



All the Lonely People

Martin Edwards

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Many mystery authors have launched their careers with notable first novels, and Martin Edwards is no exception. His first book introduced his series character, lawyer Harry Devlin and the city and characters he lives with every day in Liverpool, England. Appearing for the first time in the U.S., All the Lonely People introduces Harry Devlin stumbling on a murder case that strikes a bit too close to home. When Harry's wife is found dead and he's the lead suspect, Harry takes it upon himself to investigate who would have wanted her dead, and why. His queries will take him beyond his relatively safe world into sordid city streets that contain more than one danger, and change the illusions that he had clung to regarding his life and his wife -- forever.

All the Lonely People Details

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Author : Martin Edwards

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From Reader Review All the Lonely People for online ebook

Georgia Lengyel says

I liked the story, but not the characters.

Ram Kaushik says

Nowhere near as good as his Lake District series. This series is set in Liverpool which comes across as a gritty crime-ridden dump of a metropolis. Devlin appears to stumble across everyone within a morning stroll. The attempt to be a British Chandler falls short - this book reads more like a movie script, and I can kind of see a Michael Douglas stumble through smoke filled bars, looking for the murderer.. OK, but I'd vote for Mr. Edwards' other series in a heartbeat..

Marwan says

The previous "Crimes Classics" novels which I've read never failed to impress me, and this one is no exception. It has the thrill, a lot of twists, and the excitement made me walking while reading the last 20 pages (where everything is revealed), and yes, I couldn't guess who's the culprit till the very end.

Harry Devlin, a Solicitor who's been separated from his wife Liz for 2 years, returns one night to find her waiting for him in his flat. She plans to leave Coghlan (the man who she dumped her husband for) for the sake of another guy (who's richer and wealthier), and asks him to stay for few days to sort things out and because she's afraid of Coghlan. Despite what she did to him, Harry (who still hold feelings for her and a little hope for them to return together) agrees to let her stay.

However, the night after, Liz is found stabbed to death in a dingy alleyway and the police regards Harry as the prime suspect. So he takes it upon himself to find her killer and bring him to justice. However, as he digs for Liz's past he start to realize that she was bad girl (more than he thought she was) and many people wanted her dead.

Mrs VTJ says

Entertaining enough. Harry Devlin is a nice protagonist. Might read the rest.

Rusty says

It's probably well done. But I got 40 pages in and realized I didn't want to spend any more time with anyone in the book....

Patricia says

Although the plot did not grab me immediately, it became more interesting later. Still, this book did not appeal to me as strongly as the Lake District mysteries which were written by the same author. Harry Devlin is an attorney with the tedious job of defending the common folks who have been charged with uninteresting crimes. He lives and works in Liverpool, England which is not an interesting setting when compared to the Lake District section of England. Although Harry Devlin is a likable character, he is nowhere near as charming as Daniel Kind.

Nancy says

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The wife, also singer, of Liz's lover paid to have Liz and Froggy killed. Rourke is the killer, and Tony, the manager of the club, was Liz's new lover.

Good. Different. Same author as Lake series.

Nancy Oakes says

I was wrong and I'm happy. Whenever I read a mystery novel and I guess the murderer, I get upset and feel like the author hasn't done his or her job. But not so in this one. This is a taut, well-plotted whodunit that I started and didn't want to put down. If you like a good, old-fashioned kind of mystery, you'll enjoy this one.

basic plot -- no spoilers

The main character of this novel (#1 in this series, btw) is Harry Devlin, an attorney in Liverpool whose woes begin when his wife, Liz, drops in unexpectedly. Although they are married, they haven't lived together for some time. Liz is one of those people who stayed for a while, found something better, then took off. It was a pattern with her. They never divorced and Harry holds out some tiny measure of hope that they'll get

back together. So when Liz shows up at his place, he's not sure what's going on -- she tells him she's left her criminal boyfriend and is frightened because she's being followed. Next thing Harry knows is that she ends up dead, and he is a suspect in her murder. He takes it upon himself to find the killer and ends up learning more about Liz than he really wanted to.

Harry's character is well done; the mystery is quite good and will keep you involved for quite a long while. I'd definitely recommend it to people who enjoy more gritty types of mysteries.

Ruth says

c1991: I did not guess who the murderer was. The one that I thought it was turned out to be just a good person. Liverpool, to use another cliche, comes to life in this book and I have been inspired to read some more about this city. The writing is confident and clear cut and the characters have been well portrayed. I don't normally like anything to do with lawyers but all the action in this book takes place outside of the court room so it was more palatable than usual. None of the compliments printed on the cover are particularly apt and I felt the one by The Times ie "Pungent Mersey whiff...A nice starter" is more than a little patronising. I am about to try and get hold of the next one in the series - I just hope that it is not about danger to the protagonist and/or his loved ones nor child endangerment - all pet peeves. Here's hoping. Although written a while back, it hasn't really dated although the following sentence may have some of the younger generation a wee bit perplexed, "Harry strode over to the television set and switched it off with a force that almost snapped the knob." Recommended to the normal crew. FWFTB: lawyer, wife, reconciliations, underbelly, clubs. FCN: Harry Devlin, Liz ("..eyes, large and luminous..", Brenda Rixton (fifteen years older than any of them.", Mike Coghlan "a vicious bastard...a robber and a thug.", Maggie ("dark haired lady, attractive.."

Ann says

This was Martin Edwards debut novel published in 1991. It features Harry Devlin, a Liverpool lawyer, in his hunt to find the killer of his estranged wife Liz. It is well written and moves at a good pace and the plot has plenty of twists and turns. However I never really warmed to Harry as a character and the book felt rather dated. I much prefer the author's Lake District Series.

Rach says

loving this new discovery for me....widening your reading & library is such a good idea, especially when the writer/characters are as good as these

Amy Rhodes says

I'm new to this author and think I'll happily continue with this series. Devlin is a good character though I'm hoping he is a bit less personally involved in his next case and can exhibit a bit more objectivity...this one involves his wife so needless to say, he loses a bit of perspective. But good.

Gail says

Probably more like 3.5. I liked this book and will continue to read this series, but this was the author's first book and it doesn't rise to the level of his Lake District series. I've heard that this series is really good, too, and am looking forward to learning more about Harry Devlin!

Graham Powell says

A really outstanding book, especially considering it's a debut novel. Highly recommended.

``Laurie Henderson says

This crime classic was a real treat to read. Solicitor Harry Devlin is having a very complicated relationship with his wife Liz. She left him 2 years earlier after learning that Devlin loved his work and was far from wealthy. So what's a Gold Digger to do when she realizes Devlin is not the least bit materialistic? Why break his heart of course and find another man.

The next man in her life seems to be involved in all things illegal and unfortunately for Liz, having a real dry spell with legal complications so it's time to move on of course, even though she's still married to the ever besotted Harry.

When Harry returns to his modest apartment after a late night at work he is much surprised to find Liz in his living room watching TV. His sudden elation at the return of his prodigal wife is soon dashed to pieces as Liz tells him she just needs to find a place to stay for a few nights. Liz reveals that she has left her mobster boyfriend that Harry despises and is moving on to a new mysterious and wealthy lover. Her new lover is ending his marriage to his present wife and will join Liz in a few days to begin their new life together so everything is hush-hush of course and Liz doesn't share many details about her new lover. Her mobster ex-boyfriend is really upset with Liz and she claims that his people are following her as she announces her plans to stay with Harry. But of course she will take the bed since there's only one and big guy Harry can sleep on the small sofa.

So what's Harry to do when Liz turns up dead on a side street the next day? The police are eyeing him as a very interesting suspect and instead of listening to Harry's claims that he's innocent and the mobster boyfriend must have killed her they assume he's just another shady lawyer and must have done the deed. They are also very wary when Harry claims he doesn't even know the name of her new lover as well. Harry decides that if the police aren't trying hard enough to find the true murderer of his wife he must do so himself.

Along the way of solving this crime Harry comes face to face with the many people involved with Liz and how she flippantly destroyed their lives. When the culprit is finally revealed I almost felt that Liz deserved her fate.

A real page-turner and a must read for all lovers of classic mysteries.

