



Hand For A Hand

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When Andy Gilchrist is called to a crime scene to find an amputated hand clutching a note addressed to him he is pulled into an investigation that will test him. Soon other single word clues are found along with amputated body parts and the murderer's message becomes clear as the identity of the next intended victim is revealed.

Hand For A Hand Details

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From Reader Review Hand For A Hand for online ebook

Patricia says

DCI Andy Gilchrist became a new favorite for me just a few pages into "Hand For A Hand". A dismembered hand is found on the golf course in St. Andrews, Scotland. The hand grips a note addressed to Andy. This first note is only the beginning of the terrors that Andy must face as the body parts and the notes with the strange messages continue to make their appearances.

Andy is divorced with two grown children, Jack and Maureen. It is a puzzle as to why the murderer is targeting Andy with a personal note. Andy realizes that the victim could be someone close to him. He leaves an urgent message for his daughter Maureen requesting that she contact him immediately. When he reaches his son, Jack, Andy learns that Jack had a disagreement with his girlfriend, Chloe, and doesn't know where she is now.

To make matters even worse, Ronnie Watt is assigned to the case. Because of an incident in the past involving Ronnie and Andy's young daughter Maureen, Andy despises Ronnie, doesn't trust him, and feels that Ronnie will be a detriment rather than an asset in the investigation. Although Andy complains to his superior, he is told that Ronnie will remain on the case in spite of Andy's feelings.

When what appears to be paint on the severed hand Andy's fear increases. Jack's girlfriend Chloe is an artist. When the next body part is found along with a message for Andy, Andy becomes convinced that the victim must be Chloe.

With the assistance of DS Nancy Wilson, Andy works to decipher the meaning of the notes addressed to him but before he can come up with the answer his daughter Maureen disappears. So begins a race to find Maureen before the killer can deliver the final blow to Andy and his loved ones.

Any reader who enjoys Police Procedurals will instantly become a fan of T. Frank Muir. I am looking forward to the next book in this series.

Maggie Kiely says

I enjoyed book one so thought I would try book 2 which takes up soon after book 1. Gilchrist is still trying to juggle work and personal life without much success. His ex wife is mentioned as hooked to a morphine pump and dying slowly. His son calls him 'Andy' and seems non plussed if he has contact with him or not. His daughter Maureen pretty much avoids him. Gilchrist does not have an easy relationship with his Police seniors. Add to this a detective added to his team who Gilchrist cannot stand due to a personal issue in the past.

Body parts are being delivered with notes for the attention of Gilchrist. It is obvious that the victim is near to Gilchrist personally.

Thus starts the race to find the murderer with Gilchrist mentally unravelling in the process. There is a bit of romance for Gilchrist in the mix. I did enjoy this one and will be reaching for book 3.

Petra says

This is the second book in the series about DCI Andy Gilchrist set in and around St Andrews in Scotland. Being familiar with the area was one of my reasons for picking this series back up again, and I'm glad I did. I enjoyed it more than the first one. The characters are better developed, and we are getting to know Andy and members of his family more thoroughly. It's quite an intricate police procedural with some rather gruesome parts. The audiobook was narrated perfectly by David Monteith. I will definitely continue with the series. Recommended for anybody who likes brooding British detectives who are brilliant at their jobs but deficient in their private lives.

Gooddeeds says

I always love reading books set in the UK for a change, and I love Scotland. This is a great story and the cold wet and windy Scottish weather really added to the grim atmosphere.

Good levels of suspense in this, I want to read more of his books.

Donated to the British Heart Foundation in South Shields.

Mary E SMYTH says

I enjoy T.F. Muir's writing, but this story had an overcomplicated plot. At times this made the story a tad tedious and even slow.

I did not feel that the gratuitous foul and sexual explicit language added anything to the story and even made me feel rather uncomfortable 're the father daughter aspect.

I won't be rushing to buy the next in series ,they really are a bit overpriced.

Cathy Cole says

First Line: Tam Dunn watched the golf ball take a hard kick left and slip into the infamous Road Hole Bunker, a sandy-bottomed pothole that fronted the seventeenth green.

What Tam Dunn finds at the bottom of the Road Hole Bunker gets Detective Chief Inspector Andy Gilchrist out to the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland on the double. A dismembered hand is lying in the sand, clutching a one word note addressed to Gilchrist himself. All the note says is Murder, but Gilchrist knows immediately that his nightmare has begun: a killer has him in the crosshairs.

The seasoned veteran is no novice to solving murders, but this one comes at a particularly bad time. His ex-wife is dying, his son's girlfriend is missing, his boss insists on pairing him with a detective whom he has good reason to hate.... But when it rains, it pours, because this one hand is merely the beginning of a parade of body parts-- all bearing messages for Gilchrist.

When I began reading this book, I have to admit that Gilchrist was the type of character I don't care for. He drinks to excess; he has no time for his family; and he falls into a very inappropriate relationship. But as the murder investigation progressed, DCI Andy Gilchrist started to grow on me. He's the type of detective who works on a combination of hard work and intuition. When his intuition helps him decipher the meaning of the cryptic messages found with the body parts, he knows he has very little time to solve the case because someone very dear to him will die if he doesn't put every molecule of his knowledge and strength into finding the killer.

Through watching Gilchrist at work, through seeing him realize the grave mistakes he's made over the years, and through observing his realization that he has to change, I went from disliking this character to feeling a grudging respect for him. Now I am very interested in reading the next book in this series, not only because I want to see if Gilchrist is the type of man who's strong enough to make those needed changes, but because I want to see if Muir does more to develop some of the other very intriguing characters he introduced in this first book. If you're a fan of British police procedurals, I recommend that you read *Hand for a Hand*.

Rogue Reader says

A hand found on a golf course in St. Andrews, Scotland - I wasn't sure about this, not liking golf in any form (sorry), but kept reading and wasn't disappointed.

DI Gilchrist is called in for the hand, and all of the subsequent body parts that sicken Gilchrist and the reader with the impending, no doubt horrific ending. Because Gilchrist is targeted, the killer is reaching out directly to Gilchrist, egging him on, taunting him, laughing meanly with a diabolical series of puzzle messages. And the killer has Gilchrist's daughter.

Lots of layers in Muir's work that make for a fast and fascinating read. Where's he been all this time?

Hand for a Hand is Muir's first US release and the third DI Gilchrist mystery, the earlier two (*Eye for an Eye* and *Tooth for a Tooth*) only available in the UK. Thanks Soho Crime for picking up yet another excellent writer and bringing him to the US market. I love your acquisitions editor!!

--*Ashland Mystery*

Stephen Walton says

Very gripping and well told story . Loads going on and a page turning story line. Enjoyable and recommended as it's a full story and not a cliff hanger

Mary G. says

First I do share the comments that the main character was overly angst ridden. However, I did enjoy the writing and storytelling.

I would have given the book more stars but I was disturbed by the constant mentioning of needing a pint, whiskey what have you. As we discussed in our group, it appears that having an alcoholic detective is becoming too easy a crutch by many writers. The story would have worked just as well without the constant mentioning of the need for a drink.

I may or may not read another Muir story but I would hope the next books show growth and change by all the characters.

Jean says

A Thoroughly Good Read !

Gruesome and violent , but all the better for it . Reality is the spice of the life of this excellent story line and of it borders on Gothic horror at times , so be it..

Greg says

I like Scottish/British mysteries, but this one did not meet my expectations. Maybe it was based too much on raw crime, sex and shock factor (whatever author Frank Muir was trying to achieve).

DCI Andy Gilchrist is called to a St. Andrews golf course where a hand is found in a bunker. In that hand is a note addressed directly to Gilchrist and has one word - Murder. Is it a clue? Other body parts show up with more words.

Unfortunately, Gilchrist seems more interested in drinking, a liaison with his female partner and his spiteful relationship with another detective than he is with solving the mystery. It's a race against time to save another victim of the evil person behind the scenes.

Muir places too much emphasis on female body parts, crude language and scumbag people, but maybe that is what real crime mysteries are supposed to be all about. Not my cup of tea.

John Cain says

This is the second DCI Gilchrist book. I definitely recommend reading the first one first. Andy Gilchrist is a drinker who does not play by the rules, has trouble with his boss and ex-wife, difficult relations with his adult children, not above a little rough stuff with a witness and is brilliant at solving crimes. If you want a cliche driven detective novel this is it. But it is a compelling read and not badly written.

Once I got going I had a hard time putting it down.

The book is set in St. Andrews and Glasgow.

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

Fantastic, so different from the first. Full review to come.

Steve says

I thought the author had a good yarn, but executed in a manner that left me wanting. However, I'll start with the good: the crime, setting, dialog, pacing, mood.

In the hands of a more seasoned writer, one less prone to meandering into flowery prose, this book would have burned into my memory. I imagine if Elmore Leonard, Ken Bruen or Raymond Chandler had written it.

I think, if Muir takes in more hard-boiled detective fiction and emulates it better without losing his own voice, his subsequent efforts will be a joy to read.

I didn't so much mind the angst-ridden protagonist; he did come off at times more like a petulant teenager than a 47-year-old man, but that's a lot of real-life people, too.

The points of the book at which I had to pause to groan and bemoan were those where he got too descriptive, deviating from the presentation that best serves noir: stark, to-the-point narration.

Muir writes sex scenes like a teenager who has never had sex but owns a thesaurus and thinks in nautical analogs. He talks about molasses to tell us something is moving slowly. Too many moments of narrative were trite and cliched and his good story is worthy of better.

I believe this is his debut and, despite my disappointments, I would love to take a look at his sophomore effort. Muir seems to me like a crime writer with a lot of promise and I hope that promise will be realized.

Flora Wyllie says

The second in the series and an excellent read. I didn't want to put it down.
