



Last Act of All

Aline Templeton

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Ugly, remote and inbred, the village of Radnesfield in the Fens has lived with its secrets for centuries.

Inevitably, its inhabitants greet the intrusion of television soap star Neville Fielding and his wife Helena with deep suspicion.

But no one anticipates the storm that will cause havoc in this small, rural community.

Driven by Neville's brutal philandering, Helena divorces him and remarries into one of Radnesfield's oldest families.

When Neville is murdered she is caught out in a string of lies and confesses to the killing.

But Detective Sergeant Frances Howarth is haunted by a nagging fear for Helena's own safety.

With her release from prison the storm breaks, and Radnesfield's diseased heart is shockingly exposed...

And 'The Last Act of All' is more shocking than anyone could have imagined.

'The Last Act of All' is a compelling crime thriller that will keep readers hooked from the first page to the last.

Praise for Aline Templeton:

'Templeton's a considerable writer, both intelligent and intuitive' *Literary Review*

'Atmospheric eeriness . . . [and a] much-too-real feel' *Oxford Times*

'A creepy combination of detective and gothic' *Sunday Post, Dundee*

'A tense and atmospheric thriller, which builds up to a crescendo of superb suspense . . . An engrossing tale of tragedy' *Bolton Evening News*

Aline Templeton lives in Edinburgh with her husband, in a house with a balcony built by an astronomer to observe the stars over the beautiful city skyline. She has worked in education and broadcasting and has written numerous articles and stories for newspapers and magazines. Her books include 'Shades of Death', 'Night and Silence' and 'Past Praying For'.

Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

Last Act of All Details

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Author : Aline Templeton

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Nadine Larter says

I must say I am rather in love with the way this woman writes. The story itself is not quite as riveting as it makes out to be but I didn't find it at all predictable (though I did wonder along the right lines) which was kind of nice since I usually can tell who the murderer is as soon as he or she walks onto the page. Plot aside though, Aline Templeton's writing is superb. It seems almost academic without being boring. I can't quite describe it. She writes in that way that Stephen King and Margaret Atwood do - where the fact that this is their craft is so apparent and there is no room for a pesky personality to shine through (this I find particularly fascinating since I can't write a single thing without vomiting my character all over the page). That said she has an uncanny ability to pinpoint human emotion and motivation in the most deliciously matter-of-fact way. Really did enjoy this book - and I'm pretty sure I paid next to nothing for it at a second hand book sale!

T says

Story was told in an inside-out fashion. Helena gets out of prison after serving a sentence for killing her ex-husband. The story then takes us back to an earlier point in their marriage, through their divorce and leading up to the murder. Then back to present day, when the police officer shows up to tell Helena she believes that Helena was unjustly convicted so the real murderer must still be lurking about.

Ann says

Gripping and well written, this book gradually draws the reader in. With many twists and turns to keep you guessing all the way to the end and then what a surprise! This really is an excellent read.

Mary Bare says

Not good

This was absolutely the most horribly boring book I have ever read. I tried to keep reading it, hoping it would get better, but, it, never, did. It was just bad. Really bad.

J Barkess says

Mostly enjoyable

When I started this I didn't think I was going to like it as it seemed a bit too drawn out, never it got hold of me. It was atmospheric and towards the end suspenseful. A bit predictable, guessed the culprit around half way through.

Most of the characters were unpleasant but quite convincing, would read more this arthur.

Perla Gómez says

If possible I would rate this 2 and half stars. It's not amazing but it's also not terrible.

The book feels like two different books. The first and second halves are completely different but I think it works. The second part is way more interesting and it feels like it takes a long time to get to that, but again, the first part doesn't seem terrible.

Weaverannie says

Niet eerder had ik iets gelezen van deze schrijfster, sterker nog: ik had eigenlijk nooit eerder van haar gehoord. Ik had dan ook geen idee wat ik kon verwachten.

Op de achterflap stond, dat ze zich kan meten met detectiveschrijfsters als Ruth Rendell, Elizabeth George en P.D. James, en dat maakte, dat ik toch wel wat verwachtte.

Ik werd niet teleurgesteld: Het boek deed me zelfs ook aan Agatha Christie denken. Het was super Engels, met een dorp, waar iedereen alles van iedereen wist, en ervoor zorgde, dat verder niemand iets te weten kwam. Met een lelijk landhuis, waar een wat vreemde familie huisde, maar waar een nog vreemdere familie introk, nadat et verkocht was. De vrouw des huizes zat gevangen, omdat ze haar ex-man zou hebben vermoord. Het boek begint, wanneer ze haar straf heeft uitgezeten en door haar tweede man, vorig bewoner van het landgoed, bij de gevangenispoort wordt opgehaald.

De politiebrigadier, die indertijd mede het onderzoek had gedaan, twijfelt aan de schuld van Helena, de hoofdpersoon. Ze neemt contact met haar op en gaat met een paar mensen praten. De ex-man van Helena blijkt vele vijanden gehad te hebben. die allemaal tot de moord in staat kunnen worden geacht.

Zo ongeveer het hele dorp is verdacht, en zeker is, dat de spanning in het dorp om te snijden is. Wat weet iedereen,, en waarom vertelt niemand wat?

LJ says

LAST ACT OF ALL (Mystery-England-Cont) – VG

Templeton, Aline – Standalone

Constable Crime, 1995- UK Hardcover

Helena Radley has been released from prison for killing her first husband, actor Neville Fielding, in spite of her claiming her innocence. Upon returning to her home in the village of Radensfield, her husband, Edward, has arranged a party. When Neville's wife, Lillian, who looks similar to Helena, is found murdered, the question is whether the right person died.

*** I discovered Templeton with her current book "Cold in the Earth" and promptly ordered as much of her backlist as I could find. It was so worth it! She is a wonderfully atmospheric writer. In this, you feel the inclusiveness of the village and the frustration of Helena. But it's the way in which this story is told I particularly liked. The first "book" is Helena returning from prison and trying to adjust. The second "book" takes us back to her first marriage; moving to the village and up through her trial. The final "book" is the solving of the crimes. I was so engrossed in the story; I didn't suspect the villain until late. I highly

recommend this book and this author.

Susan j bohler says

Always a good read!

Well written with believable character sketches. I read straight through. It was difficult though to sympathise with any of the characters except for the police woman.

Debbie Gallagher says

Well written whodunnit type murder mystery, with a different format - the detective comes in quite late! Dark and ugly, as it is meant to be.

Mommalibrarian says

Took a real strong sense of duty to persevere through the first half of this book. Good mystery after that. To some extent this was a modern 'novel of manners'. The manners of a small nasty English village in a seeming time warp.

Carol Mello says

Slower and less engrossing than Past Praying For. Very long opening section. Unlikeable characters seem to be this authors specialty. Still a complex mystery but easier to figure out than Past Praying For. A lot of unpleasant characters but very few are real viable suspects. Probably no one's favorite book. I felt it was better than 3 stars (so so readable) but not quite the 4 I gave it.

LJ says

First Sentence: Each time tonight, when her eyelids dropped over burning eyes, she could see the scene again, lit by memory as mercilessly as any performed under television arc-lights.

Actress Helena Fielding gave up her career when she became the wife of actor Neville Fielding, star of a highly successful television series. When Neville decides they should buy a house in the remote village of Radnesfield, nothing is the same.

Talk about an intriguing opening. One, at first, can't help but wonder where the story is going, but you sense it is well worth following the author's path. You soon realize the story actually begins in the middle of the character's narrative, than moves back to. Rather than this being distracting or frustrating, it proves a

fascinating way of learning about the characters, the backgrounds, and potential motives. In this case, it is incredibly effective and impactful.

The characters, both good and bad, are very effective. Templeton captures perfectly the nature of a small, insular village and the collective of gossiping church ladies. Mr. Tilson, an observer of people and the village, is someone with whom you would very much like to spend time. The dialogue between him and D.S. Fielding is a treat... "He smiled. 'Come and talk to me again. I collect people, you know.'" "Like slugs in a jam jar," Frances quoted... [No, I don't know the source. Anyone?] Tilson's assessment of people's reactions to a disturbing announcement is quite wonderful.

Templeton is a wonderful writer. There is an analogy that is particularly memorable.

"Last Act of All" is an excellent read. It draws you in and keeps you there, including a very well-done surprise, and a killer I certainly didn't see coming.

LAST ACT OF ALL (Mys/Pol Proc-Helena Fielding/D.S. Frances Howarth-England-Contemp – Ex
Templeton, Aline
Amazon Digital Services, 2014-Novelette

Judy Decker says

Not worth the time!

Hard to understand the reason for this book. Vacuous drivel is a good way to describe it. It was consistent describing the characters from front to back. Even with that it had Little appeal.

Megha says

First few chapters of this book were difficult to read because of the writing style. Long descriptive sentences made it a slow read. However later what stayed with me from the book was the style.

The story starts with the crime already happened and the culprit - our protagonist getting released from the jail. She had not committed the crime however had plead guilty, the reason is not revealed until after mid of the book.

She is out, has to adapt to the society, to the village which is her home but one she hates. There is something sinister about this village and the people. The book is more character driven than plot driven and I liked the way Templeton has created this one village with twisted characters.
