



Sleeping Beauties

Jo Spain

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'Five stars' Amazon reviewer

'What a read!' Amazon reviewer

'I was engrossed right from the start and read it in one long, very satisfied sitting' Amazon reviewer

THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *WITH OUR BLESSING* AND *BENEATH THE SURFACE* RETURNS WITH A BRAND NEW SERIAL-KILLER THRILLER.

The inspector frowned and examined the earth under the trees. As he scanned the glade, his stomach lurched. One, two, three, four. Five, counting the mound of earth disturbed under the tent. Somebody had cleared the earth of its natural layer and sown their own flowers

In five places

Five graves

A young woman, Fiona Holland, has gone missing from a small Irish village. A search is mounted, but there are whispers. Fiona had a wild reputation. Was she abducted, or has she run away?

A week later, a gruesome discovery is made in the woods at Ireland's most scenic beauty spot - the valley of Glendalough. The bodies are all young women who disappeared in recent years. D.I. Tom Reynolds and his team are faced with the toughest case of their careers - a serial killer, who hunts vulnerable women, and holds his victims captive before he ends their lives.

Soon the race is on to find Fiona Holland before it's too late. . .

'Deft plotting and expert handling of tension make for an intelligent mystery' *Guardian*

Sleeping Beauties Details

Date : Published September 21st 2017 by Quercus

ISBN :

Author : Jo Spain

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Cultural, Ireland

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From Reader Review Sleeping Beauties for online ebook

Bookread2day says

I loved reading every page of Sleeping Beauties. Jo Spain certainly has now become one of favourite authors, and I am now following her closely on goodreads and Twitter as I really don't want to miss her next book. I think most of us women have been there in a relationship with a man who is violent or know of a friend who has had a violent boyfriend or husband. I know I have been in a violent relationship with a boyfriend in my teenage years, just like Fiona in this story. I thought in my teens my boyfriend would changed just like Fiona Holland did, but unfortunately a violent man never changes. In Sleeping Beauties to matters worse here Fiona Holland is missing and the police are searching for her. The police draw many conclusions about as to where Fiona could be. I love reading about how the police have to carry out an investigation when a body is found and about their personal life . I particularly liked reading about Sean McGuinness who was up until very recently a Chief Superintendent of the National Bureau of Criminal Investigations until his wife June had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. Tom Reynolds with Detective Sergeant Ray Lennon are sent to a scene in the woodland where a young woman's body has been found where they expecting it to be missing Fiona. The pathologist Moya Cambers will have to do the brave task of doing a full post-mortem to determine the cause of death and the exact period of death. While the police is searching the area of the woodlands a grim discovery is made when five graves are found for five bodies. It appears that Fiona Holland is still very clearly missing, and now five graves have been found, it seems that quite frightening enough there's a serial killer operating in Ireland. I really grade Sleeping Beauties as an urgent read.

Donna Derons says

I
Love
Jo
Spain!!

Great book. Love the altogether human characters written into an intriguing and engaging plot line. It's not a Booker prize winner but it's a good read. Can't wait until my next Jo Spain book comes in!

Susan Lanigan says

4.5 stars. Another great story from the Tom Reynolds series with more twists and turns than a boreen...a good stable of recurring characters, a problematic new boss and a serial killer in the mix.

Worth it alone for Linda the psychologist's line to a thuggish suspect: "Darling I wouldn't hire you to cut my grass let alone tend to my bush."

Review to come later but Jo Spain delivers again. Hurrah!

Louise Wilson says

Inspector Tom Reynolds #3

Somebody had cleared the earth of its natural layer and sewn their own flowers. In five places, five graves. A young woman, Fiona Holland, has gone missing from a small fishing village. Fiona had a wild reputation. Was she abducted? Or had she just ran away?

Inspector Tom Reynolds, DS Ray Lennon, DS Laura Brennon and the team are back. The story is interspersed with the first person accounts of the five women who were killed. This book covers sexual abuse and violence against women. Fiona Holland has gone missing and when the police search for her in the woodlands, they find the graves with the bodies of five women. The women had a few things in common; the same flowers were put on the top of each grave, they had also been given the same gift and they all had a certain reputation. Fiona's body was not among the dead.

What I love most about this police procedural is that we are not bombarded by the technicalities. The book does throw up the prejudices that hopefully died out years ago. The plot line has been well thought out. The pace is well set in this gripping police procedural. I was hooked from the beginning.

Mary Picken says

If you are a fan of well plotted, decently paced police procedurals, then you will really enjoy this book.

The regular characters of Tom, Ray and Laura are warm and likeable, the newly promoted boss rather less so, and the crimes they have to solve are difficult and gruesome in a way that contrasts beautifully with the sleepy rural Ireland setting of most of this book.

Though there are two previous books involving Tom Reynolds and his team, each works perfectly as a stand-alone and can be read in isolation.

Fiona Holland has gone missing and while the police search for her in the woodlands of Glendalough they make a grim discovery. Five graves, with the bodies of five women are found and it soon becomes apparent that these women were the victims of a serial killer.

The women have a number of things in common; each has the same flowers planted above her grave; each was given the same gift and each had a certain reputation in their locality. After DNA matching, it seems that Fiona's body was not amongst the dead, and this, along with other evidence, makes the police wonder whether Fiona might yet still be alive.

What helps to make this a fascinating book is the way in which the old fashioned rural setting throws up the kind of prejudices and misogyny that you hope died out years ago. Yet in this setting, these attitudes are not only alive and well but worryingly are present in some parts of the Garda whose actions have sometimes been influenced by the reputations of women who have gone missing, leading to delays in investigations and sometimes they are ignored altogether. This is a terrible indictment of attitudes to women in contemporary

society, but sadly rings quite true.

The way in which this plays out is a nice parallel to the interplay between Tom Reynolds and his 'modern' 'progressive' boss – who is rather more concerned with image than substance and it is therefore satisfying that it is good old fashioned policing that saves the day.

There are some personal sorrows too in the lives of Tom and his wider family and team, and these make for a poignant counterpoint to some of the misogyny elsewhere in the story.

Overall a good and satisfying read.

Fiona McLaughlin says

From page 1 I was delighted to renew my acquaintance with the familiar characters from the earlier Inspector Reynolds books. (Or Tom as I call him as I feel like he is known to me now).

Catching up with the lives of the characters was as riveting as the story itself. I was hooked as the book marched along in its investigation at a good pace throwing up suspects left and right but you are kept guessing right until the last page.

Now I have to wait until the next book is released (January 2018) and I have to say, I am so excited that I'm not sure that I CAN wait.

Thoroughly enjoyable read, unputdownable.....

Tracy Shephard says

Sleeping Beauties is a tale filled with Human Drama..

Missing girls, Police, and families have all been touched by the complexities of murder and madness.

This novel is brilliant. It has an emotional edge as well as a serial killer who is quite different from other fictional killers.

I loved it it was a book that I read in one sitting and is a book of two halves.

It has a real life pace, and the drama does not relent. It has twists and red herrings and then there is THAT ENDING that simply stuns.

Amazing

Sonia Cristina says

Tom Reynolds e a sua equipa conquistaram-me muito facilmente no primeiro livro, mais que os casos, gosto

de ler cada livros para saber mais sobre estes personagens que se tornaram tão queridos.

Desta vez, o caso do desaparecimento de Fiona, uma jovem algo rebelde e a descoberta de 5 cadáveres de outras jovens que encaixam no mesmo perfil de Fiona, foi bastante interessante. No entanto, não o descreveria como especialmente comovente, que seria o esperado do homicídios de mulheres novas.

Como aconteceu nos livros anteriores, Jo Spain surpreendeu com as revelações finais e a identidade do assassino, que é uma coisa que acho espetacular, ser surpreendida :) (view spoiler)

Joanne says

Sleeping Beauties is the third in a series to feature DI Tom Reynolds and I thought it was just brilliant. I have read the other two books and although I wouldn't say it's essential to have read them first, I would recommend it because they are so good.

Jo Spain has achieved a perfect balance for me in this book between the actual case, the dynamics between Tom and his team and the victims' stories. The chapters from the women's points of view really added to the story for me as they weren't then just faceless victims but felt like more rounded people.

The book rattles along at a fair pace and it's the kind of book where just when I had decided it was time to stop reading at the end of the next chapter, I found I couldn't as I just had to know what happened next. As well as trying (and failing!) to work out who the killer could be and what their motives might be, I was really interested in the way the team worked together - or not, in case of the new boss - to try to solve the crimes. The relationships between them, though not a major part of the book, were developed really well throughout the book, particularly some of the personal relationships. There were some very poignant scenes, sensitively portrayed, between Tom and his ex-boss Sean, whose wife was suffering from dementia.

I found this to be an excellent addition to the Tom Reynolds series and I really do hope we meet him and his team again. Sleeping Beauties is an atmospheric mystery, well-plotted, where the darkness of the crimes contrasts perfectly with the beauty of the Irish landscape. It is full of unexpected twists and turns which will take you by surprise from the beginning of the book to the end.

Paromjit says

Jo Spain has written a wonderful third addition to the Inspector Tom Reynolds series set in Dublin and the surrounding areas. Fiona Holland has disappeared from her small rural village, and it is uncertain if she has left of her own free will or something far more sinister has happened to her. She has a wild reputation, a baby

son with an unknown father, and parents adamant that she would not have left them or her baby willingly. A body has been discovered in the beautiful valley of Glendalough, and it soon becomes horrifyingly clear that there are five graves of young women in varying states of decomposition. However, none of them are Fiona. With high numbers of women going missing over the years, no-one is surprised that a serial killer has been preying on women, they just did not have the proof until now. Unsurprisingly, there is unprecedented levels of media attention, and Tom's new boss, Joe Kennedy, who replaced his friend, Sean McGuinness, is insecure, egoentric and manipulative, posing problems for the Murder Investigation team.

As the police look into the dead women it soon becomes clear that a number of common factors emerge such as violent partners, abuse, reputations of being wilful, and sexually promiscuous. The killer appears to have kept them alive for some time after abducting them prior to brutally strangling them. If the killer has taken Fiona, then it seems likely she is still alive. Their fears are confirmed when the killer gets in touch saying he has Fiona. They race to find any clues or evidence that might point them in the right direction. Sean's wife, June, in the throes of worsening dementia has Tom worried for her and his friend. Conscientious DS Laura Brennan still has strong feelings for DS Ray Lennon, which are reciprocated but she is unaware of this. In this most complex and intricate of cases, danger is everywhere around the diligent police team.

This is a cracking read from Jo Spain, it draws you in from the beginning and never lets go until you reach the unexpected ending. I love the recurring characters, the personal issues, the dilemmas, tragedy and developing romantic entanglements that they face, by now I feel as if I know them well. A great entertaining, absorbing and gripping police procedural that I so enjoyed reading.

Jo says

Sleeping Beauties was an absolute joy to read. This book simply has it all - murder, mystery, suspense, wonderful characters and a dash of romance. The book had me hooked from the very first chapter. Although this is the third book in the Inspector Tom Reynolds books, this works very well as a stand alone novel.

The novel begins in the heart of the Irish countryside when five shallow graves are discovered, all of which are young women. When Fiona Holland goes missing, the race is on to find out who the murderer is and if Fiona is the next victim.

The team is headed by Inspector Tom Reynolds and his tight knit team including DS Ray Lennon and DS Laura Brennan. The banter is fast, witty, the action quick and methodical. There is enough attention to police procedures but without being weighed down in all of the technicalities, instead the focus is upon the people who are leading the investigation and those who are involved. It is very much a character driven narrative with an engaging serial killer plot.

The story is interspersed with first person accounts from the five women who were killed, that helps to shed light upon the human and emotional angle about what happened to these women. As well as helping us, the reader, to establish what happened to them, it also helps us to realise that the bodies that are found had a life, a story, and that they mattered. The novel deals with issues of sexual abuse and violence towards women, and the author manages to create a sensitive read with the women's voices being powerful and of importance. It is a novel that explores the power of women, and of women's sexuality, and of how this is perceived by society. This is reinforced with the character of DS Laura, she is no shrinking violet and is treated as an equal by her peers.

As well as the main plot being that of catching a serial killer, we also gain insight into the private lives of the detectives in the story. We read about DI Tom and his lovely family, and his friendship with his former chief and his wife June who is suffering from Alzheimer's. Here we meet a man who is refreshingly different from the stereotypical drinking, grumpy and lone detective, as he is happily married and generally happy. I also loved the dynamics between Ray and Laura, they made me smile and my heart skip a beat.

Sleeping Beauties really does have it all. It is a thought provoking and entertaining read and I can't wait to read the next story in the series.

With thanks to the publisher and Bookbridgr for the paperback copy for review purposes.

Sally Whiteside says

I vulnerable women and a hunting serial killer. Can they find Fiona? Twists and turns with lots of tension. 5 ?

Gillian McCallum says

Another great book

Another great book by Jo Spain !!!! Currently on my holiday and read it within two days. If you like to read books with the same characters then Jo Spain books are for you, gutted her next book isn't out til sept x

Peggy says

Sleeping Beauties is the 3rd book in Jo Spain's, Tom Reynolds series.

I loved every page of this book.

The twists and turns were amazing and well thought out.

Every time I thought I had everything figured out, Jo would throw me a curveball.

Looking forward to the 4th, Tom Reynolds book coming in September of 2018

Tiger says

#3 in Spain's very good Tom Reynolds series set in Ireland and it was very good again. 5 graves are found in a public park.....5 women who have disappeared over the last few years. With another young woman missing, the clock is ticking on Tom and his team to get some answers on a brutal serial killer before it's too late. Spain does an excellent job of weaving a solid mystery around intriguing character development all set against the magical history and geography of Ireland.
