



Kiss of Evil

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Police officer Mike Ryan was murdered with his own gun. A beautiful suspect walked away free after tainting his reputation with allegations of greed and corruption -- only to perish herself in a fiery apparent suicide. For two years Cleveland Homicide Detective John Salvatore Paris has been struggling to clear his friend Ryan's once-good name with no success. And now a rash of brutal slayings is rocking Paris's city, a plague of terror and ritual sacrifice savage enough to shatter even the most street-hardened cop's faith in justice and a rational world. Each murder is different yet equally horrific -- each victim and crime connected only by a strange symbol carved into their flesh. And by one name: " Michael Ryan.

Kiss of Evil Details

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Author : Richard Montanari

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Jim says

Second book in Jack Paris series from author Richard Montanari, "Kiss Of Evil", is a dark, moody, and complicated thriller. A very suspenseful thriller with several continual moving parts, at times it was difficult keeping track of some of the story arc elements. Set in Cleveland, two years after Officer Mike Ryan, 46, was found murdered. Ryan was set up to look like a dirty cop. Jack Paris had nailed down the case on Ryan's killer named Sarah Weiss. Except the jury had other ideas. Blowhard lawyer Jeremiah Cross convinced jury Weiss was set up and acquitted her. Ryan's widow Delores and young daughter Carrie are devastated. Carrie, wheelchair bound especially upset. Moving into the present, Paris is now working on a series of gruesome murders that seemed to be linked to the religious practice of Santeria. Jack is also giving local latino newspaper reporter Mercedes Cruz a first hand tour, and valuable insights within homicide department. The mad man killer has left four bodies in his wake with Santeria symbols on the bodies. Everywhere Jack seems to turn with this case he's stuck looking back into the long distance past. Book was a very enjoyable read to be sure. Paris, a contentious and sometimes irascible detective with many years in homicide, is a solid leading protagonist. Author Richard Montanari's characters are as usual tough customers to be sure. Mr. Montanari has found that urban edge for his characters that help drive his books at very high speeds. Although with this yarn, there were so many moving parts involving some confusing characters that threw me off story a couple times. The ending itself was kind of odd as well. Overall it's a very good suspenseful thriller. I'd highly recommend any of author Richard Montanari's books for serious thriller fans. His Byrne/Balzano series is absolutely fantastic, book after book. To date I've only seen two of his Jack Paris series books. Would love to see another book featuring this craggy detective. Don't miss out on any of these reads. They are a must for mystery thriller readers. 4 stars out of a possible 5 stars. good book.

Neil Mudde says

Having recently discovered Richard Montanari, his stories are set around the Philadelphia area the stories are filled with all sorts of devious plots, well written so worth while if you are a mystery reader. Being a mystery fan, I will not tell you any of the plot which would spoil it for you, suffice it to say, according to me Mr Montanari is a worthwhile and exciting author.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

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This is probably 4 1/2 stars.

Another one of his gripping page turners.

At the risk of sounding twisted, "enjoyable" seems like the wrong word to use but I did enjoy it - greatly -

Richard Montanari writes are compelling - just try putting one down. I generally fall asleep mid sentence.

Ali Maggs says

I bought this book, thinking it was a new novel and not realising it was released years before. This book wasn't as good as Montanari's more recent novels, the story was often confusing and there was often almost too much going on, but overall the story was good. The lead characters in Montanari's later books are much better developed but it was still a good read.

Alfred Nobile says

In a nutshell Brilliant

Jo says

Montanari usually writes about a couple of Philadelphia detectives. Here he leaves Philly for Cleveland, Ohio and this Christmas set novel follows Detective Jack Paris as he investigates a series of seemingly unrelated murders. Absolutely fantastic, a real page turner, even if I did spot the killer from his first appearance.

Morgan Prince says

It took a lot to get into this book. For the first half I put it down a lot. For some reason I just couldn't get into it. There were a few occasions where I almost gave up but I forced myself to finish it.

Once I got past about 70% of the way through the story got a lot more interesting and I finished the last 30% in about 3 days. Now that I've read the whole I can see that the story was interesting but it didn't grab me from the start. I struggled with his writing too. There is something about his style that I can't get on with and I found myself re-reading sentences. I hate that. I'm not exactly sure what it was about this book but it did put me off this author a little. The shame is that I read Devil's Garden a while ago and really enjoyed it.

Rick says

Montanari is one of the finest thriller writers around today, just as good as people like Kathy Reichs or Harlan Coben. He never disappoints and Kiss of Evil is no exception.

Therese Bergwall says

4.5

Lee Allen says

Detective Jack Paris returns in the sequel to Richard Montanari's first novel, 'Don't Look Now'/'Deviant Way'.

Christmas is fast-approaching and a serial killer is beginning his work. A woman drawn into an online fantasy world is brutally murdered. A con artist finds herself cornered when one of her cons goes wrong. Someone is watching her and someone is also watching Jack Paris.

Another case playing on Jack's mind is that of the murder of Mike Ryan, a police officer murdered two years before by a woman who has recently been found dead, her lawyer determined to give Jack a hard time. As the body count rises, Jack is drawn into the worlds of Santeria (an ancient religion comprised of elements of Yoruba religion and Christianity) and sexual deviance. Unbeknownst to him, the killer has an endgame in mind with Jack as its star performer.

Relentlessly fast-paced with multiple twists and turns, all of the strands come together for a heart-stopping finale, neatly tying all the loose ends in what at first appears to be a novel featuring multiple cases, but is revealed to be far more complicated, with potentially deadly consequences for Jack.

'Kiss of Evil' is a masterstroke in suspense, told in gruesome detail and with some surprises along the way - a superbly plotted and complex psychological thriller.

Plum-crazy says

A good gripping read but not my favourite from this author. The style is as previous novels - first person narration by the killer & the rest, Paris & other characters, in the third person but this time I found it a little muddling keeping track of the characters. Nevertheless well worth a read.

Kawthar says

Du 3.5 a 4 c'est le deuxième Roma de Montanari que je lis bien que je préférail son roman "seven" plus C'était une lecture haletante un tueur en série qui fait des rituels de sentaria avec ses victimes L'auteur jette la lumière sur le passé de l'assassin le passé de ces certaines personnes qui ont souffert qui ont subi des atrocités dans la vie des tournants les rendant des killers quoique vraiment l'histoire étais bien tissée et je n'ai pas lâché le livre les 150 dernières pages malgré les études qui m'attendent Ceci me pousse davantage a vouloir lire d'autres livres de Montanari surtout ceux des enquêteurs Kevin Byrne et Jessica Balzano

Celia Latty-steele says

Addictive!! I really enjoyed this one and looking forward to reading more in the series

Evelyn*My Redeemer* says

It was a good read, although it certainly never me looking forward to get back into it, the other books have. It took a while infact to be honest i think it was only once i was 3 quarters into the book that i even thought was OK! No I wasn't captivated by the characters and surrounding story. I feel as though it has been a while since I've read a book and been entranced by the story. I must say I really do miss that feeling you get when a book gets under your skin and anything can be happening around you, but nothing matters but you and the book. I really need an excellent book to get engrossed in ;-/ Xx

Tim Warner says

About halfway through, I quit trying to figure it out. And then three quarters of the way through, as it began to unfold with all of the speed and compulsion of terror unleashed with no restraint, the only thing I wanted was my heart to stop racing, my palms to stop sweating, and for the good guys to triumph. But I lost faith that they would. And because of the way things were going, I didn't want to finish. After all, I had grown incredibly defensive of the Hero, incredibly compassionate towards him and I couldn't bear to read how Montanari was forced to write out the finish.

It might get better than this in terms of the tension, and the compelling read. But I haven't read it yet, except probably Stephen Hunter who remains at the top, in my mind. But Kiss of Evil is good for a compelling read of sheer terror. It's not possible to put this down, even if it drives you crazy.
