



Never Somewhere Else

Alex Gray

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When a series of young women are discovered strangled and mutilated in a Glasgow park, it is up to DCI Lorimer to find their killer. He enlists the services of Dr Solomon Brightman, a psychologist and criminal profiler.

Never Somewhere Else Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2003 by Canongate Books Ltd (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9781841953939

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Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Cultural, Scotland

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Ronna says

I was really excited as I read further and further into this first book by Alex Gray. I've always enjoyed the Ian Rankin series with Rebus, including the BBC show about this character. In NEVER SOMEWHERE ELSE, that same intertwining relationship between detective and psychologist/profiler comes into play wonderfully.

Detective Inspector Lorimer is an attractive, happily married man who spends way too much time investigating his cases, according to his wife. But that probably won't change anytime soon because of shortfalls in the Glasgow, Scotland's budget. Dr. Solomon Brightman is a well liked college professor of psychology. Though younger than Lorimer, he soon becomes a trusted associate as his theories seem to play out correctly in his help with police investigations. Unmarried, Brightman and intriguing pathologist, Rosie Fergusson, seem to have an interesting affinity for each other. This team looks to be a very interesting combination for many more mysteries!

In this book, women are being strangled with a bicycle chain, scalped, mangled, and then placed in St Mungo Park. Is this a serial killer, or someone wanting one girl killed without a motive being detected? The art world, journalists, photographers, and pedophiles all come into play as the police try to find this sadistic murderer before he murders again. I really enjoyed the journey with everyone involved, as the evidence and clues became evident within this book! Thrilled to have found this new series by Alex Gray!

Rob Twinem says

On the front of the paperback edition to this book it boldly states that "Brings Glasgow to life in the same way Ian Rankin evokes Edinburgh" This is a disgraceful statement to be pointed at the good name of Rankin and the god amongst crime detectives John Rebus. Reading "Never Someone Else" can only be compared to viewing a rather poor episode of Murder She Wrote starring the ever youthful Angela Lansbury. The crime market is awash with wannabe Rankinists and yet seemingly the author of this story is a well respected and revered past winner of Scottish Association of Writers' Constable and Pitlochry trophies for her crime writing....whatever that is....

DCI Lorimer has been tasked with the unenviable job of unmasking a vicious killer who has mutilated and scalped three women leaving their bodies to be discovered in St Mungo's park. To help him understand the mind of the perpetrator he requests the services of psychologist Sol Brightman. Lorimer is probably the most characterless detective I have ever encountered there is nothing enthusiastic or appealing about him...and surely a DCI should be bold and charismatic in order to instil enthusiasm in the officers under his command. Even his English teacher wife Maggie finds him unpredictable and boring, they rarely communicate and she never knows what time to expect his presence at home...if at all. We learn little about the inner Lorimer, his interests: does he like music? does he have a weakness for alcohol? does he prefer the company of other women? He is uninteresting and dull and it is surely only a short time before his long suffering Maggie departs in tears closely accompanied by a disillusioned reader! For crying out loud, dear author, this is the first in a supposedly exciting crime series and yet nothing is done to expose the mind of the lead player...leaving him as a dull soulless pathetic individual.....you get the picture I didn't like him!

Any reader of crime will know that the villain will always make an appearance in the story before he is

unmasked and it is always fun to try to second-guess this individual. It was a relatively simple process to successfully select the killer in such a poorly written novel. Undoubtedly the later books in the series will gradually expose the inner thoughts of "Mr very very dull and boring DCI" but I will certainly not be reading and will be planning my escape with the lovely perplexed Maggie.....

Linda Strong says

Exciting beginning to a new series and a new author to me!

DCI Lorimer has taken on a case involving three young women who are discovered strangled and scalped and left in a Glasgow Park. He turns to Dr. Solomon Brightman, a psychologist and criminal profiler, much against his wishes. He thinks that Dr. Solomon is almost too eager to become involved in these murders.

These are gruesome murders, with the antagonist keeping the scalps as trophies, reminiscent of the 1800 battles of the Native Americans.

It takes a homeless man to find the connections among the victims, and Dr. Brightman finds himself lucky to have survived an assault with his hair intact. When a news reporter and his photographer start turning up and releasing confidential information, DCI Lorimer goes ballistic and more people die.

The action was a bit slow, but steady, in the very beginning, but picked up rapidly the more I read. I particularly enjoy new series and learning about all the major characters. I think the back stories make for great reading .. and this one met all my expectations.

I look forward to reading the rest of the series!

Alfred Nobile says

This is the first book in the DCI Lorimer series by Alex Gray. It is a police procedural set in Glasgow. Lorimer is on the trail of a killer who disfigures his victims in a unique way. The pace of the book is frantic and keeps you turning the pages and second guessing yourself. You think you have solved the crime only to realise you have swallowed another Red Herring. Lorimer will obviously be compared to Ian Rankin's Rebus. But Glasgow and Edinburgh are two completely different cities and they are two different detectives. This book was written in 2002 and though it has taken me awhile to get round to it, I will be reading the rest of the series ASAP. Well done Alex. You have whetted my appetite and I look forward to more.

Wendy says

Set in Glasgow, "Never Somewhere Else" is a fast-paced, thriller that opens with three brutally murdered young women, their bodies dumped in St. Mungo's Park. With the only clue gleaned from a homeless man sleeping in the park and frustrated with the lack of progress in the grizzly murders DCI Bill Lorimer not only enlists the aid of Dr. Solomon (Solly) Brightman a psychologist and criminal profiler, but has the crimes re-enacted on "Crimewatch", hoping to elicit information from the public.

Intensity and suspense build quickly with the thwarted attack on Alison Gridley, on her way home from her karate club; the death of a man in a burned-out ambulance; and a break-in at Solly Brightman's apartment. Well-developed and intriguing, the emotional temperature of the plot heats up when DCI Lorimer goes ballistic after sensitive information about the ongoing investigation is released by an ambitious reporter and his photographer as well as acquiesced in an interview with Solly. Realistic, the investigation taking dips and turns as the suspect list is narrowed down, the plot progresses smoothly to a confrontation at the end that provides a surprising identity to a vicious killer.

Among the host of compelling characters is DCI Bill Lorimer the attractive and happily married detective who loves his job much to the frustration of his wife. Fair-minded, intense and often short-tempered the detective is relentless in his pursuit of justice for the victims. Amiable, thirty-two-year-old Dr. Solomon Brightman, a professor of psychology reveals a single-minded approach in his profile of the killer. He quickly becomes a trusted associate of Lorimer's and unmarried, develops a fondness for forensic pathologist Rosie Fergusson. Yet it's the cocky, dangerous, arrogant bravado of the killer that adds a chill to the tension in this murder mystery.

I thoroughly enjoyed the locale, the characters and plot of "Never Somewhere Else" and won't hesitate to look for other books in the "Lorimer" series.

Joanne Rawson says

Easy reading, much like reading a Peter Robinson book. First time I have read this author and I really enjoyed it. Looking forward to reading more from this author.

Margaret says

I enjoyed this thriller although it was pretty gruesome. Lots of red herrings and twists. My son-in-law once said the killer had to be a character already in the mix so I did figure it out. What a nasty person the killer turned out to be - no spoilers in that statement!!

Anne says

Fans of Rebus will enjoy Lorimer. Gray read a bit faster than Rankin, AND I got to explore the streets of Glasgow! I will definitely be returning for more crime solving with Glasgow's finest!

Mick Scrimshaw says

This is the second crime novel I've read in a row about the brutal murders of women. I am going to have to read something much more light-hearted next. Both of these incidentally were written by women, I don't know if there is any significance in that, and it was only halfway through the second one that I realised myself.

Anyway, this particular book was a good enough crime thriller. It was nothing special, but it was an interesting police procedure whodunit nonetheless. I guessed who the murderer was before the end simply by the old tried and tested method of choosing someone that just seemed unlikely. I'm not sure that proves the plot was quite as good as something written by Agatha Christie, but I did still enjoy the book, but perhaps more for the story itself rather than the intellectual challenge of working out who the hidden killer was. Set in Glasgow it would interest anyone with an interest in the city. I've only visited twice, but have visited both the Glasgow School of Art (before the fire) and the House for an Art Lover which were both in the story and which made it slightly more interesting for me personally.

So overall, no complaints but nothing special I'm afraid. I may read another from the series but given that there are so many similar crime novels about, I'm not sure I would go out of my way to find one.

Margaret says

The copyright says this was written early this century but it felt to me that it came straight from the 1950s - complete with that era's enlightened view of ethnic, religious or cultural minorities. The 'foreign-looking' Jewish psychological expert starts discussing redskin warrior braves almost immediately he's introduced, so you know you're in for some profound insights into the human condition.

It's overwritten, tedious and devoid of believable or remotely interesting characters. The baddie is signalled fairly obviously despite some cack-handed attempts at throwing in red herrings; there's a weird, paedophile story ineptly tacked on and the denouement seems to come about because they had written the requisite number of pages so they stopped. Perhaps I was so bored I only read half the pages but there seemed to be some large plot holes - I certainly wasn't going to bother tracking back to see what I'd missed.

The author apparently read an Introduction to Psychology textbook, understood maybe 30% and then decided to create a forensic profiler as a character based on all that expert knowledge.

Someone else (also a 1-star rating) mentions how unremittingly dull the detective is - which certainly reflects my response to him - but he's also extraordinarily dense. All of the police officers in this book are slow on the uptake and the author basically says (repeatedly) that DCI Lorimer's success as a police officer is down to his steely blue eyes causing crims to fess up. But it's OK, don't worry about him never doing any actual police work - we know he's a deep-thinker because he keeps mithering on about art so we know it will all work out in the end.

Godawful.

Pam Fox says

This is the first book by Alex Gray set in Glasgow, my home city, with DCI Lorimer and Dr Solomon Brightman as the main characters.

The investigation surrounds the death and mutilation of three young women found in a Glasgow park. DCI Lorimer is an old fashioned cop believing in age old police methods and is reluctant to accept the services of a psychologist and criminal profiler, Dr Brightman. Lorimer has his way of doing things and Brightman his and it's interesting to see the relationship between these two and how the relationship bumps along while they are both looking for the same thing, the sadistic killers of these girls. The investigation leads the police through the streets of Glasgow, and aspects of the underbelly of the city, through twists and turns to reach a

final conclusion.

As I said this is the first book of the series and I'm glad that it's not the last, Alex Gray is in fact still writing these books as we speak and I'm looking forward to see where she takes the characters.

Definitely a book I'd recommend to lovers of crime or Glasgow based books, Glasgow always does seem to come through as its own character in many books and this one is no different.

A W says

First published in 2002 this is the novel that introduced Grey's series character DCI Lorrimer. Although not perhaps the most original addition to the genre it is still a well-constructed and engaging book.

Lorrimer is, in some respects, a familiar and maybe even clichéd figure, that old favourite the cop with finer sensibilities. Grey portrays him though as being free of most of the usual hang-ups and with a marriage that is presented as a real relationship, with all the complications that can entail.

The plot involving serial murder and sexual exploitation is suitably grim and complex, Grey manages to wrong-foot her readers several times along the way to a thrilling conclusion. Her descriptions of the mean streets of Glasgow are filled with convincing detail about how squalor and wealth can be only one wall apart.

This book may not break much in the way of new ground, but it does take its readers over familiar territory in satisfying way.

Chrystyna says

Never Somewhere Else by Alex Gray - Good

The first of the DCI Lorimer books and it was on my wishlist for sometime until my Bookcrossing Secret Santa sent it to me. Originally added after hearing the author talk about another in the series at the BookFest. Of course, I couldn't start mid-series!

Young women are being murdered in Glasgow (so very Taggart!). Strangled, scalped, then left in a local park. The MO never changes, but there is no pattern to the victims. It seems they could have been anyone.

DCI Lorimer is frustrated by lack of progress and, against his better judgement, agrees to consult Dr Solomon Brightman a psychologist and criminal profiler. From then on, this is a pretty standard bit of Tartan Noir as they race against time to catch the killer before he claims another victim. What isn't standard, is the quality of the writing. Nicely done and just as readable as a Rebus novel or any of the other new Scottish crime books I've read of late.

Will happily work my way through the series.

Mark Harrison says

Pretty run of the mill crime novel with an obvious killer but liked DCI Lorimer and Doctor Soloman Brightman. Nice pacing and lots of action. All in all a decent read and have a feeling this series will get better and better.

Sessy says

So disappointed. Had been looking forward the backdrop of Glasgow and some of the characteristic Glaswegian charm from the key players in the story, but apart from the few geographical references and a very clumsily played out dialogue from a nine year old witness, this could have been set anywhere. More disappointing was the lack of personality and development of characters in the story, I don't know who DCI Lorimer is, other than constantly angry for the first 70% of the story, and I didn't get the I press the author knew him any better than I did! There was none of the relationships you would expect in the workplace, none of the banter or familiarity between colleagues, and the most I got was a wife who was bored in the marriage. The storyline was okay, but nothing really to hook me, and there wasn't enough in the characters for me to invest enough in to care.
