



## Murder in the Mind

*Bruce Beckham*

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## **Murder in the Mind** Bruce Beckham

WHEN DI SKELGILL IS CALLED to an isolated maximum-security hospital, he catches the eye of a notorious female serial killer. Is this the trigger that turns a routine investigation into a rollercoaster of murder, mayhem, escapes and hostage taking? Are these events purely coincidental, or is some conspiracy afoot? And if so, is it blackmail, corruption, a power struggle... or something altogether more sinister? In this, the sixth stand-alone Inspector Skelgill mystery, while search teams comb the moorland for clues, the maverick Cumbrian detective finds his mental sinews stretched to the limit as he strives to solve the case.

## **Murder in the Mind Details**

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Author : Bruce Beckham

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## From Reader Review Murder in the Mind for online ebook

### **Karen says**

Another interesting and complex DI Skelgill mystery, this entry in the series is focused on a remote, high security mental hospital which includes at least two serial killers. While interviewing a serial killer who claims her innocence and points to a frame-up, Skelgill and Leyton also begin an inquiry into some missing tools and food stores, which leads to possible malfeasance at high administrative levels and ultimately to murder.

This is my least favorite of the Skelgill series. The writing is still excellent, the mystery is complicated, and the characters are fascinating, but I felt kind of lost, much as DS Leyton must feel all the time around DI Skelgill and that was frustrating. There was almost too much going on to keep all the threads in order for me.

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### **Anthony Yvonnica says**

Slow reading. The "British-isms" were confusing to my American ear.

The book plod along and had some interesting subplots. All-in-all not a bad book, but not captivating enough to read more from the series.

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### **Bruce Perrin says**

#### A Somewhat Abrasive Hero ‘Fishing’ for the Insight That Will Break the Case

Murder in the Mind is the sixth book in what is currently an eleven-book, British mystery series, each novel advertised as a standalone work. This installment finds the series protagonist, DI Skelgill, called to an isolated, high-security, psychiatric hospital for a routine investigation. But soon, concerns about petty pilfering are forgotten when inexplicable deaths and daring escapes enter the storyline. Over the course of the rest of the book, Skelgill uses something akin to an abrasive, Socratic method to elicit thoughts and theories from his team only to discount or disregard them in most cases. Eventually, however, he fits all of the pieces into the puzzle, gaining his insight while fishing ... which appears to be a trademark for the series' detective.

One of the strengths of the book is the description of the setting, in this case, the Lake District in northwest England. As (bad) luck would have it, this story occurs during a rainy, dreary stretch of weather and you can almost feel the drizzle seep under your collar as you stand beside Skelgill on the banks of a lake. The story is a bit slow starting, but then moves at a deliberate pace as the detective collects facts, then lets the solution form in his mind. The murderer is somewhat obvious, but twists in the details are still good.

There were, however, a couple of aspects of the book that detracted. One was the writing style. Clearly, there is a thin line between clever turns of a phrase and wording that is mind-numbing, but for me, this book crossed over. Consider the description of the hospital as "...an appellation that hints of Bedlam (albeit an authentic eponym – being built on the lower slopes of Hare's Fell) and an outward appearance that is at once

foreboding and forbidding.” I could almost understand this type of wording if it reflected the protagonist’s speech, but Skelgill tends toward simple statements replete with British slang (although he can be obscure). A second concern was point of view. It is third person consistently, but sometimes the narrator knew what Skelgill was thinking and other times, he/she did not. Whether or not we got a peek into the detective’s thoughts seemed random and so, became a bit distracting.

Overall, consistent use of point of view and more straightforward prose would have helped this otherwise prototypical British murder mystery.

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### **LeAnne says**

This one is one of my favorites in this series. Gets my attention fairly early. An intriguing storyline with interesting characters. Very intelligently written. DS Jones doesn’t appear very much in this story’s action. We get to see how DI Skelgill’s mind works as he follows leads. The story does not drag. Something new is always around the corner. Most of the action takes place at a mental institution where some very bad characters are kept because of their evil crimes. Skelgill interacts with the administrators and some of the workers. Then the first of two serial killers escapes. Leave it to Skelgill to figure out how he got over the “escape proof” fence. Then the other serial killer is seen on camera supposedly using one of the administrators to leave through the guarded gate. Lots of twists and turns. Lots of interaction between DI Skelgill and DS Leyton. Poor Leyton has quite a time trying to decipher Skelgill’s thinking.

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### **Charles Ray says**

Called to an isolated max-security hospital for the criminally insane, DI Skelgill catches the eye of a notorious female serial killer. When the killer, a nurse who was accused of killing scores of her patients, escapes, taking her psychologist with her, Skelgill and his crew undertake a plodding, systematic chase, culminating in a surprise ending that caught me completely unawares.

Murder in the Mind by Bruce Beckwith is a classic British murder mystery, written in an almost dry, nonchalant style—matching the principal protagonist’s personality—with plenty of red herrings and wry observations. It starts slow, as British mysteries are prone to do, but keeps moving relentlessly until the good guys prevail, and the bad ones are put where they belong.

I give this one four stars.

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### **Allyson Abbott says**

#### **An easy read with lots of details and twists**

What I liked about this book was firstly the pace. It was steady, but not at all boring. Even the fishing was interesting. A brilliant ‘whodunnit’ with fantastic characters.

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### **Betty says**

This was my least favorite in the whole series so far although I didn't read the "Magic" one yet. Not interested in reading about the occult in any form.

I found this story rather convoluted and the characters didn't act the way I thought that people in this line of work would comport themselves. Especially the women. I'm quite sure that, while the inspector is quite handsome and virile looking, not every woman he meets would make sexual advances at him. Particularly professional women of the caliber in this setting.

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### **Jane Jimeno says**

#### **Twisty and turny**

I never knew what to expect. Each page seemed to bring a new perspective to what was it could be happening.

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### **CARRIE STIRLING says**

#### **Murder in the Mind**

Started out rather boring! Was hard to keep up with all the characters involved!

It did become more interesting at the end as the plot was revealed and played out!

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### **Gary Van Cott says**

I like the characters in this series but there is not nearly enough of DS Jones in this book. I didn't find the plot very interesting. I am becoming rather annoyed with the author as the main character has a number of attractive women interested in him, but the author is too coy to tell the reader if anything ever "happens."

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### **Jack Wofford says**

#### **Great book in the series**

The wonderful fishing detective is awesome chasing down serial killers while trying out salmon fishing instead of his beloved pike!

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**Linda Lancaster says****Great story**

Another great book all the local places mentioned make you feel as if you are there. Local knowledge is very good.

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**Jean says****Never judge a book by its cover.**

This is a first class , well written murder mystery . It is a pleasure to be once again in the land of lakes , which are not "lakes" , except one of course . After reading most of this series , one enjoys being with Inspector Skelgill and Co. again as one would enjoy a family reunion.  
But .....I avoided this book for months . I don't like the cover and the subject matter seemed disagreeable. I was wrong and am glad that I forced myself .

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**Sandy says****Murder in the Mind**

Very interesting and entertaining storyline about two serial killers locked inside a mental hospital where mysteries begin with suspicion directed at them as well as others.

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**Andrew says**

Not as clear cut or satisfying a mystery as previous books in the series.

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