



## Driftnet

*Lin Anderson*

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The word 'padeophilia' strikes fear into parents everywhere. And for Glasgow-based forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod the discovery of a young rent boy, strangled by a silken rope, brings the horror all too close to home. Is the boy the son she gave away for adoption years ago?

## Driftnet Details

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Author : Lin Anderson

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## From Reader Review Driftnet for online ebook

### **Elaine says**

I read this book, as I do all my books, on my kindle and I have never seen so many errors when reading a book on kindle.....phrases duplicated, words missed out....my enjoyment of the book was spoiled by this - otherwise I would have given it four stars.

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### **Gillian says**

loved this book met the author at a book talk last week cant wait to read the next book

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### **Marisolera says**

Va ganando ritmo a medida que adelantas el libro, así que vas enganchándote poco a poco hasta que ya no puedes parar.

Sin embargo, insisto, para cuándo un poli sin un pasado oscuro y que no oculte información. Que parecen haberse sacado el título de polis en CEAC.

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### **Gemma Burns says**

Really enjoyed the story line in this book, kept me hooked & i didn't want to put my kindle down! Looking forward to reading the rest if the books in this series.

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### **Rick says**

So, I raced through this a) because it was so easy to read, with a real lightness of touch, despite the subject matter b) I couldn't believe I'm so behind the curve, when it came to the series.

Rhona Macleod, a forensic scientist with the Glasgow police, is called into the investigation of the death of a male student in grisly and disturbing circumstances. Rhona is struck by her resemblance to the victim, which stirs up memories and worries about her own son, who she put up for adoption and who would be the same age, as the young man under examination.

The investigation swiftly takes a dark turn from the investigation into the death of a suspected rent boy to a paedophile ring and internet grooming. It's dark and uncomfortable reading at times, but for all of that it has humour, a clever understanding of character, as the wider cast is introduced - and I particularly enjoyed the different viewpoints of the case, there were, perhaps, a couple of contrived moments that didn't quite ring true but nothing to derail my enjoyment of this fast moving story.

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### **Robin Kemp says**

It was fun to read a mystery set in Scotland (Glasgow), but I did feel a little disappointed. The author is one of those mystery writers that doesn't let the reader know what the characters know. For example, so-and-so sees these emails and is shocked and runs from the room to deal with them. Yeah, so, what did the emails say?!? Also, as then tension ratchets up towards the end, she writes shorter paragraphs and bounces quickly around from character to character. As a result, I felt like it was rushed and I wasn't sure what actually happened. So, I'm not giving up on this author, but I do have a few reservations about this first of the series.

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### **Ronja says**

This series is positively addictive. Incredibly good. a must for all crime fiction lovers!

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### **Joseph - Relax And Read Reviews says**

This time round I wanted to read a book whose main character was not a police officer or detective operating from a police station. Rhona MacLeod is a forensic scientist (yes, granted, she works for the police, but she's not a police officer!) She takes samples of other people's lives, mistakes and crimes, to the lab and examines them. She's the main protagonist in a Glasgow-based series by Lin Anderson. Written quite a number of years back now, 'Driftnet' is the first book.

The mutilated, naked body of a teenage boy is discovered in a small flat. It seems he has been killed during some sort of sex game, and the injuries and signs of abuse found on his body point to a vicious, demented killer. When Rhona is summoned to the scene to take her samples, she's shocked to notice that the victim bears an uncanny resemblance to her. Someone later tells her that he looked so like her, he could have been her younger brother! Unbeknown to everyone else, seventeen years earlier, Rhona had given up a baby boy for adoption. Without an ID for the victim and stunned by the horrible possibility, Rhona becomes desperate to dig deep to help the police find out who this boy was, why did he end up there, who did this to him. She also suddenly wants to trace her son in the hope that he's still out there alive and well. But could this really be her son? Racked by guilt, Rhona is determined to find out. Not so eager is the man who fathered that boy, lawyer and by-election candidate Edward Spencer, who's now married with children. He warns Rhona that he doesn't want a scandal to crop up now and ruin his prospective future career in politics. Still, Rhona doesn't care, with or without his help, she will find out the truth.

Well, I've known about author Lin Anderson for a long time now, but for one reason or another I'd never read any of her books. I found this one quite intriguing and brilliantly written. Even though it was written a number of years ago, it doesn't feel dated at all. The author's vivid descriptions and the way she puts her words kept me interested throughout. The possibility that the victim could be Rhona's son kept me hooked till the end, wanting as much as herself to find out if that was the case or not. Was he, or not??

The book deals with paedophilia and paedophile rings, a theme not everyone is comfortable reading about, however the author treats it very sensitively. The crime scene's description can be a bit disturbing to go through, however there aren't any violent scenes of children being abused in the book.

All characters and dialogues are realistic. Rhona is quite likeable, a brilliant scientist who has not quite put her past behind her. The guilt feelings and regrets of abandoning her child have never left her. I'm now keen to learn more about her and some of the other characters like Chrissy, her assistant; DI Bill Wilson who leads the investigation; and Sean, the man she loves, in the following books.

All in all, I thought for a debut, this book was very good, however the ending felt a bit rushed and certain questions remained unanswered, or not clearly answered. Having said that, I really enjoyed it and will certainly be reading more books by this brilliant author.

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### **Laura Zlogar says**

Set in Glasgow, medical examiner Rhona McLeod finds herself part of an investigation of pedophiles, politicians, and her own past. Anderson is a good writer in the tradition of Ian Rankin. Good characters, plot, and pacing. Definitely worth a read.

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### **Amanda says**

This is the first in the Dr. Rhona MacLeod, forensic scientist, series.

A young lad is found mutilated and dead in a flat in Glasgow. There is a striking resemblance between Rhona and the victim, made all the more difficult by the fact that Rhona gave her son up for adoption 17 years previously. There is a similarity in ages between the victim and Rhona's son. Rhona sets out to identify the victim, ascertain if he is her son, find the killer and if the victim is not her son, Rhona wants to find her son. What follows is a dark, horrifying, haunting investigation involving internet paedophile rings and powerful people.

I recently met Lin Anderson at an event held in Darlington library. I had only read her most recent book "The Special Dead" and following the very interesting talk she gave, I decided that I would read the whole Dr. Rhona MacLeod series right from the beginning and boy am I glad that I did.

For me, this was a real CPID (can't put it down) book. Reading this book became addictive. Lin is a fantastic storyteller and really does know how to capture your attention right from the very first word on the very first page. This book certainly did have me under its spell. I felt that I was right there with them in the thick of the action and a bystander to all the drama.

The characters are realistic and believable and they are given even more authenticity by the fact that Lin is a screenwriter. Rhona MacLeod is a career woman, who has been damaged by events in her past. She is dedicated to her career often at the cost of her own personal relationships and her personal life. All Rhona tries to do is her best. Bill Wilson, who is the policeman in charge of the investigation, adopts an almost paternal role in his interactions with Rhona. He is a straight and decent policeman. The villains were scarily realistic in this book, especially those in the paedophile rings. This book illustrated how frighteningly easy it is to have different sides to a character and how easy it is to switch from nice to nasty in a short space of time.

Reading this book was like watching a soap opera, in that you become involved in the story, you care about the characters, you want to shout out at times and read with your hands over your eyes as you fear what is

coming next.

I really did enjoy reading this book and I think that it would make a fantastic tv series to fill the gap left by the programme "Taggart". I would definitely recommend this series to anybody.

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### **Andy Weston says**

Enjoyed reading this but felt a bit short changed - like it was all a bit of an anti-climax, more kept threatening to happen.

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### **Tere J says**

It took me FOREVER to finish this book. I started it, was about 10% in when I realized how much detail was involved, & decided I couldn't read and have wine at the same time! So I decided to wait to read it when I had time to really pay attention & just never came back to it.. Finally as I recovered from surgery, I decided to pick it back up and finished it in about a day and a half.

It was a very detailed story, but the details painted each character, every scene just perfectly. As a reader, it was almost 'movie perfect' because the visual was crystal clear on what the author was portraying. Not just visually either, but describing the characters. Honestly, the way the author made you love/hate certain characters was very well done. I mean, all books have characters you either like or dislike, but the way the author explained these characters, and the detail around them, you really 'learned' who they were.

I know this is the first of a series, and I know I will want to read more, now that I think I know the 'style' and be prepared for the details.

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### **Beth Stewart says**

Overall, I'm enjoyed this book and will read the next in the series

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### **Jack Deighton says**

Set mainly in Glasgow the chief viewpoint character of *Driftnet* is Forensic Scientist Rhona MacLeod but many scenes are seen through the eyes of others. The case involves the murder of a teenager - with a startling resemblance to Rhona – who is apparently a rent boy.

Anderson's writing is fine enough but to my mind there were several factors which marred the reading experience. Typical of the protagonists in such novels Rhona has relationship problems but here her backstory is far too convoluted. Granted, it helps to progress the plot but it all felt too contrived, too neat, too

enmeshed. Another flaw was that the murderer is easily identified on his first appearance. Anderson tries to finesse the point but that only succeeds in making Rhona look too naïve - or stupid. (Her realisation earlier than she does would have made for a shorter book though, and less jeopardy for others.) Also far too many of the characters are connected to the murderer's orbit. It stretches belief beyond credibility for so many to be so close to the perpetrator. I thought that the description of the criminal ring he is a part of as containing paedophiles - while probably correct in a legal sense - skirts on the margins of that definition; at least on the evidence of their victims as presented here. For a tale supposedly centred round a Forensic Scientist too little time is spent in the lab; there are only really two instances of any forensic detail.

This may not technically be a detective novel - even if DI Bill Wilson is given several viewpoint scenes - but the function of such a story is to set the world back on an even keel. In *Driftnet* that does not happen - which may be truer to life but does not provide the sense of satisfaction that the form demands. Another serious misstep was Rhona's moment of release on the third last page which wasn't justified by any of the foregoing and is only there to provide a spurious sense of uplift.

I did scoot through it in two nights reading, though.

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### **Rachel Hall says**

*Driftnet* is where it all began for police forensic examiner Dr Rhona MacLeod and was originally published in 2003. Fifteen-years later Lin Anderson and Rhona are still going strong with eleven books to date. Having read several books much further into the series I really enjoyed seeing how Rhona had developed and finding out her back story. Even in this first outing Lin Anderson manages to combine revealing forensic depth with a horrific crime, all the while negotiating the personal events of her leading characters - something that has made this series such a success.

Summoned in the early hours of the morning to a squalid block of flats Dr Rhona MacLeod is confronted with a shocking scene which threatens to strike dangerously close to her heart given the son she gave up for adoption seventeen years ago. Faced by a horrific crime scene in which a young teenage boy has been asphyxiated during anal sex, she is appalled by the bite marks and evidence of post-mortem testicle gnawing ravaged on his body. He could be any fair-haired young boy, but the vulnerable eyes, well-nourished body and distinct lack of drug abuse tell of someone new to the scene. Rhona wonders if the victim could be a student from Glasgow university and when Bill catches sight of the Manchester United scarf he doubts the boy is a native Glasgow lad! The scent of expensive aftershave, the quality and brand of the whiskey and the tailor made French curtain and silk fibres found on the body indicate that this is no run-of-the-mill encounter. Rhona and DI Bill Wilson conclude that this is not a isolated incident and Rhona is alerted when she sees what looks to be a thin leather neck band with a Celtic cross on it. Given she has witnessed this marking on the body of a young male student's corpse six-months previously, Rhona and Bill suspect the two incidents could be connected and they decide to probe a little further.

With DI Bill Wilson, pathologist Dr Sissons and Rhona's Scientific Officer, Chrissy McInsh, commenting on the boys uncanny resemblance to Rhona she knows she will have to get answers about the child she gave up for adoption. The man who fathered that child, lawyer and potential by-election candidate, Edward Spencer, is aware that a scandal is just what he must avoid, but finding her birth son becomes a priority for Rhona. In an effort to keep Rhona quiet Edward acquiesces to her demands to confirm the child they shared in not the victim, but he is reluctant to delve deeper. When Rhona meets police cyber-sleuth Gavin MacLean he seems

to present her opportunity to attempt to contact the child she gave away, but is he just a little too good to be true? Having not told her lover of seven months, Irishman and jazz musician, Sean, about the child along with her own doubts about his faithfulness she opts out of a romantic trip to Paris and with Sean away, Gavin sees his chance to get to know Rhona a little better!

The case unsettles DI Bill Wilson, with two teenage children of his own and after his harrowing baptism of fire attending the sex crimes computer training he has seen just how chilling the courting and recruiting process is. When journalist Jim Connelly, runs an investigative exposé on the paedophile rings of Glasgow in the local newspaper the secretive groups dive for cover in the depths of the darkweb making Bill's job becomes even more difficult. As things come to a head, Chrissy reconnects with an old school friend, rent boy Neil MacGregor who has plenty of problems of his own. The welts on his neck and the story he tells echoes the scene of crime that confronted Rhona but threatening to embroil Edward's well-connected circle of friends and son, Jonathan, the tension escalates.

I really enjoyed Lin Anderson's focus on why Rhona had changed from studying three years of medicine to forensic science, a discipline where she could seek the truth, look for answers and perhaps discover why a crime happened. The specifics of her role as a forensic scientist is kept to the fore in *Driftnet* and it is wonderful to see an author so conversant with the nitty-gritty details of the process. Rhona's diligent focus on bringing justice for the victims of crime makes her immensely likeable and it is hard not to admire her search for forthright answers. I was disappointed with the overexcitable race to the finish, which included an overblown hospital kidnap as it detracted from a thoughtful investigation.

Given that *Driftnet* numbers less than 250 pages, I found it satisfactorily complicated and with developments in all of the central characters lives I was impressed with how many individual threads Lin Anderson juggled. Huge potential for character development and a brilliant mix of crime and changing lives. The specifics of this storyline pertain to paedophilia and are grim reading, hence I would not recommend *Driftnet* to readers of a more sensitive nature. Thankfully not all of Rhona's work is as emotive as child abuse and certainly makes for easier reading.

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