



Hangman

Faye Kellerman

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Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus face a familiar sociopath in this electrifying tale of suspense from New York Times bestselling author Faye Kellerman.

When LAPD Lieutenant Peter Decker reluctantly agrees to do a big favour for old friend Teresa McLaughlin, he knows that his involvement will bring her sociopathic husband, Chris Donatti, back into his life. But then Terry goes missing and Donatti disappears, leaving their 14-year-old son Gabe behind.

Meanwhile Adrianna Blanc, a party-loving nurse, is found swinging from the rafters of a house in a wealthy suburban area. Her last phone call announced she was breaking up with her philandering boyfriend and Decker questions whether it was in fact suicide.

With lives hanging in the balance, Decker and his team need to find answers fast. At home matters are just as precarious: while Decker and his wife Rina Lazarus want to look after young Gabe, with Donatti on the loose, no one is really ever safe...

Hangman Details

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From Reader Review Hangman for online ebook

Amanda Patterson says

Lieutenant Peter Decker and his wife, Rina Lazarus, are caught up in yet another criminal adventure. This is a good thing. Faye Kellerman is a brilliant crime writer. She has created a 'serial husband and wife couple' who have had incredible staying power. Decker is getting older - he turns 60 in *Hangman*, his eldest daughter is pregnant, his sons are at university. Youngest daughter, Hannah, is about to leave for Israel, and to be with her boyfriend. However, the Deckers are not the Deckers without a family.

Enter 14-year-old Gabe, the son of a hit man, Chris Donatti, who once shot Decker. Gabe's mother, Terry, needs help. Donatti has beaten her up for the first time. She arrives in California with her son, and contacts the only person she believes can stand up to her husband - Pete Decker. Terry disappears and Gabe ends up at the Decker home.

Meanwhile Decker investigates the murder of Adrianna Blanc, a neonatal nurse hung on a building site. Her boyfriend, Garth has disappeared, along with two of Adrianna's friends. Adrianna called Garth and broke up with him before she was murdered. She was also seen talking to a hunky stranger in a bar the night before she was murdered.

Kellerman manages to weave the plots together, and threads the orthodox Jewish lifestyle of her couple into the story. My one gripe is the idyllic relationship that the couple share. I don't think many wives would tolerate Decker's obsession with his job. But then, Rina is special.

I've read all Kellerman's books, so she must be doing something right. Highly recommended.

Julie Graves says

I have to say that this just wasn't my favorite Faye Kellerman book. I usually enjoy the Decker/Lazarus characters that she writes about. The editing of the book was pretty poor, just to be a bit picky. For an author that has this many books out I would think that the editing of one of her books would be a bit more carefully done.

I think there were about 3 different stories going on throughout the book. Decker first goes to be a liaison between Terry and her hit-man/husband Chris. A few days after the meeting between husband and wife Terry disappears. Chris claims he has no idea where she is. Whether dead or alive she has left behind their 14-year-old son Gabriel. Rina and Decker take him in.

Next a woman is found hanging from the rafters of a construction site. In the course of the investigation it is revealed that there could possibly be 2 serial killers on the loose. In the midst of all of his investigating Decker also turns 60 years old. Birthday and Shabbos celebration of course is hectic and interrupted by work but his sons and daughters and Rina manage to make it a special day for him.

I don't know, I guess I'm just a bit disappointed. I probably will pass on the next book.

Tita says

O detective Peter Decker foi, há 15 anos, encarregado do caso de Chris Whitman, um jovem que esteve preso depois de confessar ter assassinado a sua namorada, para proteger a colega de turma Terry McLaughlin. Após a verdade ter sido reposta, Chris foi libertado e casou-se com Terry, que se encontrava grávida dele. Agora, Terry voltou e pede um favor a Decker, com quem sempre manteve contacto. Mas a situação complica-se quando, quer Terry quer Chris, desaparecem e deixam o seu filho Gabe, de 14 anos, sozinho. Peter Decker e a sua esposa Rina acabam por acolher Gabe em sua casa, enquanto o inspector investiga o desaparecimento de Terry.

Entretanto a jovem enfermeira Adrianna Blanc é encontrada assassinada e Decker e a sua equipa descobrem que, apesar de ser uma boa profissional também gostava de se divertir "à grande". Deste modo, Decker tem que conciliar os dois casos.

Foi um livro que me manteve sempre agarrada e que mistura um horrível assassinato com o desaparecimento de uma outra personagem. Com personagens muito bem desenvolvidas e que se tornam bem credíveis, com uma narrativa com muitas reviravoltas e que nos leva a virar páginas atrás de páginas, sem darmos pelo tempo passar.

Para além de irmos acompanhando os dois casos de Decker, conhecemos também a sua família e posso dizer que esta interacção familiar foi outro ponto positivo, e que nos permite conhecer melhor as personagens. Gosto de livros assim. Histórias e personagens que poderiam ser reais e foi isso que aconteceu com este livro. Apesar de ter achado a solução do caso de Adrianna um pouquinho rebuscada demais, a verdade é que todo o processo de investigação me pareceu muito credível.

Para quem gosta de thrillers e investigações criminais, este livro é uma boa aposta.

Paulo Pires says

4.7

«Decker tem entre mãos duas investigações, por um lado investiga o desaparecimento de Terry após uma conversa no mínimo tensa com o seu companheiro Chris.

Como consequência deste desaparecimento surge Gabe, o filho de ambos, catorze anos e com um dote muito especial... E assim de um momento para o outro Decker e Rina vêem-se na eminente possibilidade de ter que acolher Gabe. Mas Decker não consegue deixar de se sentir a sensação que foi manipulado!

Por outro lado, Decker e a sua equipa investigam o provável assassinato de Adrianna Blanc, enfermeira, descoberta enforcada numas obras perto do hospital onde trabalhava. À medida que a investigação avança começam-se a conhecer o círculo de amigos e as complexas e pouco convencionais relações de Adrianna! O que aumenta o número de suspeitos.

Não sei como vocês reagem a cheiros, mas posso dizer-vos que há cheiros que de imediato me invocam recordações, me transportam... O cheiro de terra molhada, por exemplo, traz-me a sensação de paz de espirito, relaxamento e conforto conceitos associados a férias em casa dos meus avós.

Essa mesma identificação acontece quando leio os livros de Faye Kellerman! Os meus sentidos ficam apurados e não consigo deixar de sentir um aroma caseiro e a sensação de reconhecimento! É um misto retorno às raízes, de conforto, de aconchego, de segurança! É tão bom ler Faye!

A história é dinâmica, e gostei do facto de o livro se dividir em duas investigações, porque nos impele sempre (mesmo que inconscientemente) a procurar relação entre as duas. O efeito é que nos desperta mais para a história e para os detalhes levando-nos a procurar pontos de intercepção, e com esta entrega, no final, ficamos com muito mais que uma pequena história. Cria-se aqui uma espécie de comprometimento entre autor e leitor, dar para receber!

Existe nos livros da autora, que tive oportunidade de ler, uma componente forte ligada à família. Mas não num sentido restrito ou preso a um conceito tradicional e estereotipado! É a família que Alvin Toffler profetizava na "Terceira Vaga", em que a família era composta por os cônjuges e filhos de casamentos anteriores de ambos além dos próprios, e todos com ligações muito próximas e enraizadas. O conceito intrínseco de família vertido neste livro é muito mais profundo do que qualquer pseudo-convenção da sociedade e trás ao leitor um sentimento de pertença e conforto digno de se dar nota!

Quanto às personagens:

Não há como não gostar de Rina, a preocupação natural com todos os seus membros. Um coração grande e genuíno que consegue sempre albergar mais um. E a comida que ela faz, meu deus, só de pensar nas refeições narradas deixam-me água na (...)

Ler mais em:

Opinião: O Enforcado de Faye Kellerman |Livros e Marcadores

Brina says

It is only the middle of February and the month is beginning to drag. There are still ten long days left before the calendar turns to March and women's history month. I have a diverse lineup planned but I am still stuck in February waiting for it to mercifully end. With family members fighting off infections, I decided to back track and revisit a series that at this point is like a visit with family. I am up to date with Faye Kellerman's Decker and Lazarus series and am eagerly awaiting the next installment due out at the end of the summer, so I decided to go back and fill myself in with a case I hadn't read yet. As usual, the Lieutenant did not disappoint.

Lieutenant Peter Decker is about to turn sixty and at the top of his profession. Unbeknownst to him, his children and colleagues have planned a surprise party for him in honor of his birthday but not before work gets in the way. Decker receives a call from an old acquaintance Teresa McLaughlin who is the wife of hitman and Decker's nemesis the one and only Chris Donatti. Knowing that Donatti would make more than just a cameo appearance in this case had me giddy, but, unfortunately it comes on the heels of him hitting his wife and her fearing for her safety and that of her teenage son Gabriel. Decker agrees to facilitate a meeting

between the couple, and all seems to go well until a panicked Gabriel calls the Lieutenant to say that his mother has disappeared. Wanting to stay a step ahead of Donatti, Decker agrees to take the case as well as bringing the teenaged Gabriel Whitman, who happens to be a piano prodigy, into his home.

On top of this case, Decker's long time colleagues Dunn and Oliver receive a call about a body found hanging from the rafters at a home site. The young woman appears to have died of asphyxiation, and the detective team takes on what appears to be a complex case. Adrianna Blanc had been a nurse at St Timothy's Hospital. Regarded in her field, she was in the midst of an unraveling relationship, and someone, either the boyfriend or rival, wanted her out of the way. A few days later, another friend of Blanc's is found strangled in her refrigerator, yet Dunn and Oliver keep questioning the same circle of friends and hope for a lead that will help them to crack this case. In most cases I sympathize with the victim, yet this time around the victim lead a raunchy social life amongst a millennial crowd who still drunk as though they were in college. Some of the women degenerated their bodies and enjoyed their double life outside of work. It is up to Dunn, Oliver, and the rest of their stellar detective team to find one of this crowd who was not either drunk or strung out on drugs willing to talk to them about the case, or else find a lead from an unexpected source.

Meanwhile the Lieutenant's birthday weekend goes as planned. All of his children gather for the occasion and there is enough food for the entire Los Angeles police department. The various Decker children are all about to experience milestones: Sammy is finishing medical school and about to get married, Hannah is graduating high school and leaving for a year in Israel, and Cindy and Koby are expecting twins. It is in this whirlwind of activity that Peter and Rina agree to take in Gabriel Whitman as their foster child, at a time of their lives when they are looking toward retirement and settling into a quieter life as grandparents. Yet, the Deckers will provide the younger Whitman more stability and a happy home than his parents ever would, so the Lieutenant, at a time when he is blissful at anticipating the arrival of his first grandchildren, defers to his wife and provides a safe home for another teenager. All this means is more Chris Donatti in the future, and, as scary as he is, that is a good thing as he adds spice to this series that is nearing its retirement years.

Having read the later books in this series, I know where Peter, Rina, and their children wind up. It is still fun to go back and read the installments that I may have overlooked. Each visit with the Deckers is like visiting old friends and family. I may have mentioned in previous reviews that I share a similar religious lifestyle to the Deckers and believe that we would be friends in real life, yet, for now I am willing to read about them in print form. With all of these life milestones ahead, Kellerman has plenty of material from which to work from in developing future cases. Until the latest installment is published, I am more than happy to fill myself in on older cases in this fast paced series filled with visits from family and friends.

3.75 stars

Laura Beth says

I read some of the bad reviews for this book so I wasn't expecting a whole lot from this book. I was blown away with how much better this book was than the poor review led me to believe. This book is a lot like the previous books in the series, but that is what I most enjoy about books in a series. The feeling of "home" and the sameness of the books and plots that work and in the case of the Rina and Decker series new and different mysteries and crimes. I love the growth of the characters within who they are. The growing of the Decker family, the descriptions of how they live, who they are, the procedural crime solving that is this series. I love it and this was a great example of what this series is.

Alan Mills says

The set up is great. First, an old friend calls on Lt. Decker to observe a meeting between her and her abusive husband (who happens to also be a mob hitman). He does, but then both she and her husband disappear hours later, leaving her teenage son alone. At the same time, a young woman is found by the foreman, hanging by cable wire from the rafters of a residential house he has under construction. As Decker works both cases, it turns out they are far more complex than it first appeared.

As usual, Ms. Kellerman does a really good job developing her characters, while at the same time keeping the narrative moving, so that the reader is compelled to keep turning pages until the end.

The problem: while the characters are all very believable, and are drawn with a reasonable amount of depth and complexity, the twists and turns in the plot become entirely incredible and--even given the suspension of belief required for all mystery novels--impossible to believe. In fact, Kellerman even has her own characters twice comment how unlikely her plot twists are!

So, if you are willing to suspend belief a little more than usual, then you will greatly enjoy this book. If you want more believable narratives, then look elsewhere.

dracos99 says

Leídos los cuatro libros traducidos de una saga protagonizada por un policía judío de Los Angeles. Cosas inexplicables de las editoriales, ya que corresponden a los libros del 18 al 21 de la serie original (¿que ha pasado con los 17 anteriores?).

Me han gustado. Los personajes son muy creíbles, las investigaciones bien desarrolladas; pero lo que me ha atraído es que no se limita a las tareas de investigación; sino que también desarrolla las relaciones entre los miembros del equipo y como se compagina con la vida personal de ellos.

Como comentario adicional, me ha hecho gracia saber que la autora es la esposa de John Kellerman, creador del psicólogo Alex Delaware; al que Faye hace aparecer tangencialmente.

Cindy says

Lots of plots in this episode. Liked the boy add, not a lot of profanity and well narrated and recommended.

Jerry B says

We've read every one of the Rina Lazarus / Peter Decker stories to date; and hate to say this was probably our least favorite. The 420 page book sees the first 50 pages set the scene, then the clues ever so painfully and slowly appear for 350 pages, followed by an intense 20-page ending that reveals all with little or no further work on the part of the detectives. Our high school English teacher would never have approved that outline !!

As usual, "Hangman", mostly about a young female nurse hung from the rafters of a house under construction, is predominantly a police procedural with Decker and his two favorite "D's" Marge and Scott doing all the grunt work. A missing friend is a sub-plot that is barely more than an excuse to have Gabe, the 14-year old son of Chris Donatti, a long-time Decker nemesis from earlier books, come to stay at the Decker's, with daughter Hannah (gads – we remember when she was just born!) playing big sister as she finishes high school and heads to Israel to go to college. Presuming more books in this set, we suspect we'll see more of Gabe, temporarily cancelling out the empty nest.

Three male suspects and a female colleague of the dead girl play a big role in the mystery, if you can get by all of the bedtime arrangements between these five and (uncharacteristically) the over-the-top amount of raw language throughout. The builder who discovers the body is yet another suspect, and his role remains unclear till very late in the going.

We suppose the Kellerman fan club will turn out in droves to add this to their reading list, but we were left wondering whether it's getting to be time to call this series done. Decker himself celebrates his 60th birthday in the story, which makes taking in a stray non-relative teenager pretty far-fetched. Perhaps his several noises about a pending retirement will be a good thing?

Jo Jenner says

I might have been a little bit more forgiving if this had been a debut novel but as it has #19 in the title I have to assume that the author has some experience.

However the dialogue felt distinctly stilted and didn't flow and as far as the storyline I can only assume she had started to run out of ideas.

One of the characters even says if you read this is a book you wouldn't believe it.

Also I got really annoyed at the fact she had to describe what people were wearing everything time you met them. It felt more like E! News does a murder mystery rather than a well structured flowing novel.

Not the worst novel I've read the week but definitely not the best.

Wanda says

Faye Kellerman to me is pretty hit and miss. I will pick up one of her books when I know that I won't have much time to concentrate fully on a non-fiction (my preference.) This was a true MISS. Four and five stars -- really folks? It was slowwwwww and boring. The details are often irrelevant and trivial (i.e. who cares what Marge is wearing. Faye tells us repeatedly anyway. It doesn't move the plot forward to include those words. It's padding. As is her repeated reference to her claustrophobia) There is much repetition and virtually no action or suspense. To make matters worse the grammar is abyssmal, the typos abound, verb tenses fly all over willy nilly without logic, and please - who "graduates medical school?" They graduate FROM medical school. She AND the copy editors should be embarrassed. A spell check does not substitute for reading the manuscript.

The Donatti story line started out with a bang in previous books and this is its wimper.

Don't waste your money.

Jodi says

It says much for a series author when the reader forgets that the characters aren't real. When I read the flap and learned this was a Chris Donatti novel, I had to think back to when Decker first met him. (Justice) and I mentally reviewed Decker's resume to determine where he was stationed. I was aghast to learn that Hannah was going off to college. I remember when she was born. Scary that these characters are so real, so believable. This was a terrific novel that intertwined a gruesome murder with a missing person, Terry McLaughlin, Chris's wife. She leaves behind a 14 year old son who has no one to turn to except Peter Decker, the one man Terry trusted. Decker turns 60 in this book and was looking forward to retirement. Gabe's unexpected presence is a twist for him. For his part, Gabe isn't a normal 14 year old. He's a piano prodigy and he knows he grew up in absolute dysfunctionality. He doesn't want to be a burden but he craves the normality of the Decker household and while he isn't looking for new parents, he appreciates their stability. It's a very complicated series of threads that turned into a fast-paced read.

Charlotte Guzman says

This book was picked for one of my book clubs.

This book was just ok for me. Too many storylines (two to three to be exact) and they didn't relate to each other in the end. The book was too long (400 pages).

I actually liked the characters but over all didn't like all the different storylines. ?

Traci Haley says

The last few Faye Kellerman books I've read have been somewhat disappointing... more procedural and less of what I really love, which is the interaction of all the characters that make up the story. In this new entry into the series, however, Kellerman returns to the format that made me start reading her novels in the first place -- lots and lots of interaction between Peter and Rina and the kids, along with the new addition of Gabe Donatti. I knew I vaguely remembered the Donatti family from previous novels, but I didn't remember a lot of detail from those stories. However, it wasn't really needed... Kellerman filled in the gaps that I didn't remember and then built on that story, while also investigating a side story. I'll admit that at times, since I was listening to the audiobook, I zoned out a little when it came to details about the two investigations, so I probably missed a detail or two... but that didn't really change my enjoyment of the novel. Also as a comment to the audiobook production... the different sections of the story didn't really have a pause between them, so it was easy to get confused when one second Peter was talking to Gabe and then a few minutes later I'd realize, belatedly, that that paragraph had ended and now Oliver was questioning a suspect. It wasn't horrible, it was just a little confusing and, if I remember right, it's something that I've noticed in several Faye Kellerman audiobooks.

Gripes aside, I really did enjoy this entry into the series, especially with Cindy's revelation (and isn't it about time for another book from her point of view???). Now I'm glad that Kellerman is continuing to write about these characters and I look forward to reading the next installment in the series.

