



The Rising

Brian McGilloway

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When Garda Inspector Benedict Devlin is summoned to a burning barn, he finds inside the charred remains of a man who is quickly identified as a local drug dealer, Martin Kielty. It soon becomes clear that Kielty's death was no accident, and suspicion falls on a local vigilante group. Former paramilitaries, the men call themselves The Rising. Meanwhile, a former colleague's teenage son has gone missing during a seaside camping trip. Devlin is relieved when the boy's mother, Caroline Williams, receives a text message from her son's phone, and so when a body is reported, washed up on a nearby beach, the inspector is baffled. When another drug dealer is killed, Devlin realises that the spate of deaths is more complex than mere vigilantism. But just as it seems he is close to understanding the case, a personal crisis will strike at the heart of Ben's own family, and he will be forced to confront the compromises his career has forced upon him. With his fourth novel, McGilloway announces himself as one of the most exciting crime novelists around: gripping, heartbreak and always surprising, *The Rising* is a tour de force – McGilloway's most personal novel so far.

The Rising Details

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Author : Brian McGilloway

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From Reader Review The Rising for online ebook

Camilla says

Not terrible, but could have been better.

Clare O'Beara says

This is a dark and gritty look at policing in the shadow of the border. Modern Ireland sees co-operations between forces on both sides, but drug dealers try to oust rivals a few miles away whichever side of the border they happen to live in and the roads are less checked than in previous times. The Garda inspector who narrates is based in Lifford and calls in to Letterkenny, with the Atlantic on one side and the lights of Derry on the other.

A first person narrative for a police procedural is unusual and produces only that person's viewpoint of the case and suspects. However we do get Devlin's experience of running into a burning barn to search for people told with strong and simple realism. Devlin also seems to take what he sees at face value, not wonder why a kid is camping in February or why a daughter aged eleven is interested in boys (I wasn't at that age). Speculation is left to the reader while Devlin just knows what procedure requires, like dental records and notifying family of a presumed fire victim. The work of the Drugs Squad necessarily involves junkies, squats and squalor. There's also storms and flooding in the countryside we explore. Expect strong language. Devlin's relationship with his wife Penny is strongly tested and we remain in suspense until the last.

The name The Rising refers to a rising up against drug dealers by an infuriated populace. We do have to think that the title was chosen with the centenary of the Easter Rising in mind. Few words are wasted in this crime tale. If you have been following the series to date, or particularly enjoy terse, gritty procedurals, you may give it a better rating.

Mike Gabor says

When Garda Inspector Benedict Devlin is summoned to a burning barn, he finds inside the charred remains of a man who is quickly identified as local drug dealer Martin Kiely. It soon becomes clear that Kiely's death was no accident, and suspicion falls on a local vigilante group. Former paramilitaries, the men call themselves The Rising. Meanwhile, a former colleague's teenage son has gone missing during a seaside camping trip. Devlin is relieved when the boy's mother receives a text message from her son's phone, and so when a body is reported, washed up on a nearby beach, the inspector is baffled. When another drug dealer is killed, Devlin realizes that the spate of deaths is more complex than mere vigilantism. But just as it seems he is close to understanding the case, a personal crisis will strike at the heart of Ben's own family, and he will be forced to confront the compromises his career has forced upon him.

Good entry in this series. Fast paced, good dialogue and characters. Nice look into the private life of Inspector Devlin. Highly recommended.

Angela says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I have never read this author before so I was excited, albeit nervous, to read this story. I love a good suspense/mystery/crime thriller. What constitutes a good one for me are the following: I didn't guess who the bad guy was; there was a ton of action; not too heavy on romance; the characters are likable; and the story is somewhat plausible. I got pretty much all of these things in this book.

Inspector Devlin is a seemingly complicated man. He wants to work and do his job, but he also wants to be at home with his kids. He's having issues with his family because they don't understand him and his need to do his job. He is also struggling with the fact that he tends to like to be at work more than he likes to be at home with his wife. So, he's dealing with all of that and the fact that his boss is a giant jerkwad. Plus, let's throw in several murders and a missing teenager as well.

The story takes place in Ireland, a land that I would love to visit someday, and it was hard to read the dialogue (in my head) without an Irish accent. :) I enjoyed the story and thought that there was quite a bit of action and I definitely did not see the ending coming. The outcome of the case is truly believable as I'm sure it happens every day here in this country as well as others that have drug & gang problems. I will most likely read more of Brian McGilloway's books and look forward to reading more of Inspector Devlin's adventures in Ireland. The only thing that I didn't care for was the relationship that Inspector Devlin had with his former partner. I don't think that every detective/mystery/police/suspense book has to have two partners of the opposite sex who "get close" to each other during their time working together. I'm sure it happens in real life sometimes, but I think this story could have done without that part. I give this 4.5 books.

Bill Cokas says

This is my fourth Devlin, and it rivals the first. I love foreign-locale fiction, and he's picked a great area full of conflict: the "borderlands" between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. I'd recommend starting at the beginning of the series, so you get to know Devlin and his family/colleagues. He's definitely not perfect, but he's a strong, brooding, conflicted character. They're all in first person, and the economy of language is nothing short of brilliant--not a wasted or misplaced word to be found, as befitting a laconic detective. His main plots and subplots intertwine flawlessly and you get the idea that while he loves where he lives, it's not perfect either. This is Ireland warts-and-all, narrated by a character who fits the same description.

Raven says

Ostensibly the plot revolves around a community action group 'The Rising' who are seeking to eradicate the stranglehold on their neighbourhood of local drug dealers. However, this group is led by a small band of men who have less than savoury pasts and who are actually seeking to strengthen the grip of one major drug dealer, the outwardly respectable businessman Vincent Morrison, by disposing of the competition. Morrison is a nemesis to our moral yet maverick detective Devlin, who soon gets to the root of this conspiracy but also finds himself embroiled on a personal level with Morrison due to the growing relationship between Morrison's son John and Devlin's daughter Penny. Penny is approaching the devilish teenage years apace and

all the seeds of rebellion are wonderfully sown as Devlin comes into conflict with his daughter over this youthful dalliance ultimately leading to a gripping emotional drama at the conclusion of the book putting Devlin's familial relationships at the very heart of this novel.

This book also sees the reappearance of Devlin's former colleague Caroline Williams who has always had a special place in Devlin's heart in the previous will they, won't they plot lines. There is heartbreak for Caroline with the senseless death of her teenage son Peter and through the actions of Caroline's ex-husband we see her pushed to her emotional limits and Devlin has no other option but to become more involved. This story line is particularly well realised and really tugs on the reader's heartstrings as Caroline is such an empathetic character and depicts the loyalty that Devlin has to those closest to him outside of his police role.

Brian McGilloway's books are always a wonderful combination of fictional drama blended with an adherence to factual history but I felt this book in particular marked a slight departure in style from the author. Indeed, what struck me most about the book was how emotionally fraught it was in comparison to the rest of the series and how, through the interlinking plot lines, the theme of family was so prevalent, amongst the 'good' and the 'bad' characters which made this book resonate with the reader on a much deeper level. A great read.

Lynn says

Set on the border of Ireland and Northern Ireland, this is an excellent series in my opinion. The main character (Catholic, Garda detective, and family man) has to make compromises in every book. It seems very realistic and I like this flawed and evolving cop.

Trena says

A friend put me on to Inspector Devlin just a great find. Set in the Irish border lands. The characters are strong and flawed. The stories have you up all night to find out what happens , as nothing is what it seems.

Jessica Jones-coggins says

Pretty good 4th book in the series beginning with Borderlands which was really good.

Roger Neilson says

Fairly standard police novel with a bit of a twist given the borderlands setting. Nothing startling though.

Vera says

On the edition: MacMillan decided to stretch the story out to 356 pages by using a wide line spacing, making

the book appear to be more than it is - most likely for marketing and pricing reasons. That does not recommend the publisher to me.

This was my first McGilloway, and I probably won't read another one. I found the story quite entertaining but a little shallow in language and character exploration.

Barbara says

Benedict Devlin is battling drug dealers, and looking for the murderer of two dealers. At the same time, a group called The Rising made up mainly of Protestant ex-paramilitaries is waging a campaign against drugs and dealers. Devlin is overworked because many of the Garda stations near the border of Donegal and Derry are woefully understaffed. This leads to him neglecting his family while giving much of his time to helping his former partner and old romantic interest. The story is fast moving, full of twists and turns and surprises up to the end. McGilloway has a good way of summing up events throughout the novel which is a great device when things get complex. I'll be reading more soon!

Jelena Milašinović says

This was just God awful! You have to dredge through 2/3 of the book to get to a semi interesting part of it. The more I read it, the more I thought that every character was more interesting than Devlin.

Bruce Hatton says

Brian McGilloway certainly puts his central character in this series, Benedict Devlin, through the emotional wringer. In this novel the poor guy has problems coming at him from all angles. The central crime consists of the murder of two drug dealers – possibly by a vigilante group of former IRA paramilitaries called “The Rising”. On top of this he has to deal with the death of the teenage son of a former colleague, said colleague’s abusive husband, the frequent intransigence and hostility of his immediate boss, Harry Patterson and, finally, threats to his own family.

Another totally absorbing and frequently heart-wrenching narrative; all the better for being told in the first person, as this gives us an excellent insight into a decent but flawed man tasked with a seemingly impossible job.

Laura says

My second Inspector Devlin and I'm still not sure if I need to read this in order or not. The personal parts lead me to believe that yes, I do, but the murder parts don't really require it. Any thoughts?

I did like the twist on whodunnit, and without giving any spoilers, there's a thought-provoking take on groups that claim to be working on one thing but are secretly promoting another agenda.
