to Val than she knows...

Val will need all the help she can get, including a sexy firefighter, her dead sister's daughter, and a tough Chicago cop named Jack Daniels. Everyone has a breaking point, and Val has just reached hers.

From bestselling romantic suspense author Ann Voss Peterson comes a page-turning thriller of police procedure, passion, and revenge. Make sure you're holding your Kindle tightly with both hands.

Pushed Too Far Details

Date : Published April 17th 2012 by AVP

ISBN :

Author : Ann Voss Peterson

Format : Kindle Edition 290 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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From Reader Review Pushed Too Far for online ebook

Brenda Spangler says

Keeps you turning the pages!

Page turning thriller! Character development needs a little work, possibly some clearer background on the villain. But what was very good was the revelation of the initial current crime, then the subsequent didn't need as much words left to reader to fill in the horror.

Pat says

This book started with an interesting idea. Firefighters pull the body of a woman from a frozen lake. The boss firefighter recognises it as his wife. The only problem is she died two years ago and her body was burnt in a barrel. How can this be? No, the original investigation didn't just assume it was her, mitochondrial DNA showed the body to be from the wife's maternal line and she was the only living female left in that line.

Val Ryker is the police chief of the small Wisconsin town who got the Chief's position on the back of arresting Dixon Hess for the wife's murder. He is languishing in jail and, while there is no doubt he's a very nasty man, he clearly didn't commit the murder he was convicted of so will soon be released.

So who is the burnt body? And who killed her? And did the husband have something to do with it after all? It is Val's job to find out. But she is hampered in her quest as when Hess is released he goes on a killing spree, vowing vengeance on anybody who had anything to do with his wrongful conviction. It gets a bit yucky as he cuts a swathe through the local justice system. Val is surely on the list. As you can guess there may be a dramatic showdown at the end.

It was a solid thriller but not inspiring. It did seem a little melodramatic to me and the budding romance between Val and the fireman seemed inappropriate and unnecessary. Nevertheless, it's the first in a series and I'll give the author the benefit of the doubt and have a start book 2 eventually.

Tere Fredericks says

David Lund is a firefighter in the tiny town of Lake Loyal. He lost his wife two years ago after being murdered and the murder covered up in a fire and hasn't really stopped grieving. He is called to a scene at the lake in the little town where he lives. He suits up, faces the freezing cold, finds the woman, turns her over – and it is his dead wife.

Imagine again, how happy this makes the man who was convicted of her murder and sentenced to life in prison. Sure enough, when the woman he didn't murder turns up dead and he has a really good alibi, the court lets him go. This is not good for those involved in his conviction.

A woman with incredible personal challenges, Val Ryker is the current chief of police in the little town of Lake Loyal. She had been lead investigator of the original murder. The previous chief had retired after the

conviction of the man wrongfully sent to prison and she had been promoted. She has her hands full after the release, and is suspended with pay, and the previous chief returns. Just because she isn't a cop anymore doesn't mean she won't stop investigating. And what she finds is a horror no one ever expected.

This book had me holding my breath at times. I love books that do that for me. The creepy factor in this book kept me up until midnight so I could finish. The ending just blew me away. I did not see THAT coming! As this is a trilogy, with two shorts: one in between book 1 and one after book 3, I am eagerly into book two. I am getting these with Kindle Unlimited.

Josh Smith says

I don't know. I'm not too huge on police mysteries but I also found this one readable. A firefighter pulls a dead body from a lake to discover that it's the body of his wife who died 2 years ago. The killer is going to be released since the body they had him pinned on isn't who they thought it was. Val Ryker is in a rush to make things right, figure out what went wrong, and keep the killer behind bars.

At times it was convoluted. It was a tad bit difficult keeping track of who was who since a number of the characters had roles just small enough to be forgettable. Her partner Becca and Monica are 2 names that come to mind. Having just finished this book I can't even remember the name of Monica's boytoy. The coroner was also a slight miss. He could have been much more colorful but instead didn't have much more descriptions aside from a horny middle-aged man. For someone who had such a prominent role in the murder mystery I found that a bit off-putting. You could also throw in the police chief and the whole police hierarchy which was more of a corollary thing rather than the main focus although it seemed as if it was supposed to be the main focus.

There was also the fact that I often felt like I was reading the second book in the series rather than the first. There was so much alluding back to the previous 2 years that I felt it would be good to have a book that spelled all of that out. I couldn't help but feel like I was missing a large chunk of the characters and the development of their relationships.

I'd say those are the only real grievances I had with the book. Jack Daniels makes an appearance, albeit a short one and Val is somewhat likeable. I can see how she gets along with Jack since they're both so emotionally barren. The plot itself was interesting enough to have me read this in only a couple sittings. If you combine that with the fact that I plan on finishing the series then I can't say it was dreadful. It was okay. Just okay.

Deyth Banger says

"October 6, 2017 – page 184
63.45% "THE END

...

Final Blow in the head - Note"

October 6, 2017 – page 105

36.21%

September 30, 2017 – page 73

25.17% "Presence of any other character than "Val" in my opinion while the reader reads the book can't be felt.

Val did that

Val is that

...

Is Val the killer?

is Val a detective?

...

Who is Val?

...

Too much Val by itself is a endless loop of stupidity."

September 30, 2017 – page 73

25.17% "Cool Facts

The Name "Val" has been used 481 times.

The word "in" 4865 times.

The word "at" 2291 times."

September 30, 2017 – page 58

20.0%

September 29, 2017 – page 36

12.41%

September 29, 2017 – Started Reading"

Ronald Keeler says

We see many novels promoted by comparing the work to other successful, talented writers. It is easy to compare Pushed Too Far by Ann Voss Peterson with novels by Blake Crouch and J. A. Konrath. Peterson has co-written spy thrillers with Konrath. She thanks J. A. Konrath, Maria Konrath and Blake Crouch in her acknowledgments. Were the claim of similarity made, it would be truth in advertising. Which is almost an oxymoron, but I digress.

This excellent thriller will appeal to readers who like to see a feminist protagonist overcome serious challenges. Val Ryker has many of those. A small-town police chief in Wisconsin, she obtained her position in advance of seniority rights by a successful prosecution of a serial killer. Fame allowed her to claim the position over an assumed successor after the retirement of Chief Schneider. Val had considered Schneider a valuable mentor and, in a town where everyone knew everyone, his support meant much to the town citizens.

Val's problem was not that Dixon Hess was guilty of murder; there were implications of several murders he

had committed. Hess was not charged with similar murders; he was charged and convicted of Kelly Lund's murder. The state case against Hess was based on the identification of Kelly's incinerated body found in a barrel. Although DNA identified the body as a Lund, it wasn't Kelly. Two years after the murder occurred, Kelly's body surfaced in a lake. She was dead a second time and the death was recent. Val's position was in danger and a convicted murderer would soon be set free. Hess had his own idea of social justice, one that was extreme. For Hess, it was not an eye-for-an-eye; he believed in total, gruesome annihilation of everyone who had ever wronged him. Val, and everyone around her as well as everyone connected to the case, were in danger.

As if Val's professional life didn't contain enough turbulence, her private life simmered at a low level with long-lasting problems. Cancer had killed her sister and Val stepped up to raise her sister's teenage daughter, Melissa. Although Val did not feel burdened by the task, Melissa was a teenager with all problems that seem to be part of a teenager growing up. Val considered Melissa over-protective with her desire to become more involved in Val's professional life and the re-opened case against Hess. Melissa became more aggressive with her insistence on helping Val after Melissa discovered a diagnosis of Val's multiple sclerosis, a genetic disorder as Val informed Melissa.

This is a fast-paced thriller which will motivate readers to continue to the end without stopping. Readers may want to schedule this for a weekend read so as not to show up for work bleary-eyed. As Dixon Hess pursues his course of exacting revenge against several people, the descriptions of torture may bother some but trigger warnings are not necessary. Pushed Too Far fits comfortably in a horror/thriller genre. Fans of the genre will not be offended. Sexual situations are extremely restrained as far as description.

Ann Voss Peterson is a successful novelist with over thirty novels to her credit. This novel, published in 2012, is an additional affirmation of her talent. I look forward to reading more of her works in the Small Town Secrets. Pushed Too Far is USD 4.99 on Amazon and is free with a Kindle Unlimited subscription. My rating is four plus Amazon stars.

Katbyrdie says

I had mixed feelings about this book. I liked it, but was confused over a lot of the author's choices. I still don't understand the hand numbness. I mean I understand the disease, but I don't get why it was needed in the story. Also, when I first started the book I kept thinking I had missed a previous story because I thought I was already supposed to know what was happening with the hand. Another issue I had was the twist. I'm not sure if it was due to the fact that I took a break between reading this or what, but by the time it came to reveal who was doing what, I didn't remember who was who or understand all of the connections. I didn't think the "romance" made any sense either. It felt thrown in. All that being said, this book has one of the best deaths EVER. That is probably what redeemed it for me. Overall, it was an alright book that wasn't life changing.

Lynda Kelly says

I jacked this in at 38% in the end. It was too confusing and was just beginning to irritate me, then one mistake too many ensured I deleted it.

In the plaudits right at the start the title was written as Pushed To Far which should've tipped me off. Pretty appalling to get the title wrong before we even begin.

Then she kept referring back near the start to only having 48 hours available to them while never explaining why that was the case. Again with a remark made to Val at one time about a crime happening next door to where she lived. It was cryptic and meant nothing to me whatsoever. I find it hard to believe Val was wanting to flirt with one of her chief suspects as well. A little farfetched.

She has an irritating habit of slinging made-up words in such as squicked or slapbrush, bizarrely.

There were misplaced apostrophes, missing commas and fullstops and I packed in it when somebody was asked if they wanted to wave their right to an attorney.....enough.

SeaGrace says

Caution: Slight spoiler ahead...

For a free Kindle read, I was very pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. The part I liked most was the way the heroine's "disability" was realistically portrayed. Because I have family members with the same disease, I guessed what Val's problem was early on. I thought the denial aspect and Val's actions were spot on.

The part I didn't like was the romance, the attraction seemed awkward and forced. Also, because the story didn't end with a HEA (happily ever after) it should not be considered as a romance, but as suspense with romantic elements (although I didn't feel it was realistic romance either.)

This book contains some gruesome violence but those scenes were written without too much graphic language.

All in all, the book kept my attention throughout and was a chilling, interesting read.

Victoria says

Very good read

Chris Norbury says

High-quality craft and a unique MC combined with a compelling storyline make this a winner. Nothing fancy about this book--it's a solid romantic suspense thriller about a small-town female cop who put away the wrong man (in more ways than one). Now he wants revenge and he's taking it out on her friends and loved ones, working his way up to her.

No wasted words, crisp and taut, with a sustained tension that builds steadily. Also includes just the right amount of romance, especially when we find out her love interest is also a suspect in the latest murder.

Remindful of the Kate Burkholder mysteries by Linda Castillo.

Renee says

Was a decent quick read. Could have done without the Harlequin Romance detour, but not bad

rameau says

Read this: <http://jakonrath.blogspot.com/2012/05...>

and download free from Amazon right now.

D. E. says

AVP. writes a good western, but her thought process of the criminal mind is unbelievable. As I read this novel my forethought were this is being written by an ex detective. A man accused of murder and sent to jail only to find the real culprit at a later date. Then to top it all off the lady police chief becomes a target. You will not want to put this novel down once you begin to read it. This is an excellent read for the genre.....DEHS

Renee Lambert says**Such a fantastic storyteller!**

I've read a ton of books by this author and they all stand well on their own as well as combined
