



Walk Into Silence

Susan McBride

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A woman vanishes from a Texas town. Did she simply run off, or is something darker at play?

When Patrick Dielman shows up at Detective Jo Larsen's desk insisting that his wife, Jenny, is missing, Jo wonders if it's a case of a bored housewife running away.

But as she digs deeper into Jenny's life, Jo learns that Dielman keeps a stranglehold on the family finances, down to the last nickel, and that Jenny's first marriage dissolved following the death of her young son. By all accounts—including her doctor's—she never recovered from the loss. Between a controlling husband, a tragic past, and a callous ex-husband, Jo can't be sure if she should suspect foul play or accept that the woman may have wanted to disappear.

For Jo, whose own demons are shadowing her every step, finding Jenny becomes more than the typical protect-and-serve.

Walk Into Silence Details

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From Reader Review Walk Into Silence for online ebook

Kate Bucci says

This is the first time I have ever written a review, and I'm only writing it because I feel like I must have read a different book from all the glowing reviews on the main page. None of these characters had any depth or made you care about them. The plot was entirely predictable and frankly just didn't make any sense. Why would they DO that?! I'm glad I didn't pay for this book.

Colleen Thompson says

Well written and intriguing police procedural with a likable detective protagonist and a whole lot of twists and turns. I found this story engaging from beginning to end and wickedly tough to figure out. Highly recommended.

Lynn Cahoon says

Loved this mystery even though it dealt with some serious topics that made me wonder if Susan had looked into my mind.

Debbie Oxier says

This was a really good book. Jo Larsen is a detective and a darned good one. When Patrick Dielman comes to her office claiming his wife, Jenny, is missing, Jo promises to look into it. She soon learns that Patrick is Jenny's second husband. She and her first husband, Kevin Harrison, had a son named Finn who died in a freak accident almost three years ago. After the boy's death, Jo and Harrison divorced. Harrison has moved on and is married another woman who is currently pregnant with their first child. Jo might have married Patrick but she'll never have another child to hold as she was forced to have a hysterectomy. Now, it seems, Jenny wasn't handling things well, had been depressed and acting paranoid.

This book kept me turning the pages. The writing is superb and the characters people you can relate to. This was a great start to the author's new series.

Susan says

From the July 3, 2016, edition of Publishers Weekly:

"This gripping standalone from McBride (Not a Chance in Helen and two other Helen Evans mysteries) successfully entwines the story of troubled Jenny Dielman with that of Jo Larsen, a serious and methodical police detective who investigates Dielman's sudden and inexplicable disappearance. Both women are

haunted by their difficult and traumatic pasts, and both have left the big-city gloss of Dallas for the apparent simplicity and tranquility of the small town of Plainfield, Tex. But their change of location has not, as the women hoped, brought about a resolution to their respective problems. Both Dielman and Larsen have begun treatment with psychologists. Excerpts from Dielman's diary, which her therapist suggested she keep, heighten the suspense. Analyzing the crimes perpetrated against the missing woman helps Larsen to find the strength to examine her own inner demons. A suspicious death, a murder, and submerged passions all figure in this tale of twisted love and redemption."

Sharon says

I'm not a new reader to author Susan McBride's books. Her Debutante Dropout Mystery series is a favorite of mine. Ms. McBride has a great sense of humor and the characters in her books take after her. They are witty and really funny. There's always a laugh and a smile when I read one of her novels.

Then I received a copy of the author's newest book, "Walk Into Silence", and I suspected that this novel wouldn't have very many laughs in it at all. I was right. This is a serious book and one of the best murder mysteries I've read in awhile.

Police Detective Jo Larsen is sitting in her office one day thinking about Adam McCaffrey, the married man she loves. Jo knew that it was wrong falling for a taken man but love sometimes wins out over logic but he just called and said that he left his wife and can now be with her. Jo isn't sure what to make of all this so when Patrick Dielman entered her office she was happy to get her mind off Adam, that was until she heard why Mr. Dielman was at the police station.

Jenny, Patrick's 35 year - old wife, is missing. The last her husband heard from her was when she told him that she was on her way to the Warehouse Club to do some shopping. That was earlier in the day and she never returned. Patrick swears that Jenny is not the kind of person who would just up and leave. She leads a quiet life and works at the library when she isn't home. To Jo, Patrick seemed like the type of man who controls his wife's life and this might be the reason why Jenny vanished. But when Jo and her partner, Detective Hank Phelps, start to investigate they learn a lot about the missing Mrs. Dielman.

Previous to Patrick Dielman Jenny was married for seven years to Dr. Kevin Harrison. They had a son together, Finnegan, who died when he was six years old. Kevin was supposed to have been watching the young boy but was on the phone when Finn climbed up to his tree house and fell. Kevin and everyone else said it was a tragic accident but Jenny believed differently. Needless to say their not so great marriage went downhill from there and the couple divorced each marrying someone else. But Jenny knew something strange happened that caused her son to die and she needed to find the proof that showed that her ex husband, Kevin Harrison, had something to do with the death and had been lying to everyone.

No one believed that Finn's death wasn't an accident and that Jenny was obsessed about her son because the anniversary of his death was a couple of weeks away. But now Jen is missing and her husband Patrick and the detectives are getting concerned.

Jo checked the Warehouse Club and there was proof that Jen did go there and it looked like she left because her car wasn't in the parking lot. Where was Jenny and where was the car? Both questions were soon answered when her vehicle was located at the quarry and Jenny's body was found 50 feet blow in a basin, a gunshot wound in her head. Right beside Jenny's body was the gun her husband Patrick bought for her for

protection. Did Jenny kill herself because of her severe depression; did her controlling husband murder her; or was she getting a little too close for comfort to someone in discovering what really happened that caused the death of her son, Finn?

That's the murder mystery of this terrific thriller but there's so much more to the novel than that. Jo and Jenny share a similar problem. Both had horrible childhoods dealing with a parent that caused each of them to run away from society and to not trust people. Jo couldn't tell anyone what her life was like as a child and because of that she built a wall around her not letting anyone in. Not Adam, the man she loved, nor her partner, Hank, who would do anything for Jo.

Jenny did have people who knew what her life was like as a child. Her sister, Kimberly Parks knew what Jen went through and how Jen protected Kim as they were growing up. The abuse caused Jen to have problems trusting people the same trust problem that Detective Larsen had.

Readers know about the pain that these two women share. The book masterfully describes Jo's feelings and her fears but the amazing part was how readers learn about how Jenny was feeling when it came her childhood and how she tried to find out the truth when it came to her first husband and her son's death. Jenny kept a journal and readers get glimpses of what was going on in Jenny's head by reading some of her entries.

Susan McBride wrote the journal entries so realistically that tears will come to your eyes as you read them. Jen describes her fears, thoughts, and ideas so beautifully that it will make you wonder how Ms. McBride was able to get so much emotion out of this sad character. Emotions that she couldn't share with the rest of the world because no one took her seriously. Even when strange things started to occur at the home she shared with husband, Patrick, her concerns about them were chalked up to her being upset over the upcoming anniversary of her son's death.

Detective Larsen worked hard to find Jen's killer because she felt that she and Jen were sisters, sharing the same abuse as a child and sharing the affects of that abuse as adults. Where at first her partner, Hank, believed that Jen's death was a suicide Jo soon persuades him to see it as a murder.

"Walk Into Silence" is not your typical "whodunit." We aren't given a list of suspects and then have the real murderer appear out of left field. Ms. McBride has Jo and Hank take our hands and lead us into their investigation and when they figure out who the culprit is readers discover it along with the detectives as we walk with them as they find the proof they need.

This an amazingly good book and I'm happy to see that Susan McBride can write an excellent serious mystery with a wonderful story line. She's able to explain to readers how an abusive relationship, no matter who it is with or when it occurred, will always affect the person and the people in their lives.

With any luck "Walk Into Silence" is the first of a new Susan McBride series and we'll be seeing much more of Detectives Jo Larsen and Hank Phelps. Do not miss this incredible story.

Tulay says

Very good murder/mystery.

Starts out with with missing wife, but you suspect she isn't just missing. Her second controlling husband

reports about his life didn't come home last night, her son from her first marriage is died almost three years ago. She's very depressed and wonders about his death, was it murder? Trying to find the answer to questions, meantime strange things happening in her house. She suspects her husband is having an affair with her, and doesn't listen her. Her first husband is very famous doctor in Dallas, and married to rich Dallas real estate developer's daughter, and about to get big promotion. Story line in parts slow, but gave me a time to figure out who was behind this. Characters and all the supporting characters are well written. Exciting and suspenseful story. Glad I chose this book, very happy to have another female author on my must read list. Also very happy about Ernie, he has a loving mother again.

Liz Barnsley says

Walk into Silence is a tense and absorbing psychological thriller and Susan McBride writes with a sharp edge and a clever eye towards characterisation that just draws you in.

I liked how there was hidden common ground between the woman who has disappeared and the woman who is trying to find her – the plot is solid and addictive and the question of whether Jenny has gone by choice or by force is one that keeps you reading. The lines are blurred, there are some dark themes and current issues underneath the outer narrative and the whole story was riveting.

It is at times thrilling then melancholy, the storytelling is solidly compelling and its one of those books where you just want everything to be ok but realise that it probably won't be. As a reader I became emotionally invested in the characters quite early on, always something that needs to happen for me to enjoy a novel.

Overall I thought it was very good indeed. And I'm happy that it seems this will become a series. I would love to read more.

Yvonne (It's All About Books) says

[

I can always enjoy a good thriller, and this new detective series by **Susan McBride** immediately cau

Darcia Helle says

Here I am again, in this uncomfortable position of not liking a book many people have loved. The feeling is a bit like walking into a formal event wearing a bikini - and I don't even wear a bikini on the beach anymore, much less to a formal party. So I'll apologize for my inappropriate attire, but I can't apologize for my opinion.

This book is not horrible, not at all. The author clearly knows how to write. The plot is intriguing.

But...

The characters have no flare, nothing unique or surprising. They feel flat and one-dimensional. We get to

know Jo, the lead character, gradually as the story unfolds. She has some secrets and a darkness to her that should have captured my interest, but she never truly comes alive. The "bad guys/girls" are clearly unlikeable from the start. They have no redeeming factors, nothing that makes you want to like them even a little bit. This is all too black and white, good and bad, without any of the tension that accompanies complex characters.

The book is written mostly from Jo's perspective, but we get to know Jenny, the murder victim, through snippets of her journal along the way. Oddly, this dead character is the only one that really comes alive on the pages. The journal entries are exceptionally well written.

Pacing is quite slow. We spend a lot of time in Jo's head, which should have helped us get to know her, but most of this introspection is spent rehashing the exact same thought process and case details. The repetition slows everything down without adding depth. The book is quite long, but through much of it there isn't a lot happening.

Then we get to the 'whodunit' at the end. I figured out who did it early on, so that wasn't a surprise. Even the why is pretty obvious before the midway point. There is a bit of a twist, but it doesn't make much sense. The ending seems tossed together, with no plausible explanation allowing me to make the leap and believe the twist.

In the end, I'm left with a story that should have been compelling but instead is largely forgettable. Of course, this is only my opinion. Lots of early reviewers have loved this story, so, if the plot appeals to you, go ahead and give it a try.

Melissa Borsey says

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for my honest review. This was a really good book from beginning to end! The story is told through the Detective, Jo and through journal entries by Jenny who has disappeared either because she has run off or because she has been the victim of foul play. The characters were very well developed and the story itself was very suspenseful and at times quite intense. I like how the author was able to throw in humor here and there to lighten it up and make the characters even more endearing. I hope there will be more stories about this detective in the near future.

Shaina says

I liked the first book so much that I hope to read the second and get into the series. There was a lot of suspense and the detective had to rely a lot on intuition. I can't say much more than that or it might spoil something, but I truly loved the book.

Geena Barret says

So when I first started this book, I had felt like the adrenaline was kind of pushed, and it didn't really get me into the story. That could have just been my mindset when I started reading, though. Because after I pushed through the first couple of chapters, I could not put this book down.

Jo is a detective whose gut instincts have definitely gotten her far. She was referenced a couple of times as being like a dog with a bone--very determined. A strong female lead is always enjoyable to read, especially when she doesn't really question herself. She may have this past that's incredibly painful that she's trying to get away from, but it's exactly that past that makes her a stronger detective.

The story of Jenny and her past as a parallel to Jo and her own past was really striking. It was so sad to read, to see how other people look at you when you're consumed with grief. Jenny's son had tragically fallen from a tree and died during her first marriage. The three-year anniversary is coming up and Jenny is seeking answers, no matter the cost. I loved all of the writing from Jenny's perspective. Really, really great work there.

I adored Jo's boyfriend, Adam, one of the medical examiners. He was so strong and determined to be there for Jo, even if she thought she didn't need him. She really needed that foil against her mother who was not there for Jo when she needed her most. It was an important distinction to make her a stronger detective.

One thing I would have changed though is the formatting. There are two different perspectives in this book, Jo and Jenny, and those perspectives are in the same chapter while still being first person. It would have been better just to split each perspective into its own chapter. It was difficult to distinguish sometimes who was supposed to be talking and I had to keep going back to double check. This could have been a formatting issue with the Kindle and it could be fine for print.

Kind of funny how often Coke was the drink of choice in this book, it almost felt like an advertisement. Sorry if this review came off more like an essay, it just felt so right!

Thank you to NetGalley for the opportunity to read and review this book!

Anna-marie says

A good police procedural...

This was one of the Kindle First titles offered for November, and I'll admit that I had my reservations after seeing previous reviews. I was pleasantly surprised, as the main characters were complex and well fleshed out. I was impressed because even the heroes had flaws, instead of being typical cookie cutter good guys, with perfect hair and stellar backgrounds.

Walk Into Silence has a pervasive sadness that some might find difficult to deal with, but to me, it gave the story an authenticity that would have been lost had there been the levity that others might have attempted. The victims and their families were treated with respect and kindness, and the officers, coroners office and crime technicians were professional and dedicated. Some reviewers mentioned that they had figured out "who done it" before the police, but we readers had information that the police weren't privy to, namely the victim's journal.

Walk Into Silence was excellently written, thought provoking, and flowed well. Highly recommended.

Zoeytron says

There seems to be a trend that is growing by leaps and bounds with novels featuring deeply flawed, damaged female detectives. It would be a treat to come across an interesting lady cop character who is not dealing with some deep-seated emotional scarring, barely hanging onto her sanity by working cases which are invariably similar to her own background trauma. That is not going to happen here. Agreed, the setup is a good one, but I already have a couple of fast favorites with Marson's Kim Stone and Bryndza's Erika Foster.

Setting that aside, this is a good serviceable police crime murder mystery. I liked the team of Jo Larsen and Hank Phelps, but not enough to seriously consider following the series. This was a Kindle First offering from November.
