



Heartstone

Phillip Margolin

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They were young, popular, the perfect couple -- an all-American boy and a beautiful cheerleader. But the youthful passion that led them to Lookout Point that terrible evening would prove fatal. For Richie Walters the end came swiftly, as death descended upon him in a savage orgy of horrific violence. Elaine Murray would live long enough to learn just how lucky her boyfriend had been ...

Two brutal slayings have rocked a stunned city. But the murders are merely the nightmare's beginning, flinging open a terrifying Pandora's box of sordid secrets and dark revelations more deadly than the bloodlust that lives in the rock-hard heart of a killer.

Heartstone Details

Date : Published (first published 1978)

ISBN :

Author : Phillip Margolin

Format : Kindle Edition 449 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Legal Thriller

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From Reader Review Heartstone for online ebook

Corban Ford says

Manoman, I finally finished this book! Believe it or not it's taken me over three months, I just kept finding other things to read, and never got back around to it. However, that is in the past and the deed is done. I'm always down for a good mystery, and the way Margolin grabbed me in the very first paragraph was by essentially saying "look, the main characters in this tale don't make it. Would you like to find out why?" I'm glad that I agreed to do so.

The story is surprisingly deep and fleshed out for a simple whodunit that doesn't waste time looking back at the protagonist's past. Instead Margolin chose to look at each person involved with solving the case, from the DA to the police chief, and really delve into their motivations, some pure, some not as much. It was a very interesting take and while you still wanted the perpetrator of such a violent crime to be apprehended, you might have preferred the new recruit to take them in as opposed to the assistant District Attorney.

The twists and turns of the case kept going right down to the end, which was both a good thing because you had to stay on your toes, as well as a bad thing (because I guessed wrong about, oh, I don't know maybe 37 times) But I wish the ending was handled a little bit better. It just drops, as if you're sliding off a cliff and then there's the fall (actually, that was a horrible analogy my apologies) I just would have preferred a smoother close than the abrupt finish I was given.

Still, a very good book, and one that was even more enjoyable to me because a fine senior gentleman recommended it to me, said I would like it, and was spot on.

Ellie Carlisle says

I thought this was a poorly written book. There wasn't a decent or likable character in the book except for the young couple who were murdered and the current DA. Even the defense attorney was an unlikable person. I rarely stop reading a book once I've started it but this was one that I almost did. Only interesting part was finding out who committed the murders and it certainly could have taken a lot fewer pages. I have read a few other books by Philip Margolin and thought they were decent enough books. Not this one and based on this one I'll never read another of his books. Too many other really great books and authors out there to waste my time on this kind of drivel.

Update - I just found out that this was his first book so could cut him some slack but that doesn't mean it was in any way a good book or a book worth reading. Don't waste your time.

Dawn Mahony says

As good if not better than Grisham. Once started it was very difficult to put down.

Njbatz says

If you haven't read any of Phillip Margolin's novels, I recommend them. He's a Portland Oregon based author, which adds interest for me, but it's not necessary to know the area to enjoy his work.

Donna says

In the prologue, a man is dying and wants to confess his sins to the district attorney. The first chapter details two teenagers going on a date with the intention of going steady. At Lookout Point, the young man is brutally beaten and killed while the young woman is abducted. Her body is found months later. The story tracks the hunt for who killed them.

First published in 1978, this is Philip Margolin's first novel and his writing has only gotten better since then. I think I probably started reading his books around 1990 and this is my 3rd re-reading of this one. I didn't like the way Detective Roy Shindler handled the case but I enjoyed the story. Nice twist at the end that I didn't expect.

Kate Allen says

I read this book on the recommendation of a friend.

And I am very glad I did. The perfect 'page turner' mystery, the story uses well timed flashbacks to solve the mystery of the disappearance of a high school student and the detective who is on the case years later. Stayed up well past my bedtime reading this one.

Sharon Taylor says

I love the twists and turns and I absolutely love the end. I told my husband the whole story while we were driving from El Paso to Dallas and he even loved it.

Alanna says

twist to end

Chuck says

This is a cold case murder mystery the victims of which were two young lovers. It is a cold, grim, convoluted story that is not a particularly pleasant read.

Joyce McKune says

I'm not one to give up on a book easily or I would have quit after the first 3 chapters or so. It bounced all over the place. I kept telling myself he'd show me the relationship in the end and he finally did.

A high school couple were up at the local lovers lane. The fellow was murdered, head bashed in, and the girl was missing. The homicide detective was more determined to find the killer than the parents. Seven years later he finally makes an arrest.

Edie Reynolds says

As usual, Phillip Margolin does not disappoint. This is a real page turner and fast read. Surprise ending.

Judy Green says

G-

Got to pg. 39. Tough read for me.

Sharon says

It took me a long time to get into this book. In the beginning so many characters were introduced that it was hard to keep them straight. Also there was no one main character. I like to have someone to get involved with and care about --- that never happened.

Dawn Olson-Thorner says

My husband recommended this book to me....by page 295 I was wondering just how many more characters could be introduced into this story.....it was long, slow-going and frustrating. The ending made it worth the read.

jill says

I found this on an airplane on my last trip. The cover blurb didn't sound very interesting, but it said it was nominated for an Edgar award, so I decided to give it a try.

I was right the first time.

I actually kind of liked the DA character that was introduced first, but he turned out to play almost no role in

the actual story. Instead, there were lots of transcripts of boring hypnosis sessions and an overzealous yet remarkably boring cop.

The conclusion was sort of surprising, but by that point I just didn't care.
