



## Still Waters: A Mystery

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## **Still Waters: A Mystery** Nigel McCrery

When the badly decayed body of an elderly woman is unearthed, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Lapslie and his sergeant, Emma Bradbury, are called in on the case. The body provides only two mysterious clues to the identity of the murderer: someone with a deadly knowledge of household plants used shears to clip the fingertips off the corpse's right hand. But this dearth of evidence is not Lapslie's only problem. He's just returned to the force after a year of relative isolation, trying to avoid the worst symptoms of his synaesthesia, a neurological condition that causes him to "taste" sound and that makes his life as complicated as any crime he's been charged with solving. Now he's flooded again--not only with the convolution of senses that can drive him nearly mad but also with the increasing convolutions of the case. The murder appears to be the work of a serial killer, and the investigation is leading in a direction that could be extremely detrimental to Lapslie's career--if not to his very life.

Razor-sharp, viscerally descriptive, mesmerizingly eerie and entertaining--and with one of the most clever, ruthless, and sympathetic villains to appear in ages--*Still Waters* is a stunning start to an exciting new series.

## **Still Waters: A Mystery Details**

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## **From Reader Review Still Waters: A Mystery for online ebook**

### **Joseph says**

I generally liked the British settings and the characters and plot of this mystery. I really liked the weapon of choice of the murderer and how the murderer made use of it in so many ways throughout the story. I wasn't thrilled with the switching back and forth of the viewpoints, though. I enjoyed this book up until the very end. The ending was a little bit of a let down, it was just too simple a conclusion.

I hope to see another book by this author that further develops the characters of Detective Mark Lapslie, his sergeant Emma Bradbury, and Dr. Jane Catherall because I really liked these characters and found their unique characteristics very interesting.

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### **Keri says**

When you are in the mood for an Agatha Christie like murder mystery then this book is for you. With a twist of course, as DCI Mark Lapslie, our lead inspector, lives in a daily hell. He has a condition called, synaesthesia, where he "taste" sounds. Like when somebody speaks to him he gets the taste of lime on his tongue or the laughter of his kids taste like vanilla. So of course his life hasn't been very pleasant in the last couple of years. He has been off of work almost a year, when he gets a call that he is wanted to investigate a crime scene with a dead body.

Soon, however, the more Mark investigates, the more he realizes that this may not be the only victim involved. As he battles his condition in order to persevere in his investigation, there seems to be somebody in the background that doesn't want him to succeed in solving this crime. Meanwhile it appears that the hunter has another prey in sight...

I liked Mark, I can imagine him saying some of his sarcastic remarks in his British accent and I just smile. I look forward to reading more of the investigations of DCI Mark Lapslie.

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### **Theresa Leone Davidson says**

A very good, very suspenseful thriller about a serial killer outside of London and the police officer who is investigating. I read another of McCrery's novels, Silent Witness, a while back, and it was good but this one is much better. Also interesting is that the main character, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Lapslie, suffers from synesthesia, a neurological condition, and it causes him to be isolated from his colleagues, friends, even his own family, and it makes for an even more compelling story. I would definitely recommend!

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### **Denise Ward says**

#### **Great read**

I chose this rating because it had me on the edge of my seat and is a real page turner!!! Crime lovers will

thoroughly enjoy this book. Its Minette Walters meets Mo Hayder. Didn't see the end coming, can't wait to read the next book to find out what happens to Mark Lapslie

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### **Kathrina says**

I bought this book years ago based on some unjustified belief that this book had sought me out. After the adrenaline rush of reading *The Night Sister*, I thought this one might keep up the momentum, but I was rather disappointed. The pivotal story is interesting, but the author gives equal attention to the investigator and his personal quirks and backstory, probably in the hopes to develop an arc for a series (I guess this is the first of many). While the writing isn't bad, I found I wasn't much interested in his story, and was frustrated that each chapter predictably moved back and forth between the murderer and the investigator -- his unusual form of synesthesia (which had no bearing on the action at all), his recent divorce, his paranoia in being manipulated by his boss. The final explanation of his paranoia is based on some very sketchy ideas about the British criminal justice system and reentry practice that didn't hold much water for me, and it really dulled down my ability to enjoy the murder plot, which should have stayed front and center -- a crazy old lady with granny issues.

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### **Brooke says**

*Still Waters* is a solid murder mystery with some interesting aspects. The protagonist is a detective who has synaesthesia (he tastes sounds), which prevents him from functioning normally. The murderer is an elderly woman who poisons other elderly women. This isn't a "whodunit" since we spend half the book with her, but the mystery lies in how the police will connect the initial body to her and track her down before she can do more damage.

Nothing knocked me over, but I did enjoy the unusual characters. They added some flavor (no pun intended) to the typical mystery novel.

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### **Joan says**

I found this on one of my searches for British detective series on KU. The premise is gorgeous (not giving anything away here) and I loved the start of the story. There was some truly beautiful writing:

*'Polio,' she said, her voice tasting of brandy and soda.*

And this:

*'I sometimes worry,' Lapslie said, 'about what might happen if you guys ever decide to go freelance.'*  
*'We do talk about setting up a murder consultancy,' Burrows admitted. 'But we'd have to register for VAT and everything, and it's just too much trouble.'*

THAT was perfect!

I loved the purity of the writing - no typos, no redundancies, no clumsy errors - and the police procedure

parts were a joy to read. I wasn't that smitten with the pov of the murderer, but that is my own personal quirk.

Lapslie was a bit of a mystery though. I would have loved more details of his personal life - we learned very little about his life really. I wanted to 'see' him as I read, to know what his house was like and his bedroom and what he did in the evening. It was a bit 'thin' in that respect and I did feel a little cheated. However, the writing was gorgeous and the crime brilliantly detailed. I also loved the inclusion of a major criminal from Lapslie's past.

Rating wise I am really not sure how to rate this. It's a definite three star, but the writing and the overall plot deserve more. I wanted to give this 5 stars, but I was left feeling that there was a lot I didn't know about Lapslie and he was still a bit unformed.

I will, however, definitely read the next book in the series.

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### **Shonna Froebel says**

This is a very different mystery novel. Main character DCI Mark Lapslie gets called off sick leave when a traffic accident brings a body to light. Mark doesn't understand why he would be linked with this case. He's been off on leave due to his acute synaesthesia. Mark's version of this means that sounds set off tastes for him. The sensory overload at work was too stressful, and the condition has even affected his marriage. Both voices and other sounds trigger the tastes and sometimes they are extremely unpleasant. Even when not, they don't always go together well.

The body that has come to light has been dead around 9 months and has had some fingers chopped short after death. It also appears that the victim was poisoned. Lapslie is intrigued by the case and despite some discouragement from his superiors keeps doggedly on, following every clue he has.

We also see some of the story from the murderer's viewpoint, a woman who ingratiates herself with elderly isolated women and then poisons them and assumes their identity.

How is Lapslie connected with her and will he be able to find her before she finds and kills her next victim. This is a very interesting plot and although very violent, makes a great and engrossing story

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### **Amanda Drugan says**

#### **cleverly written**

Horrific start! Cleverly written and descriptive so you felt you knew the locations etc. if anything, a little drawn out and a quick ending leaving you wanting it to go on a bit longer as the rest of book had.

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### **Patricia says**

A very young girl witnesses a horrible crime committed by a person in her family that should have loved and protected her. This event so warped this girl that she went on throughout her entire life committing crime after crime. Her murder weapon is not a knife or a gun. Her weapon is her knowledge of common plants that any of us might have in our garden. But the plants can kill if handled in the proper manner.

The girl, now a woman, has many names. It is amazing that she can keep track of who she is and who she has been and who she intends to be. She stalks women that are old and vulnerable. She befriends them and then when she has their confidence she takes kills them and takes over their identity. There is no great financial gain to be had in her method. She sells off anything of value and rents out whatever real property the victim owned. Then she moves on to the next victim. Just one mistake leads to her downfall.

She is forced to abandon one of the bodies in the woods due to her car breaking down. Now the police have discovered that body and the investigation begins.

Mark Lapslie is a detective on leave. He suffers from Synesthesia. Sounds turn into taste to Mark. For example, when his phone rings he tastes dark chocolate. The problem has caused a break up in his family. The everyday noise of family life is too much for Mark to handle. Now he is being called back to work. He has been contacted by DS Bradbury, a female officer. She is at the scene of a car crash and the crash of the car has caused the body that was left when the car broke down to be discovered.

Lapslie and Bradbury begin an investigation that leads them to some of the most horrific murders that can be imagined. But the investigation is not easy. Someone does not want them to catch the murderer.

This book is very different, exciting and horrifying. It is unbelievable how a person can be twisted so in their life to commit such violence against unsuspecting, trusting women.

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### **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

Okay quick! Check Amazon to see if this fantastic book is still free, if it is grab it! If it's not - grab it. I was enthralled by this visceral book by the creator of Silent Witness and my full raving review is on way!

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### **ΠανώςK says**

Μ?τριο μεν, τ?μιο δε. Για αν?γνωσμα Σ?ββατο βρ?δυ με κουβ?ρτα στον καναπ? - Κυριακ? πρω? κ?τω απ' τα σκεπ?σματα, καλ? ?ταν. Προβληματικ?ς ο προβληματισμ?ς που προσπαθε? ο συγγραφ?ας να αναδε?ξει σχετικ? με το σ?στημα δικαιοσ?νης και την απονομ? αυτ?ς (δεν λ?ω περισσ?τερα για να μη σπο?λερι?σω). Ωρα?ο το ε?ρημα με τη νευρολογικ? κατ?σταση του αστυν?μου Λ?πσλι, αλλ? μ?λλον μ?νει ανεκμετ?λλευτο. Ωρα?ο το φιν?λε. Στιλ γραφ?ς τυπικ?, στα ?ρια του ανεκτο?. Μισ? αστ?ρι παραπ?νω απ' ?τι πραγματικ? ?ξιζε.

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### **Elke says**

This was a spontaneous purchase from a rummage table. I had never heard of the author or book before, but the premise caught my attention and I thought it would make a decent holiday read. And I was rewarded indeed with a great story. The complex M.O., poisoning her victims and taking on their identities one after another, was very original, while the choice of an elderly woman as serial killer was unusual but fitting. The investigating DCI also was different, as Mark Lapslie suffers from synaesthesia, which manifests in all kinds of flavors invading his taste buds upon hearing different sounds. While this condition partly benefits his job,

at most times it is a great challenge he has to endure.

But as if the combination of these two bizarre characters wasn't enough, the author adds a third element of surprise, which at the end explains some mysteries and connections. However, I thought it was too much and spoiled the otherwise perfectly balanced alternation between investigator and criminal, therefore "only" four stars. However, I will definitely check out the next book in the series.

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### **Ev says**

A brilliant read! An unexpected villain and a cop with synaesthesia creating an original plot.

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### **Angela says**

Wow! What an incredible page-turner this book is! I was captivated from the first page and it did not disappoint. I love the originality this story held. I guarantee there is not another book quite like it with the same storyline. Core of Evil actually scared me at some points - not an easily achieved feat for books.

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