



## A Kind of Justice

*Renee James*

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## **A Kind of Justice** Renee James

### Description

Against all odds, Bobbi Logan, a statuesque transgender woman, has become one of Chicago's most celebrated hair stylists and the owner of one of the city's poshest salons. She is finally comfortable with who she is, widely admired in her community, about to enjoy the success she deserves.

Then her impossibly perfect life falls apart.

In the space of a few weeks, the Great Recession drags her business to the brink of failure, her beloved ex-wife needs help in facing a terrible tragedy, and a hateful police detective storms back into her life, determined to convict her of the five-year-old murder of John Strand—pillar of the community—and a sexual predator.

As the detective builds an ever more convincing case against her, both of them will be shaken by revelations—about themselves, about their own deeply held secrets, and about the bizarre ritual murder of John Strand.

### **A Kind of Justice Details**

Date : Published October 4th 2016 by Oceanview Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Renee James

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Lgbt, Fiction, Transgender, Suspense

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## From Reader Review A Kind of Justice for online ebook

### Pat says

3.5 stars

A unique book in which the main protagonist is a transgender woman - Bobbi Logan. Robert Logan was a successful businessman, married without children. He transitioned into Bobbi Logan who is a successful businesswoman, owning and operating a high-end beauty salon in Chicago. She is going through a lot of stress not only with her new identity but also the business world and the return of her ex-wife who has had a personal crisis. Bobbi is being pulled in so many directions including an ongoing investigation of the Strand murder case. The Strand murder case took place 5 years in the past. Bobbi knew the victim and no one has been identified as the killer.

Enter Detective Wilkins who is determined to solve the Strand murder case and to prove that Bobbi Logan is the killer. Det. Wilkins also brings along a great deal of prejudice against the LGBTQ community.

This is book #2 of an ongoing series and I admit it is the first one I have read. What was lacking for me was details of the Strand murder case which I think may have been covered in the first, 1a and 1b, books. But, saying that I was still able to understand what was happening with Det. Wilkins and Bobbi Logan. This novel had a strong beginning and a strong ending but the middle is what seemed to get caught in a 'loop' for me. The chapters are narrated by the two main characters. Bobbi seems to have so many things happening to her that it is almost overwhelming to keep rereading all the issues. Det Wilkins seemed to have so much prejudice and hate that became overwhelming to keep reading.

Did I hate this book? No, because I continue to think of the characters and the plot which are both very strong. Would I read another edition of this series? Yes, because I think author Renee James has a great idea with this series and has potential to make this a winner. This author is just getting started.

Recommend to those looking for the beginning of a unique protagonist and series.

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### Megalion says

This book just really hit the spot. Very happy to see a book come up in a genre that just happens to have a transgendered woman as the lead.

It's a murder mystery where Bobbi Logan who is a star of a hair stylist who has her own salon... but the detective who was bound and determined to pin a murder on her 5 years ago, resurrects his efforts.

Add on to that the Great Recession impacting her business. Her attempts to make the next major steps in her business and stay afloat.

And above all, maintain her existing relationships and beginning opening herself to being able to make new ones as a post op woman. She's very filled with self-doubt and I loved how the transgender community helped each other. Bonded with each other. And also had their spats and feuds.

It felt very authentic and I hope it really is. Not certain if the author is transgendered herself but I'm not looking as it doesn't and shouldn't matter. It's a great murder mystery and that's all anyone needs to really pay attention to.

I did think that the writing was a bit weak at times in the first half. I can't speak as to the second as I was too engrossed to notice if any. My joy at seeing yet another community of people finally get a starring role, and well done at that made it a no-brainer to give it a 5 anyways.

Irrelevant but I have to confess. Bobbi is white but I could only particular the lovely Laverne Cox in my mind.

Will be marking this as one of my best reads of 2016.

Thank you to the publisher for the opportunity to read an advance copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. And I very much look forward to anything Renee James writes in the future.

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### **Greyson [Use Your Words] says**

*Thank you to Netgalley for providing me an advanced reader copy in exchange for my honest review.*

#### **DNF**

I used to love reading crime novels in my teens. For some reason I can't get back into them though. A lot of the time the writing felt like the author was trying to make word count in an essay, I think that most of all threw me off and I couldn't get into it enough to get any further than the first few chapters. I think it is mostly a 'It's not you, it's me' scenario.

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### **Lena♥Ribka says**

*I read this book during our summer holiday, and I am so sorry that I couldn't write my review immediately after I had finished it. It would have been much longer and maybe more helpful.*

**The best thing about this book is Bobbi Logan.** I am not completely "virgin" in regard of books with transgender characters, but I have never read a book with a transgender woman as a first-person narrative. And to be in Bobbi's head was a great experience. Because Bobbi Logan is a wonderful character that you won't forget and who maybe helps you to learn a bit more about transgender people.

Bobby Logan was born as a man, but in the wrong body. She was married to a woman in her *previous life*, came out as gay - though was never really sure she was a girl, she was only sure she wasn't a boy - then later she made the permanent step of gender reassignment surgery.

Now, 5 years after her transition she is a star hairdresser and an owner of a beauty salon in Chicago in the midst of the economic crisis, she is over forty, tries to rebuild her relationship with her ex-wife, she is probably without a chance in love with a man who everyone is in love with, and... she is a main suspect in a murder case.

A Kind of Justice is a brilliantly written mystery, but it is also an emotional and fascinating story about a fantastic character you'll fall in love with. Because it is simply impossible not to feel with/for Bobby, not to admire her personality. This book will change you, it will give you an insight into a transgender world, that you probably would have never got to know.

What I found also great in this book: it has a heartwarming satisfying ending that made me happy, but didn't give me a feeling of being manipulated into it. It was soooo right and sooooo touching!..

**I truly hope that this book will find many many many fans.**

It is so different from everything I read, in a WOW way, I can't recommend it highly enough.

Great mystery.

Great characters.

Great writing.

Great plot.

*\*\*Copy provided by the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\**

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**Nila says**

Review later, except to say now this is an excellent story with characters who are puzzling, amazing, inexplicable, brave and sexy. It's an engrossing story with a befuddling mystery.

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**Lisa Lemons says**

Disclaimer 1: Thanks to NetGalley and Oceanview Publishing for the ARC, which I received in exchange for my honest review.

Disclaimer 2: This story is about a woman who is transgender, which is not a space I occupy. If anything I say in this review needs to be called out, discussed, or thought about from another angle, please let me know. There is an addendum at the end of this review that expands on this disclaimer more.

Disclaimers out of the way, let's talk about this book!

Your general synopsis: Bobbi Logan is a seriously BAMF hairstylist working in Chicago and she is also transgender. We enter her life right around the time she purchases the hair salon she works at. The Great Recession is just hitting its "peak", and a detective with a transphobic chip on his shoulder has made her the #1 suspect in a five-year-old murder case.

The story moved along at a good pace, never too rushed nor too slow. Most of the characters were far from

two-dimensional and not a single one was perfect. Nor was anyone really explicitly evil, except for John Strand, the man Bobbi is being accused of killing.

Renee James' writing was full of tenderness, feeling, and pain. There were multiple times throughout the story that Bobbi's despair had me crying, her humour had me laughing, and her desires had me wishing her all that she wanted.

We hold each other for a long time, Betsy broken-hearted and lost, me guilty and inept. At moments like this, I'm overwhelmed by how much it sometimes hurts to have people you love in your life.

Renee James also did an amazing job of weaving themes throughout the story. With the character in question, it should come as no surprise to my review-readers that one of the central themes is transitioning. In addition to Bobbi's own discussed transition, there's also a transition for each of the main characters as well as some of the side characters. Each one has their own "coming-of-age" moment that tie beautifully together with Bobbi's story. By the end of the book, I regained a lot of hope I've been losing in humanity this past year.

Without giving too much away, I've seen from other reviewers that the ending wasn't really what they were expecting, and not in a "that's an awesome twist" sort of way. I'm inclined to agree, for a lot of the same reasons that they've raised. In an effort to prevent spoilers, let me just say that there are several characters in the novel that I wish we would have spent a good chunk of time with before the story ended.

**4.5/5 Stars:** 4.5 stars rounded up to 5. The story was a wonderful read I had a difficult time putting down. The ending came as a surprise in a not-so-good way, and really could have been better had certain characters been flushed out more prior.

**Addendum:** Hey all. I really wasn't sure how I wanted to broach this subject, so I've decided to append it onto the end of this review as it is not relevant to the review in itself.

As I said in Disclaimer 2, being transgender is not a space I occupy. There are two more points I need to make off of this disclaimer. Number one is that if this is a space you occupy, the content of this story may be very triggering for you. Again, to avoid spoilers, at a glance you can expect a lot of gender dysphoria, transphobia, transmisogyny, and discussions about sexual assault where all the victims are trans\*. If you would like more detailed content/trigger warnings, please feel free to message me for them.

Expanding off of that first point, for those of you that are cisgender, this book is very uncomfortable. This story is told mostly in first person, and is a very raw look into Bobbi's life. Renee James' does not sugarcoat a damn thing about how Bobbi is feeling. As an example, here is a conversation she has with a fellow transwoman she volunteer/works with:

"Don't say that. You're a proud, beautiful woman, Bobbi."

Yay rah. It's nice of her to say something encouraging, but this is strictly pro forma script in the trans world. Everyone is proud and beautiful. Lisa means well. She's here to save the wonderful people of transgenderland and some of them are somewhat between ugly and embarrassing to look at. Being patient with us is part of being a savior.

Even though you will have every desire in the world to tell Bobbi "don't play yourself like that", remember that you can't.

Again, I can't stress enough that this isn't a space I occupy, so I encourage, nay, insist, other cisgender readers remember the same. You don't know what life is like in that space. Don't try giving advice to people who occupy that space on *how* they should occupy it.

All of that being said, I do hope if you've taken the time to read this review that you'll also take the time to read this book when you get the chance. Especially if this *isn't* your space. Get uncomfy, friends. It's how we grow.

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### **Kaz says**

Wow, how fortunate to be able to read about such a colourful person, Bobbi Logan is a very talented stylist, she also owns one of Chicago's top hair salons, the one thing that makes Bobbi stand out, is, she is statuesque and transgender, her life is far from dull. She is loved by family and friends alike, and admired in the community for the success she has worked so hard for, little does she know this about to change. A detective is determined to pin a murder on her, John Strand, was a sexual predator, he was murdered 5 years ago, to some though, he was a pillar of the community, and Bobbi is entering a nightmare, within a couple of weeks she is fighting for her business as the recession takes hold, her ex wife desperately needs her help, and the detective is building a case against her, this is a journey through the transgender community, their struggle to be accepted, the heartache they experience , the families drawn into this diverse community, and their triumph's , You will get right behind Bobbi, and those close to her, sometimes you will be frustrated with certain characters as we wait to find out, will justice prevail and who is the real killer?.... Renee James has I would imagine, drawn from her experience in writing this book, it now makes me want to read the first book. Thank you to Netgalley and Oceanview publishers for a copy of A Kind Of Justice in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Louise Wilson says**

Bobbi Logan is a transgender woman and has just became one of Chicago's most celebrated hair stylists finally comfortable with who she is. Then the Great Recession hits and nearly drags her business to the brink of failure. Bobbi's ex-wife also needs her help coping with a family tragedy. The police officer returns trying to successfully convict Bobbi of the murder of John Strand that happened five years ago.

What a fantastic character Bobbi Logan is. Born in the wrong body. This is an insight into the world of transgenders. A very good mystery with a great ending.

I would like to thank Net Galley, Oceanview Publishing and the author Renee James for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **??ss says**

**this book was given to me by the publisher in exchange for an honest review**

*dnf at 21%*

I'm sorry, but I could not finish this book. Maybe it just wasn't my cup of tea, but I had no motivation to continue with this. It's not there was anything wrong with this book. In fact, it was more of a, *it's not you, it's me sort of thing*. It just didn't interest me like I was hoping it would.

I found that this book is more for fans of Adult Fiction or Adult Contemporary, but for me it was just *boring*. It was a lot of business problems and confusion. I felt as if things happened too quickly, with no buildup to create excitement or tension. Therefore, nothing motivated me to continue reading and as I'm trying to stop pulling myself though books I'm not enjoying anymore, I dnfed it.

I think the greatest thing about this book is the diversity. There's so much of it, and it's fantastic. It portrays transsexual and racially diverse people especially, which can be hard to find.

All in all, this book was just not for me, but could definitely be for you if you're into more of Adult Contemporary.

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### **Sofia says**

3.5 stars

*"There's how you look and there's who you really are."*

**Love of women.** James love of women shows throughout the whole book. It is a gentle love caring of the non perfect moments as well as the perfect ones. Ok I have to admit that James idea of women and what they are and how they should be is a bit stereotypical for me, starting from the dainty handshake, going on to the impossibly high heels, shorts skirts and cleavage. But more than that it's the idea of how women think, feel and act portrayed in the book which I'm not fully on board with. I want and need the freedom to be me without having to fit myself into the tight boxes of how I should be to be a woman. I am not sure if this is an author's view or an American view. A little example, I wouldn't dream of seeing a hairdresser in high heels here and they usually have some sort of salon uniform. The hairdressers in Bobbi's salon worked in high heels, short dresses and flaunted assets.

I liked Bobbi and how James paints her but for me her best work was with Wilkins who totally stole the show for me. James builds his slow transformation bit by bit and I loved this unfolding. I enjoyed this part of the story the best.

I only became aware that this was a second book in a series after I started reading. I continued reading because I saw that friends who read and enjoyed the book, had not read the first book either. I found that this did not deduct from the story. The story appeared complete on it's own and James gives enough background to satisfy my questions.

*An ARC gently given by the author/publishers in exchange for a review.*

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### **Musa says**

Mystery written in the voice of Bobbi, a transwoman and a successful hairstylist; and perspective of detective Wilkins, who is trying to solve the murder mystery that happened five years ago. It's an interesting book that sheds some light of life being a transwoman in a society and friend circle that wasn't ready yet to fully embrace her new identity. Though Bobbi has a great personality and a great heart, throughout the book there are moments I just wonder why her ex-wife and cop friend keep saying hurtful things and throwing bad reactions at her. The last twist towards the end of the plot and the murderer ... hum... I'm a little bit lukewarm with that twist. It doesn't seem to be very consistent with that particular character. All in all I'd give it a 3.5 stars.

Note: Review copy received from NetGalley

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### **Cab says**

This was the second in a series and despite not having read the first, I really enjoyed this one. The story flowed well and I was sucked in from the very beginning. All of the characters were flawed in one way or another and that made them feel real.

Overall, I was impressed with the flow of the story and the characters themselves. I will definitely keep an eye out for new stories coming from Renee James.

For a more detailed review go to <http://reviews.c-spot.net/archives/5754>

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### **Karen Wellsbury says**

really fascinating book, although I would say it's more a psychological thriller rather than a mystery.. Narrated by Bobbi a transwoman, it's also an insight into her life. Bobbi has a complicated life - her ex wife and daughter are now living with her. The hairdressing business Bobbi runs is suffering due to the recession, and to cap it all she's being investigated for her suspected part in a murder.

Bobbi's voice is wonderful, she's incredibly warm hearted and tolerant despite the knocks she gets. her ex wife veers between acceptance and condemnation. Detective Phil, Bobbi's occasional lover clearly loves her, but can't always accept her.

The book is over long on places, and meanders a bit but the sincerity of Bobbi's voice, her joy and pain counterbalances that..

The mystery ending, finding out who did murder John Strand, was a compete surprise to me, and the ending of this chapter of Bobbi's life was incredibly moving. as well.

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## Ije the Devourer of Books says

I read the first few paragraphs of this book and I was hit by the realisation that this was going to be a really great mystery, and that one book would not be enough. It has an excellent plot, rich characters, suspense, emotions and grit, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

This is a brilliant murder mystery story with vivid and multi-dimensional characters and a great pace. Right from the word go I was drawn into the world of Bobbi Logan a trans woman who is also a sister, aunt and popular hairdresser. The story has a kind of edgy feel to it but discloses nothing until the very end.

Is the heroine the murderer? If she isn't then who is? Who killed the evil John Strand, violent murderer and abuser of women?

Bobbi's life has not been easy. She was a married man before her transition and although Betsy, her ex wife, is still in her life and cares for her, Bobbi yearns to be accepted by others. She yearns for a deep and true love of her own, and this was so palpable in the book that I could feel it. Bobbi experiences what everyone feels when they live alone but yearn for love - both men and women.

In any case life is good because Betsy's daughter from her second marriage regards Bobbi as an aunt and Bobbi now has a chance to own her hair salon. Life might be unfulfilled in all sorts of way but the future overflows with light and potential. Unfortunately that light darkens and becomes overcast as an enemy from the past, a transphobic detective, seeks to pin Strand's murder on Bobbi and the darkness from the past threatens to overwhelm the brightness of the future.

Detective Wilkins doesn't really regard himself as transphobic. He is just determined to resurrect an old murder case and close the case like a good cop should. The murder of John Strand, a respected business man, has continued to trouble him. He is sure that Bobbi Logan is the murderer and is determined to do all that he can to pin the murder on her. Five years ago Bobbi's friend was murdered and Bobbi was raped by two thugs linked to John Strand. As Detective Wilkins tracks down clues and witnesses, it seems as if John Strand was not the upstanding member of society that people believed him to be, but instead was man who hungered after trans women and subjected them to violence and oppression. No one misses John Strand but Detective Wilkins believes Bobbi Logan did it and should pay for her crime.

So just when life should be light for Bobbi she is faced with shadows from the past and a persecuting police detective who is determined to make her pay for something she didn't do. Bobbi is staring the loss of her business in the face and the loss of her friendship with Betsy, and the many employees who rely on her will lose their livelihoods.

The most frightening thing is that the murderer is still alive and who knows whether this will put Bobbi and those she loves at risk.

I really enjoyed reading this. First of all it is a great mystery which increases in suspense and gathers pace as the story progresses. I really appreciated the way the story is told from the perspective of a trans woman, holding back no punches and exploring the real violence that many trans people face in our world today. This is a story that has roots in reality. Violence against trans people is real and the author brings this to life without compromise.

I also enjoyed this because it is clever in the way it depicts the main characters as human, with joys and pains of the past which shape their responses to the present. Both Bobbi and her ex-wife Betsy have suffered loss in different ways and yet seeing the bond they share creates a hopeful dimension in the story.

Bobbi is a beautiful character. As she seeks to understand what it is to be a woman she goes through the pain of yearning for real love that so many people face. She also faces the pressure of being a professional woman with a career, family and the need to juggle that with community responsibilities and personal fulfilment.

And so for me this is going in my list of exquisite reads for 2016 because it was not only a great mystery but also a story about a woman who manages to survive and overcome adversity and violence, and live through monumental change.

I needed to know about Bobbi Logan from the very beginning and so I also took the time to order the first story, but this second story is complete in itself and can be read as a stand alone. It is an excellent story in so many different ways and a pleasure to read.

Many thanks to the author and Oceanview Publishing for providing me with an advanced copy via NetGalley.

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### ? jamieson ? says

this book was provided to me from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

#### dnf @31%

I just ... *couldn't*. **PLEASE NOTE:** there is nothing inherently wrong with this book. Actually, I think possible for *another audience* it could be really enjoyable

*A Kind of Justice* follows Bobbi Logan, a trans woman working in a popular, up market hair salon. I don't know exactly what I was expecting, but what this book turned out to be a lot of was ... business falling apart, the stress of going broke and that fun business jazz. And by fun I mean, boring.

I didn't HATE THIS, because there were elements of it I really liked. I really liked the friendships between the girls at the salon, I really liked it was diverse, I really liked some of the characters.

But there were also things I didn't - like super cliche detectives, and some of the comments on lgbt+ communities.

I just had **zero interest** in finishing or continuing this, and I don't want to drag myself through books I don't like anymore.

I DO think people could enjoy this, if you like adult contemporaries it'd probably be more enjoyable.

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