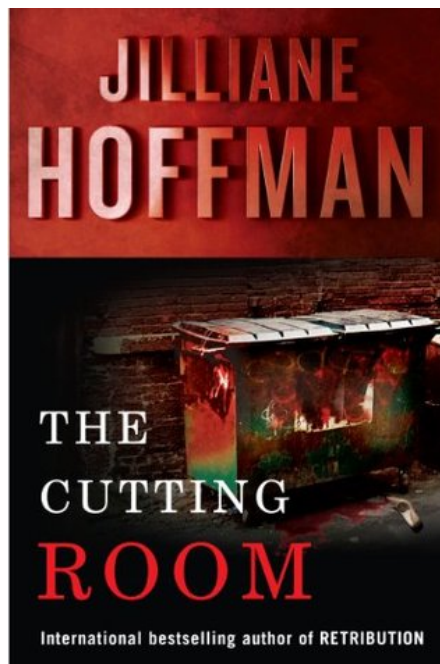




The Cutting Room

Jilliane Hoffman

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Detective Manny Alvarez knows the body of a murdered Florida student is only the beginning—his investigation soon reveals a terrifying trend in nightclub abductions.

Hotshot Assistant State Attorney Daria DeBianchi works the case too, hoping it will be the one that makes her career. It will—but for all the wrong reasons.

Their only lead, notorious serial killer William Bantling, claims they are looking for more than one murderer. However, in exchange for the truth, he wants off death row.

C.J. Townsend, the prosecutor who put Bantling behind bars, lives under a false identity and struggles to forget the horrors of her past. However, her new life—along with everyone else's—is about to be shattered...

Book 3 in the C.J. Townsend trilogy.

The Cutting Room Details

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Author : Jilliane Hoffman

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From Reader Review The Cutting Room for online ebook

Terri says

If you've never read a Jilliane Hoffman book, this is an awesome way to start! While it once again involves CJ, Bill Bantling & many of the characters we met in "Retribution" & "The Last Witness", she brilliantly takes you on a thrilling story fresh w/ some new characters while she manages to recap some of the stories of the past. Surprisingly, those "catch you up" moments are written in such a way that they become far from tedious to those readers already familiar w/ the Cupid story.

"The Cutting Room" provides great closure for many of our loved characters from the past while introducing new & exciting stories for characters new & familiar alike. Instead of sounding like a repeat, it's much more like a remixed master; full of the stuff we've come to love from one of her books w/ a bit of new & exciting woven in!

Nadine says

Eenmaal je begint met lezen wil je dit boek niet neerleggen.
Gruwelijk, spannend, meeslepend.. En wat een einde weer.
Geweldig boek, alles wat je van een thriller verwacht.

Het derde deel uit de reeks krijgt nieuwe hoofdrolspelers.
Rechercheur Manny Alvarez en assistent officier van justitie Daria DeBianchi nemen het boek z'n beetje over. Hoewel CJ en Bantling ook verschijnen miste ik ze wel een beetje.

Denise Natho says

Das Buch war spannend, hat mich gepackt und ich musste es schnell (für meine Verhältnisse) zu Ende lesen. ???

Schade fand ich allerdings das plötzliche Ende der Hauptfigur Daria. Es wurde am Ende des Buches mehr oder weniger zur Nebensache das sie gestorben ist. Hier hätte ich mir einen anderen Verlauf gewünscht der ihre Geschichte entweder mit der verdienten Aufmerksamkeit zu Ende bringt oder noch viel besser mit einem Happy End zu Ende geht

Lisa says

The Cutting Room by Jilliane Hoffman was a well rounded serial killer legal thriller that will keep you turning the pages right to the end. the characterisation worked well between the two main characters Detective Manny Alvarez & state attorney Daria Debianchi, both were strong willed & would not stop till they found the perp.

If your into serial killers with a sick twisted mind that would do horrible unthinkable things to young girls then this is for you, if you have a queasy stomach then I would advise you not to read it but you would be missing out on one hell of a ride.

Will have to look into retribution as its the first in the series want to know how it all begins lets just say Miss Hoffman is fast becoming a favourite author in this genre.

Cassie says

Why oh why oh why! Read all the way through this book (which at times was quite slow) and for what? That ending!!! I did enjoy the plot though and thought it was a decent crime fiction book but it did not end at all how I wanted! All in all it was an interesting read, and worth getting to the end but just be warned, you're in to finish feeling totally cheated!!!

ExpectoLukas says

Das Ende einer spannenden Reihe. Definitiv fand ich die ersten beiden Bücher packender, weshalb ich auch keine 5 Sterne geben kann. Leider hat es mir ein bisschen an Spannung gefehlt, jedoch war es trotzdem noch ein tolles Buch. Das Ende war dann doch noch zur Hälfte überraschend und ein kleines Happy end war dann doch noch.

Rhonda Lomazow says

Terrific trilogy

This was part three of the trilogy.I would recommend you start with book one.Very enjoyable read.There is good courtroom scenes and explanations of some legal principles which I really enjoyed because the author got it right.As an ex criminal law attorney,I enjoyed the reality.The characters were really good and real and the intertwining serial killer stories excellent.

MadameMelli says

Wow. Einfach nur wow. Vielleicht liegt es daran, dass ich schon länger keinen Thriller mehr gelesen habe, aber dieser hat mich sehr begeistert.

Ich mag es, wenn Geschichten sich langsam entwickeln, ohne langweilig zu sein. Wenn man verschiedene Perspektiven zu sehen bekommt, deren Sinn man erst am Ende versteht. So entwickelt sich dieses Buch. Geschickt entfaltet sich die Handlung und greift auf die Ereignisse aus den vorherigen Bänden zurück und hilft einem damit, sich an Dinge zu erinnern, die man vor Jahren gelesen hat. Bei denen man mitgefiebert hat (auch wenn der zweite Teil schwächer war). Sobald "der Sturm losging", konnte ich das Buch nicht mehr aus der Hand legen und schrie teilweise sogar die Protagonisten an. Oder feuerte sie an.

Das Ende lässt auf mehr hoffen, ich würde mich auf jeden Fall darüber freuen!

Selina says

Genialer Abschluss der Cupido Trilogie.

Vamsi Krishna says

Spoilers Ahead

I initially read Jillian Hoffmann's *Pretty Little Things*. The book was really a page turner and I had developed a liking for Hoffman's novels instantly. That made me to pick up this book "*The Cutting Room*".

The novel starts with Gabriel Vechio, an accountant from New York who leaves with a guy from the night club to have some fun. Unfortunately that turns out to be her worst nightmare. And then the scene shifts to Florida where the body of Holly Anne Skole a student from University of Miami is found in a dumpster. Detective Manny Alvarez arrests Talbot Lunders in this connection. He works with prosecutor Daria DeBianchi in this case. On the day when Talbot is denied a bail, Anny Lunders, Talbot's mom, receives an anonymous video. With the help of this anonymous video, Manny investigates the case deeper and finds out a snuff club involved in these activities and he also finds other victims. Manny is warned of such a snuff club seven years ago by William Batling the Cupid (character from Jillian Hoffman's *Retribution*) when he was arrested. This warning however was ignored by Manny at that point of time. Now Manny and Daria seeks the help of Batling for which he wants to make a deal i.e. he needs off the death row. Manny doesn't want to make a deal however, Daria makes the deal. And then Batling escapes when he is being sent from Florida state prison to Florida DCJ. Now he is a revenge spree and tries to find out C.J, the prosecutor who has put him behind bars.

Here, I would like to throw in a few comments about this novel. The pace of the novel is slow at times, which was not the case with her previous novel "*Pretty Little things*", which was absolutely a page turner. The entire plot probably is inspired by the movie *The Silence of the Lambs*". Surprisingly the novel makes reference to Hannibal Lector and the movie. Also, Hoffman was trying to tell us two different stories in the novel. One story was that of the snuff clubs who organize the murders of the select tape them and watch them for fun. The other is that of the William Batling the Cupid Guy and C.J, the characters from other Hoffmann's novels. Even though the novel had characters from her other novels, she made it sure that this novel can be read independently. She has explained the missing links clearly. I really liked this. However in this process, Hoffman clearly forgot to end what she had started in this novel. Hoffman who had really tied loose ends in the novel "*Pretty Little Things*" did not really do a good job here. There were a lot of loose ends in this novel. Some of them are

1. Perhaps she could have explained William Bantling's innocence in the Cupid murders a bit more clearly. If he was really innocent as this novel claimed, then what is the point of her first novel *Retribution*?
2. How Bantling did knew of the snuff clubs? Why was he framed for the Cupid murders? - This point was not clear.
3. Who were operating the snuff clubs and how? – This was a disaster. I don't know why this point was never explained at all. The novel ought to explain this point rather than explaining the Cupid Murders, which

had already been touched in her other novel.

On a personal note, I don't know why Daria had to die in this novel. I could not fathom Hoffman's thought process here. She sounded optimistic with the climax in the novel "Pretty Little Things", but somehow she sounded way too different. Probably she is planning another sequel to this novel which ties all the loose ends.

Luise says

Part three of the C. J. Townsend series was definitely better than the boring second one.

The uncovering of the new case of serial murders, the mysterious snuff club etc. by the new attorney and investigator duo was quite exciting - and had a really unexpected turn in the end. Wow. Even though it could have been described in a little more extensive way. It abruptly fell into the background, while C. J. got more and more 'screen time' towards the end. That was a slight pity.

The story has a lot of connections to the past and the cases of the previous two books. It becomes a grande finale to C. J. and psycho Bill Bantling's shared journey.

The ending, however, is so unsatisfying. I mean, you can guess what happened. But it actually tells you nothing. Nothing at all. No details of 'how exactly' it ended. And suddenly you realise: 'hm? What happened to the case this book was about initially?' Dead end. And then finally, it's just a huuuuuge teaser for what's about to happen in the next part. Only that doesn't exist. Heeey yaay!

Don't build up suspense about the uncovering of an enormous criminal organisation/ whatever and just leave it there. With none of the criminals caught.

Hannah says

I am a firm believer that being a great writer and being a great story teller are two different things, you could be a great story teller, like for instance J K Rowling, but not being the greatest writer, and we are happy to forgive a less than great talent for writing if the story grabs you. The Cutting Room grabs you and refuses to let go. I was recommended this book by a friend, I didn't read the write ups or reviews, I went in completely blind to its contents. The characters are believable, their actions are understandable, the story is plausible, reading this on my kindle and not keeping an eye on the remaining percentage, I was horrified when this ended, it could do with a sequel, it demands a sequel. Not since my obsession with the release of Dan Brown have I, so eagerly, awaited a new installment. I can not recommend this book any higher than I already do. Even though I have not read the preceding installments, mainly due to a lack of knowledge that they existed, I still understood everything. I'm not going to include spoilers, only to say if you want a criminal story you can actually get involved with, try this. If you want characters you will come to know as you would a friend, try this. If you want a love story that will break your heart, try this.

Ann Davis says

Briliant, fabulous. Such snappy dialogue and exciting story. I've been wondering when the next book about Bill Bantling would appear. I love the way she brings the reader up to date with her previous books while continuing with new characters. A new prosecutor is the subject of this story and as usual the courtroom dramas are exciting to read. A young woman is found in a dumpster, raped and murdered. Detective Manny Alvarez is the lead and has a suspect who is a rich playboy seen leaving a nightclub with the victim. Manny has to work alongside Assistant State Attorney Daria DeBianchi without any cast iron evidence to put him away. The only lead takes them to William Bantling who was put away by C.J. Townsend, a prosecutor who is now living and working under a new identity. Bantling wants off death row in exchange for his knowledge of names involved in murders relating to this new case. The story brings the past and present together so expertly and leaves room for the next book to evolve. I enjoyed it so much that I've dug out the other three books that worked with these characters to read again. *Retribution*, *Last Witness* and *Plea of Insanity* and I look forward to Jilliane Hoffman's next book.

Sunshineandbooks1410 says

4,5 Sterne

Ein wirklich tolle Reihe mit super Charakteren, sowohl die Täter als auch die Ermittler. Leider ist das Ende für mich etwas zu abrupt gewesen, zudem erscheint es als würde es noch einen weiteren Teil geben, denn das Ende ist mir zu offen. Plus wurde nicht aufgeklärt welche hohen Tiere sich noch hinter allem verstecken...

Mathilda Grace says

Wenn die staatlichen Behörden auch nur ansatzweise so handeln, wie es in diesem Buch erzählt wird, braucht man sich wahrlich nicht zu wundern, dass so viele Verbrecher frei herumlaufen. Ich habe Cupido und Morpheus geliebt, aber »Argus« kommt nicht mal ansatzweise an seine Vorgänger heran.

Es gibt einen Mord, der ganz offensichtlich nur die Spitze der Eisbergs in einer jahrelangen Mordserie ist, einen aalglatten Verdächtigen, der genau weiß, dass man ihm nichts nachweisen kann, eine Staatsanwältin, die ihren Abschluss offenbar im Lotto gewonnen hat, anders kann ich mir ihr Verhalten in manchen Szenen nicht erklären und einen Polizisten, der als einziger wirklich seinen Job macht oder es zumindest versucht, denn die liebe Staatsanwältin und ihr Vorgesetzter ziehen es ja lieber vor, die Verbindungen zum Snuff-Club erst mal zu ignorieren und später dann mit einem Serienmörder Deals zu verhandeln, die Cop Manny stinksauer machen. Zu recht, meiner Meinung nach.

Und das Schlimmste ist noch, es wird nichts aufgelöst. Unzählige Fragen bleiben ungeklärt, nur um irgendwann mal vielleicht einen 4. Band zu schreiben. Der einzige, der sein gerechtes Ende findet, ist Bill Bantling. Denn auch CJ und Dominick aus den Vorgängerbänden tauchen zwischendurch immer wieder auf. Wobei sie für mich überflüssig waren, weil ich überhaupt keine Verbindung mehr zu ihnen aufbauen konnte. Aber sie mussten eben ins Buch, damit CJ am Ende ihre Rache bekommt. Nun ja, darüber kann man streiten oder es lassen. Meiner Meinung nach hat Bantling sein Ende verdient.

Nur macht diese eine Szene das Buch nicht besser, dafür ist es ein Stückwerk an Szenen mit Charakteren, die mir durch die Bank weg unsympathisch waren. Allen voran Anwältin Daria, der ich die erfahrene

Staatsanwältin keine fünf Seiten abkaufte, und je mehr das Buch voranschritt, umso unglaubwürdiger wurde sie. Und am Ende schießt die Frau dann wirklich den Vogel ab, um es mal so zu nennen. Denn obwohl Daria weiß, dass immer wieder Beteiligte rund um den Snuff-Club und den Angeklagten ermordet werden, lässt sie sich wie das perfekte Opferlamm in einer Bar zu einem Drink einladen und abschleppen, nur um Manny eins auszuwischen, der sie nach dem Deal mit Bantling ignoriert, was ich verdammt gut verstehen kann, so hinterrücks wie sie das Ganze abgezogen hat. Kurzum, Daria läuft beinahe freudestrahlend zu ihrer eigenen Hinrichtung, und das war dann der Punkt, wo ich nur kopfschüttelnd da saß und dachte: Wie dumm kann man eigentlich sein?

Der einzige echte Sympathieträger in diesem Buch war für mich Manny, doch das ist zu wenig, besonders in Bezug auf das offene Ende, da der Fall ungelöst bleibt. Außerdem hatte ich ab dem letzten Drittel des Buches mehr und mehr das Gefühl, die Autorin will schnell fertig werden, denn die einzelnen Szenen wurden immer abgehackter geschrieben oder teilweise überhaupt nicht mehr aufgegriffen. Was soll das bitte? Gut ist eindeutig anders.

Ich war schlussendlich so frustriert, dass ich den Rest nur noch überflogen habe. Dafür gibt weder eine Leseempfehlung noch mehr als den obligatorischen Stern von mir.
