



## Love Like Blood

*Mark Billingham*

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Internationally bestselling author Mark Billingham's riveting new novel *Love Like Blood* marks the return of series character Tom Thorne, "the next superstar detective" (Lee Child), as he pairs up with perfectionist detective inspector Nicola Tanner of *Die of Shame* on an investigation that ventures into politically sensitive territory.

DI Nicola Tanner needs Tom Thorne's help. Her partner, Susan, has been brutally murdered and Tanner is convinced that it was a case of mistaken identity—that she was the real target. The murderer's motive might have something to do with Tanner's recent work on a string of cold-case honor killings she believes to be related. Tanner is now on compassionate leave but insists on pursuing the case off the books and knows Thorne is just the man to jump into the fire with her. He agrees but quickly finds that working in such controversial territory is dangerous in more ways than one. And when a young couple goes missing, they have a chance to investigate a case that is anything but cold.

Racing towards a twist-filled ending, *Love Like Blood* is another feat of masterful plotting from one of Britain's top crime novelists.

## Love Like Blood Details

Date : Published June 1st 2017 by Little, Brown and Company

ISBN :

Author : Mark Billingham

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Love Like Blood for online ebook

### Tucker says

I've been eagerly awaiting Mark Billingham's next Tom Thorne book, and "Love Like Blood" exceeded every expectation I had. Billingham has long been in my "must read" category and I think this book is his absolute best. It's a great crime novel with fascinating characters, wry (and welcome) humor, and a plot filled with unexpected twists. I think the final twist is one most readers won't see coming - I sure didn't! What puts this novel above Billingham's other outstanding books is his expert braiding together of a very suspenseful plot with the timely subject of honor killings. The rapid pace of the book never slows and it is apparent how profoundly occurrences of honor based violence have affected Billingham. Honor killings are a subject I didn't know much about, but thanks to "Love Like Blood," I'm now more informed. Informed and horrified - that in the name of religion families could commit violence and murder against female relatives who are accused of bringing shame to the family. I will be highly recommending "Love Like Blood" to everyone, not just crime fiction readers.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Banaz Mahmod and Rahmat Sulemani, and in his "Author's Note" Billingham provides valuable information about honor-based violence in the UK, and the tragic true story of Banaz and Rahmat. For those who are interested, I discovered an excellent article in "The Independent" about their heart-breaking deaths and how Mark Billingham wrote "Love Like Blood" to bear witness and bring awareness.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/lon...>

Thank you to Grove Atlantic and NetGalley for an advance copy of this book.

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### Trina says

I received this arc from Netgalley.

A pretty good read with lots of action. Held my attention throughout.

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### Gary says

This is the 14th book in the Tom Thorne series by author Mark Billingham. I have read and enjoyed all the previous books in this series so it was a pleasure to read this one. As always the plot was excellent, the characters continue to develop and the overall story well paced.

I am so familiar with these characters that the books are so easy to read that I look forward to each new book in the series.

In this book DI Nicola Tanner needs Tom Thorne's help. Her partner, Susan, has been brutally murdered and Tanner is convinced that it was a case of mistaken identity and that she was the real target. The murderer's motive might have something to do with Tanner's recent work on a string of cold-case honour killings she believes to be related. Tanner is now on compassionate leave but insists on pursuing the case off the books and knows Thorne is just the man to jump into the fire with her. He agrees but quickly finds that working in

such controversial territory is dangerous in more ways than one. And when a young couple goes missing, they have a chance to investigate a case that is anything but cold.

This is an excellent addition to the series and I would not only recommend this book but the series itself to any lover of Thrillers.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Grove Atlantic for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Hans says**

Tom Thorne is great and disobedient as always. A very believable, realistic story.

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### **Sandy says**

Book #14 in the Tom Thorne series gives us a proper twisty police procedural that deals with a delicate issue.

DI Nicola Tanner is convinced her partner's murder was a case of mistaken identity & she was the real target. Tanner has a theory about some recent honour killings in London. It's a sensitive subject & she hasn't exactly endeared herself to members of the religious communities involved.

When she's put on compassionate leave, some of her colleagues are hoping a little time away will help ease tension between the victim's families & police.

But Nicola has other plans. She figures her partner was killed because she was getting too close. All she needs is another cop willing to help, someone with a fluid regard for the rules who won't mind colouring outside the lines if necessary. Someone like....oooh, I don't know....Tom Thorne, maybe.

They met on a previous case ("Die of Shame") & although Tom is initially reluctant, Nicola isn't above playing the sympathy card to get him on board. Besides, there's a good chance one of his old unsolved homicides is related.

"Nuff said about the main plot line. There are plenty of zigs & zags to keep you guessing, especially when you throw in several characters with questionable loyalties. But what really grips you is the subject matter. People of all religions find the concept of honour killings difficult to understand. Here, we are privy to the domestic situations of young men & women who are caught between parents' traditional expectations & the freer lifestyle that a big city like London has to offer. The book also looks at the challenges faced by police when they attempt to investigate the crimes. Finding someone from the community willing to break the code of silence is difficult. If they press too hard, they may be accused of cultural insensitivity or racial prejudice. It's a political hot potato that leaves both sides frustrated & many of the cases end up unsolved (see author's comments at the end for a sobering dose of reality).

But this is not a sermon about who's right & who's wrong. Instead, Billingham personalizes the issue by giving us relatable characters of all stripes who are just trying to live their lives. There are some nice twists along the way & he reserves a couple of whoppers for the final pages. One in particular, I gotta say....man, I did NOT see that coming.

As usual, we get to enjoy Tom trading insults with ME Phil Hendricks over a few pints. I love Phil. If Lisbeth Salander & Quincy had a child (ok, a much younger Quincy) Phil might be the result. More time is given to Tom's personal life & we get a closer look at his relationship with Helen as well as the challenges faced by 2 cops living under one roof.

It's an intricately plotted & pacey story that keeps you turning the pages to see how it all shakes out. Picking up one of these books is like running into old friends & I look forward to #15.

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### **Margaret says**

This was not a favourite for me.

Firstly, I don't much care for the character of DI Nicola Tanner. And the theme of the book was honor killings, and that is one subject I find very hard to read about.

Tom Thorne ploughed a fairly straight furrow, as usual, and Phil Hendricks provided much needed comic relief.

The main villain didn't come as much of a surprise, but I felt that the denouement of the second case came from too far out of left field.

It was an okay read, by strictly for die hard Mark Billingham fans only.

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### **Faith says**

I haven't read any of the other books in the author's DI Tom Thorne series but I did read the prior DI Nicola Tanner book, "Die of Shame", which I liked more than I liked this book. However, this book works as a standalone. Tanner's partner Susan was recently murdered in their home and she is currently on compassionate leave. Tanner believes that she was actually the target of the killers because of her work on a series of honour killings within the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities and she enlists the help of Thorne to conduct an unofficial investigation of Susan's death. Their search is complicated when a teenaged couple disappears. The topic of honour killings was a novel one, but otherwise this was a straightforward police procedural. There was a lot of filler with Tanner's mourning and Thorne's home life with his girlfriend and her 3 year old son. I'm one of those readers who doesn't care about the lives of the detectives, so it felt like padding to me. The book was fine, though unexceptional, and I'd be willing to read more by this author.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher.

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### **Karen says**

Another fantastic novel from my favorite crime writer.  
Book 14 from the Tom Thorne series and just as fresh and exciting as his first book

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## **Rob Twinem says**

It's a great big welcome back to that Merle Haggard, country lovin' detective, Tom Thorne. In one particular chapter there is a great and memorable moment when D I Tom Thorne is driving down the road singing at the top of his voice..."The late great Merle Haggard provided the accompaniment on the drive to a retail park in Wembley and Thorne sang along to Silver Wings with rather more gusto than he managed in the school hall the day before....." After the rather poor "Die of Shame" where we were first introduced to DI Nicola Tanner, and Thorne had a very minor cameo role in the final chapter, (the only good part of that book) it's a day of rejoicing to have TT back to his investigating best...we forgive him that he enjoys the company of country music and reluctantly accepts the approach of middle age...here he is back doing what he does best solving crime and crime does not come more topical than Mark Billingham's Love like Blood.

DI Nicola Tanner has been investigating a series of what appear to be honour killings when her partner Susan is murdered. Turning to her good friend Tom Thorne she persuades him to help her uncover the truth behind the killings within the Muslim community, contracted out to hired assassins. Reading this book it is a pleasure to catch up on the old familiar faces especially the heavily tattooed Phil Hendricks, police pathologist, who is arguably Thorne's only real friend and together they enjoy good beer and watching football. He is in a relationship with social worker Helen and her young son Alfie but I can't help feeling that there is little future between them. The sex they share is passable...."Neither of them, had they been inclined to talk honestly about it, would have claimed it was the best sex they ever had.." and Helen still misses Paul, her previous partner, who was tragically killed and in one poignant moment she reveals her true feelings towards Thorne....."I'm happy really. You need to know that. But I want to be honest with you, and if I could go back and stop him being killed, I would. I'd do anything to have Paul alive again"....

So for fans of Mark Billingham, "Love Like Blood" will not disappoint, it's like putting on a well worn pair of comfy shoes! The subject matter is very well chosen and of the moment, the police investigation of the finest, the characterization and familiarity of the "cast" most welcome, and the perpetrators Muldoon and Riaz evil and well suited to the task of hired assassins. I only hope that when we next encounter DI Thorne that he has resolved his differences with the lovely Helen, but sadly I fear this relationship is doomed! Many thanks to the publishers Little Brown for supply me with a gratis copy in return for an honest review and that is what I have written.

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## **Bookread2day says**

I am a great fan of Mark Billingham novels. I have read Sleepyhead, Scaredy Cat, Lazybones, Time of Death.

Love Like Blood is painful, frightening and quite disturbing in equal measure. Somewhere in the police files there was a reference to two men. It is believed that two hit men were paid to murder. Their methods of killing were always different and the locations. They were contracted out to honour killings all over the world.

Two men were waiting for DI Nicola Tanner to come home. They had water pistols the two hit men sprayed jets of bleach and blinded their lady. The bleach burned her eyes and mouth the bleach ran down her throat.

The woman froze when one of the men produced a knife.

The hit men thought they had killed DI Nicola Tanner, but they had killed her partner Susan Best in their home.

Obviously DI Tanner is not allowed to be part of the investigation in any way. But DI Nicola Tanner needs to catch the people who killed her girlfriend. DI Nicola can't imagine life without Susan the woman she loved. Still loved.

Love Like Blood I Very highly recommend the hardback. All readers can rely on Mark Billingham, he is one author who cares passionately about his characters.

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### **Liz Barnsley says**

Always a joy to spend some time with Tom Thorne, definitively for me one of the best fictional detectives on the scene currently, with Love Like Blood Mark Billingham tackles a sensitive and I think very important subject with a healthy dose of reality and genuine consideration. That plus giving us a banging great read as always.

Much less a whodunnit and much more a twisted tale to the full truth of the matter, Tom is pulled into a contrary situation by Nicola Tanner (see Die Of Shame ) who having suffered a horrific personal lost is determined to bring those responsible to justice. Convinced it is tied into a theory she was investigating she hopes Thorne will show his usual disregard for procedure and follow the leads unconsidered in the main investigation. So there we begin..

What I love generally speaking is the way this author brings a strong emotional core to the centre of all the stories he writes – the ongoing interpersonal relationships (I'm the biggest fan of Phil you will find) are always layered beautifully into each individual plot, whilst the supporting cast are given just as much depth. The writing is always immersive and completely addictive – as a reader you genuinely live with these people for a while. No different with Love Like Blood which I read fast, often angrily, the best reads are the ones that grip you by the heartstrings, not letting go and send you through a gamut of emotions as you head towards the finale. And this finale had me clutching my hair.

Honor Killings are very real, difficult to talk about, difficult to pin down, Love Like Blood is obviously researched and there is a huge authenticity to it that sends you on that emotional journey. I'd like to point out that when I read the Authors Note after finishing the book I had actual tears in my eyes, it made me look back on what I had just read with slightly different eyes.

Overall a really excellent, entertaining yet hugely thought provoking read that I would actually like to throw at everybody. Read it. Even if you are new to the series I see no reason you couldn't start here.

There is no life...

Highly Recommended.

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## **Linda says**

This is the first ebook that I have read and I would like to thank NetGalley for the proof.

As always I cannot fault a Mark Billingham book. His characters are old friends and the places Tom Thorne and his cohorts frequent are as known to me as if I had actually been there

Prior to this book, I had no idea that honour killings existed outside countries like India or Pakistan. So I was horrified upon reading Marks notes at the end of the story, to find that this is a growing problem in The UK. In Love like Blood, two young teens disappear and Thorne is sure it is connected to one of his unsolved cases from 4 years ago, where a young Indian woman disappeared. He is brought into the case unofficially by DI Nicola

Tanner, whose own partner was murdered in their home by what she assumes was a case of mistaken identity. Nicola is on bereavement leave so is carrying on her investigation under the radar. She knows from Tom Thorne's reputation for not playing by the rules, that he is the one she needs to help her with her ongoing investigation. As before, her relentless enquiries into who could be behind what they are sure are honour killings, leads them both into danger. Excellent stuff.

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## **Christine says**

There is no greater detective than Tom Thorne. Fact. He is the kind of man you would want on your side, willing to bend the rules and tackle whatever is thrown at him. Mark Billingham in Love Like Blood takes on the issue of honour killings.

Honour killings are the killings of a close relative due to perceived loss of honour, by their behaviours. It is the notion of bringing shame upon a family.

D. I. Nicola Tanner is on compassionate leave, following the death of her partner. She seeks out Tom Thorne, to ask for his off the books help on honour killings locally. She is also convinced that the murder of her partner was a case of mistaken identity. She thinks that the killers were targeting her. Tanner wants to track down the individual responsible in the local community for setting up the honour killing contracts, as well as the killers themselves.

This is a sensitive subject, involving the different religious and cultural communities in the area. No one wants to admit that there is a problem and if they do, it is perceived in terms of racism or misunderstanding. This is murder within a family. It is shocking. Obviously the brilliant Tom Thorne, with his lack of political correctness is the best person to help Tanner. This makes for some funny moments, where Thorne just says and does things to offend absolutely everybody. Top marks!

When two young Asian people disappear, Kamal and Amaya, we start to see how complex an issue this is. This is about cultures clashing and about parental expectations. There is the traditional pressure to settle down with a partner chosen by the family versus the pull of Western society and independent choice. This is about arranged marriages over Skype and families forcing compliance. Even the police seem to be stuck trying to play this game in the minefields of political correctness and not offending anyone. Kamal and Amaya's families want answers. But was this a murder to order? Was one of the families or both of them responsible for this?

Billingham gives us plenty to get our teeth into. Thorne and Tanner are just excellent together, forming a

friendship on the way to catching the guilty. We get to know the two killers and see into their empty lives. Plus we get the usual merry banter from Hendricks, Thorne's best mate and a glimpse into Thorne's busy home life with Helen and Alfie.

This is terrific and heart breaking. Fast paced and fascinating. It is all very much a relevant issue for contemporary Britain. Honour killings are being carried out every day. No one can read about this issue without feeling outrage. To be murdered by the very people who should love and protect you is horrifying. Mark Billingham has obviously done a great deal of research to turn this issue into a gripping case for Thorne. He has given me much to think about. This is exactly what I want from crime. Recommended!

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### **BookwormCatLady says**

I can pretty much guarantee that any book by Mark Billingham featuring Tom Thorne will be a 5 star before I even read it, and Love Like Blood is no exception.

In Tom Thorne's 14th instalment we welcome back DI Nicola Tanner who first appeared in the standalone Die Of Shame. Her partner Susan was recently killed in their home and Nicola is so hell-bent on tracking down her killers that she enlists the help of her colleague - the rather unorthodox Tom Thorne - knowing he is not averse to bending certain rules in order to get results.

This novel features the topic of honour killings which Mark has written extremely sensitively without detracting from the horror that this is something which is happening with shocking regularity in the UK.

Thanks to Grove Atlantic for allowing me to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Book Addict Shaun says**

It has been far too long since I have read a Tom Thorne novel and so I couldn't wait to read Love Like Blood when I moved it to the top of my TBR. Returning to this series is like meeting old friends again. Thorne is one of my favourite fictional detectives and I love his friendship with Phil Hendricks, his general outlook on life, his love of curries and country music, just everything about him. Except maybe his relationship with Helen, even after a few books with her she just isn't a character I have really liked all that much and preferred Thorne when he was a loner however I can appreciate the character development here and Thorne becoming somewhat of a family man. I just wish it was with a better character.

Love Like Blood might just be one of Mark Billingham's most emotionally charged novels. It wasn't easy to read in places and I can't imagine it was easy to write either. The author note at the end of the book revealing just how much fact and truth was used to form this powerful and memorable crime novel. It deals with the subject of honour killings and really opened my eyes to what this entails and it is shocking the lengths families will go to in the name of protecting their image and their faith. We have an idea of some of the culprits as the story opens and we soon follow along with two of the main players and so whilst this isn't a conventional whodunnit, there are still characters involved in the killings that aren't fully revealed until the closing pages. However it is all about the story itself and the characters involved. It's an immersive read that

kept me gripped throughout and I hardly put my Kindle down whilst I read this story.

The main storyline aside and it was a whole lot of fun to meet Thorne again. Despite now living with Helen Weeks I loved the mentions of his old life. And how he and Hendricks lamented the fact they would much rather be eating a curry from the Bengal Lancer and not the curry house local to where Thorne now lives. Musical snobbery also returns, as we know Thorne is a huge country fan and we see here that he does not include Taylor Swift in that category (and rightly so). There's something immensely enjoyable about returning to a series like this and it's another long-running series that I hope runs for many more books yet. I love this series so much that I can remember when I first read a Thorne novel and the day that I borrowed it from the library. Since then I have read and mostly loved all of them and whilst I think every crime fan will have now read a Mark Billingham novel, if you are one of the unlikely few that haven't, then I highly recommend that you do.

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