



Jail Bird

Jessie Keane

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Murder, loyalty and vengeance collide in Jessie Keane's gritty fourth novel.

Lily King has spent years behind bars

Convicted of murdering her husband, London villain Leo King, she hasn't been missed. Everyone believes she got what she deserved, but Lily knows she was fitted up.

Now she's out, and she doesn't do forgiveness. In her absence, things have moved on and the old order has changed. But now she's ready to reclaim her position as head of the King family.

Fuelled by vengeance, Lily King is back, and some people aren't going to know what's hit them.

Jail Bird Details

Date : Published May 27th 2010 by HarperCollins

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Author : Jessie Keane

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Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction

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From Reader Review Jail Bird for online ebook

Book Addict Shaun says

Wow. After losing my way with reading I couldn't get into anything, but it just shows that if you pick the right book you can enjoy reading again. And what a book this was. Jessie Keane is a fantastic author, and I don't think it's possible for her to write a bad book! Most authors have a few hiccups along the way, maybe get a bit lazy, but I can't see that happening here, every single book of Jessie's has been a five star read for me, absolutely unputdownable books that you want to scream about when you've finished them and tell the world to read them.

I had no idea where this book was going, Lily King is let out of prison after killing her husband but it turns out it wasn't her and we then follow her as she tries to find out who killed her husband. Usually in books, despite them being good, you sort of work out the ending or even have a clue of who it might be but in this book I had no clue until it all unraveled at the end. Perhaps other readers worked it out but it was an absolute shock for me and that, along with a fantastic cast of characters and great writing and dialogue added up to a truly amazing must read book.

I just hope Jessie releases another book soon. The good thing about being late to the party so to speak is having the authors back catalogue to devour (as I did within a week for the four Annie Carter books) but now it's a case of waiting for her next book whenever that may be. But Jessie Keane is an amazing author and you would be crazy not to read her books. Especially Dirty Game and Nameless (which needs a sequel and/or a TV/movie adaptation!).

Sarah says

I thought same old same old when i started reading this. I've read a few Martina Cole and thought here we go. But then I thought - why is that a bad thing because I enjoy her books too. I loved this book - the ending was great and it's a real page-turner. Am looking forward to reading all her other books now I've discovered her

David Morgan says

Bloody brilliant

Bloody brilliant what an amazing read and a talented author I couldn't put it down,,
Great weather ?
Great book ?
Great football ?

Jen says

Absolutely loved it. As good as all of Jessie's other books! Keep them coming!

Kayleigh says

This was very much in the vein of Martina Cole (but I suppose most books in the Crime genre get that comparison) and that was just as well because I really enjoy her books.

This held my attention nicely. I feel like the idea was stronger than the execution but this was not a bad read at all. I could have done without the epilogue with it's 'shocking twist' because I didn't really see why it was necessary, the story had rounded itself up nicely but that said, it didn't ruin it for me.

I'd definitely be open to more from Jessie Keane having read this, a solid four stars.

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 1 day

Publisher - Harper (Harper Collins Publishers)

Blurb from Goodreads

Murder, loyalty and vengeance collide in Jessie Keane's gritty fourth novel.

Lily King has spent years behind bars

Convicted of murdering her husband, London villain Leo King, she hasn't been missed. Everyone believes she got what she deserved, but Lily knows she was fitted up.

Now she's out, and she doesn't do forgiveness. In her absence, things have moved on and the old order has changed. But now she's ready to reclaim her position as head of the King family.

Fuelled by vengeance, Lily King is back, and some people aren't going to know what's hit them.

My review

We start off in 1996, introduced to Leo King, a man whose reputation precedes him both with the ladies and in the criminal world. We then jump to Lily, Leo's wife and the night her life was turned upside down, still in 1996. Chapter 3 takes us to 2009 and sees Lily released from prison, jailed for the murder of her husband. Lily is ready to do some digging and set the record set, not every one is happy to see her and less believe she is innocent. What follows will stir up a lot of emotions, secrets and violence.

This is a great story and you get pulled into the drama straight away, I was up to 4am as I wanted to find out what happened. There is a few red herrings along the way or maybe I just watched too much murder she wrote as a child as I thought I knew who the killer was a few time, I was wrong every time.

The characters are quite well done, I have to say though Lily really annoyed me quite a lot by her stupid rash actions as sometimes she seemed quite with it and level headed then she would do something idiotic. Some of her responses irked me too as you know reading it if someone challenged you in the way she was you would react very differently. The brothers Si and Freddy, well more Si actually as Freddy is a hot head grated me as you would imagine he would approach Lily when he knew she was digging around. Small things like that is why the book lost a star however overall it was really good and by the end you have an answer for all your questions. I have enjoyed this author so much I bought all the rest in the series, 4/5 for me this time.

Laxman says

A vanilla, run of the mill, whodunnit - That pretty much summarizes this book.

Donna Meade says

amazing twist at the end!

Such an excellent read, wasn't expecting it to end like that.
Definitely worth reading, will definitely be reading more by this author.

Lisa Nania says

Loved it , once you start you can't put it down

Jess says

This was given to me as a present and to be fair, the crime part is definitely my thing; I love crime and horror and anything that makes my pulse race. The thing I couldn't get around in this story was the slushy, slurpy romance and the constant internal struggles of the character that focused solely on relationships past, present and future. How her daughters were the same. Don't get me wrong, if romance is intertwined in a story well and fits well like it does in so many books then I have no problem with it. This story seemed to lose what plot it had by adding the romance. What could have been an exceptional look at a woman's struggle to find balance in her criminal family and prison experience turned into mills and boon. Disappointing.

~ Cariad ~ says

Loved it! Stunning audiobook again from this author :)

Best Crime Books & More says

Jessie Keane is an author that had her debut novel 'Dirty Game' published in 2008. It was the first in the Annie Bailey series of books and was followed by 'Black Widow' and 'Scarlet Women' in 2009.

I read her first book and was hooked. Annie Bailey was such a great character and I was fearful that Jessie Keane would follow the all too predictable path that others do of relying too much on a good thing.

After reading all three in the Annie Bailey Series I was even more worried. How on earth could she top her last three books? Not only did I love her style of writing but I fell in love with the characters. How would I feel with a new lead character? Would it be any good or would she fail at the first hurdle? To my absolute relief Jessie Keane is made of sterner stuff. Through my letterbox came her latest offering entitled Jail Bird and I excitedly ripped it from its box and settled myself in for the duration.

Lily King has just been released from prison. She has spent the last 12 years of her life behind bars for the brutal shooting of her husband Leo King. When she is released she is determined to set the record straight. Not only does Lily have to prove she didn't kill her husband, she has to find out who did. She is battling not only Leo's family who want her dead, but her own daughters who can't stand the sight of her.

This book was an absolute corker and I read the book cover to cover in 2 days. It is everything Jessie Keane does but better. We meet a great leading character in Lily, she has guts and determination and is absolutely focused on finding the truth. She has her battles along the way and the characters that make up the King family are right on the money. The storytelling is, as usual, brilliant and she manages to create very believable scenarios without it bordering on the unrealistic.

It's a pacy book with plenty of plot twists and enough action to keep you both interested and guessing. I particularly liked the fact that there are lots of different characters all being brought together by one event. There are just enough to keep you intrigued but not too many that it gets confusing.

After reading a short Bio on Jessie I realise how she manages to exude an air of masculinity into her writing being the youngest of 8 children, all boys! I have been a fan of Martina Cole for years but to be honest, find myself not looking forward to new books she releases as they are all the same sort of thing. Don't get me wrong I still read them but don't have the level of interest that I used to. If like me, you were a Cole fan in the early days, get yourself down the shops for a copy of Jessie Keane's book. She reminds me very much of Cole's early work and she is certainly giving the likes of Mandasue Heller and Karin Slaughter a run for their money.

If I were Martina Cole I would be looking over my shoulder for a certain Ms Keane! Now all I have to do is wait another 7 months for her new book!

Michael Smith says

My thump-up all the way to the last page. Jail Bird has a compelling story line, drama and twists. The

characters are engaging and come alive as I turn the pages.

Just out of prison with mystery still surrounding the exact circumstances of the murder of Leo King, Lily shows character and tenacity in finding out who murdered her husband.

Lily's daughters Saz and Oli are also outstanding and shows genuine emotions, though I don't think that Saz coming at her mother with a knife like she did comes across as very credible. Not unless she's completely lost her sanity.

The ending has also left me a little bemused as it's not evidently clear who actually murdered Leo King. Maeve or Saz?

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Julia Charles says

First book I purchased on my new kindle, and I read it in just over 24 hrs. I could not put it down and it's so true what the publishers say, if you like Martina Cole you will LOVE this! It is so fast paced, and has you guessing right to the very end. Fantastic!

Carole says

Good read
