



Water Music

Margie Orford

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When an emaciated three-year-old is found on an icy hillside on the brink of death, profiler Clare Hart discovers no one has reported the dark-haired boy as missing.

To further complicate matters, a distraught woman approaches Clare to find her granddaughter, a gifted cellist, who has abandoned her music scholarship and been lured in by a reclusive religious sect and its charismatic leader.

As Clare investigates these two cases, the murder of a young couple makes her suspect they are linked in ways she initially finds impossible to fathom. But as the case becomes clearer, she realizes even more is at stake than one girl's life...

Water Music Details

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From Reader Review Water Music for online ebook

Ann says

I liked this story set in Cape Town, South Africa. Some of the names and terminology was a little difficult to get used to but the story and characters were wonderful and likable. This was a mystery thriller centered on missing children and the country's attempt to solve their disappearance. Clair, the hero of the book is tough and tenacious. Even though the bureaucrats are trying to shut down her unit, she works hard to finish up the cases that are still unsolved. This is the 5th book in the Clair Hart series and can be read without the other 4.

Julie says

Water Music, A Clare Hart Mystery by Margie Orford is a 2014 Witness Impulse publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

This is the second book I have read in this series and I have to say these are riveting and unique mysteries. Clare's character sets the tone for the series. She is a complicated woman not given to extreme emotions other than an occasional fit of temper which is usually aimed at someone preventing her from doing her job. Yet we know internally she feels things very deeply. As the story opens on the fifth installment, we quickly discover Clare is facing a huge personal issue. But, before she can really digest the ramifications of it, she is called in to work the case of a child who was discovered half starved to death and unable to explain what happened to her.

Clare is also well aware that her unit could be the victim of a lot bureaucratic BS and may not be around too much longer.

When a grandfather implores Clare to look into his granddaughter's sudden disappearance she feels compelled to help him, even if the girl is older and thus outside her usual expertise. We learn right off this missing girl did not up and leave without notice all on her own. Foul play was most certainly involved. But, the investigation is slow in both cases, agonizingly so. The two cases are each puzzling, but the brilliant Cellist who vanishes into thin air was the thread I was the most invested in. While Clare covers the usual ground such as interviewing teachers, friends, classmates and such, the story took on the flavor of a good old school police procedural. Forensics is of course a big part of these mysteries and once more it helped lead Clare in the right direction.

The investigation begins to become more and more murky, but we soon learn the two cases are interwoven and when Clare connects the dots and realizes what has happened to the missing girl, that knowledge may die with her, as she herself becomes a target.

The atmosphere is dark and foreboding, emotional and really creepy. This story deals with some disturbing subject matter and some passages are very difficult to read. The author does not sugarcoat or gloss over certain details. The location also lends an eerie quality to the story as the backdrop of the crime is a beautiful place, but the residents are a sort of clannish, a little different, and a lot suspicious. Once Claire establishes the facts and begins to get closer to the truth, the book quite abruptly switches gears and the suspense becomes nearly unbearable.

I did enjoy the ending and am happy with how Clare dealt with her personal issues and I am super curious how this will effect her in future installments of this series. Over all this one is a solid addition to a very

understated and underrated crime series. 4.5 rounded to 5

Avril says

A very fast and exciting read-set in and around the Cape Peninsula, South Africa- with some really horrifying scary parts but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

S.A. Partridge says

Police profiler Dr Clare Hart's life is in turmoil. She is facing a personal crisis, her lover is deep undercover, and her special unit to investigate child-related crimes is being threatened by politics and bureaucracy. The discovery of an emaciated child in the mountains above Hout Bay forces her to put her personal life on hold, and she's soon deeply involved in two seemingly unrelated cases. With time running out and the bodies piling up, Dr Hart has no choice but to pursue her leads alone, putting her in more danger than she's ever been before. Water Music marks the triumphant return of South Africa's queen of crime, Margie Orford. It's nail-biting crime fiction at its best. I am addicted to Margie Orford's fast-paced, edge-of-your-seat style of writing.

Margaret Crampton says

This is a really good thriller set in Cape Town. A real page turner and Margie Orford at her best.

Bookread2day says

Water Music is a unputdownable thriller that sits right at the top of tree. I can see that Margie cares deeply about all of her characters. It is easy to believe every character and every scene.

Cassie takes a nice canter on her horse through Bridle Path in Cape Town. The Bridle Path is rarely used in summer and never used in winter. As Cassie is riding through Bridle Path disaster takes a toll as the wind tore a sheet of plastic from under a tree Cassie's horse reared and Cassie came tumbling off her horse. I won't say what happens next but what I will say is that the story starts to take a dark turn from here on, that have you wanting to know more.

Jayne Bauling says

The fifth novel in Orford's Clare Hart series and as tension-filled as the first four. Death is never just a hook for the story in these books; it has significance as the curtailment or prevention of something of value, warmth and sentience; it matters. There is compassion for the bleak, lonely or horrific ends of the victims. This one develops into a cold-sweat race against time. With a side-plot of corruption/political interference to frustrate their urgent attempts to unravel the sinister truth and effect a rescue, leaving them feeling powerless

and vulnerable, Clare and Riedwaan also face real, urgent issues in their own troubled lives.

Katy says

First one I've read in this series, and the 5th book, so I felt like a lot of previous information was missing, but I picked it up at the library without realising. Crime series set in Cape Town following a woman described on the back as a profiler, although I wouldn't have figured that out just from this book, Dr Clare Hart. Clare works with the child protection team, but they seem to be affiliated with neither the police, the medical community nor any kind of governmental social services team, and I couldn't quite work out how the person she denied had any authority to shut her team down promptly went on to do just that while she was busy conducting what should have been a police investigation except that she just got her policeman boyfriend to drag in suspects for her to question without either of them thinking to tell his boss, even when they realised the links to a dead body that had been found. Rounding up to 3 stars because I assume some of the flaws are due to not having read the first 4 books, but I really felt it needed more editing: as an example, in the space of a few seconds, the pathologist manages to state "She's about your height, Clare... Height, all that stuff I'll do in the lab, but for now I'd say she's about your height too. Five foot four, but she can't weigh more than forty kilos." I kept getting jarred out of the flow of writing by little details like that.

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Anne Chappel says

Crime writing: sets a scene and we are hooked to find out who survives and who does not and how it all unfolds. It is a trap. At its best the writing compensates and opens up a world of interesting people and places. However, I was disappointed by this first book of Margie Orfords that I have read. I get the sense that she has rushed it, churned it out. The pace is full on, but after a while I found it all too unbelievable and it annoyed me. The several editing mistakes I found added to my annoyance. It is as if here is a stock formula and Margie has followed it along without any magical writing. It never takes off. I was pleased to finish it - If you want the best of South African crime writing go to Deon Meyer. He is an author that shows you how it should be done.

Tony Motte says

Orford at her best!

Fast paced, twisty story line, gutsy Cape Town at its best

Underlying digs at government and corruption and not many redeeming moments to allow you to relax as you are forced to turn the pages even if you will not make that meeting in time.

The book was read in one 5 hour car journey, which passed in a flash

The only problem I have with this writer is she cannot write fast enough.

Karin brynard says

A taut fast paced thriller with an intriguing main character in the form of police profiler Dr Clare Hart and her lover, the sexy-cool capt Riedwaan Faizal. Orford lifts the pretty lid off beautiful Hout Bay - and with incredibly explosive results!

Ali says

This was a quick read, and pretty engaging, particularly as the story went on.

It took me a while to get into the writing style, which I thought could have used more polish - a lot of this was heavy on telling, rather than showing, which meant that the dialogue felt unnatural and awkward throughout. The villains also felt cartoonishly villainous, and Clare busting off on her own to fight crime made her feel more like Nancy Drew than anyone actually involved in law enforcement.

Still, I liked Clare as a character, and I certainly found parts of this story memorable - even haunting.

I wasn't particularly happy with how the pregnancy plot was handled, particularly the reactions from the gynaecologist, Riedwaan and Clare's sister. I fear it's perfectly common for pregnant women to face the unquestioning assumption that they *will* carry to term and they *must* have a baby before they're too old and they could *only have bad reasons* for not wanting to do that, but the narrative did very little to challenge that, and the resolution was predictable.

Marina Sofia says

I read this in one day, just couldn't put it down. Not just because it was exciting, but it really was emotional, tugged at my heartstrings. This is not the touristy Cape Town we like to imagine, but a very gritty story about violence against women in particular, and the consequences of poverty. Corruption at the highest levels and the conflict between police and unions in a post-apartheid South Africa are also tangentially addressed. This is my first Margie Orford, but it certainly won't be my last.
