



A Quiet Death

Cari Hunter

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In book three in the Dark Peak series, things are looking up for Detective Sanne Jensen and Dr. Meg Fielding. Dating each other seems to be working, their families are behaving themselves, and the worst of the post-Christmas crime wave is over.

The discovery of a Pakistani girl's body out on the moors changes all that. No one knows who she is, who hurt her, or how she came to be there. As pressure mounts on East Derbyshire Special Ops for a quick resolution, it becomes ever more apparent that the case won't provide one.

With the Pakistani community closing ranks, and threads of suspicion reaching farther than anyone could have predicted, the investigation leaves Sanne facing an ordeal she may not survive.

A Quiet Death Details

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Author : Cari Hunter

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From Reader Review A Quiet Death for online ebook

Corrie says

A Quiet Death was the third (and hopefully not last!) book in the phenomenal **Dark Peak** series. Next to **R. A. LaShea's 21 Weeks**, this has been the best murder/mystery/crime series I've read so far. Gold-plated 5 star material all the way. Detective **Sanne Jensen** and **Dr. Meg Fielding** have become very dear to me and so has **Cari Hunter's** solid writing. I need to read her other 3 remaining books now as well, I just have to.

Again I found myself unable to put the book away (or in this case close my Kindle) because her storytelling is just so compelling. And so that's another 300 pages consumed in 2 days... my poor eyeballs.

As in the other two books I loved how we alternate between Sanne's day at the station (or in the field) and Meg's shift at the hospital. Hunter keeps things progressing in an engaging pace and next to the gruesome main plot - sex trafficking of very young women and murder – there is levity in the banter between Sanne and her partner **Nelson** on the job, Meg's crazy encounters with patients on the emergency ward and Sanne's colorful family. The romance is sweet. I'm so happy our ladies are finally together and making the best of it.

Please Cari Hunter, write a fourth Dark Peaks book!

f/f

Themes: sex trafficking, triggers for physical abuse, graphic crime scenes, I love Meg and Sanne to bits, they really need to take themselves on a long vacation after all this, bacon butties, sarnies and a nice hot cuppa, hob-nobs, Sanne's crazy rooster **Git Face**, Hunter writes the best winter scenes, can the BBC make this into a crime series please?

5 stars

Penny says

Oh man, I really like San and Meg.

And Eleanor.

I really do.

Also, my brain is probably gonna keep reading english sentences with a british accent for a few more days.

Endlessscribbles says

Absolutely loved this book and a wonderful series from Cari Hunter.

Seeing Sanne and Meg's relationship moving forward, to all the twists and turns of the police investigation, and learning more about the people on Sanne's squad.

Hoping that this series continues and looking forward to a fourth book.

Samantha Luce says

Sanne Jensen and Meg Fielding rock. So glad they are finally embracing being a couple. :) Now, about the book itself. Awesome. Very vivid settings. Crimes you desperately want solved and they are solved in realistic ways by very capable characters. The characters, not just the mains, but the co-stars as well are well written and easy to relate to. This is book 3 in a series. I've read them all and given them high marks. To me I think it's best if you read them in order to get more enjoyment out of this book, but I do think it could be a stand alone.

NetGalley ARC received for an unbiased review.

Jem says

Giddy with excitement--that best described how I felt when this book dropped on Netgalley. Of course, that was immediately tempered by the realization that this is the *third* book in the series, featuring the same couple, in the same general settings, with essentially the same cast of supporting characters and... handling yet another violent crime. The novelty has worn off long ago. So...can the author still come up with something fresh and exciting, while reusing all the usual elements from the previous two books?

The beautiful but deadly Peak District once again plays a major role in this latest saga. Its wildness and desolation makes it perfect for those trying to hide away and those trying to hide something. It can be a convenient haven one moment, and an instant graveyard the next. And once again, it plays impassive host to a vicious and unimaginable crime.

A young girl's body is discovered in the middle of nowhere in freezing winter. Junior detective Sanne Jansen's violent crimes' unit is the lead investigative force. The location is coincidentally Sanne's neck of the woods, and her familiarity with the surroundings initially helps uncover critical clues. But there is nothing simple about the case. Politics and political correctness butt heads with instinct and old-fashioned police work, as fears of a backlash against the horrific events at Rotterham loom over the multi-racial community.

Meanwhile, on the romance front, BFFs Sanne (the cop) and Meg (the doc) couple up...finally! All their lives, they'd been pretty great at the best friend thing. And even better as friends with benefits. But as a proper couple? Dating, cooking for each other and getting titled 'girlfriend'? It's all brand new to them. They've known each other since they were babies. Will over-familiarity be boring or reassuring? Can they stand each other's failings and eccentricities when they're together 24/7? And will Meg ever get used to Sanne's dangerous profession and her uncanny ability to get into the worst kind of trouble, even if she doesn't mean to? (view spoiler)

Of the three books in the series, this has to be the most effective as a thriller. And given that all three books are equally well done in all other aspects, it stands out as the most enjoyable read of all. The excellent pacing and sustained tension is the key. From the get go, every situation, every plot development, every red herring thrown up, every false or true lead chased down, every little (or big) plot twist--it all adds to that all-important build-up of tension that's an absolute must to keep the reader on the edge. This is a given in mainstream thrillers but is a relative rarity in lesfic as authors often struggle in balancing the romance and the tension and almost always end up favoring the former over the latter.

Another critical element to the success of this crime thriller is its authenticity. The entire Dark Peak series stands out for being a gritty, down-in-the-trenches British police procedural. The pull-no-punches writing means we get a realistic look at all sides of Brit society, even the ones that aren't mentioned in polite conversation. The social commentary that comes with writing authentic voices is inevitable, but the book never comes across as being judgmental but rather practical and realistic.

The addition of the head of Sanne's unit, Eleanor Stanhope as a POV character lends not only added depth and breadth to the reader's view of the conduct of the investigation, but gives us a strong, sympathetic female leader we can all get behind. Though I wouldn't have minded if Eleanor had been able to show up her pompous ass of a boss sometime, however unrealistic that might have been in real life.

Sanne and Meg's interactions are just as well written. Their peculiar style of endearments, the way they 'fight' over something, the snarky retorts...all of these signs of the kind of enduring love for and total acceptance of the other person that only a deep friendship can bring to the relationship. Like a comfortable old shoe, it soothes their aching bodies and souls like a gentle balm. And boy, do these two ladies need the soothing, after what the author makes them go through on the daily basis. Personally, I've always preferred that other kind of romance, the hot, dreamy, love-at-first-sight kind that is the usual fare of typical romances, but the author writes this one in such a way that it makes the reader feel that this is the real and better deal.

Now for the all-important case, I think this one's the most interesting of the series. All aspects of it. Victims we care about, a complex but straightforward case (does that sound like an oxymoron? lol), wily villains, and a (view spoiler). The dots connected up. Though I did not see the twist coming.

At one point, I was so impressed with the book (the writing, the plot, the scenes and transitions) that I went and hunted down the author's email address and fired off a letter suggesting she do an Amanda Kyle Williams. You know, go mainstream. But before I pressed send, I realized that I don't read mainstream thrillers. No lesbians, lol. Oops. I'm not willing to lose my favorite source of lesfic thrills and chills....yet. Hmm....Maybe after the tenth book? ;)

This book can be read as a standalone thriller though readers will miss the rich character development that went before, not just the leads but the rest of Sanne's gang, nutty relatives and all the assorted scrotes and ne'er do wells she's had to dispatch.

5 stars

ARC from Netgalley.

Tiff says

I have said it before, and I will say it again Cari Hunter writes fantastic books. She is hands down one of the best authors in this genre. The Dark Peak series has been an absolute delight. I completely adore the two main characters of this series, Meg and Sanne. I have loved seeing the progression of their relationship and the craziness that they have had to endure. With that being said, I was not floored by this particular book. To me it's good. It's just missing some of the sparks of the previous two stories.

A Quiet Death begins as Sanne and the other EDSOP crew uncovers the body of a teenage girl who succumbed to hypothermia out in the Peaks. This young malnourished woman was half dressed and had a multitude of injuries, including being sexually assaulted. This is the beginning of a much larger case, with a swarm of bad guys that are beyond horrendous. This case is gritty, dark and reeks of perversion. While Sanne is chasing clues, Meg is dealing with ER politics and helping Sanne's mother cope with her husband's alcoholism and the punishment it has done to his body.

The first seventy percent of the story to me was somewhat dry. The majority of time is spent with Sanne or Eleanor (Sanne's captain) as they begin to try to unravel the possible sex trafficking ring linked to the young teen. Basically a police procedural, involving questioning unsavory characters and of course a stakeout. This is very much a crime based book, if you are looking for romance you will find it scattered throughout the book, but it basically comes to Meg and Sanne cuddling in bed after dreadful days at the office. To me, this is where the book lacked from the other books in the series. That spark of these two was missing. Their interactions are limited and bland. I missed Meg and Sanne together and their banter and wit.

The last 30 perfect goes into hyper drive and how the case is resolved is stellar. It was done masterfully and you could see every part as Hunter unraveled this tangled web. The ending is fantastic and really takes you on a wild ride full of twists and turns.

I may be the only person on the face of the Earth that doesn't love this one. Its good, it truly is but it's just not great. Cari Hunter has set an exceptionally high bar, though. 4 stars

Joc says

Of the three in the series, this one is my outright favourite. But having said that, I don't think this would have been quite as good without the first two because it's the culmination of everything that's happened that gives *A Quiet Death* its fullness.

Meg and Sanne are in the early days of dating and it is working for them. Sanne is nearly out of the probation notice she was put on and things seemed to have quietened a little in the Special Ops division. Then the body of a young Asian girl is found by some hikers on a trail in the moors. The investigation very quickly touches on racial and ethnic sensitivities making it necessary for DCI Litton to make his presence known again.

This time around we get a little bit of insight into Eleanor with some chapters being from her point of view. Sanne and Meg are a wonderful couple and it was worth it to wait for them to get here. The investigation shows a harsh realism that is difficult to stomach but makes the story all the more powerful by not sugar-coating it. I was riveted.

Farah says

A special shout out to the Goodreads' Lesfic reviewers. There are many, impossible to name every single one. Here are a few; Alexis, Bethany, Corrie, Diane Wallace, Jem, Joc, Lex Kent and Luce. Thank you, ladies. Because of their reviews, I spent the weekend with this series. Pinkeye made it possible as I was quarantined.

The Case - Inhuman

The Plot Twist - I'll never look at Arthur Hoggett from the movie 'Babe' ever the same again.

The Investigation - Meets the standards of Law and Order SVU. We got to see things through the perspective of Detective Inspector Stanhope in this story, besides Sanne's and Meg's. The EDSOP gang was front and center minus the Sargent and Fred was having some back pain due to salsa dancing but he was still on duty.

The Suspense Level - Extremely high towards the end.

The Perpetrator/s - You are one sneaky author Ms.Hunter

The Stars Of The Story - Teresa Jensen, Sanne, Meg, Nelson and the Survivors.

The Scenes that might cause diabetes - Any scenes with Sanne and Meg together. They are undeniably the best Lesfic couple, a league of their own.

Items that should be added into your shopping cart - The Dark Peak Series by Cari Hunter.

Frankenstein lookalike Award goes to - Sanne Jensen

All the feels Quote- " Thank you for not getting rid of me "
Sanne Jensen

One of many funny Sanne and Meg's conversations -

“Tell me something I don’t know,” Sanne said, mopping up the last of her soup with a piece of sandwich. Meg crunched her toastie, deliberating. Then she raised her index finger. “In Alaska it’s illegal to whisper in someone’s ear when they’re hunting moose.” “Fuck off!” Sanne dropped her spoon into her bowl. “You made that up.” Meg crossed her heart. “BBC documentaries do not lie. Your turn.”

This book is unavailable on KU/Available on Scribd.
Kindle price USD9.99. Worth every dollar :)

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

I didn't want to read this book. Despite the fact that I've previously read a couple of Ms. Hunter's books and loved them, I tend to avoid gruesome stories and I normally go for romances or light mystery / action books. However, after seeing so many good reviews about this series I decided to take the plunge and read it. I read the series chronologically starting with No good reason and I suggest that you do the same. Not because these are not standalone novels but because you will lose the chance to enjoy the background stories that the author so skillfully builds throughout the series. There are also some spoilers in the second and third novels about the previous stories that you might want to avoid.

I'm afraid I cannot add much more to what other reviewers have said and I'm not going to be very original here. Ms. Hunter is very skillful at building a fast paced thriller with unexpected twists and turns. In this

book the author adds a third point of view (in addition to that of the main characters) based on DI Stanmore, the detective in charge of the investigation which gives an interesting insight to this secondary character.

A bonus for me is the British feel that permeates this book, starting from the beautiful description of the landscape, the depiction of the awful winter weather and the clever use of British English that describes characters perfectly. Additionally, you can "hear" the author's voice in her social and political criticism that touches issues ranging from racial inequality to budget shortages on the health system. This criticism is delivered in a subtle manner and never losing the main plot.

Despite its level of violence, nothing seems gratuitous or unnecessary to the plot. As a matter of fact, I prefer that the author didn't decide to water down the cruelty of human trafficking for the sake of a lighter read.

In conclusion, I'm glad that I've decided to bite the bullet and read this book. 5+ stars.

ARC provided by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at
www.lezreviewbooks.com

Diane Wallace says

'Netgalley ARC provided by The Publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review'

Excellent 3rd Installment!

I loved the lighthearted underlying current of this steamy chemistry between both leads yet added to it(book) was the mix of this genuine yet serious storyline and plot twist that i am sure readers will devoured because its well written and has many more included in the series along with a lot more than the stereotypes or cliches storylines as before. Impressed with the authors' attention to all the vast details needed to certain plotline or topics/heading, the pacing & editing was good, enjoyed the UK dialects of this story, nice and it was a very risky topic--- (justice & cause) that i do admire the author on writing about this subject--great supporting cast along with some good side story. Highly recommended series to everyone!

Agirlcandream says

Brilliant. If you have not read the first book in this series, No Good Reason and you love a good thriller, stop reading this review and buy that book. You won't regret it.

With this third book in The Dark Peak series, Cari Hunter establishes her place at the top of the growing genre of thrillers/police procedurals with lesbian leads. A Quiet Death is more than just Romantic Intrigue. Sure, there is a lovely romance featuring the ongoing relationship of Meg and Sanne. Theirs is a friendship which has bloomed throughout the series into this beautiful, sweet, often amusing love affair. No more friends-with-benefits. No more playing the field. In this novel, they try living together on a permanent basis. The moments these two share at the end of frustrating and often frightening days at their respective jobs are a soothing interlude from the grim realities of life in East Derbyshire.

The murder investigation begins with a young girl's body found stuffed between rocks up on the moors. With few clues and pressure from her superiors for a speedy resolution to this crime, Eleanor Stanhope and her team at EDSOP face a challenging time interviewing a reluctant Asian community in their hunt for the killer. The police procedural aspects of this novel are a necessary part of building tension but also highlight the drudge work needed to solve crimes. This novel builds added depth to the teamwork and camaraderie of the EDSOP team along with cementing the pairing of Sanne Jensen and Nelson Turay as dedicated detectives who make each other better. The investigation twists and turns and points to an elaborate (view spoiler) scheme by the perpetrators. With time running out and the potential for more victims at stake, unexpected events lead to a dramatic heart thumping thriller ending. A thriller ending which exceeds most mainstream novels published today. A part of me wishes Hunter would consider jumping to mainstream thrillers for the financial rewards she would receive. But then we would lose our lovely lesbian leads and I'm selfish like that.

Intrigue is too gentle a word to describe *A Quiet Death*. It's a Thriller with a strong police procedural core and solid romantic relationship which continues to strengthen as the series has progressed.

5 Stars

eARC received with thanks from Bold Strokes Books via NetGalley for review.

Just a man's point of view says

The Dark Peak series stands out in the whole lesbian fiction panorama, because of its realism. Both the darkest aspect of crime and the love story are described meticulously in the cold, hard light of day. Mannerism and romance forgotten, crime is violent, cruel, perverted and life is anything but peaches and cream. Sanne and Meg are real women who stumble, have fears and uncertainty and their heroism is the heroism of all real people: refusing to give up, loving each other in front of every circumstance, and remembering to smile whenever it is possible.

In this last chapter of the series, Meg and Sanne have finally settled down in a serious relationship. We can feel the new stability that this relationship brings into their life and the attention is mostly switched to the crime case, which gradually unfolds its dark, compelling story. Their relationship is in the background, and it's felt like a presence, giving a sense and a direction.

Only when danger gets personal, their relationship will be highlighted again, intensely.

About this author I admire how her characters remain lovely and charming, despite their flaws, despite the highest level of realism.

The key is their heart, the generosity and the sincerity of their love that makes this series, although immersed in gruesome police cases, the most delicate and beautiful love story to read.

Bravo Cari Hunter.

T says

I loved every audiobook in this series. Cari writes superb crime drama that keeps you on the edge of your seat and still manages to infuse great romance and humor.

She also was fortunate enough to get a great narrator, which is dreadfully rare in lesbian fiction audio books. I wish she had more books out, I'm never disappointed.

Bethany says

Well crap. I'm going to have to read something other than mysteries for a while now. There's no chance of finding something that measures up to the standard that Hunter set with this series!

Why are you still reading this review? Go get these books right now and start reading them. You won't be sorry.

Lex Kent says

Get your hands on this book!

I am starting to think that I am developing a fangirl crush on Hunter. Three books in a row, by her, I have given 5 Stars. That does not happen often. I can count the number of authors, on one hand, that can put out this kind of quality, every time. Also, to have all the books in a series get 5 Stars, that's even rarer. I'm in awe really, and only mad about one thing. That it took me this long to actual read her books!

Okay, enough kissing butt, let's get to the book. A Quiet Death picks up shortly after its predecessor, Cold to the Touch. Sanne and Meg are actually dating, and finding time for each other. When a body of a young girl is found, the retaliative quiet winter is coming to an end. With ethnic issues plaguing the police, this case must be handled carefully. With the upper brass questioning their every move, will Sanne be able to hunt down the one responsible?

What I really enjoy about this series is every book has a different stage of Sanne's and Meg's relationship. It was really interesting to see how they actually did now "officially" as a couple. Will they feel too smothered? Will Meg's messiness drive Sanne nuts? Will the stress of Meg's job or the danger of Sanne's, strain their relationship? I don't want to give anything away, so I will just say that they have become one of my favorite lesfic couples ever.

When it came to the mystery/thriller part of this book, it was really well done. It had that heart pumping feel that book 1 had. The climax of the book, was chew your fingernails off exciting, and I loved every minute of it.

I can not recommend this more. If you are a Hunter fan, this book will be everything you hoped and waited for. If you are new to the Dark Peak series, start reading No Good Reason, and get ready to be wowed. I'm crossing every finger there will be a book 4. I don't want to say goodbye to Meg and Sanne.

An ARC was given to me by Bold Stokes Books, for a honest review.

