



Fighting Chance

Jane Haddam

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Gregor Demarkian grew up in the Armenian-American enclave in Philadelphia known as Cavanaugh Street. Even though he left to go to college, and then went on to a storied career in the famous Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI, he eventually returned to Cavanaugh Street after an early retirement. There he finds himself in a rapidly gentrifying urban neighborhood that still retains some of the friends, institutions, and flavor of the immigrant neighborhood he grew up in. Among them is his best friend, Father Tibor Kasparian, the parish priest of the local Armenian-Orthodox church, probably the most genuinely gentle soul that Demarkian has ever met.

When Father Tibor is then arrested on murder charges, it tears at the very foundation of Demarkian's world. While Gregor has very strict rules about for whom and under what conditions he will consult, all those rules go by the wayside. In "Fighting Chance," from award-winning author Jane Haddam, Demarkian is now a man possessed, and his one goal is to find out what really happened and who is really responsible for the murder Father Tibor is charged with.

Fighting Chance Details

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Author : Jane Haddam

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From Reader Review Fighting Chance for online ebook

Eliza says

Enjoyed listening to the book, but if people had been somewhat reasonable, there would not have been a story.

Father Tibor was shielding a young boy who wasn't guilty and made a mess of things. The female attorney was a good target for murder, but the murder of the man trying to save his house from foreclosure was a bit under developed and sad.

Surprise culprit and even more surprising was that he almost killed his friend, Gregor.
Will listen to another....

Rosemary says

This is the 29th book in the Gregor Demarkian series, and my conclusion is that it is the best with respect to plot, to the consistent personalities of characters she has developed, and to the intricacies of legal procedures found between its covers. I repeat, for the sakes of all Haddam fans: this one is 5he best.

Kathy says

Listened to audiobook.

Terri says

Didn't care for this one. Too windy, too rambly, just didn't hold my interest.

scherzo? says

First draft? Padded with writing warm-ups.

A woman who doesn't know blood smells coppery??? "*Tcha!*"

Joyce says

Haddam's gentle cozies featuring retired FBI agent Gregor Demarkian offer intriguing puzzles, warm humor, and a glimpse into Philadelphia's Armenian American community. There are two cases here for Demarkian to solve and both hit close to home: in the first his neighbor is losing his house illegally to a bank and in the second his best friend Father Tibor Kasparian is accused of killing a judge. Demarkian calls on friends in

high places to help solve both mysteries, but he still ends up with his life on the line. I like the puzzle but I like the sense of community and the characters even better. Colacci is the perfect narrator--affable and engaging--and he transforms those Armenian names and accents into pure poetry.

Midori says

I may be done with this series. I gave it a 'fighting chance,' but this installment tried my patience. not much happened until almost the end, and it was about as subtle as the gavel used as a murder weapon

Kay says

An engaging series, set in the Armenian-American community of Philadelphia. The author's style is effective, but sometimes the terse, ominous sentence at the end of a chapter strikes me as overly dramatic. One plot line, involves a family that is about to be evicted from its home, even though they have paid their monthly mortgage regularly; however, unknown to them, the mortgage was sold to another bank and the legal remedy is apparently elusive. A second plot involves the privatization of the Pennsylvania prison system, which has some unintended consequences.

One of the most memorable characters is Father Kasparian, the Armenian-born priest, who is jailed after being charged with murder:

"Halfway across town, Father Tibor Kasparian lay on the long hard cement cot that was what this jail cell had for a bed and wished he had a book. It could be any book. He didn't really think he could read right now, but it always made him feel better, and calmer, and more sane, to hold a book. He had never been able to understand people who did not read. He had never been able to understand how they held on to themselves."

Elizabeth Robinson says

Fabulous complex plot, all the characters loyal series readers have come to love, with an unexpectedly heightened level of suspense. Enjoyed this 29th episode of the Gregor Demarkian mysteries immensely.

Lynn says

I love mysteries but this one was kind of slow and uninteresting in a lot of places.

Mysteryfan says

I'm very fond of this series and I'm always happy when I find one I've missed. A judge is murdered in her chambers and Father Tibor is found in the room. Oddly, he refuses all help and refuses even to talk about what happened. Gregor takes on the case anyway. The usual cast of characters is present. It was an enjoyable

read. I'm not sure I buy that Father Tibor would act like that. The resolution was a complete surprise, but then Jane Haddam is very good at that. Woth reading.

Dale White says

I had never heard of Jane Haddam or Gregor Demarkian before seeing the 29th book in the series on the "new books" shelf at the library. I felt like reading a mystery so I took it out.

I am not the kind of reader that puzzles over mysteries, trying to solve the case along with the protagonist. In fact, if I figure it out, I am more disappointed in the story than I am proud of my reading/deduction skills. At the same time though, I will judge how well the author has wrapped up the story and how logical it was.

As the old saying goes, it is not the destination that matters but the journey. This is true of Fighting Chance. While I wasn't overwhelmed by the ending, the set-up and the characters more than made up for it, so much so that I took out another book in the series when I returned this one. That is praise enough.

Robin says

Even if you don't read all the books in this series, it is easy enough to pick one up after several years and re-engage with Haddam's characters in Armenian Philadelphia. "Fighting Chance" has the priest accused of murder, a juvenile case, corporate prison issues, mortage crises and problematic banks, questions of individual rights and corporate rights. Meanwhile the neighbors rally around and the case gets solved.

Judy says

I like Jane Haddam's Gregor Demarkian novels. Fast paced and always a why didn't I notice that ending. This time Fr. Tibor Kasparian is caught on video committing a murder, or is he? Gregor can't actually investigate the crime as it would definitely be a conflict as he and Fr. Kasparian are such good friends. For some reason Fr. Kasparian isn't helping himself by saying he has the right to remain silent, and not talking to his friends from the neighborhood.

As usual in a Demarkian story there is more then one story playing out. But in the end they all are connected. As far as I am concerned Ms. Haddam can't write these fast enough for me. Or maybe I should read them slower.

If you are thinking about reading this book and have never read a Gregor Demarkian I suggest you start with the first book, "Not a Creature was Stirring", so you are introduced to all the characters. You will be hooked for sure. Have fun.

Lorraine says

It's been a while since I read a Jane Haddam novel. I've read a few with mixed results. These are not books that you read quickly. She is a writer with a wry wit who makes you think. One review refers to her as an American PD James. There's some merit there. This series revolves around Gregor Demarkian, a retired

(now) FBI agent who does some private sleuthing. The action takes place in an American-Armenian area of Philadelphia, mostly Cavanaugh St. Sadly there is no such place, but I wish there was. The main characters are Gregor Dermarkian and Father Tibor. In this latest novel, we meet a paranoid Philadelphia judge who spray paints the security cameras with black paint while taking bribes from a private prison corporation to send juveniles accused of petty crimes to their facilities. When the judge is murdered, Father Tibor is found there with blood all over him and her gavel in his hand as he leans over the body. A video later that seems to show him killing her. Except it's a suspicious video from the very beginning. Father Tibor refuses to answer other than to assert his constitutional right to silence. It's really intriguing and had me going until the end. I recommend it highly.
