



Fatal Exchange

Russell Blake

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Tess Gideon, a female Manhattan bike messenger with an appetite for the wild side, becomes embroiled in a rogue nation's Byzantine scheme to destabilize the U.S. financial system.

From the sweltering streets of Seoul to the sex-and-drug-driven underbelly of Greenwich Village, attempts at silencing a leak in an international counterfeiting operation leave a trail of butchery that leads inevitably to Wall Street, pitting a counter-culture heroine against a ruthless state-sponsored assassination team that will stop at nothing to achieve its lethal ends.

As the body count climbs, Tess is assisted by Detective Ron Stanford, a NYPD homicide specialist tracking a brutal serial killer whose ritualistic cycle of murder and mutilation targeting bike messengers is escalating to fever pitch.

Tess's battle to survive propels her into a deadly underworld where she must become judge and executioner, challenging her core beliefs about morality, justice and love.

Fatal Exchange Details

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Author : Russell Blake

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction, Action

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From Reader Review Fatal Exchange for online ebook

WILLIAM STEVENS says

Amazing read

This book is hard to put down, well placed great character. development and I enjoyed all the little twist and turns

Kevin Dowson says

Complex But Fast Paced Thriller

Review 20 December 2013

Format: Kindle Edition

Wow, this book has it all. Police procedural, serial killer chiller, financial / political intrigue, whodunnit...all rolled into one. Now, technically that should all add up to a stodgy and confusing mess of a novel, but no. What Russell Blake has produced is an exciting, well paced thriller which is not only gripping, but surprisingly easy to follow considering there are two basic main plots and numerous sub-plots with sometimes only the vaguest of interaction.

Bucking the trend, our main heroine and secondary hero are only moderately damaged, and neither of them possess near-superhuman reserves of strength or resilience. Both are engaging characters, though, and the bad guys are despicable enough all round to leave you in no doubt about for whom you are rooting. In some ways the ending seems a little rushed / anticlimactic, but it does at least address all the loose ends and close all the doors. Certainly not weak enough to downrate the book in my eyes.

Instead of trying to distil the plot(s) into four lines, which you can get from the official blurb anyway,, I'm just going to advise you to dive in, buy it and read it. I seriously doubt you will regret it.

Kath McDicken says

Excellent characterization. I needed to skim the torture scenes, but the story was nicely devious, two strands that ultimately met. Not my favourite genre, but a great read.

Steven Konkoly says

Fatal Exchange is a gritty, "edge of your seat" thriller by first time author Russell Blake. The author cleverly combines a well paced, CSI styled crime thriller, with a "no holds barred", plausible international conspiracy. The story centers around Tess, a spunky, misplaced bicycle messenger, tirelessly working the Manhattan courier, who becomes entangled in both conflicts. Set squarely in the sights of a elusive serial killer and pursued doggedly by a ruthless, clandestine interrogation/murder team, Tess weaves her way through both

worlds, as everyone around her starts to fall victim to the two very different, yet equally deadly threats. Detective Ron Stanford is stuck in the middle both conspiracy. A youngish detective assigned to a "special homicide" investigative unit, he initially meets Tess through his investigation of a set of serial murders targeting bicycle messengers, and soon becomes enmeshed another set of bizarre murders popping up throughout the city, all linked to a mysterious transaction completed by Tess's father.

I felt like I was reading two parallel novels, each feeding into the other seamlessly. Even if you're not a fan of detective fiction, you will thoroughly enjoy this book. The international conspiracy aspect is equally represented, and the two genres blend beautifully. I never once felt tired reading this book, and the only time I found myself skipping ahead, was to find out what happened next, then I'd go back and fill in the details. The story is seriously compelling, and the characters are well developed...just don't get too attached.

Fatal Exchange is not for the squeamish. A demented serial killer and two Myanmar black ops agents that go to extremes to extract information from their victims...will leave you grimacing at times. However, there are plenty of breaks from the intensity, as Blake develops his characters and delves into their psychology and background. Even the killers are given human dimension, although disturbing. You will not find any cardboard characters in Fatal Exchange, which was a rare break from other books in these genres.

I can honestly say, that if I could find more books like Fatal Exchange, I would be left with absolutely no reason to read some of the "Brand" name authors on the market today.

Corina Jamieson says

Cracking

A fab tale filled with intrigue and villainy.
Fast paced and flows great despite following so many different paths to the central plot.
I loved this.

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so . Shelley MA

Denise says

'Fatal Exchange' was incredibly thrilling and full of twists and surprises. In true Russell Blake fashion, this book was awesome. The story line was well thought out and it played out incredibly suspenseful. I loved the characters. There was quite a mix of personalities. Tess is just fighting to get through the 'finding herself' faze and she ends up with a hell of a nightmare. I love that she's strong, independent and full of life. Ron was

a hell of a detective. He's like a dog with a bone when he gets a case, he doesn't let go until he is sure it's right. I loved how the story played out and a lot was going on. Between the serial killer and an unfortunate blunder that cost many to lose their lives, it made for a great read. I can't wait to read more of the 'Fatal Series'. A must add to your tbr list. Recommended read.

Pauline Brasch says

Great read - really enjoyed it!

Michele bookloverforever says

a wild ride

Mike French says

Very good first novel. A little too gory for my taste but defiantly a page tuner!

Mervi says

It's a modern-day thriller/mystery.

Another country, Myanmar in this case, is counterfeiting American hundred dollar bills. Unfortunately for them, someone on the inside decides to take their own cut and takes a million of the counterfeit dollars to US and buys some valuable antiques with them. The fakes are so good that they get through an airport currency exchange office. When the Myanmar finance minister realizes what has happened, he sends a pair of very efficient killers on the trail of the money to get it back.

Tess is a former computer programmer who didn't like working with tight deadlines in a cubicle at all. So, now she's a bike messenger for Red Caps, in New York. She loves the freedom at her work, has casual sex with musician Nick, and doesn't worry about tomorrow. However, someone starts to murder female bike messengers in a very gruesome way and she becomes unwittingly embroiled in the counterfeiting scheme and becomes a target twice over.

Ron Stanford is a detective in the NYPD, specializing in serial killers. He starts to investigate the gruesome murders of the bike messengers and is immediately attracted to Tess. But he puts his feelings aside and concentrated on the murderer who kills more and more quickly. He also consults on other strange murders which seem to be the work of a professional or a pair of professionals.

Despite how different these two storylines are, they work together surprisingly well. However, since the plots are joined only but a couple of characters, that means that the cast of characters is quite large. There are many, many viewpoint characters, including the serial killer and the two Asian killers. However, I had no trouble following the stories or the characters. Only one other POV character besides Tess is a woman and

she's seen very briefly.

Tess is an interesting character for the most part, despite being drop-dead gorgeous, like very many female characters tend to be. She's living day-to-day, enjoying her life and not worrying much about anything else. In contrast, Ron has been through a recent divorce and is a career cop. Their courtship was thankfully very understated.

The book has quite graphic torture scenes, enough so that I skipped over most of them. The thoughts of the killer are also quite disturbing, which they should be. Then ending was perhaps a bit too easy and while the romance was understated it still managed to get some jealousy scenes. Also, the reason why the serial killer killed is left quite vague.

The scenes are short and change quickly from character to character which keeps the pace quick.

Overall, this was a good read, delivering excitement, mystery, and some interesting characters.

Dick Whittington says

Fast, exciting and enjoyable read. Lots of action and intrigue. International mystery set in New York. Total escapism for the reader.

Sue Owen says

Written in the style of Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle with more twists and turns than a piece of licorice this book kept me guessing to the end. I loved the interaction between the characters and the details of the crimes presented. I, of course, had it all worked out (not) but it kept me mesmerized throughout the whole book.

It was a joy to read such a book without getting lost or bored. The author kept things in order but still added the Miss Marple variety of down home detective and the 'keep your eyes open so you don't miss the obvious clue' of the Holmes variety.

For an old fashioned just plain good who done it this was the best one I've read so far. I highly recommend it for this genre and may even go back and read it again to make sure I got all the subtleties the author was intending. I just really liked this book.

Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says

As this book started it seemed like two different stories. On one hand a high-end counterfeit operation and on the other a serial killer stalking bicycle delivery women. As the book went on though it became clear that these two threads were linked by a single person. It was a cleverly drawn out tale and I could not put the

book down.

Be warned however, it is not for the faint hearted. There are some pretty graphic images of torture but they are well within the context of the story. I liked the character links, and the way everything came together neatly at the end. I was more than satisfied with the ending although sad as I had enjoyed it so much I didn't want it to end!

All in all I heartily recommend this. A thrill a minute rollercoaster of a thriller.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in order to review it.

Rebecca Cochran says

Multiple twists and Plot

Really loved this multifaceted plot and characters Wall Street swindle, psycho serial killer, seamy side of New York and Treason by way of counterfeit dollars. Highly recommend
