



Framed

Ronnie O'Sullivan

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Frankie James is a young man with a lot on his shoulders. His mother disappeared when he was sixteen; his father's in jail for armed robbery; and he owes rent on his Soho snooker club to one of London's toughest gangsters. Things, you'd think, can only get better. Actually, they're about to get a whole lot worse.

He always swore to his mum he'd keep his younger, wilder brother out of trouble, but when Jack turns up at the club, covered in someone else's blood, and with the cops hard on his heels, Frankie has no choice but to enter the sordid world of bent coppers, ruthless mobsters and twisted killers he's tried all his life to avoid.

But in the dog-eat-dog underworld of 1990s Soho - as a vicious gang war rages between London's two foremost crime families - will Frankie be tough enough, and smart enough to come out on top?

Framed Details

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Author : Ronnie O'Sullivan

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From Reader Review Framed for online ebook

Jim Whitefield says

Turns out 'The Rocket' can not only play a mean game of snooker but he's not a bad writer either. His first novel takes us into the London underworld where we meet Frankie - and his brother who gets framed for murder. This is a worthy thriller with twists and turns you might expect from a more experienced author. The story is as seen by Frankie and the characters are all introduced and explained in a way the reader can easily assimilate into the story line. Sub-plots are interesting, add to the enjoyment, keeping your attention rather than detracting from the main story. I look forward to reading the next (Double Kiss) in what appears may be a series.

Well done Ronnie - you had me hooked from the start.

Rich says

Ronnie's first foray in to writing and it's a fairly good effort.

I liked the story, which I found full of intrigue, suspense and fun. Decent characters with potential to be expanded on when the next one is released, and of course a nice setting of a Snooker Club to which our main character runs.

Criticisms, given this is a first effort I don't want to appear to harsh so reasons for lost star is clumpy dialogue, this can be worked on and I'm sure we'll see an improvement in the future and secondly some typos. There's a particular scene where Frankie is trying to interrogate someone, Ronnie goes on to say that Jack, Frankie's brother, had asked he question - impossible given where Jack is!

Again minor points of an overall enjoyable book.

Lorraine Baker says

Frankie James is a young man with a lot on his shoulders. His mother disappeared when he was sixteen; his father's in jail for armed robbery; and he owes rent on his Soho snooker club to one of London's toughest gangsters. Things, you'd think, can only get better. Actually, they're about to get a whole lot worse.

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An ok book along the line of a Martina Cole novel.

Book Addict Shaun says

Framed sees Ronnie O'Sullivan turning his hand to fiction and writing something akin to the likes of Martina Cole and Mandasue Heller. It lacks the grit of an early Martina novel but contains the characterisation and storylines that I feel Mandasue does so brilliantly with her true to life stories set in Manchester.

Ronnie takes us to 1990s Soho where Frankie James sees his brother Jack arrested for the supposed murder of the fiancée of the son of one of London's most feared faces. What follows is Frankie's quest to clear his brother's name and find out who was ultimately responsible.

What I will say about this story is that it felt very 'male'. I don't even know what I mean by that except to say that the whole story was very male-oriented which I suppose is to be expected when we only really follow the story from Frankie's point of view. Frankie was a likeable character and I enjoyed following him across London as he attempted to work out what happened and how his brother turned up on his doorstep covered in blood.

The story itself did feel quite formulaic, almost predictable at times in how the story plodded along but I have to say that I did actually enjoy how the story flowed and how we knew the danger to Frankie was coming from somewhere, but until the end I never actually knew where that place was. Frankie gets himself into lots of scrapes and some unfortunate situations as the story progresses and I actually believed in him as a character and wanted him to find those answers and come out on top.

Overall as a gangland thriller almost, Frames does lack the punch of a Martina Cole or Jessie Keane novel but as an enjoyable thriller in its own right it is definitely a book that I can recommend and I am excited to read the sequel.

Flyss Williams says

3.5 Fairly functional crime thriller in which a young nightclub owner has to prove the innocence of his younger brother who has been accused of murder. It was pretty enjoyable I liked the setting and characters. With potential for a series, while it doesn't especially bring anything new to the genre, its a solid start and I would be interested in reading more.

Sanja Ireland says

Good starter from Ronnie O'Sullivan, I admit was not big fan of the writing style but kept me reading. Preferred his autobiographic books but that is understandable considering my love for his snooker.

Dan Woodall says

"This book was interesting. Very interesting. The worst type of interesting" could well be a line from Ronnie O'Sullivan's debut novel. To say it's terrible, which it is, is somehow to do it a disservice. Yes, the plot has more holes than that cardigan your gran knitted you in 1984. Yes the dialogue is clunky and makes you think

that everyone in London talks like they're in an early Guy Ritchie film. Yes every character is dubious in someway or other. Somehow it works.

It's like that bloke in the pub who is always at the bar decides to spin the longest most ludicrous yarn going. You know it's probably rubbish, well, you know it's absolute rubbish. But you can't help being pulled in because it's such good fun and you want to see where he slips up.

My dog ate my copy of this shortly after I finished it. I should probably have been happy but for some reason I thought I might want to dip in for more.

Kath says

I was driving home from work one afternoon, listening to my favourite sports radio station and the hosts were about to interview Ronnie O'Sullivan. Not the biggest fan of snooker myself, I stayed listening cos the show is entertaining whatever they talk about. Glad I did really cos they were talking to him about his new book. Not this one, the sequel Double Kiss which is out later this month. Well, you could have knocked me down with a feather. From the admittedly little I know about this guy, one of the last things I would have thought he'd do is write a book. That thought sitting just above the one where his book is actually any good. My interest was piqued so much that as soon as I got in, I had a squiz at the reviews and, seeing them as mostly positive, duly downloaded it. I will at this point just mention that the majority of the negativity that I saw about the book was the amount of swearing. I am not adverse to a bit of bad language in context but have to agree that it was a tad over the top. Not enough to spoil my overall enjoyment, maybe enough to drop it half a star ratings wise, but not quite.

So, to cut a long story short (well, I'll try) I blooming loved this book. Yes Frankie does become superman at times and I am not 100% that he would be that good at everything he does but I am willing to take one for the team and suck it up in the context of the story. And boy what a story. We have Frankie's younger brother Jack racing to Frankie's snooker hall, covered in blood, tipped off that the police are after him. With an absent mother and a father in jail, it falls on Frankie to try and help prove Jack's innocence. Well, his perceived innocence, he says he is, despite the mountain of evidence stacking up to the contrary. And, if he is indeed innocent, who is framing him and why?

This was one of the best gangland crime books I have read in a very long time. And I read a LOT of books. Ignoring the crime and solving thereof, it had a lot more going on around it which made it a very well balanced overall read for me. Yes, as I have already mentioned, Frankie does punch above his weight on quite a few occasions but then he also screws up a near equal amount of times so, again balanced. Yes also, there were a few cliched moments to be had but, again, mostly in context and totally forgivable.

It was, for me, also a very visual book. I am not sure if it was written with screen in mind but, to be honest, it would make for a pretty good translation to that media if the author so desires.

Unlike the majority of first in series, there wasn't too much evidence of scene setting to be found. Yes there are a few things that have been introduced in this book that I am sure we will be revisiting in subsequent books but this opener didn't waste time and words in over complicating things. We slammed straight into Jack's story head on, introducing the main players as they connected with the story being told. I really did like this method of introduction. You know there is more to come but it is OK to wait. You know enough for now.

All in all, a cracking book which left me totally satisfied. I am so glad I kept listening!

Victoria Sadler says

Framed is Ronnie's first novel, his previous two books being autobiographies. Taking many elements from Ronnie's own life, it is the story of Frankie James, a young lad in 1990s Soho, who dodges gangsters and underworld crime to run a snooker club in the absence of his father (in prison for armed robbery) and his mother (who ran off years before). But when his younger brother, Jack, is accused of a vicious gang-related murder, Frankie must get his hands dirty to prove his brother's innocence.

*

I genuinely had high hopes for this book. Ronnie's own life story is fascinating, and as a template for a character, Ronnie himself is a great place to start. But this book really didn't exploit all this subject matter as I'd hoped.

*

The odd reference to Poland Street and britpop can't cover the fact that this book doesn't bring 1990s Soho to life, which is a shame. And though there are gangsters, there are way too many and they lack individuality.

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But the biggest disappointment is Frankie James. I'd hoped that this character, like Ronnie, would be complex - all rock and roll swagger, but with self esteem issues, or even depression. Instead Frankie James is, bizarrely, more like a Jack Reacher person. For no believable reason, this young man suddenly develops the ability to solve complex crimes, read crime scenes, beat up gangsters, breaking and entering without leaving any clue... It's not believable. And robs us of an interesting character. And the result is a boring read as Frankie propels himself deeper into Soho's underworld without difficulty or conflict.

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So why three stars? Well, if you'd asked me at about page 250, I'd have given this two stars, but the book redeems itself somewhat with a far tighter last section. Extraneous characters are dropped and a strong narrative drive pushes this crime thriller through a strong finale.

Windy says

Ronnie, where is your editor? Good plot but poorly written.

Chris says

I really enjoyed reading this book. Hopefully Ronnie will write some more!

Beau says

Enjoyed this very much, I'm hoping Ronnie will write more x

Diane Dyke says

I love a good crime story with a mystery to solve and I liked the fact that in this story the main character was

not the detective investigating or the criminal or even the victim. The story is told from the point of view of Frankie James, eldest son of a jailed armed robber and owner of a Soho Snooker Club. His life isn't going that well, and when his younger brother Jack shows up at his door covered in someone else's blood Frankie's life gets a lot worse. Jack is subsequently arrested for murder. However, the evidence just does not add up and Frankie is convinced his brother has been framed so he sets about trying to find out the truth. But in this gangster underworld of drugs, violence and murder will Frankie be tough enough to get the truth, set his brother free and get out alive? This is a fast paced debut novel from Ronnie O'Sullivan (Snooker Player) which grips you right from the start to the very end, I enjoyed it and will read the next one "Double Kiss" (book 2 in the Soho Nights series).

Susan Campbell says

When I first picked this up I was unsure how a snooker player would be at writing a novel, I know lots of celebrities do write novels and have read a few in my time, mostly not so good, however this one blew me away. First he writes about places he knows and within a time frame that he grew up in. How much is based on fact I do not know but this book was fantastic to read. I could barely put it down.

The characters are well thought out and very believable and the ending very well executed. The story is very graphic and memorable and I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a mystery/thriller.

Be advised though that there is a lot of bad language, but for me this made the story more gritty and real.

London in the 1990's, Bad Cops, Gangs, and people caught in the middle. Brilliant!!!

Well done Ronnie.

Looking forward to see if Ronnie will write another.

Ali says

If Ronnie O'Sullivan wrote like he played snooker, he would be in the same bracket of apparently effortless genius as Ernest Hemingway and Leo Tolstoy; this novel would win the Booker, and the Rocket would be a nailed-on future Nobel laureate.

Unfortunately, he writes like I play snooker (high break: 37).
