



# Wrong Way Home

*Isabelle Grey*

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## **Wrong Way Home** Isabelle Grey

A cold case leads DI Grace Fisher on the hunt for the most dangerous killer of her career - but after twenty-five years, can she really be sure she will get to the truth?

Wrong Way Home is a Sunday Times Crime Book of The Month. Mari Hannah says it's 'a classy, satisfying read, superbly put together' and Sarah Hilary calls Isabelle Grey's books 'compelling and compassionate'.

The same night a local hero saved two people from the burning Marineland resort in Southend, a young woman was raped and murdered minutes from the scene of the fire, the culmination of a series of brutal rapes in the town. The killer was never found.

Twenty-five years on, new DNA techniques have blown the cold case open. DI Grace Fisher relishes the prospect of finally catching the culprit, but when the evidence doesn't point to one clear suspect, she must reconstruct the original investigation.

Grace finds her investigation shadowed by a young true-crime podcaster backed by veteran crime reporter Ivo Sweatman. Pressure mounts and she knows that a cold-blooded killer is slowly being backed into a corner, and that a cornered predator is often the most dangerous of all...

## **Wrong Way Home Details**

Date : Published May 17th 2018 by Quercus (first published 2018)

ISBN : 9781786486479

Author : Isabelle Grey

Format : Hardcover 384 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Audiobook

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# From Reader Review Wrong Way Home for online ebook

## Cleo Bannister says

In this, the fourth book in the DI Grace Fisher series, our likeable protagonist has a breakthrough using familial DNA to hunt for the man who raped and killed a girl twenty-five years ago.

Heather Bower was just nineteen years old when she visited Southend for a night out with her friends and on a night that should have been full of fun, she became separated from the group and was found dead in a park the following morning.

Freddie Craig is an aspiring journalist who has always felt a link to the fire on Southend Pier the same night that Heather died. The fire was started by two teenagers who dropped a cigarette in a boarded up building. Fortunately for them taxi driver Larry Nixon was on the scene and pulled the boys to safety so becoming something of a local hero. As the fire raged Freddie's mother gave birth to him. Freddie is inspired by the death of Heather to make a series of podcasts about the murder and his links to my favourite fictional journalist, Ivo Sweatman. Ivo and Grace have a history of being mutually supportive but she is fully aware that this must not become common knowledge. The excerpts from Freddie's podcasts veer from factual to wacky and then downright disturbing and made for an interesting perspective and an unusual one keeping the story bang up to date.

As the DNA profile links to a woman, Deborah Shillingford, who was arrested for drink driving, Grace now has her family members to investigate to the DNA left all those years before and she sets to work with her partner Sergeant Blake Langley. Grace and Blake have history which has caused a bit of an undercurrent but they are both professional as they interview Deborah and learn that she has two brothers and a father still alive. At the same time they have to inform Heather's mother advising that this lead may not lead to an arrest but hopeful that the knowledge that they are still seeking justice for Heather will be of some comfort.

This is a multi-layered crime fiction novel of the highest standard. Isabelle Grey has plotted superbly, and so even though all the characters are fully rounded the story is undoubtedly led by a series of events in the present that threaten to derail the investigation. That's not to say there is just action there are moments to pause and wonder at the bonds within a family as various tit-bits are revealed. The plot is held up by spot on timing; this is a book that gives the reader time to consider the evidence and stick a stake in the ground before it is blown away by a new piece of information.

Reading Wrong Way Home I remembered quite why I enjoy this series so much. DI Grace Fisher is my idea of the perfect protagonist, a determined woman and yet, she behaves like a woman and it is so refreshing to see a woman who can cry at a wedding and then walk away to review evidence before leading her team to find a killer, and she does it with style.

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## Abby Slater- Fairbrother says

The novel opens with Freddie Craig delivering his live podcast. The podcast entitled 'stories from the fire' focuses on the 1992 fire at the boarded up Marineland resort; and also a murder that took place that night. Heather Bowyer was just 19yrs old when she was raped and murdered at a nearby park. The media attention surrounding the fire and rescue of two local teenagers over-shadowed any focus on Heather's case and she became quickly forgotten. The case remains unsolved and Freddie makes it his personal mission to unmask

the killer. . .

‘Nobody knows. Or only one person, and he’s not telling’ – Freddie Craig

The novel then jumps to DI Grace Fisher, we are briefly introduced to the other members of the police team. But what is most fascinating, is that Grace has a lead on the Bowyer rape/murder case. Due to a DNA familial match, they have a drink driver from 2yrs ago with ties to whoever left DNA the night of Heather Bowyer’s murder. This could ultimately crack the case. Unbeknown to the rest of the team, Grace has linked this case to a potential 5 further rapes in Southend at that time.

Will Grace get the answers she so desperately seeks?

The novel also introduces Ivo Sweatman the chief crime correspondent at the daily courier. He was a young reporter at the time of the murder and reluctantly agrees to assist Freddie with his personal mission.

Grace tracks down the drink driver Deborah Shillingford. They ask about any living male relatives and explain how they would need to eliminate their DNA from the case. Deborah has two brothers Larry and Reece and her father is still alive. But there is something about Deborah’s plight that unnerves Grace. Why is she so accepting that the blame will fall to her? Why is she content to live a life of misery, almost in exile from all her family?

Meanwhile, Freddie’s podcast’s get more and more intense:

‘I want to know how it feels to live with the knowledge that every day might finally bring that knock on the door that will expose your whole life as a sham. I really want to meet this man and I bet I’m not the only one’ – Freddie Craig

Grace immediately assembles teams to take DNA from both Larry & Reece. It would seem the truth is finally about to be revealed. Then the novel takes a HUGE twist!

A fire breaks out at one of the potential suspects homes and throws the whole case into jeopardy.

This cold case, just hot a whole lot hotter.....

‘She knew all too well that true evil was never as simple as that’ – DI Grace Fisher

The characterisation of Grace, Freddie and Ivo, makes the novel so much more intense. Each has a different motive but the same ultimate goal. They all want to see justice for Heather Bowyer. Whilst some of the suspects conspire to conceal the truth. Grace must deal with a case gone cold; in an era when rape victims weren’t believed or taken seriously at all.

As with all fantastic protagonists DI Grace Fisher continues to pursue justice despite the difficulties she faces unravelling the cold case. 5\*

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## Paromjit says

This is a stunning addition to Isabelle Grey's Essex based DI Grace Fisher series. Improvements in DNA analysis has Grace Fisher reopen a chilling cold case from 1992, the rape and murder of 19 year old Heather Bowyer, after Deborah Shillingford's DNA analysis after her arrest suggested that the perpetrator is a close

family member. Grace has no idea that this case will open a real can of worms, as the past refuses to stay buried with a number of present day murders, bringing with it grave dangers. Another interested party, the strange and obsessive true crime blogger, Freddie Craig, has been inspired to focus on the Heather Bowyer case because he was born in the same year as her murder and the Southend on Sea Marineland fire in which two people were heroically rescued at the same time. Tabloid journalist, Ivo Sweatman, started out as a naive and enthusiastic crime reporter around the same time, getting close to the now dead, corrupt DI Jupp who regarded the local area as his own personal fiefdom, running informants, fitting people up and reaping personal financial gains from criminal enterprises. The narrative gives the perspectives of Grace, Freddie and Ivo.

Grace and DS Blake Langley look at Deborah's brothers, planning to take DNA from Reece and Larry Nixon. However, Reece and his wife, Kirsty, burn to death in a arson attack on their home, with Larry relating that his brother was responsible and confessed to him, not wanting to face up to the repercussions of Heather's murder. Grace wants to delve deeper, unwilling to accept at face value the eminently believable account given by Larry. She wishes to pursue a number of rapes around the same period of time, where like Heather, one shoe was taken from the victim, she is convinced that the same perpetrator was behind all the cases. Her investigation reveals the deeply misogynistic attitudes of the police under DI Jupp, none of the women were taken seriously, and indeed were assumed to be asking for it. Grace's instincts tell her who she thinks is guilty, but it all happened a long time ago, will she be able to secure the evidence to prove it? The case moves in unexpected directions as it appears many women disappeared in the area over the years, has someone been killing them with impunity, shielded by the police?

Isabelle Grey's crime series just gets better and better, her plotting is superb, and the tension and suspense was so high that I could not bear to stop reading until I had finished. Grace is a flawed but dogged character, willing to get help wherever she can get it, including sources that would threaten her professional career. Her personal life is a wreck, she desperately misses her relationship with Blake, thinking she has missed her chance when she suspects he is involved with the newest team member, DC Carolyn Bromfield. Her sister, Alison, thinks Grace should think of another career in the future, as the horrors of the job take their toll, but I cannot see Grace being anything other than a cop, it is what her life revolves around, and she is so good at it. A brilliant and entertaining read which I recommend highly to crime fiction aficionados! Many thanks to Quercus for an ARC.

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### **Sandra says**

Loved the book. Loved the character of DI Fisher. Reads well as a stand alone but must admit to buying the other three in the series when I finished this. Looking forward to the next. Highly recommend.

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### **Nicky Mottram says**

Ok read, storyline slow up until the last quarter of the book

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### **The Literary Shed says**

On one momentous night, in October 1992, birth, death and fire collide in the coastal town of Southend-on-

Sea. Twenty-five years later, a young true-crime podcaster reports on the events of his birth date, drawing particular attention to the rape and murder of 19-year-old Heather Bowyer, a crime which remains unsolved. So begins Isabelle Grey's new novel, *Wrong Way Home*.

Enter protagonist Detective Inspector Grace Fisher, special investigating officer of the Case Remains Open files – and star of three earlier Grey titles. Grace has reopened Heather's case – advances in forensic science have led to the discovery of two new DNA profiles on evidence recovered from the original crime scene. As Grace and her team doggedly follow their leads, podcaster Freddie Craig's *Stories from the Fire* focus on the more salacious details of Heather's case, gaining traction when a veteran journalist, who had covered the original case, endorses him.

Freddie's theatrical broadcasts, which mix fact with fantasy, contrast beautifully with the detail and methodology of Grace's official investigation. It's here that Grey's skill as a writer shines through, as she presents her meticulous research and knowledge of police procedure and forensics in an accessible and believable manner. It never jars. And this is probably down to Grey's experience as a screenwriter for such crime pleasers as *Wycliffe*, *Midsomer Murders* and *The Bill*.

Murder apart, though, family figures prominently in *Wrong Way Home* – through people involved in the case and, indeed, Grace herself, we are led to question whether we are defined by our past or whether we can choose to follow our own path.

A sophisticated, well-paced book, *Wrong Way Home* is a fine example of great British crime fiction, and while this is our first foray into Isabelle Grey's writing, it certainly won't be our last.

To see the full review go to: <http://www.theliteraryshed.co.uk/read...>

This review is published as part of the book blog tour. Thanks to the publisher for supplying a proof. All opinions are our own.

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## **Elaine Tomasso says**

I would like to thank Netgalley and Quercus Books for an advance copy of *Wrong Way Home*, the fourth novel to feature DI Grace Fisher of Essex Police Major Crime.

Grace has been investigating the unsolved rape and murder of Heather Bowyer in 1992 and now, thanks to new forensic techniques, she has identified familial DNA which she hopes will lead to the perpetrator. Coincidentally, aspiring journalist Freddie Craig is also looking into Heather's case and enlists the help of Fleet Street journalist Ivo Sweatman.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Wrong Way Home* which is a multi-stranded read that turns the procedural norms upside down. It starts with a narrow suspect field, two brothers, and widens in scope to encompass more and more crimes as the novel progresses. It held me engrossed from start to finish so I read it in one sitting, desperate to know what was coming next. It is one of the best books I have read this year and I read a lot.

The novel is told from Grace's point of view, interspersed with excerpts from Freddie's podcast and Ivo's take on events. This works well as it doesn't lose sight of the narrative thread and offers a wider perspective and different interpretations of the "facts". I really enjoy a good police procedural and this is an excellent

example, showing not just the difficulty in pressing charges but the costs, politics and egos involved in a major investigation. It makes for fascinating reading. Ivo and Freddie's involvement gives the reader the other side of the coin showing the pressure on journalists in these social media times, again it's fascinating and informative.

At its heart, however, the novel is a very good read with a strong plot. There are surprises along the way but mostly it has a momentum that pulls the reader along for the ride. It builds on a strong start and keeps going in the same vein to reach a satisfying conclusion.

Ms Grey does not ignore the personal either with both Grace and Ivo having to do some soul searching and re-assessment. They are both very honest in this and it just adds to the interest and enjoyment.

The Wrong Way Home is a very complete novel which covers many bases so I have no hesitation in recommending it as an excellent read.

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## **Dash fan says**

5? A Fast Paced read, with Juicy Twists.

Wow what a book. It seriously threw me and kept me guessing.

One thing I love about this book was that I love going to Southend on Sea and most of my Family are from Colchester so I could relate to the areas within the book.

Wrong Way Home, is a unique book, it's an action packed, crime thriller that contains juicy twists I didn't see coming.

What I loved was the detective side of this book. I learnt some things about DNA and how it can be used even when years ago they had no DNA profiling.

DI Grace Fisher has set her sights on catching a rapist/murderer of a cold case from 25years ago.

Grace believes that using new DNA Profiling she has new evidence to catch the killer.

However the only lead she had has just killed themselves!.... or have they.... was it suicide or something more sinister?

Ohh I loved it.

I loved Grace, she's one kick ass female detective who's intuition and gut instinct is ballsy and fierce. She don't give up and gets things done.

I literally read Wrong Way Home in one night I couldn't put it down.

It was a compulsive read, that had me tuning page after page, the tension ramps up page by page until it's impossible to know who to trust.

The writing was fantastic and instantly drew me in. There was plenty of well thought-out characters and a juicy twisting plot made this the perfect Crime Thriller.

If you enjoy crime thrillers, that have a strong detective procedural, action packed romp with juicy twists, then you will want to read Wrong Way Home!

Thank you to Random Things Tours for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my Blog Website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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## **Eva says**

How did I not know about this series?!

Wrong Way Home is the fourth instalment in the DI Grace Fisher series, a wee detail I didn't actually know when I signed up for the blog tour. So once again, I find myself breaking my own rule of never starting a series anywhere else but with book one. Luckily, for me, this reads perfectly well as a stand-alone. There may have been a few tiny references to things I didn't know anything about but as far as background goes, I'd say Isabelle Grey does a great job of hooking new readers without making them feel they are missing out on a truckload of information.

I came to the conclusion a little while ago that I actually really like reading stories about cold case investigations and this one was truly as gripping as gripping can be! Twenty-five years ago, a huge fire and the murder of a nineteen year old girl rocked the community of Southend. The killer was never caught but now, new DNA evidence may just bring DI Grace Fisher and her team a little closer to finding out what happened that night. But after all this time, is the killer still even alive? And if by chance there were any witnesses, how much do they even still remember?

On that same fateful night, Freddie Craig was born. He seems to feel there is some sort of cosmic connection between his birth and the death of the young woman all those years ago. Through a series of podcasts, he sets out on his own investigation into the murder and the mind of a rapist and murderer. Local reporter Ivo Steadman is happy to help out this budding journalist but things quickly turn rather creepy.

From corruption, to murder, to dysfunctional families, this story offers a lot of juicy stuff to sink your teeth into. What struck me the most though, is how Isabelle Grey never loses track of the victims in all of this. How events have affected them, how they're dealing (or not dealing) with things. It added an extra layer you don't always find in this genre, which I found just as absorbing as the actual investigation.

Wrong Way Home is a deeply compelling and engrossing crime fiction story. I really enjoyed my first introduction to DI Grace Fisher, although I must say that for a super investigator, she often seemed to jump to conclusions without any proof concerning more private matters and there was one colleague I felt quite bad for. She and her team work incredibly well together on the whole though, complimenting each other and all the while talking things through. The investigation wasn't at all as straightforward as I thought it would be when I first started reading. Many times, I was convinced I had the whole thing figured out, only to be proven wrong.

This is a thrilling, compelling and utterly addictive story that I found pretty hard to put down. I'm incredibly glad I discovered this series now and I'm determined to catch up on the previous three books as soon as I can. Even though I really need another series like a hole in the tooth, I'll gladly make some space on the shelf for this one!

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## **Liz Barnsley says**

I'm a fan of this series mainly because of it's main protagonist, Grace Fisher, who is beautifully authentic and reliably flawed.

This story was also highly addictive, a mystery with a huge dose of family drama and Grace will have her work cut out for her untangling a web of deceit that goes back years...

What I love most about these is the beautiful plotting that keeps things unexpected, the exploration of relationships and the wonderfully immersive settings. The popular podcast theme is back here too and very well done, as one character, Freddie, tries to make a name for himself.

Overall this was highly readable as ever and a really really great story told wonderfully well.

Recommended. This one and as a series.

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## **Alan Taylor says**

I received an advance copy of this book from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

This is the 4th book in the DI Fisher series and they are getting even better with each instalment, however, this does do well as a stand alone.

A cold case leads DI Grace Fisher on the hunt for the most dangerous killer of her career - but after twenty-five years, can she really be sure she will get to the truth?

The same night a local hero saved two people from the burning Marineland resort in Southend, a young woman was raped and murdered minutes from the scene of the fire, the culmination of a series of brutal rapes in the town. The killer was never found.

Twenty-five years on, new DNA techniques have blown the cold case open. DI Grace Fisher relishes the prospect of finally catching the culprit, but when the evidence doesn't point to one clear suspect, she must reconstruct the original investigation. Any suggestion that the Essex force was less than thorough at the time could alienate her colleagues and destroy her chances of reaching the truth.

Grace finds her investigation shadowed by a young true-crime podcaster backed by veteran crime reporter Ivo Sweatman. As pressure mounts she cannot afford to be distracted. She knows that a cold-blooded killer is slowly being backed into a corner, and a cornered predator is often the most dangerous of all...

The twists and turns keep the reader gripped and make it very difficult to put down once you've started.

This is Isabelle Grey at her very best and I think is establishing her as one of the best crime writers out there at the moment.

I recommend this very highly to any fan of crime fiction.

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## **Jo says**

DI Grace Fisher and her team return for a fourth outing. This time she's investigating a cold case where a

young woman was raped and murdered 25 years ago. Partial DNA is retested and this brings the Nixon family to her attention. She begins to find links to other rapes, missing girls and police corruption. This was another thrilling ride from Grey and she's fast become an author I look forward to reading. I did spot who the killer was in the opening chapter but that didn't detract from my enjoyment of the novel.

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### **Laura says**

Grace Fisher is a fantastic detective and I have loved her from the moment I read the first book she starred in. She is not perfect, but she recognizes this and just works with what she can. She is compassionate and just all round kick ass.

I love any good crime thriller but I adore ones with strong female leads and this is absolutely one of the best out there. Can highly recommend!

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### **Joanna Park says**

Isabelle Grey is an author I've heard lots about but have never read, though why I have no idea! I absolutely loved *Wrong Way Home*. It's a fantastic, fast paced and twisty read that I absolutely raced through, finding it very hard to put down.

The book involves investigating a cold case and describes new police investigation techniques which I found really fascinating! I especially enjoyed learning more about how new DNA technology can help to solve cases as I haven't read much about that.

Grace was my favourite character in the book. I loved her determination and drive to try and solve the murder, despite some opposition from other officers. She is a cop with a conscience as she really cares about the outcome of the case and how it affects the others that are involved.

The case seems to move forward at quite a fast pace. There are always new developments happening, just when I thought I understood who had done it there was another twist and the story went off in a different direction which definitely kept me on my toes! This was one of those books that I couldn't turn the pages fast enough and wanted to try and snatch a few seconds to read more at any possibility. I couldn't stop thinking about the book when I wasn't reading it, trying to figure out how it was going to end.

This is the first book by Isabelle Grey that I have read and it definitely won't be the last. I am excited to read more from her in the future and have already bought the other books in this series to read.

Huge thanks to Anne Cater and Quercus books for my copy of the book and for inviting me onto the blog tour.

If you are looking for a new, gripping crime series you should definitely try this series.

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### **Clare says**

Member Review

Read an Excerpt

## Wrong Way Home

With thanks to Netgalley and Quercus for this ARC in exchange for an open and honest review.

I love the DI Grace Fisher series and was excited to read the fourth book in this series.

Grace was thrilled when she was allowed to investigate the murder of Heather Bowyer. In 1992 Heather was on a night out with friends in Southend. One minute Heather was walking with her friends to the train station the next minute she was gone. She was later found dead after being viciously raped. However the murder of Heather was overshadowed by the fire at the Marineland resort which destroyed the building. The two teenage boys who accidentally started the fire with a cigarette were saved by the quick thinking of taxi driver Larry Nixon.

In the present day Deborah Shillingford was arrested for drink driving. After her DNA was taken there was a familial link found to the Heather Bowyer case. Deborah had two brothers Reece and Larry and her father Owen was still alive.

Grace and her ex lover Sergeant Blake Langley went to see Reece for a DNA test, The Nixon children had not seen each other for years after the death of their mother Theresa. Reece was reluctant to speak to Grace but provided a DNA swab. Hours later Grace was shocked to find that Reece and his wife had died in a house fire, before the fire Reece rang Larry to confess he killed Heather. Larry rushed to Reece's house to speak to him but found the house on fire. Larry tried to save his brother as he did in 1992 but his brother and sister in law were already dead.

Although the case of Heather Bowyer had been solved she found it hard to believe Larry was not involved. Then Grace and her team discover a number of rapes from the same period, the criminal took one stiletto from each victim like in Heather's case. Grace decides to arrest Larry and the case quickly unravels.

Meanwhile unemployed journalist turned true crime blogger Freddie Craig is also looking into the murder of Heather. Freddie was born on the same night of the murder of Heather and the Marineland fire. He has always felt an affinity to the cases and decides to investigate himself. As Freddie's blog Tales of the Fire becomes popular he feels he has to up the ante and get into the mind of the killer. After interviewing a friend of Heather on his blog he was found murdered.

Wow, this was another excellent read from Isabelle Grey. Wrong Way Home was fast paced, the story was very twisty turny with many different strands to unravel. I was little annoyed with Grace because she obviously cared about Blake. However the relationship broke down because she was reluctant to tell him about journalist Ivo Sweatman who occasionally helped her in investigations. I was glad to read about cynical ex Fleet Street hack Ivo who still feels he has atoned for his sins. I was most intrigued about by blogger Freddie who I think may have had a dark side himself.

I recommend this book and I look forward to book 5.

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