



## Evil In Return

*Elena Forbes*

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Bestselling novelist Joe Logan walks out into a hot summer's evening in central London. The next day his body is found dumped in a disused Victorian crypt at the Brompton Cemetery. He has been tied up, shot, and castrated. The killing has the hallmarks of a professional hit. But what had Logan done to deserve such a brutal end?

Detective Mark Tartaglia is convinced that Logan's personal life holds the key, but unravelling the victim's recent past proves difficult. Then the body of a second man is found in an old boathouse on the Thames -- killed in an identical fashion to Logan. A vicious and methodical killer is at work, but what does he want and how does he lure his victims to their death? If Tartaglia can find the link between the two dead men maybe he can find the killer before he strikes again.

## Evil In Return Details

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Author : Elena Forbes

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## From Reader Review Evil In Return for online ebook

### Tracy Smyth says

This is a 4 1/2 Star book. Love the books by this author. The story flows well and keeps you interested

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### Monica says

It was ok, enjoyed her other two much more.

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### Jmm says

Five college mates, one best-selling novel. The first to die is Joe Logan, author of Indian Summer, a supposedly fictional story of some college students who conspire to cover up the death of a girl and never tell anyone. Logan is found shot through the head, castrated and carefully posed in a crypt in Brompton Cemetery. Then Paul Khan, the second of the five, dies. His body is discovered on the property where the friends used to live while at school. Again, death is by a gunshot wound to the head with the corpse castrated. And Mark Tartaglia, Detective Inspector with the Metropolitan Investigation Team, begins to wonder: Just how much of Indian Summer is fiction and how much is confession? Is the murderer one of the three remaining "friends," or is there another as-yet-unknown suspect?

*Evil in Return* seals the deal for this British detective series by Elena Forbes following *Die With Me and Our Lady of Pain*. This third entry delivers a solid police procedural with enough twists to keep readers on their toes. The characters are well developed with Mark Tartaglia and colleague Sam Donovan becoming true people that have grown beyond their professional constraints. The author does not sensationalize the bizarre nature of the murders but keeps the narrative focus of the crime on the investigative process--autopsies, forensic results, locating victims' friends and family, tracing the victims' last movements, etc. For crime readers, this one hits the bull's-eye.

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### Marianne says

Evil In Return is the third book in the Mark Tartaglia series by British author, Elena Forbes. DI Mark Tartaglia and his Barnes Murder Squad investigate a body discovered in the crypt of Brampton Cemetery. The victim has been tortured, killed with a single bullet to the head, and the corpse mutilated. He is identified as Joe Logan, ex-actor, teacher and first-time author of a bestseller, publicity-shy and hiding out on a narrow boat on the Maida Canal. His laptop yields a bizarre email in Gothic script, and the team has difficulty locating one of his most recent phone contacts.

When a second corpse subjected to the same brutal treatment is discovered, the team struggle to connect the victims. Clever detective work eventually reveals other potential victims who confess the dreadful secret they have been hiding for years. But just who is targeting these men, and why? As Forbes skilfully builds her story to its exciting climax, the list of potential suspects in the reader's mind lengthens: it seems everyone

has something to hid, and no-one is telling the complete truth.

With each instalment, Forbes expands her main characters and makes them a bit more human. Both Sam Donovan and Mark Tartaglia make some unwise decisions, reminding us that the police, too, are human and prey to insecurities and failings. This instalment touches on missing persons and again involves some psychological profiling. Evil In Return is another excellent offering from Elena Forbes and readers will look forward to the fourth book in this series, The Jigsaw Man.

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### **Hannie says**

Kwaad om kwaad is een interessante thriller. Het gaat om de dood van een man. Rechercheur Mark Tartaglia en zijn team worden op de zaak gezet. Dan overlijdt er nog een man. Is er een verband of niet? En waarom moesten zij dood? Beetje bij beetje wordt het mysterie ontrafeld. Het is wel een boeiend verhaal, maar echt spannend is het niet. Alleen tegen het einde wordt het een beetje spannend. Een minpuntje, vind ik. Ik houd het liefst van thrillers die zo spannend zijn dat je ze - als je daar de kans voor hebt - in een keer uit wilt lezen. Dat had ik bij dit boek niet. Het verhaal zit verder wel goed in elkaar. Bovendien heb ik de twee andere boeken van Elena Forbes met dezelfde hoofdpersonen ook gelezen, dus het is leuk om de draad weer op te pakken. Dat maakt dat dit boek leuk is om gelezen te hebben, maar geen absolute aanrader.

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### **Diane Yonchuk says**

A relatively entertaining read. A little plodding, but a good police procedural. I do like Tartaglia and his squad though.

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### **Mikeh5972 says**

I found this Elena Forbes book to be as good as the others which I have read. It was an interesting investigation of a historic murder. I enjoyed the investigation and also the police characters in the story.

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### **Anke says**

Een prima boek uit deze serie.

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### **Anne says**

"Gute Freunde halten zusammen. Böse erst recht

In einer Londoner Krypta wird die grausam zugerichtete Leiche des Bestsellerautors Joe Logan gefunden. Es scheint, als habe der Täter eine Rechnung beglichen wollen, er hat sein Opfer gefesselt, gequält und am Ende kastriert. Wenige Tage später wird auf einem Hausboot auf der Themse ein Bekannter Logans

ermordet. Die Ermittler Mark Tartaglia und Sam Donovan geraten unter Druck. Plant der Killer bereits den nächsten Anschlag? Die Polizei erhofft sich Hinweise von einer Journalistin, die Logan noch kurz vor dessen Ermordung zu seinem neustens Roman interviewt hat. Darin geht es um einen gefährlichen Pakt zwischen fünf Freunden, und offensichtlich enthält das Werk autobiographische Elemente, die in Logans Studienzeit zurückführen..." (Klapptext)

Ich wollte dieses Buch lesen, weil ich schon die beiden Vorgängerbücher von Elena Forbes gelesen habe. Ich mag ihren Schreibstil und das Ermittlerteam um Mark Tartaglia.

Wie auch in den anderen beiden Büchern spielt die Geschichte in London und Umgebung.

Man kann das Buch auch lesen, wenn man die anderen Bücher nicht kennt, da die Geschichte für sich steht. Aber ich mag es, wenn man Charaktere über eine Geschichte hinweg kennenlernt. Es ist schon lange her, dass ich das zweite Buch von Elena Forbes gelesen habe, doch nach den ersten paar Seiten hatte ich wieder ein Bild im Kopf.

Von mir bekommt das Buch 4 Sterne, denn ich finde es wirklich toll! Elena Forbes schreibt gut, spannend und der Mörder ist nicht von Anfang an klar. Für mich war die Auflösung dann doch sehr überraschend, weil ich daran nicht gedacht hätte! Der 5. Stern fehlt, weil es kein Buch ist, was ich mehrmals im Jahr lesen würde. Denn die Spannung wäre dann ja nicht mehr so stark vorhanden.

Ich hoffe, dass noch mehr Bücher mit diesen Ermittlern erscheinen werden, denn mir ist das Team nach 3 Büchern ans Herz gewachsen.

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### **Stephanie O'neill says**

This book is boring. I couldn't get into it at all.

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### **Lizzie Hayes says**

‘Evil in Return, by Elena Forbes

Published by Quercus, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-84916-259-3

When the body of Joseph Logan is found in an old Victorian crypt at the Brompton cemetery, the manner of his murder points to a professional killing. Investigation by DI Mark Tartaglia and DS Sam Donovan finds Joe to have been a quiet guy currently living on a boat in Little Venice, whilst the boat owner Sally Matthews is away. An actor, Joe had been to a degree thrust into the limelight by the success of his book Indian Summer. But he refused to give interviews and was reluctant to do book signings. He had however, surprisingly agreed to several meetings with freelance journalist Anna Paget

The discovery of a second body killed in an identical manner poses the question for Tartaglia as to whether he has a serial killer at large picking random victims, or is there a link between the two deaths.

Whilst seeking to speak to any of Joe’s friends Tartaglia interviews Anna Paget but with unsatisfactory results – did no one really know Joe Logan.

Cleverly plotted this is an enthralling mystery, as we follow Joe’s friend Alex Fleming as he tries to make

sense of his friend's murder. The characterisation is brilliant, I wanted to follow all their lives, Maggie Thomas who lives a couple of boats up from where Logan was living, and Mark's boss DCI Carolyn Steele is intriguing – there is a story there I want to know about. And the handsome Mark Tartaglia who clearly has commitment issues – can he resolve them?

Utterly engrossing this intriguing mystery kept me reading into the early hours. Whilst the solution was satisfactorily tied up, there is a good hook at the end to make me want to keep an eye out for the next book. Highly recommended.

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Lizzie Hayes

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### **Sara Townsend says**

Best-selling novelist Joe Logan is found murdered in a disused Victorian crypt in Brompton Cemetery. Detective Inspector Mark Tartaglia investigates. Before long, the body of another man is found – killed in an identical manner. DI Tartaglia must discover the connection between the two victims before the killer strikes again.

Perhaps it was because this book is about a murdered writer (a subject too close for comfort) but it drew me in from the beginning. As Tartaglia probes deeper, the plot becomes even more intriguing. Joe Logan's best-selling book is about five university friends who try to cover up the accidental drowning of a young girl. When the second victim is revealed to have a connection to Logan, Tartaglia begins to wonder: just how much of Logan's novel was based on fact, and does it have a connection to his death?

It becomes clear fairly early on that the killer is targeting this group of former university friends because of the secret they have been hiding all these years. But the identity of the killer kept me guessing – in fact, I didn't work it out until the police did. The book is tightly plotted and atmospheric – the creepiness of Brompton Cemetery really comes across. Mark Tartaglia is a likeable character. He's a flawed hero, certainly, but that only makes him more real, and the relationship he has with his co-worker Sam Donovan is dynamic and highly charged. There's clearly a chemistry there, and as these are two single people who work together in a position of trust in stressful situations, there's plenty of opportunity for the sexual tension to develop in future books.

Evil in Return is the third book featuring Mark Tartaglia, but you don't have to have read the first two to enjoy this one. It's an engrossing read, and I would thoroughly recommend it.

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### **Samarpita says**

I like whodunnits that keep me guessing till the end. This one, however, was quite easy to guess, which is disappointing. Nevertheless, it can be an interesting read if you like classic investigation stories. I wish some of the characters were better dealt with. At the end, the treatment feels a little superficial.

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## **Marc says**

2.5 stars - cliché dialogue and writing style, not much suspense. I didn't really care about any of the characters. Not a page-turner. Read her other books and there is one more in the series that I have not read.

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## **Karen says**

Thank goodness for notes! I finished this book at the start of the year, and just noticed that I'd not posted the review I wrote at the time. Which is interesting, as re-reading my notes again, I can remember just about everything about this plot. Which makes it, to my mind, a very good book.

Elena Forbes tackles something interesting in *EVIL IN RETURN*. Joe Logan is found carefully posed in a cemetery crypt. Shot through the head and castrated, there's something that seems deeply personal, ritualistic about the way he was killed. When Paul Khan dies in an identical manner, in a property which he shared with Joe Logan and 3 other men whilst they were at university, it's obvious there's a connection. Logan is a best selling author, his novel telling a supposedly fictional story of a group of university friends who cover up the death of a young girl. After the way the two friends are killed it's not exactly a leap of faith to consider how much of that novel isn't fictional at all, and are these killings revenge?

DI Mark Tartaglia and DS Sam Donovan are the reoccurring characters in this now third novel from Forbes. There's a nice balance of the professional and personal in all these books, with the police procedural elements, solid, believable and carefully paced. The personal is enough to give the characters a little depth, to make you feel like they are real people.

Whilst the murders are obviously gory and quite confronting there's nothing sensational or overblown about *EVIL IN RETURN*. The focus remains very much on the process of investigating, the connections between the victims, the possibility of revenge. There's also a particularly good sense of place in all the books, with *EVIL IN RETURN* taking the reader into the world of houseboat dwellers in particular.

I've been quite the fan of this series since the first book, and whilst they should work if you pick them up out of order, there's some character build up that will be better if you can read them in order. Hope there's a fourth book in the works.

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<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/reviews/2013/07/evil-in-return-by-elena-forbes/>