



Don't Look Behind You

Mel Sherratt

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She got into bed but sleep didn't come easily. Every creak in the house made her alert. She was waiting for him to come and get her.

The small city of Stockleigh is in shock as three women are brutally attacked within days of each other. Are they random acts of violence or is there a link between the victims? For **Detective Eden Berrisford**, it's her most chilling case yet.

The investigation leads Eden to cross paths with Carla, a woman trying to rebuild her life after her marriage to a cruel and abusive man ended in unimaginable tragedy. Her husband Ryan was imprisoned for his crimes but, now he's out and coming for her.

As Eden starts to close in on the attacker, she also puts herself in grave danger. Can she stop him before he strikes again? And can Carla, terrified for her life, save herself - before the past wreaks a terrible revenge?

Don't Look Behind You Details

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From Reader Review Don't Look Behind You for online ebook

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

This was my first book by this author and I loved every minute of it!

I devoured it. This is the second book in the Eden Berrisford series. I have not read the first book yet but will sometime this month. This is a very gritty, dark, disturbing, twisting, suspenseful read. It is not for the faint of heart. It deals with some very sensitive subject matters in domestic violence and rape.

This book is about Eden and her team looking into the brutal attacks on several local women. The attacker keeps his faced covered and does not even speak to his victims and with the attacks all happening within a few days of each other, it is clear this monster's behavior is escalating quickly. Another storyline featured is a survivor named Carla. Broken down after an abusive marriage and her daughter's death, spends her time helping women in The Willows, a women's refuge, constantly looking over her shoulder. Ryan has been in jail for a long time now and wants to make her pay.

This is a fantastic action book. It gets at you at page one and doesn't let up till the end. I love the characters of Eden and the relationship of her team. I love the fact that she is a strong female character. The story was brilliantly written with some very well thought out added twists in to throw you off. The story on the other hand is quite emotional. I am hoping that I don't have to wait long for book three to come out. I recommend this to all gritty dark suspenseful mystery and thriller fans.

I want to thank NetGalley, Mel Sherratt and the publisher for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Emma says

For me, this didn't quite live up to the first in the series. While I still love Eden as a character, the plot in this one was just not gripping enough. It felt really bitty and superficial. I'm even struggling to write a review as I just don't have much to say. It's good enough, took a few hours to read, but nothing more than that.

ARC via Netgalley.

Sarah Joint says

This one hit me right in the feels. Prepare for an emotional ride, especially if you yourself or a loved one has been through domestic abuse. It's not often a book makes me cry, but this one got me. It was cathartic, though. The ending tied everything up nicely. It still put me through the wringer. Well written as well.

It's a very quick, emotional, fast paced read with several different storylines. We have Eden, who we met in the first book. She's still dealing with the aftermath of her husband up and leaving her and their daughter one day. She's also a great detective: driven, intelligent, and a bit of a badass while still able to emotionally bond with the victims she speaks to. **If I were a victim, I'd want her by my side. If I were a criminal, I'd be**

afraid of her.

Young women have been attacked at an alarming frequency, and often very close to their own home. Some are raped and some are beaten, they are all brutal and leave them damaged. Eden and her team have to figure out who is responsible, and quickly. As they chase leads, more women are attacked. *It's clear that the crimes won't stop or even slow down until the man is behind bars.* Another storyline featured is a survivor named Carla. Broken down after an abusive marriage and her daughter's death, she spends her time trying to help women who've been abused while constantly looking over her own shoulder. Ryan has been in jail for a long time, but he's out now... and she fears he will keep his promise to find her and make her pay.

I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and Bookouture, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Li'l Owl says

Buzzing with palpable tenion! 5 Powerful Stars!

Without warning, she was pushed in the back. Landing on all fours, someone from behind grabbed a fistful of her hair, dragging her along the pavement.

'Hey!' Ella cried as her knees scraped along the tarmac. In desperation, she tried to hit out at the hand that still had a firm grip on her hair as she scrambled to her feet again.

A few steps into the walkway, she was pushed up against the wall. She turned quickly to see a man. He was slightly taller than her and wore a black woollen scarf covering his mouth and nose, and a black hat. All she could see were his eyes, blue and menacing.

His hand squeezed her breast roughly.

Knowing he could overpower her in seconds, she put up a fight, pushing him in the chest.

'Get off me!' she cried.

But he came back at her, and she gasped as his gloved hand found her neck. She slapped at his face, his head, grabbed for his hat. Taking both of her wrists, he tried to force her to the floor.

'No!'

If he got her to the ground, it would all be over. Her fist caught him on the side of his face, the next one on his cheek. As he tried to grapple to catch her arms, she cried out as loud as she could.

'Help me!'

He struck her in the face. It felt like minutes passed, like everything was going in slow motion as she began to lose control. But in reality it had only been seconds. Ella groaned as pain engulfed her, her legs giving way.

He pushed her to the ground and straddled her. It was a few moments before she realised what he was doing next, a few more before she knew she was powerless to do anything about it. When one last bout of resistance brought another punch to her face, she went inside herself. The pain in her head intensified, yet she was almost thankful for it. It stopped her from thinking about what else he was doing to her.

Don't Look Behind You by Mel Sherratt is the second in the *Detective Eden Barrisford* series. I just finished reading the first book, *The Girls Next Door*, in one sitting I decided to read this immediately and was not disappointed as it's another high caliber story from start to finish! Each book was a heartpounding adrenaline rush and I'm adding this series to my favorites shelf!

My only regret is finishing it and being left hanging on the edge of the cliff for the next one in this series!

Adrian Dooley says

I really enjoyed the first book of this series - *The Girls Next Door* (4 star review from me) so I was delighted to find out that Mel Sherratt had a follow up coming out. Having finished this book last night, it certainly didn't disappoint.

Don't Look Behind You sees the return of Eden Berrisford and her team and the small city of Stockleigh. Three women are brutally attacked in a short period of time, with the attacks becoming more violent. Eden is in charge of the cases and convinced there is a connection to the attacks and they are the work of the one perpetrator.

Her investigation leads her to a local women's refuge, where she visits regularly as a sort of community officer. Here she crosses paths with Carla, a counsellor at the refuge but one that we learn has a hidden past, an abuse victim herself, married to a man called Ryan who very violently abused her many years ago, ultimately ending in a family tragedy and on her testimony, the imprisonment of Ryan for 10 years.

But Ryan has recently been released from prison and Carla is convinced that he will come looking for her again. She sees shadows outside her house and is convinced someone is following her. Can these things be connected? Where and when will the attacker strike again?

I really loved this read. If anything it's a stronger book than the already impressive first in the series. Eden continues to develop as a character, with her past explored further, she really is a very strong central character to base these stories around and you are always rooting for her.

The subject matter is pretty heavy material, domestic abuse, and some of the scenes are quite horrific but I think the subject matter is handled really well.

The book absolutely zips along as you are drawn into the story. The tension throughout is palpable and it doesn't seem to dip at any point.

I'm excited at the prospect of further Eden Berrisford books in the future. A sub plot in this novel has left the door open perfectly to continue in the next instalment, one that I can't wait to be written and released.

An easy five star review for me. I think we may have a very special series of books on our hands with the Eden Berrisford series. I'd highly recommend this to everyone.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Bookouture and Mel Sherratt for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Angela Marsons says

I have been eagerly anticipating the second book in the Eden Berrisford crime series and *Don't Look Behind You* did not disappoint. I devoured the first in the series - *The Girls Next Door* - but enjoyed this one even more. There is an early scene where Eden confronts a man abusing his wife which I absolutely loved. Mel Sherratt again uses her expertise in covering difficult subjects, physical abuse and rape, with sensitivity and

care. I was particularly drawn to Carla's story throughout the book. Eden, to me, is a real life character out there doing her job. And herein lies one of this author's core strengths in writing about characters so gritty and real that you feel you've either met them or will meet them one day. There is enough detail about Eden's personal life without it encroaching on the storyline but keeping the reader's interest. As ever the storyline weaves its way expertly towards a tense, thrilling and satisfying climax. Don't Look Back is a definite 5* read from me.

sue says

Mel Sherratt has done it again. She's kept me awake until I saw daylight coming through my window.

I just loved meeting up with Detective Eden again. She's a hard woman, dedicated to her work. Feels for each person and runs a tight ship.

This time we also got to see some of what makes Eden the woman she is.

There are vulnerable women within these pages and you tense up and your tummy knots up with each event that plays out.

Imagine making a new life. But looking over your shoulder constantly.

Three women are attacked randomly and separately but is there a connection to each other?
This needs to be found out.

This is a breathtaking, twisty edge of your seat read that when climaxes really hits you for six.

I love this authors style. It flows so well, like a good movie where you sit, relax, then tuck your feet under yourself, find yourself holding yourself tightly and gnashing your teeth in the parts that are intense.

I thoroughly enjoyed this read. Looking forward to the next one.

Thank you to Bookoutour and Net Galley for my early copy.

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

4.5/5

This is the second book in the Eden Berrishford series, I loved the first one, (you can find my review [here](#)) so I've been impatiently awaiting this book as I knew we would be finding out more about Eden and her past. This book sees Eden and her team looking into the brutal attacks on several local women. Simultaneously,

Eden is trying to keep Carla safe, a woman who is always looking over her shoulder especially now as her abusive ex husband has just been released from jail. Lots going on here, this one is the definition of a page turner.

All of the different scenarios here revolve around abused women making for a disturbing read, yet one that is relevant and sadly, true to life. Eden is trying to catch the man responsible for physically and sexually assaulting local women, then she works with a shelter called the Willows that provides a safe haven when battered women have no where else to turn. Carla is one of these abused women, but she works there now and does her best to keep everyone safe. Her ex, Ryan will never fully let her go and her story really pulled at my heartstrings. It's told slowly, in flashbacks starting twenty one years ago and the truth about the events that led to him being locked away were sad and terrifying.

I loved getting to know more about Eden personally as well as professionally. Danny, her estranged husband is back, but in what capacity? She's still dating Joe but Danny's reappearance puts a strain both on her relationship with Joe and her daughter Casey. The whole situation is left unfinished, leaving the door wide open for book three and there could be serious implications for Eden in the future.

Sherratt has a knack for creating very relatable characters in a short timeframe, her books are rapidly paced and extremely engaging, yet she still manages to forge a connection between the reader and the characters. Her writing style is also very realistic which is almost creepy as you can easily picture the situations she crafts being ripped from the headlines. I read this book in a single day, it really kept me on the edge of my seat as things heated up and ended in a astonishing conclusion, but one that was wholly justifiable.

Louise Wilson says

This is the second book in the Eden Berrisford series.

Women are being brutally attacked within days off each other. Detective Sargent Eden Berrisford has been given the task to arrest the culprit. Eden has to work out if there is a link to these women or if they have been randomly chosen. The only link she has so far is they were attacked at night while they were on their own.

Me Sherratt has another best seller with this storyline. Eden Berrisford is just the right person to solve this case. She is such a strong character. I found myself holding my breath and my stomach churning at times but for this plot, it would not work if the reader did not get pulled into the storyline. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I highly recommend it.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Bookouture and the author Mel Sherrayy for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Linda Strong says

Detective Berrisford is back with a vengeance!

She is dealing with the brutal attacks of several women in her small town. The detective is sickened by what someone is doing to these young women. They are beaten and raped. In some instances, he's interrupted and

leaves before he can commit the final act. He is covered from head to toe, comes out of the dark, and never says a word. Although their bruises and abrasions will disappear with time, they will spend the rest of their lives looking over their shoulder.

Investigating these crimes will take her to a safe house for abused women. Carla is trying to rebuild her life after living with an abusive, murderous husband. Her husband Ryan has spent 10 years in jail .. now he's out and he's found her again. He's had all those years to think of ways to torment and repay his wife for putting him in prison.

Eden must find the link between all these women before the rapist's brutality escalates and leads to murder. It is imperative that she finds him and finds him soon.

The author has created a great female detective. Eden is no-nonsense, and dedicated to her job. She's a single mom with a husband that disappeared 2 years ago. She has not seen or heard from him in all that time ... until now.

Her team is hard-working and have a great deal of respect for their boss. There is a new detective introduced in this book. He's been on leave and will be working under Berrisford for a few weeks before being assigned to his permanent job. He comes across as a bit lazy and a whole lot resentful of having to work for a younger boss .. and one who is a woman. What he does.. or doesn't do.. will test Eden's patience to the fullest.

Rape is not an easy subject for anyone, but this author has crafted a well written book showing the relationships between the abused and the abuser. Eden is a hard woman, she has to be in her job. But I love how she is with these women who are attacked. It's not an easy book to read, but the author makes it easier.

There are a few twists that lead to a surprising ending. Mostly satisfactory, there are no huge cliffhangers ... just a couple of things that don't get wrapped up ... which I hope to see taken care of with Book 3.

Many thanks to the author / Bookouture / Net Galley for the early digital copy of this novel. The opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Gary says

This is the 2nd book in the Detective Sergeant Eden Berrisford series by author Mel Sherratt and can be read as a stand alone but the personal side of it works better if you have read the previous novel.

In this novel women are being attacked and Detective Sargent Eden Berrisford is leading the investigation to try and find a link to the attacks . The story is full of interesting characters who all have their own story to tell and for me the books got better the more I read.

This is the 2nd book I have read by Mel Sherratt and I have enjoyed them both. She has a good writing style and paces the novels very well keeping the reader wanting to know more.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Bookouture for supplying a copy of this Mel Sherratt novel in exchange for an honest review.

Monnie says

When three women are attacked over a period of three days in the small city of Stockleigh, detective Eden Berrisford and her team on the relatively new Community Intelligence Team get serious about finding who's done them before someone else falls victim. Based on some of the terminology, I assume this is somewhere in the United Kingdom - my London-born-and-bred daughter-in-law provided answers straightaway to my questions about a couple. Who knew, for instance, that "bacon butties" and "chip butties" basically are sandwiches - one filled with a ton of bacon and the other with big fat fries (the skinny ones she's been subjected to now that she's living here in the states would never do, she emphasized).

Meantime, Eden helps her sister at a women's refuge, which provides shelter for those who have suffered from domestic abuse. There, she gets to know several of the here-and-gone-and back-again women such as Carla, whose husband, Ryan, just got out of jail. Carla has been forced to move several times since the death of their young daughter because Ryan has managed to track her down each time, but she's enjoyed a long respite while he was behind bars. Now, she's back to double-checking locks on doors and windows and looking over her shoulder at every step.

This is the second in the Eden Berrisford series, which I requested and received from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Apparently, Eden's still-husband Danny unexpectedly walked out a couple of years earlier, leaving her with their daughter Casey (a situation I assume was outlined in greater detail in the first book). Now, Eden has found a significant other of sorts in Joe, although their relationship is a bit rocky - partly because Eden hasn't yet divorced Danny and partly because she throws her heart and soul into her work.

Chapters focus on the investigation into the attacks as well as what's going on (and happened previously) in the lives of the women at the shelter - complete with scenes that are rather graphic, for those bothered by such things. Readers also learn "secrets" in Eden's own life that she'd prefer to keep to herself. There's really nothing pleasant I can say about the story or any of the characters, except that the details of the investigation play out interestingly - with a few surprises tucked here and there - the action is pretty much nonstop (heating up near the end) and the whole thing is very well written. There's even an issue left dangling which, I presume, will be revisited in the next installment. I'm in!

Christine says

4.5 stars

Don't Look Behind You is a thoroughly engaging novel written by Brit Grit Lit master Mel Sherratt. This book is #2 in the Eden Berrisford series and even better than the first. I love Mel Sherratt because of her success in melding gritty crime fiction with "gritty women's fiction." The mix is terrific. I also like that she sets all of her stories in Stockleigh, England, with a bit of overlapping of her characters from other books. And how can I not mention (again) how engaging I find her use of the local language. Don't worry, you do not have to be an expert of British English; you can glean the meaning of any strictly British words from the context in which it is written.

We learn more about Eden in this installment. She has a tough side as do many of the policewomen

protagonists these days. But she also has a very soft side, which is endearing. She has a close, respectful relationship with her team members, all of who seem to be pretty happy, well-adjusted people—something you don't see that much in police procedurals. I am interested in seeing how these characters evolve in future books.

The story moves along nicely with short crisp chapters. There is a good deal of suspense relating to a number of characters being in dangerous relationships in addition to an attacker of young women being on the loose. I liked that Ms. Sherratt provides each of the victims with a little backstory that makes the reader root a little more fervently for the baddie to be apprehended. Also, the author throws in some nice twists to shake things up. I missed the book when I had to tend to real life and couldn't wait to get back to it.

I loved the fact that one of the arcs involved the goings on at a woman's refuge.

If I were in a position to make a minor suggestion to the author, I would propose adding a few more pages to the wrap-up as I felt tying everything up was a tad rushed. I will say though that everything did come together well, and I found the epilogue to be a real plus. Loved the last line of the book.

Speaking of epilogues, I'm going to make a general statement about prologues. I have heard that authors are often told not to use prologues. I have no idea why that recommendation is made as I think prologues are a terrific way to pull a reader hard and fast into the story. Ms. Sherratt reeled me right in using this method in *Don't Look Behind You*. So, all you authors out there, keep those prologues coming!

Mel Sherratt remains one of my very favorite go-to authors. I highly recommend her Eden Berrisford series to all readers of crime fiction, especially those who like a lot of characterization and a bit of focus on social issues. Next please, Mel. XO

Thanks to Net Galley, Bookouture, and Ms. Mel Sherratt for an advanced copy of this book. All opinions are mine alone and not biased in any way.

Liz says

A mystery told from multiple points of view and with multiple storylines. There's a rapist attacking young women walking alone at night. Eden Berrisford is the DS trying to see if the attacks are related and find the attacker. As a community intelligence officer, she also visits at a refuge for abused women. The additional storylines concern those women and the counselor who works with them. We hear from Carla, the counselor, in the first person personal, looking back over her own story of abuse.

The different stories are all engaging. Sherratt does a good job of walking us through the abuser's tactics and how the women are beaten down both physically and emotionally, until they are ghosts, attempting to blend into the background.

This is a very fast moving mystery. I really enjoyed her writing style. Sherratt calls her style grit-lit and it fits. Very direct, taut.

I didn't realize this is the second in the series until I read up on the author. So, it's not a problem to read this

without going back and read the first one first.

My thanks to netgalley and Bookouture for an advance copy of this book.

Sue says

DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU by talented author Mel Sherratt, is the second book in the Eden Berrisford crime series and as I loved the first book in the series, *The Girls Next Door*, I couldn't wait to start this one. *Don't Look Behind You* did not disappoint...and will appeal to all lovers of crime thrillers/police procedurals. I actually enjoyed this one even more. I would recommend reading the books in order to appreciate the growth development of the main characters.

Once again, we touch base with protagonist, Detective Sergeant Eden Berrisford, a gutsy strong female detective, who takes her job seriously, as team leader of "The Community Intelligence Team", under the direction of Sean Whittaker of The Major Crimes Team. Her team consists of two Detective Constables; Jordan Ashcroft (29), and Amy Nicholls (26), who will be getting married soon. There is a new detective, Phil Sillitoe (49) who is on temporary assignment to the team, but has a chip on his shoulders and doesn't like working for a younger, Woman boss! Eden is a single mom with daughter, Casey and their two-year old blue Persian cat, after her husband Danny walked out on the family two years ago. Eden now has a new man in her life, Joe, but after one year, she is still is not ready to commit to the relationship, as she still has feelings for her loser husband.

"The small city of Stockleigh is in shock as three women are brutally attacked within days of each other. Are they random acts of violence or is there a link between the victims? For Detective Eden Berrisford, it's her most chilling case yet."

At the moment, all they had to go on was that the victims were all young females out alone at night!

"The investigation leads Eden to cross paths with Carla, a woman trying to rebuild her life after her marriage to a cruel and abusive man ended in unimaginable tragedy. Her husband Ryan was imprisoned for his crimes but, now he's out and coming for her."

Time is running out and Eden must capture the attacker, before he attacks more women.

I give much credit to the author for tackling not an easy topic...the issue and consequences of rape and domestic abuse. But through Eden, she allows us to observe a compassionate and strong woman trying to help women of domestic abuse.

Many thanks to the author, Bookouture and Net Galley for the ARC.
