



Cold Kill

Neil White

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Every breath you take, he'll be watching you...

When Jane Roberts is found dead in a woodland area Detective Sergeant Laura McGanity is first on the scene. The body bears a chilling similarity to a woman -Deborah Corley -murdered three weeks earlier. Both have been stripped, strangled and defiled. When reporter Jack Garrett starts digging for dirt on the notorious Whitcroft estate, he finds himself face-to-face with Jane's father and gangland boss Don who will stop at nothing until justice is done. It seems that the two murdered women were linked in more ways than one and a dirty secret is about to surface that some would prefer stay buried. As the killer circles once more, Jack and Laura must get to him before he strikes again. But his sights are set on his next victim and he's watching Laura's every move...

Cold Kill Details

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Author : Neil White

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From Reader Review Cold Kill for online ebook

ReadandRated says

The blurb: Every breath you take, he'll be watching you...

When Jane Roberts is found dead in a woodland area Detective Sergeant Laura McGanity is first on the scene. The body bears a chilling similarity to a woman – Deborah Corley –murdered three weeks earlier. Both have been stripped, strangled and defiled.

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I enjoyed this book, it had engaging characters and a horrible storyline!

I really liked the dynamics between DS McGanity and her reporter boyfriend. That is until I read the blurb for the next book and realised that yet again it is she who solves the case after he somehow receives exclusive clues. That means it will be the exact same book but with slightly different suspects. Hmmm.

And yes, I know that there are other series out there which I love and therefore it's the same DS who continually solves the crimes, but, I think it's the fact that it's a cop/reporter relationship and the reporter ALWAYS happens across very vital information and is brave enough to dive in headfirst to solve things.

I loved that about this book (hey, no one said I wasn't a contrary Mary) but I just don't know if it would be insulting for it to keep happening? Maybe I just need to read another one and find out.

Anyway, this book, well woven story with lots of little bits and pieces that kept you guessing. If you like crime thrillers then you'll like it. Simple.

Nick Davies says

Without wanting to be harsh on something which had few faults (and wishing to note that this would be a 3.5 if half stars were possible), most of what I have to say about this would be adjectives about it being solid and grounded and well-structured and workmanlike. I was interested to see another reviewer mention that they were left feeling they might've read too many novels of this ilk, as I felt a little like that too.

This police procedural (heavy on the 'procedure', which meant it took a while to get going) was set in the north of England, and had a cast of characters who felt real and not excessively 'soap opera' in nature. I'd draw comparisons with Peter Robinson in that manner, though the crimes were a little more gory and nasty than the average 'cosy' thriller. I believed the characters (not too much superhuman ability) and the storyline - women being killed and left with their mouths and vaginas stuffed with earth - was actually quite clever

and generally I felt it was possible as opposed to fantastic.

Though the writing and the style didn't elevate it to the top of my 'must read more' lists (it took a long time for me to feel involved in the story) it also wasn't full of the faults that some of the books I have read recently - SJ Bolton and Tim Weaver for instance - have had. I'll keep an eye out for others in the series.

Oh, and PS - it's so refreshing to have a woman detective who isn't constantly worrying what her male colleagues think of her and fighting crushes on every man she works with!

Kulpreet Yadav says

Clever. Cold Kill is a real page turner – brilliantly plotted, believable characters straight out of normal life and a tight narrative. This was the first crime fiction by Neil White I've read and I am already thinking of more. A couple of my writer friends turned me towards this and I must say that I relished every bit of it.

The story is set in Blackley, a small county in Northern England where, three weeks apart, two young beautiful girls end up dead. They have been sexually violated in most heinous of ways. Jack, a freelance reporter, is commissioned by a local daily to cover the story. Moved by the extremeness of the killings and seeking out a connection between the two dead women, he wakes up to an invisible smokescreen he was earlier oblivious of. The police investigations go in circles and his girlfriend, Detective constable Laura, who is in the investigation squad, doesn't share the details of the progress. As his desperation to do a good story makes him to uncover more layers and travel extra miles, he becomes a conduit for the killer to communicate with the police. The killer is smart and to send his e mails to Mike he uses proxy servers they can't locate. The dangling loose ends multiply as another woman ends up dead. With it the police realize that for once they would have to work with Mike. Together they churn the dirty waters of people's past and soon enough skeletons come tumbling out.

I loved the persuasiveness of the narrative. This is a book you can't put down. Just one thing that I found odd. Almost every character – most of all Laura –blushed a lot. In every situation. Someone should count the number of times the word has been used by Neil. I bet it would be over 100.

Kavita Favelle says

A great thriller, perfect for reading on bus, train or plane - a great distraction from the monotonies of travel! Really interesting story, and interplay between the characters. A great read.

Derek Hayward says

An easy read

A good yarn. Went along at a decent pace. Would like to see more development of the characters. Will read another of the same series.

Karl Wiggins says

Cold Kill kept me on the edge of my seat because although we're 'kind of' introduced to the killer early on we're not really sure, and we're certainly unclear about his inclinations. The women he murders appear to be more than just random picks, but what's the connection? Is there a connection at all? There's something there, but we don't know what. And who's the mysterious Emma?

The killer degrades and defiles these women. He vitiates them, but why?

As different parts of the plot are absorbed into each other and everything becomes clearer the reader feels repugnance towards the killer. There are even hints of an uncomfortable – although unenlightened - Jocasta complex.

The plot takes us back to 1976 and although in real life we imagine no one will recall events almost 40 years ago, we do. As Jack sets off to interview club doormen to see if they've anything to add to the mystery, I found myself recalling that I myself worked the doors in the late 70's and early 80's, and those memories are still clear as day.

This book is a good conundrum, and I'd recommend it. Well deserving of four stars.

James says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

I normally don't read crime fiction, although I do love crime shows on t.v. I did try to read P D JAMES but just couldn't get into her books. It was with some trepidation that I started this book. I was to get really quickly into the story. The book opens with a murder from the killers point of view and then switches across to the other two main characters - a detective and her partner, a journalist. These three concurrent story lines really help, and play a major part in providing the detailed setting that many people can relate to - a working class town where industry has gone, and youth crime is on the rise.

Throughout the story you start to get a few ideas on who the killer is but it twists and turns and as you expect it turns out not to be who you think it is. There is a lot of things going on around the story which are not directly part of the main storyline but really help to make the setting more real and this is the strength of the story - these people are real you can believe that they exist, you are drawn into their world and start to empathise with some and be revolted by others.

Vicki - I Love Reading says

another great book by Neil white. really enjoyed it. now onto his next one.

Graham says

Another enjoyable read from NW. It was tricky at times to know who to root for as even the bad guys had every reason to get their hands on the killer. Conversely, one of the good guys is a journalist and their reputation made it hard to pull for him. I didn't really believe such a small town hack would be that brave. Laura's boss was a bit of a stereotype and her partner, Joe remained a bit of a mystery to me as he was so cerebral. I wondered if he had been a character from another book I had yet to read.

A very minor point were the characters Joe and Jack with the same initial, I found I was mixing them up more than once.

Elusive says

In 'Cold Kill', someone is targeting attractive young women and brutally torturing them to death. When Jane Roberts - the daughter of a notorious man in the neighbourhood - winds up as the latest victim, DC Laura and her reporter partner Jack work together to figure out the identity of the perpetrator. Along the way they discover a possible connection between Jane and Deborah who had been murdered weeks earlier. Will Jack and the police be able to stop this ruthless killer before the body count piles up?

The story was told using third-person narrative featuring different characters' respective perspectives - namely Jack, Laura and the criminal. As usual, I enjoyed Jack's point of view the most because he seemed to be doing a hell of a lot more legwork and investigation than the police. I still find it hilarious that he always puts the pieces of the puzzle together way faster than the cops. Anyhow, Jack ventured into an incredibly dangerous territory this time - more risky than before considering the threats and warnings issued by Jane's father, Don. It was great that he stuck to his principles.

The crime and mystery aspects were very well done indeed. The case was complex with the truth and answers buried underneath many layers comprising the past and present. In the beginning, the murders appeared to be committed by someone perverted, sick and in need of help but they turned out to be more than that. The killer's motive was well-thought-out. As much as I didn't condone what he'd done to those poor women, I could understand his desire for (view spoiler) though he really should have just gone straight to the (view spoiler).

There were a couple of red herrings and plot twists which were perfectly incorporated into the story. Even when I thought I had figured out how the criminal knew about the latest developments, I was in for a surprise. There were no loose ends; everything was tied up perfectly. That was satisfying. The pivotal scene nestled within the last few chapters was aptly jam-packed with tension. Jack displayed so much bravery and determination that without a doubt made him the star of this book.

Overall, 'Cold Kill' delivered a suspenseful mystery that kept me turning the pages. It was morbid and realistic but at the same time it also highlighted elements such as love, morals and strength. The sweet ending was fitting too.

Nikki says

Cold Kill is Neil White's fifth book starring Jack Garret and Laura McGanity – a couple that, despite their very different careers (Jack is a journalist, Laura a policewoman) both find themselves investigating grisly crimes on a regular basis. I hadn't read any of White's previous offerings, but this works brilliantly as a standalone novel.

The story is set in Lancashire, England, and begins with the gruesome murder of a young woman. This is the second crime of its type in a few weeks, and the plot follows the chase to catch the killer before he strikes again.

This might sound like the formula for a typical crime novel, but *Cold Kill* is unique in the way that there are two 'sides' to the investigation. Not only do Laura and the police team work tirelessly to solve the case, but Jack is also digging for information – so he can write about it for the local newspaper. There were times when it seemed like Jack was finding out more than the police (slightly odd, perhaps) but I loved seeing another dimension to the case, outside of the official police investigation. There are obviously people that feel happier talking to a journalist than a cop, and Jack's involvement brought another level to the twisty plotline.

The relationship between Laura and Jack didn't strike me as being particularly loving – there seemed to be a distance between them – but reading the previous novels might give a better understanding of their history. That said, Laura's slightly cold personality seemed justified when her partner's career can put her in a difficult position, and White handled this well.

It's difficult to convey the brilliance of the plot without giving away spoilers, but I was hooked. *Cold Kill* is fast-paced and exciting from start to finish, with a killer's motive so deeply entangled in the storyline that every time you think you understand everything, another vital detail is revealed. It's an extremely clever and detailed book, and I will definitely be reading more from Neil White.

This review was originally published at Judging Covers.

Dhira Vidhea says

Gripping

I'd frankly not expected to enjoy the book as much as I did having read it. I'm not a big fan of mystery tales in general and have only read very few of the genre in the past. I simply wasn't engrossed to how stories as such are written and I don't fancy their intricacies either. I find that stories under that particular genre can often be too perplexing for me to dig.

But I guess I was too quick to presume so, because this novel had succeeded in shifting my perception towards the genre completely. The book was great. It has a good overall plot and an amazing character development embellished with a very descriptive word illustration. It comprises numerous twists, turns and information dumps that is complex enough to get me thinking, but not too knotty to the extent of confusing me. I must applaud Neil for being able to find that balance among all aspects.

However, there's one facet that I figure can be improved. And that is the often unnecessary details within the

text. I understand that stories of this sort ought to be written at a certain level of meticulous-ness, but at some points throughout the novel, it has very much exceeded that line of level. Yet it's still a strikingly beautiful novel and I'd recommend it to absolutely everybody.

Sophie Disley says

Bog standard crime thriller. Enjoyed it and the characters were ok but it didn't grip me the way others have - John Connelly had kinda spoiled me a bit I think. I'd read other books by Neil White if I saw them second hand or cheap on Kindle but I'm not desperate to seek them out.

Nicky Mottram says

Good read

Jenny Macdonald says

Nicely written and good read. Exciting with a few twists along the way.
