



## Cracked

*Barbra Leslie*

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After her stormy marriage ends, Danny Cleary jumps down the rabbit hole into a world of crack cocaine – delivered to her door by a polite but slightly deranged dealer. But when Danny's twin sister Ginger is murdered, Danny and her rock musician brother fly to California to find their nephews – and the people who killed their sister. Fighting her addiction, nosy cops and crazy drug dealers, she kicks ass and takes names, embracing her inner vigilante in a quest to avenge her sister and save her family.

Cracked is a darkly comic roller-coaster ride to redemption as Danny struggles with bad guys and her own demons to find out who killed her twin.

## Cracked Details

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Author : Barbra Leslie

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## **From Reader Review Cracked for online ebook**

### **Patricia Atkinson says**

loved the book kept me guessing to the end..danny is a crack addict and she gets an eye opener when her twin sister ginger is murdered than she finds out gingers husband is charged with the murder than her sisters twin boys get kidnapped.danny must pull herself together and find the person or persons responsible for her sisters murder.....

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### **Carly - Resident Supergirl says**

Wow I was on the edge of my seat this entire book, very captivating read and would really love to see this turned into a film! Also an interesting perspective into the illusive world of drugs and their hold on those that become addicted.

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### **Nancy says**

I received the book for free through Goodreads Giveaways.

Was quite a page turner. Very fast moving and even though I kept thinking that Danny needed to get clean, she handled thing pretty well anyway. Looking forward to reading the second book in this series.

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### **Linda Hill says**

No spoilers review of the best crime thriller I've read this year <http://lindasbookbag.com/2015/11/20/c...>

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### **Hannah Mary McKinnon says**

I haven't read a crime story for ages and this was brilliant fun.

Danny, the protagonist, is smart-mouthed and sassy, but also a total mess. Making her a crack addict was a genius idea as it added extra layers of complexity to the characters and the story.

This is a fast-paced, enjoyable read, with twists and turns galore.

Looking forward to the next installment already!

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## **Stephanie says**

Barbra Leslie is likened to Janet Evanovich, an author whose books I enjoy very much. Cracked is the first of a new series of books that feature an extremely flawed heroine, Danny. Danny had a fantastic life until her marriage fell apart and she went from being somebody who was a fitness fanatic to somebody who was addicted to crack. When she gets a telephone call that her twin sister is found dead in a seedy hotel she is desperate to find out why whilst maintaining her habit.

Danny is fully aware of all her flaws, doesn't try to blame other people for them and struggles immensely with guilt when she finds out that the reason her sister died was that she was trying to understand why Danny had become an addict. Devoted to Ginger, her nephews and a younger brother she is hell bent on getting answers and revenge.

At times, it was totally unbelievable but it was also a lot of fun. The characters were likeable despite their flaws and showed that despite addiction they were also loyal. There were quite a few 'baddies', some of them unexpected.

My impression was that there would be a continuing storyline throughout the series. There was no cliffhanger ending but there were a few unanswered questions that I hope will be resolved in the second book Rehab Run. I have this book also and hope to read very soon.

With thanks to Titan Books for both books received.

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## **Judy Zacher says**

Danny Cleary is an endearing character despite her addiction to crack cocaine. She is a smart-mouthed, wise-cracking heroine who will go to great lengths to find her twin's killer. I read this book in a couple of days - just couldn't put it down.

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## **Chana says**

Fast paced and brutal. It never lets up, it never gets boring, the writing is really good. I was taken with it from the first page.

Danny Cleary is a crack addict and hasn't talked to her twin sister recently.

Then Danny gets a call that her twin sister has died, and not just died but was murdered in a low rent motel in a seedy neighborhood. Danny vows vengeance and she goes all out. It is never obvious who the bad guys are until they do bad, so that keeps the suspense up. The plot is very clear and linear, but never simple. This book is full of action but it covers the emotions as well.

Violent, action-packed, suspenseful, funny, well-written. If you like this type of book then I recommend this one. Personally, I thought it was great!

A lot of readers are saying how they got this book free on a Goodreads Giveaway. Alas, I did not. I found this book at a Little Free Library here in Seattle. I will pass it on to another reader who will appreciate this book.

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### **Cin says**

I totally enjoyed reading this captivating and exciting novel. Unexpected storyline. Strong characters. The beginning of the story didn't make me excited, but then it turned out to be one of the best novels I have read this year. Recommended this novel to my friends.

I received a free copy of this book from the Goodreads First Reads program.

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### **Nick Pengelley says**

I have been extremely fortunate to read an advance copy of this amazing new crime thriller from Barbra Leslie. Danny Cleary is a truly awesome creation, and one I hope we are going to see a great deal more of. I love noir and my detectives hard boiled; I broke my teeth on Hammett and Chandler. Long have I regretted their passing and wished that we could have just one more story from either - albeit with some strong female leads. Barbra Leslie and her Danny Cleary have fulfilled that dream - in spades!

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### **Mallory says**

I won this book as part of a Goodreads Giveaway and I'm so happy I did. So since it was free, here's my (short) review:

It's really hard to write a proper review of this book without including spoilers, which I don't want to do because no one should ruin the amazing plot twists in this book!

Danny being a addict (drug of choice: crack) added an interesting element to the story, and her mysterious ex-husband did as well (we don't find out his back story until later in the book, the author leaves you hanging quite a while on this one). Some of these crime thriller novels can be so predictable but this one was not. Just when you think you know a character, you find out who they really are and it blows your mind! I don't want to give anything away about Dave, but I seriously hope he plays a big part in the next book, which I definitely plan on reading. November 2016 hurry up!! (Also, if Barbra Leslie happens to read this- please add your sequel to your Goodreads page so I can make sure to add it to my to-read list!).

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### **Kyla Belvedere says**

So, because of standards, I must first say that I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway.

And even though this isn't my usual style of book, I loved it. I couldn't put it down. It was exciting and modern and fresh. Now, I am pretty sure that Leslie has never met a crack addict in her life, but still, I was able to suspend disbelief and get caught up in this fast moving mystery.

I will be checking out the sequel for sure!

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### **Judy LeBlanc says**

This one is not my normal kind of read, but oh my what a great read. A little dark, almost a Canadian version of Salander without the gritty violence. There is some blood spilled, drugs are consumed, a couple of dead bodies for good measure but what a ride! Looking forward to the next one in the trilogy. Danny is a woman with a mission and doesn't let anyone mess with her family and get away with it. She doesn't let a little thing like the law get in her way. Now if only she can stay clean.

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### **Allan Dyen-Shapiro says**

The first third of this novel was absolutely terrific. Ultra-high intensity, a different plot twist at the end of every chapter, almost like one of those adventure novels serialized in early 20th century magazines. And the protagonist was very well drawn. Rich girl turned crackhead, intellectual enough to be reflecting upon it. The love and ties to her family were believable.

But, alas, this pace was unsustainable. After a while, it turned a bit more predictable. And it wasn't an idea book--it didn't say much of anything about drug addiction, privilege, religion--anything it could easily have commented upon.

In novella length, this certainly would have merited five stars out of me. I just think it went on too long after the reader already sympathized with the character and worried about her fate.

But overall, an enjoyable read.

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### **Joy (joyous reads) says**

**DANNY CLEARY** is an unapologetic mess. After her marriage ended, she flitted from alcohol abuse to the oblivion that only drugs can provide. She has no intention of getting clean. Not even when she got a phone call informing her that her twin sister, Ginger was found dead in a seedy motel. Far from the rich neighborhood where she and her perfect family lived.

Armed with the determination to find her killers, Danny, and her brother set out to exact revenge to those responsible. In California, they'll find their brother in law in jail under suspicion of murder, their nephews missing, and a trail of clues that will lead them to her ex-husband's shady past.

### **DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE**

Reading pulp fiction is always a different experience. Everything is raw and visceral; bloody with a tinge of humor only a few of us would be able to get. Cracked is exactly that. It was dark and ripe with violent tendencies. The heroine works hard to appeal to the reader's sympathetic side and was somewhat successful for the most part. While I tend to be unforgiving with characters who knowingly walks the path of destruction, I am a bit more generous with those who has gone past the point of no return. Danny, bless her, has fully owned being an addict. It's the fuel that drives her- the spark that electrifies her. Knowing fully well

that it could kill her one day.

This book is not for the faint of heart. It is not afraid to show all its dirty parts. It's an honest portrayal of a woman whose weakness could very well be what keeps her alive. In that, it's a dangerous novel, but only to those with no appreciation of what being human is like. Barbara Leslie is a woman who knows a thing or two about being an addict. As someone who's well on her way to recovery, she's been in that position before; where the need to use wars with the need to survive.

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