



Letters to My Daughter's Killer

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Grandmother Ruth Sutton writes to the man she hates more than anyone else on the planet: the man who she believes killed her daughter Lizzie in a brutal attack four years earlier. Ruth's burden of grief and hatred, has only grown heavier with the passing of time, her avid desire for vengeance ever stronger. In writing to him Ruth hopes to exorcise the corrosive emotions that are destroying her life, to find the truth and with it release and a way forward. Whether she can ever truly forgive him is another matter - but the letters are her last, best hope.

Letters To My Daughter's Killer exposes the aftermath of violent crime for an ordinary family and explores fundamental questions of crime and punishment. How do we deal with the very human desire for revenge? If we get justice does reconciliation follow? Can we really forgive those who do us the gravest wrong? Could you?

Letters to My Daughter's Killer Details

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Author : Cath Staincliffe

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From Reader Review Letters to My Daughter's Killer for online ebook

Rachel Hall says

Whatever subject matter the ever articulate Cath Staincliffe turns her hand to she does with consummate skill, intelligence and a remarkable honesty. Impeccably researched with vivid and credible characters, Letters to My Daughter's Killer is arguably her most powerful piece of writing. Unflinchingly honest, by turns heartbreakingly and harrowing, rarely can I remember reading a fictional work which held my feelings so captive. Much of that derives from narrator, Ruth Sutton, whose emotionally charged and raw grief solidifies to stone cold hatred in the aftermath of her daughter's murder. In an examination of whether we can ever forgive those who do us the greatest wrong and the necessity to move on from the bitterness that it often inspires, the result is an utter de force.

For fifty-seven-year old grandmother and part-time librarian, Ruth Sutton, four years on from the brutal murder of her vibrant twenty-nine-year-old daughter, Lizzie, she is still consumed by a desire for vengeance that has not diminished in the slightest. Instead she has found her life robbed of every element of goodness, peace and contentment and in turn become a person she no longer recognises. In writing to Lizzie's murderer she attempts to expunge the corrosive emotions that have taken her prisoner. Through a mixture of letters to her daughter's killer, at first presumed to be her known stalker and only subsequently revealed as a different individual, and the journal that she has kept throughout the period, this novel is the poignant result.

Divided into four parts the story opens with a recounting of the events surrounding Lizzie's violent murder, the quest for truth and subsequent trial. That the perpetrator continues to plead his innocence and his legal team besmirch the reputations of those that argue anything otherwise sticks in Ruth's craw as she witnesses him acting the part of a responsible and earnest young man in the dock. His eventual confession leads the way for a hollowed out Ruth to seek restorative justice through a mediator and hopefully rediscover the daughter she knew and a little of her humanity in the process. Filled with candid insights, Ruth's largely epistolary journey is not without a little gallows humour, from the unlikely alliance forged between herself and her ex-husbands new wife to the Family Liaison Officer's trained in "the etiquette of sudden, violent death". The result is an education in terms of evidence gathering and how an articulate defence can twist the words of witnesses, through to the distressing scene of the crime after the forensic team have departed. The well researched legal framework adds authority to a remarkable story and Cath Staincliffe draws insights and clarity from her eloquent and intelligent narrator.

Understated brilliance, Letters to My Daughter's Killer is unreservedly recommended.

Liz Barnsley says

Publication Date: Paperback 17th July 2014 from C&R Crime. Kindle edition available now.

Thank you to the author and publisher for the netgalley review copy.

Grandmother Ruth Sutton writes to the man she hates more than anyone else on the planet: the man who she believes killed her daughter Lizzie in a brutal attack four years earlier. Ruth's burden of grief and hatred, has only grown heavier with the passing of time, her avid desire for vengeance ever stronger. In writing to him

Ruth hopes to exorcise the corrosive emotions that are destroying her life, to find the truth and with it release and a way forward. Whether she can ever truly forgive him is another matter – but the letters are her last, best hope.

So I seem to be on a run of the most brilliant books at the moment, lucky old me, and this was not an exception to the rule. I read this fast, it was so emotionally charged and also extremely addictive it was very difficult to put aside.

Ruth writes to the man who she believes killed her daughter. She is grieving but it is an angry and unforgiving grief that is eating away at her soul. As she starts at the beginning, from the moment she realises Lizzie is gone, the whole story unfolds in the most heart wrenching manner possible, one that will often bring a tear to your eye.

There is a rare truth in the writing here – as a recovery from loss, grief is both a weird and sometimes wonderful thing that does not always follow predicted patterns and is unique to each individual. The well known and often quoted “stages” aside, here the author has managed to portray grief at its disconsolate depths and follow a path along which many have travelled but few could describe. For Ruth it starts as a journey of anger and sorrow and unbelievable horror, and that comes across in every thought she has. Beautifully written, it is not hard at all to imagine that Ruth is a real person describing real events and you will feel for her every step of the way.

This is one of those novels where I can't really explain how it affected me, again I think this is one that will have a different kind of resonance for anyone reading it. Anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one certainly, anyone who has lost someone to violence even more so. Absolutely stunning.

Highly Recommended.

Happy Reading Folks!

Eren Nadir Ak?amo?lu says

4.5 Bekledi?imden çok çok daha iyi ç?kt?. Bu tarz kitaplar okumay? seviyorum. Birine yaz?lm?? mektuplar? okumak her ne kadar mahrem gelse de her zaman biraz çekicidir. Hadi ama. Ama i?in ilginç yan? bir yerden sonra o mektuplar bir ba?kas?na de?il de sanki size gelmi? gibi hissettirmeye ba?l?yor ki zaten kitab?n beni benden alan k?sm? da o oldu. Kurgusu güzeldi. En ba?tan itibaren yükselen bir temposu vard?. Erken yakald??m birkaç ?ey oldu ama sorun etmedim. Zaten bir yerden sonra dava sonucundan çok Ruht'a odaklan?yorsunuz. Tüm o nefret, kin, öfke... Önemli olan Ruth'un o saatten sonra ne yapaca??. Çok çok iyiydi.

Esrafurkanyigit says

Kitab?n sonu maalesef beni ?a??rtmad?. Kafam da bir sürü soru i?areti var ve ço?u yan?t bulamad? yinede sonuna kadar tek gerçe?e inand?m..

Michael says

Ruth Sutton is burdened with grief and hate. Four years earlier she lost her beautiful daughter Lizzie after she was brutally murdered in her own home. Since then Ruth has struggled to make sense of her death while having to try and pick up pieces for the sake of her young granddaughter and her family. But despite her best efforts she finds she can't move forward and is trapped in her desire for vengeance. In a bid to exorcise her thoughts that threaten to consume her, Ruth writes letters to the man who took her daughter's life, wanting answers.

The story unfolds with letters intertwined with what happened from the day of Lizzie's murder all the way to the dramatic and heart-wrenching conclusion to Ruth's letters. She will find herself having to relive her daughter's death time and time again with the initial arrest, the trial and then the murderer's denials of guilt. While her granddaughter Florence, who was witness to the crime, would be effected by it for the rest of her life.

Letters to My Daughter's Killer was a harrowing and unique read. One could only imagine what it would be like to go through the loss of a loved one in such terrible circumstances. The author does a great job of describing with great skill, the pain and anger felt by Ruth and her loved ones. It is also refreshing to read a crime book from the side of the victims and it gave an intimate feel to the reality of such unlawfulness. Knowing the killer early on was also not an issue as it built up the story with his denials. Overall this is an intensely shocking read that is packed full of emotion.

Shelleystrae at Book'd Out says

"I hate you. My first letter, and that is all I want to say. I hate you. But those three words can barely convey the depth, the breadth, the soaring height of this hatred."

Letters To My Daughter's Killer by Cath Staincliffe is a story of grief, anger and heartbreak, beginning with the brutal murder of a young wife and mother and exploring the consequences for those that loved her.

It unfolds in a series of letters written by Ruth Sutton to the man who bludgeoned her precious daughter, Lizzie, to death, four years earlier. In a desperate bid to recover some equilibrium, Ruth hopes that by writing to the killer, and asking him for answers to the questions that haunt her, she can purge herself of the fury that threatens to destroy her soul.

As Ruth relives the horror that began with a phone call, Staincliffe portrays the raw reactions of a grieving mother to her daughter's violent murder with skill and compassion, exposing the shock and bewilderment which slowly gives way to anger and heartache as Ruth is forced to deal with the strain of the aftermath, including caring for her young granddaughter, and the police investigation, the killer's capture, and the trial that follows.

Intense, shocking and poignant, Letters to My Daughter's Killer is an emotionally taxing read.

Australian release July 1st

sue says

Excellent.

Ruth Sutton is the grandmother of the girl who was murdered sadly leaving behind a husband and child. When she gets the phone call one evening from the husband she is struck, what she asks seems irrational to you or I reading this book, but the woman was in utter shock.

In order to rid herself of her emotions and feelings, or maybe to gain some peace in her life, she decides to write to the Killer.

We see how the Police where involved in the early stages of a stalker. But after a time he went away. No bother. But is it the stalker or the prowler that they saw in their garden the night before? Or was it some random attack.

We also see how deep her thinking goes.

Her granddaughters husband was at the gym at the time of the attack. The little child was at home. Did she see it happen? Is she affected by this? Lots of questions going around and around in her head.

Although its written like a letter from chapter to chapter it still reads like a novel. Its very cleverly done. In the writing of the letters themselves things are revealed.

Her emotions are raw. Her vengeance is strong. Writing to him doesn't really elevate her emotions, in fact in some way its making them stronger.

At the beginning of the book I was wondering if I would like this. But I found myself being drawn in and feeling like the Gran.

Amazing piece of work. I enjoyed it anyway!

I would like to thank Little, Brown Book Group UK via Net Galley for allowing me to read and review this book.

Thebooktrail says

Set in Manchester

Shortlisted in the CrimeThrillerAwards on itv3 – <http://www.crimethrillerawards.com/>

Ruth's daughter Lizzie has been murdered and as the title would suggest, what follows is the heartbreakingly account of a woman trying to terms with that fact (if a person ever comes to terms with something so horrific)

She tells her story to a diary which we read thereby getting in to the mind and thoughts of a woman in turmoil. What would you say to a man you believe has murdered your beautiful daughter? Where do you even start? The way in which the book is written really brings the horror and inner turmoil of Ruth to the fore as the diary is that one medium still left in the world where we share our deepest darkest thoughts that we don't share anywhere else. Letters are personal between two people giving the writer the power to control events and say whatever they want without being interrupted. As the diary progresses and Ruth works through her emotions, it's as if we are there at the murder scene, the arrest, and everything which follows.

This for me was the where the real horror must start – when the funeral is over, the people have gone back to their lives and you wake up the next day as usual. What the hell do you do now?

Ruth's pain is strongly evident throughout and I had the strange feeling of being so involved that as I was reading I found myself slowing down as if to respect the grief of the people 'talking' and sharing their hearts. Only a powerful and very clever writer can do that.

This book is certainly about things we would never want to face or personal situations we would never want to think about but everything is done subtly and without sensationalism so only the raw real emotions are left.

This is a very emotional read – Anger, sadness, shock, horror, disbelief and something which stays with you after the final page. Don't be put off if reading someone's inner conflict is not for you – this is so much more.

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 1 day

Pages - 240

Publisher - C & R Crime

Blurb from Goodreads

Grandmother Ruth Sutton writes to the man she hates more than anyone else on the planet: the man who she believes killed her daughter Lizzie in a brutal attack four years earlier. Ruth's burden of grief and hatred, has only grown heavier with the passing of time, her avid desire for vengeance ever stronger. In writing to him Ruth hopes to exorcise the corrosive emotions that are destroying her life, to find the truth and with it release and a way forward. Whether she can ever truly forgive him is another matter - but the letters are her last, best hope.

My Review

Firstly, let me say this book is written in letter format, the whole way through. There are some dates but mostly they are just letters, more diary format as Ruth writes how she felt and what happened from the moment she finds out her daughter was brutally murdered. The letters clearly mark out, this is her getting her feelings out, her experience of it all and that she isn't expecting a reply. This is for her, to get it all down, in stages as she lives & relives what happened from finding out to the immediate aftermath.

It has been four years since the murder, Ruth is still consumed with anger, grief, rage, hurt and many more emotions. This is her way of working through that and towards acceptance, by penning it all down to both the killer and us, the reader. When the murder is covered, after the autopsy, it is very detailed in the brutality to the body, some readers may find this hard to read. If you have lost someone to murder or even just death this could be a hard book for you to read as Ruth's grief and emotion very much comes alive on the pages.

It is quite a weird one, not in the writing or anything but rather I haven't read anything like it before, or quite in that format. It is very cleverly put together, you can feel the raw emotion and devastation to the family, not just Ruth but to her grand daughter Florence, Ruth's ex husband and Lizzie's husband Jack. A gripping, emotive and sad story that draws you into from the very start to the very end. 4/5 for me this time, this is my first time reading this author and I would certainly read her again.

Nick Davies says

Wow - such a powerful book. This epistolary novel takes the theme of a mother's letters to the person who killed her adult daughter, in doing so telling the story of the murder, the aftermath, trial of the person responsible, and the attempts of the narrator (and her bereaved grand-daughter) to deal with the crime committed. It is beautifully written, raw and honest in a manner about a subject which easily could have been over-sentimental in another's hands. It also is short and real as a result of this, not becoming as bogged down in the events as the narrator obviously had cause to be (remaining readable as a consequence), hence being even more sharp and impactful due to the fact it can easily be consumed in a single sitting/day.

There are comparisons, due to the subject nature and/or the use of a woman's letters about a family loss, with 'We Need To Talk About Kevin' - I felt this superior because of the British setting bringing it closer to home for me.. and because at just over two hundred pages and with less historical context, it had an intensity and punch much greater than Lionel Shriver's novel, with the same sadness and scary 'close to home' potential.

Mark Edwards says

Absolutely superb book - gripping, powerful and emotional. Very highly recommended.

Ezgi Tülü says

Ayn? zamanda @ Athena'n?n Güncesi

?öyle dönüp bir bakt?m da, gerçekten uzun bir süredir Yabanc? Yay?nlar?ndan ç?kma bir kitab?

yorumlamam??m ki bu benim için biraz garip bir durum çünkü Yabanc?, kitaplar?n? bu blogda en çok yorumlad??m yay?nevlerinden bir tanesi.

K?z?m?n Katiline Mektuplar'? bir gün içerisinde okuyup bitirdim. Kitap, ad?ndan da anla??laca?? üzere k?z?n?n katiline mektuplar yazan bir kad?n taraf?ndan anlat?l?yor. Büyük ço?unlu?u katile mektup ?eklinde olsa da, kitapta mektup olmayan, okuyucu olaylar? daha iyi kavras?n diye eklenmi? bölümler de yok de?ildi. Mektuplar?n ba?lar?nda adres, sonlar?nda ise *Ruth* imzas? vard?, yani kar??mas? gibi bir durum pek olas? de?ildi bölümlerin.

Kitapta sevdi?im veya sevmedi?im net özellikler yoktu, o yüzden sizlere bu konularda bir liste sunmam pek mümkün görünmüyor. Bir süredir okumak istiyordum fakat denk getirememi?tim ya da elim kitaba pek gitmemi?ti derken, yeni okuyabildim.

- **Ak?c? ba?lamad?.** San?r?m bunu belirterek ba?lamak pek hatal? olmaz. Kitab?n ilk birkaç bölümü boyunca okumaya devam etmemin tek nedeni, daha önce Eren ve Minel'in bu kitab? okudu?unu ve ikisinin de be?enmi? oldu?unu bilmemdi. Kitap zevklerimiz benzer oldu?undan sabrettim, tabii içten içe *benim göremedi?im neyi be?enmi? olabilirler* diye dü?ünüyordum. Okudum, okudum ve bir noktadan sonra fark ettim ki 100. sayfaya gelmi?im ve kitapta ilerleyebiliyorum. Yani **e?er bu kitab? elinize al?r da ilk bölümlerde pek içine giremezseniz, sabredin** ve biraz daha okuyun. Belki siz de benim gibi kendinizi sonradan kapt?r?rs?n?z.

- Kitaba ben dört puan verdim fakat san?r?m **tüm kitap, ad?n?n da vaat etti?i üzere mektup ?eklinde yaz?lm?? olsayd? benim daha çok ho?uma giderdi**. Aradaki o kurgusal bölümler nedense beni biraz rahats?z etti. Belki de sen dilinden daha genel bir dile geçilmi? olmas?ndan kaynaklan?yordur. Sonu?ta mektuplar katile hitap ediyordu ve aradaki bölümlerin hitap etti?i biri yoktu.

- **E?er polisiye dizileri veya avukat? dizileri seviyorsan?z bu kitab? sevme olas?l???n?z çok yüksek** çünkü kitab? okudu?um süre boyunca kendimi *How to Get Away with Murder*?n veya *Suits*'in bir bölümünde gibi hissettim. Gerçekten de, son derece dizi tad?nda bir kitapt?. Belki de bu yüzden içine girmekte ilk ba?ta zorland?m.

- Gerçek dü?ünüyorum da, genel olarak **kitaptaki duygular? da pek hissetti?im söylenenmez fakat bunu bir eksiklik olarak görmedim** okurken. Olan bitene, ortadaki cinayet soru?turmas?na ve Ruth'un ya?ad?klar?na o kadar odaklanm??t?m ki hissedilenleri ya?amad??m akl?ma pek gelmedi.

- Cinayet ve onu takip eden soru?turma ve mahkeme süreci son derece oturaklı?yd?. Titiz bir ?ekilde sunulmu?, ara?r?lm?? ve çözülmü?tü; yani bu noktada **yazar gerçekten ba?ar?l? bir ?ekilde, hem o süreci hem de karakter psikolojilerini ayn? anda yans?tm??.** Avukatlar?n at??mas? veya Lizzie'nin k?z? Florence'?n ya?ad?klar?... hepsi yerli yerindeydi.

K?sacas? az biraz dizi tad?nda, psikolojik ve teknik aç?dan yerinde, ba?lar? biraz a??r ilerlese de sonradan kendimi kapt?rd??m, h?zl? okunan bir roman oldu. K?z? kimin öldürdü?ü benim için asla bir soru i?areti olmad? fakat bu, beni s?k?lmaya itecek?ine sadece mahkeme süreci boyunca *imdi ne olacak* sorusunu daha s?k sormaya yöneltti.

- Ruth'un duygular?yla ve olan bitenle ba?a ç?k??? (ya da belki ç?kamay??? demek daha do?ru olur) kitapta an be an aktar?ld? ve bence **insanlara biraz yol gösterici nitelik ta??yordu**. Herkesin k?z? her an öldürülece?inden de?il de, kad?n?n öfkesiyle bar??mas? ve bu öfkenin ona zarar verdi?ini anlama süreci, bundan kurtulma iste?i vesaire, gerçekten de birçok insan?n görmesi ve anlaması? gerekti?ini dü?ündü?üm

bir ?ey.

Tracy Fenton says

I am actually a little bit speechless having just finished this incredible book in less than a day. It's a powerful and very raw account of how a mother deals with the murder of her daughter via letters she writes to the killer recounting the events since receiving that horrific phone call. Utterly heartbreakin and so emotional. 5 stars

Louise Wilson says

Ruth Sutton writes to the man she hates more than anyone else on the planet: the man she believes killed her daughter Lizzie four years earlier.

Oh Wow. I think I have went through the emotions reading this book. Love: for Ruth, having having to bring up her granddaughter on her own and try to put their life's back together. Hate: for the man who took Lizzie's life. This is a wonderfully written book about a woman who is trying to move on after the violent death of her daughter. I do recommend this book.

Ömer says

4.65/5

Yorumu için: <http://kronikokur.blogspot.com.tr/201...>
