



## **The Night is Deep**

*Joe Hart*

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Though he's still tormented by his brother's murder and the accident that ended his career, ex-homicide detective Liam Dempsey is trying to move on. His girlfriend and their adopted son are the best things that ever happened to him—and being a police liaison is the next best thing to being back on the force. But when an old friend asks for his help, Liam is thrust into a harrowing investigation that reawakens his darkest personal demons.

A politician has been violently attacked, and his wife is kidnapped for ransom. But as police mobilize to track the victim and trap her abductor, the case takes a chilling turn from extortion to grisly murder. Whoever snatched Valerie Farrow wants blood and money—and they're brutally collecting.

Working with, and against, the police, Liam is forced to dig deep to expose the ugly truth—even if it means digging his own grave in the process.

## **The Night is Deep Details**

Date : Published June 28th 2016 by Thomas & Mercer

ISBN :

Author : Joe Hart

Format : Kindle Edition 290 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Night is Deep for online ebook

### Trish R. says

This second book about Liam Dempsey was a little more brutal than the other one. I mean, the other one had Liam's brother being cut into pieces but this one was just so cruel and bloody in the killing. LOL, I have to wonder about authors' minds when I read this kind of story. Not that it'll stop me from reading them.

This was about a young woman who was killed 16 years before but the killer just kept looking into it until the killer found out for sure that it had been murder and not suicide, as the coroner called it and now the kidnapping of her sister. Then the killer killed the 4 men responsible. Two of the killings were killed in a really disgusting ways. And two different killings were totally unnecessary as they had nothing to do with the girl dying 16 years ago. There were twists and turns in this and I was surprised at who the killer turned out to be.

I did like Liam but he wasn't much of a hero. He was always losing his gun or getting the hell beat out of him (or run over by his own truck) BUT he had a way of solving the puzzles that no one else did, so there was that.

There was only fade-to-black sex and the F-Bomb was used 41 times.

As to the narration: Eric G. Dove was his usual awesome self. Men, women and emotions were nearly perfect.

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### Jonathan Scribner says

Joe Hart's "The Night is Deep" is book number two in the two part Liam Dempsey thriller series. Liam is still haunted by his brother's murder and the accident that ended his career as a homicide detective, but he's trying to move on. He's settled down as a police liaison, and he lives in a quaint farmhouse with his girlfriend and their adopted child. He's quickly dragged back into the life of a cop, however, when his old friend asks for his help. His friend, Owen, was attacked and his wife was kidnapped for ransom. Liam finds himself being fully thrust into the case, as local and national law enforcement team up to take down the abductor. The kidnapper is ruthless and demonic, craving not only the money, but also blood. Liam uncovers shocking secrets behind scenes and fights at the front line. He realizes his skill and expertise in being a cop, but maybe he's too good. The truth is sickening. I loved this second thriller/mystery book in the series, as it takes what was great about the first book and makes it even better. It was action packed and filled with countless plot twists in the investigation. The writing style is detailed but easy to read, and the dialog between the characters is often and believable. This book features several disturbing and gory murders, so it's definitely not for the faint of heart. I give this book a strong five stars, and would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in the following genres/topics; mystery, suspense, thriller, action, law enforcement, crime investigation.

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## **Kimberly Hicks says**

Funny, when I started reading this book, I kept feeling as though these characters were very familiar. That's when I had my aah-ha moment. I read the first book in the Liam Dempsey series, *The River is Dark*. I absolutely loved the first book in this installment, and I'm even more blown away with this second part in the series.

Police Consultant, Liam Dempsey, has come a long way since being enthralled in his brother's and sister's-in-law murders. He has a beautiful girlfriend named Dani and they have adopted a child named Eric. Life is definitely looking up for the ex-homicide detective, but as with anything, the passion for police work grows extremely deep in Liam's soul.

Even though he isn't technically a police detective anymore, that detective aspect of his life is never too far behind. He receives a call from an old college buddy who has since thrown his hat in the political arena, finds himself in the middle of a horrible kidnapping. He knows there isn't anyone else who can help him get his wife back and who is more determined to do what is right and solve this case than Liam Dempsey.

Liam is enjoying his newfound life with Dani and Eric, and even though he loves detective work, he's torn between leaving his family to take on another long case. Problem is, Owen did Liam a solid back in the day, and he feels obligated to at least look into his case and see what he can shake loose.

Well, when Liam begins barking up the murderer's tree, the fallen leaves of hard truths and unbelievable circumstances come raining down on the very head that needs to stay clear and focused in order to solve this case. All of what Liam believes in comes into question. Everyone wants to know what happened to Valerie Farrow, Owen's wife, but nothing seems to be concrete, that is, until Liam continues to keep digging. It would appear that the fates have a nasty way of throwing its weight around, and poor Liam is always caught off guard trying to put the pieces back together again. And trust me, readers, when you start to investigate the clues along with Liam, what you're left with will most certainly shock you.

Mello & June gives *The Night is Deep* five stars and counting. This is a great series. Although I have to say, Hart puts Liam through some particular hell. Sometimes I can't imagine how Liam lives to investigate another day. The things his body goes through dealing with the sick and twisted is mind boggling, but Liam is a tough guy and I love it. Hart's writing is skillfully mastered and keeps the reader front and center throughout the entire story. If you haven't started the series, I'd highly suggest you do. But, this book is a standalone, so you'll be fine to read it out of order.

Please make sure you get this book and add to your to-read shelf. It's a goodie!

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## **Beth Peninger says**

Thank you to NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for this free readers edition. In exchange I am providing an honest review.

Joe Hart writes a good crime thriller. In this series his main character, Liam Dempsey, is a former cop turned

cold case detective - of sorts. While he's trying to solve cold cases he keeps getting pulled into live ones. In this second title Dempsey is called by an old police academy friend whose wife has been kidnapped. As Liam and the team of detectives try to find the wife, bodies start stacking up and Liam has a feeling everything is connected. Trying to connect the dots before more people are killed Liam himself becomes a potential victim - just because he's in the way of whatever the murderer is trying to accomplish. Can they all find the wife in time and stop more people from being killed? Liam is willing to die himself trying...he thinks.

I really like Hart and his writing style. His storylines are fast paced and engaging, his Liam Dempsey character is quick and bold, and he sets up future storylines for the series in a very seamless way. I'm looking forward to book 3.

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### **Janel says**

Liam Dempsey is back!

After his brother's murder and the events that followed, Dempsey is now living with his girlfriend and their adopted son, working as a police consultant after give up his badge.

When Liam gets a call from an old friend whose wife, Valerie, has been kidnapped, the detective in Dempsey kicks in. He is warned by the officers dealing with the case not to get too involved, but that's not Dempsey's style. The case started off as a kidnapping for ransom but now with bodies racking up, Dempsey must find a way to work alongside the police to solve the case!

.... So 'whodunnit'? I was not able to figure it out. This is a very well written thriller, that gets better chapter after chapter, the anticipation builds as time is running out to get Valerie back safely.

Do you need to read book one (The River is Dark) before you read this book? The answer is no, you can enjoy this as a standalone story. References to the past are made but the author gives you enough information to understand Dempsey and follow the story without feeling lost. However, if you truly want to get to know Liam Dempsey, I recommend reading book one first, it's a great read!

I hope Hart continues this series as I'm eager to find out what Dempsey does next.

Thank you to Joe Hart (author), Thomas & Mercer and Netgalley for this advanced digital copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **Jool says**

Just like my review for the first book in this two-book series: What a great read! The main protagonist, Liam Dempsey, is likeable, serious, realistic, and makes this a great book. All the characters are realistic. I enjoyed this book, the second one, as much as I did the first. Perhaps we will be seeing more of Liam Dempsey in the future!

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## **Lee says**

Liam Dempsey used to be a policeman, but after accidentally killing a woman and her child he gave up his career and now works as a police consultant. His old university friend Owen, now a politician, has asked for his help in finding his missing wife Valerie. Valerie is the love of Owen's life, he wants her back and he wants Liam to find her. Who has Valerie and what do they want? Will Liam find her before it is too late, or is there something else at play here?

I enjoyed this book, the characters were strong, likeable and realistic. I did not realise this is part of a series and I will look out for more books from this author.

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## **Liz says**

3.5 stars. This is the second in a series by Joe Hart. I have not read the first book in a series, but I didn't feel out of the loop. I like Mr. Hart's style. It's a nice clean style but with enough details to give you a good sense of people and place.

The characters are well developed. Liam is no one's idea of a saint. He struggles with anger issues and isn't always successful in controlling himself. Not only is Liam fully fleshed out, so is Perring. You can just feel her frustration. I think any woman who has been a "manager" (which is what a lead detective is) can appreciate her. Hart also does a good job of blending in racism and how it plays out in both the community and the criminal process. With everything that has occurred in the news over the past year, it is especially poignant.

Unfortunately, there are several plot lines that just don't make sense. Why does Liam automatically assume the kidnapping is related to Valerie's sister's suicide? And I can see where Liam could be allowed to "consult" on the kidnapping of his friend's wife. But to be allowed to a totally unrelated crime scene? I'm not sure if I'm getting jaded, but I really want more realistic plot lines.

Bottom line with any mystery - did you guess who the "villain" is? I had my suspicions but can't say I was convinced I was right until the end. And there were enough plot twists to keep my interest.

My thanks to netgalley and Thomas & Mercer for an advance copy of this book.

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## **Jackie says**

### **Excellent**

I know Liam is not a cop although he was at one point and he still should be, he gets himself into some good scrapes but get out of them, fantastic read to those who like this sort of book, the book goes in great depth which the author does fantastically, couldn't put it down and need to find the next instalment, just fantastic.

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### **Sara Kennedy says**

In the first book we were introduced to Liam Dempsey, the former cop who, of course, has a dark past stemming from an incident that happened while he was a cop that still haunts him. This is the second book in the series and we find that Liam is now a police consultant who works on cold cases. His friend calls to ask Liam to come to Duluth because his wife has been kidnapped. This starts him down the long road of investigating a case with many twists and turns and to discovering more about himself. It was a decent book even though it was the formulaic ex-cop with a haunted past investigates the case by going outside the law type. It was entertaining and I enjoyed listening to it. It isn't going to win any awards for great literature or change anyone's life by reading it but that is okay. Sometimes you just need a book that entertains and has the comfort of a formula that is familiar like this one.

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### **Linda K. Melzer says**

**Joe Hart, you've developed into a fine author since I read your first books written about your cattle ranch!!**

You can't help but live every step of this novel that Liam Dempsey takes. The writing is so realistic, it is almost poetic in spite of the gore and horrific circumstances it describes. And the ending! I didn't have a clue! Well done! When is Liam Dempsey #3 coming? I have only one criticism and it's minor. You need a grammar editor! That's it. Again I ask, where's #3?

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### **Dee says**

Two-haiku review:

Old friend calls Liam  
Wife kidnapped, wants Liam's help  
Then murders begin

Well developed plot  
Character becomes deeper  
Complete surprise end

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### **Bryony Nelson says**

I felt like this was a little slow in the beginning but it was still incredibly hard to put down. The last half/third was super gripping and really nice tied the whole plot together.

The twist at the end was fantastic as well. I really didn't see it coming at all.

I thought Liam, Dani and Eric were such a lovely little family and I felt really attached to their characters. I also liked Perring's development throughout the book too.

My only downfall was that in some places, I felt like the story was too descriptive or more than it needed to be meaning that I did skim over a few paragraphs because I felt like they were pretty unnecessary.

I received a copy of this book via netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Linda Strong says**

Liam Dempsey is no longer a detective. After accidentally killing an innocent pregnant woman, he turned in his badge. These days he's living with his girlfriend and their adopted son. He also does some Private Investigations and is a Consultant for the Homicide Department.

Liam gets a call from an old friend he hasn't seen or talked to in several years. A budding politician, he begs Liam to come help .. he was attacked and his wife has disappeared.

The detective in charge of the investigation is not exactly gung-ho on having a non-cop thrust upon her, but is willing to work with him as long as he doesn't interfere. Of course, the first thing Liam does is interfere. A ransom has been demanded for the wife.

The rescue attempt has failed ... and now it's not only a kidnapping. Bodies are being mutilated and murdered ... and they all have one thing in common. They all went to the same college, including Liam's friend and his wife.

This is a well-written mystery. Liam is a great character .. lots of layers to peel back to see the real man. I also really enjoyed the female detective and her interaction with Liam, at times contentious, at other times, humorous.

There were several suspects, but then they all began dying off, one by one. I was totally surprised by the ending.

I look forward to seeing more of this series.

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Many thanks to the author / Thomas & Mercer / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

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### **CL says**

I love Joe Hart's books and now I love the Liam Dempsey character. He has that right from wrong quality that makes for a good read when the battle is between doing what is right and what you feel would be justified. Liam Dempsey is called by a friend to help with the abduction of his wife who is being held for ransom. But then the bodies start to turn up and these deaths seem to be linked to the wife's sister's suicide. Can Liam help find the killer before his friend's wife is next. As he digs deeper into this case things are not

as they seem and Liam may just be next. Mean while back at home his girlfriend and newly adopted son are missing him and his girlfriend has been accosted in the park while their son is playing with friends. This only makes him want to solve the case and get home as quickly as possible. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

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