



# Sweet Vengeance

*Fern Michaels*

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## **Sweet Vengeance** Fern Michaels

*#1 New York Times bestselling author Fern Michaels' new novel is a deeply satisfying and uplifting story of one woman's journey from heartbreak to triumph.*

Tessa Jamison couldn't have imagined anything worse than losing her beloved twin girls and husband—until she was convicted of their murder. For ten years, she has counted off the days in Florida's Correctional Center for Women, fully expecting to die behind bars. Fighting to prove her innocence holds little appeal now that her family's gone. But on one extraordinary day, her lawyers announce that Tessa's conviction has been overturned due to a technicality, and she's released on bail to await a new trial.

Hounded by the press, Tessa retreats to the small tropical island owned by her late husband's pharmaceutical company. There, she begins to gather knowledge about her case. For the first time since her nightmare began, Tessa feels a sense of purpose in working to finally expose the truth and avenge her lost family.

One by one, the guilty will be led to justice, and Tessa can gain closure. But will she be able to learn the whole truth at last . . . and reclaim her freedom and her future?

## **Sweet Vengeance Details**

Date : Published March 27th 2018 by Kensington

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Author : Fern Michaels

Format : Kindle Edition 273 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime

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# From Reader Review Sweet Vengeance for online ebook

## Brooke Crestani says

Definitely one of those books that you can't put down. I felt some of the writing was a little redundant, but overall it was well-done!

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## Jeanne says

What a refreshing change of pace for Fern Michaels! This was not her typical romance story -- this novel had lots of suspense and mystery. With the exception of some needless murders, which were brought to light by the end, this was a very enjoyable read! 8 out of 10.

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## Shelly Itkin says

Imagine being locked up in the Florida Correctional Center for ten years for a crime you did not commit.? Tessa was convicted of killing her twin daughters Piper and Poppy and also her husband, Joel. Free on a conviction that has been overturned due to a technicality Tessa is now on the outside of the prison and about to possibly start a new life. Before she can do that she has to prove her innocence.

Tessa is worried that they might not find significant proof, that she is innocent, and might have to return to prison. Since she had inherited millions of dollars from the Jamison Pharmaceutical she has the best lawyers working on the case. The evidence they uncover is shocking and will help to assure that Tessa never has to return to jail.

In the quest for the truth, we will learn much about her family and their background and the involvement of the people who did cause the actual murders.

Once you start reading it, like me, you will not be able to put it down. A great read.

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## Donna says

Tessa Jamison is released after 10 years in prison for murdering her husband and twin daughters due to a witness coming forward with new evidence. The story takes place over the 3 day period surrounding her release. Pending a new trial, Tessa and the CEO of her company go through personal possessions and try to find new forensic evidence to help prove her innocence.

On the positive side, I was engaged in the story and read it in one sitting. I felt great sympathy for Tessa at first, until she continued to yell and scream at people who were trying to help her. I understand she was angry. I had some unanswered questions that came up near the end: Why didn't Liz answer her phone or call when she promised to? Why did the girls incriminate Liam? Who was calling when Tessa was unable to answer the phone? Who called the police? I guess I like for loose ends to be tied up and just a couple of

paragraphs probably could have worked. Throughout the book, the author gives a dozen clues for readers to figure out what really happened before the climactic ending.

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### **Cathy says**

I didn't care for this book at all. The story was soooooo predictable and unbelievable. And I could not get myself to like Tessa, the main character. Very disappointing.

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### **Lois R says**

I found this confusing - Michaels calls the mainland San Maribel, but she also calls the island San Maribel. Since Tessa's guilt is dependent on where she was at the time of the murder of her husband and children, I wish the author had chosen different names for the two places.

The book details the events of the three days after she is released from prison due to a violation of her rights 10 years before. I found the story of what really happened depressing. Not sure this was worth reading

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### **Kathy says**

After spending ten years in prison for being falsely-accused and convicted of the grisly murders of her husband and twin daughters, Tessa Jamison is now free on a technicality, awaiting a new trial. In fact, based on what has been discovered by the new lawyers hired by the company she owns, Jamison Pharmaceuticals, and the company CEO and old friend, Sam, she may even have the charges dismissed. Once out of prison, Tess, along with the others, sets out to find out what really happened and to find the person she believes is the real killer, her deceased husband's half-brother, Liam. However, as time goes on, Tess, her lawyers and Sam encounter new twists and turns in the grisly murders that happened years ago, leading everyone to new ideas and conclusions about what really occurred that dreadful day. Finally, throughout the story, Tess is worried she may have to go back to prison if a new witness, her housekeeper/maid/child sitter, Rosa, does not come across as creditable, or if things do not go as she and her crew have planned—all of which cast a shadow on her thoughts and new life style as well as on the story.

This was a welcome departure from the author's long Sisterhood series. However, the book did not live up to what I had hoped it would. In the first place, the author kept including new sub-plots and twists/acts/events, which ultimately got the book so muddled that it almost became too much for me. In the end, to clear up all these many, different though slightly connected sub-plots, the author rushed in with some clever, and some not-so-clever, tie-ins and resolutions. The ending was interesting, but had too many loose, disconnected endings for me and seemed rather abrupt. I also did not find the ending all that realistic, with little lead-up to it throughout the story, though I did notice that the author did drop many clues, which, I thought, were just not tied in well. In addition, I did not like the main character, Tess, very much. She seemed too ready to pass judgement on people, not ready to face facts and very unrealistic. The best character, in my opinion, was her friend and the company CEO, Sam. I could also see the budding relationship between Tess and Sam, conveniently a widower, which the author kept well hidden behind the scenes. I think having this relationship more out in the open would have helped the book. I also do not think the author developed the Tess character well enough or in a realistic manner. Tess was very much into self-

pity for the time she had spent in prison, falsely accused of the murders she had not committed, and this self-pity never came across as well as I think it could have. Finally, the author should have included more on the new team of lawyers, who were working on getting Tess freed from this unbelievable mess, instead of leaving them in the background for most of the story, especially since she did not choose to highlight or develop the Tess and Sam relationship more openly. Fern Michaels may be planning on a new series with this book, where this relationship will play a more prominent role, but this book would have been better with more of it, I think. This will never be my favorite Fern Michaels book, and I have read almost everything else she has written throughout the years, but, to have a respite from the Sisterhood series (or the other series with are like that), was refreshing, as I think the Sisterhood idea/theme has gone well beyond interest or development at this point. I received this from NetGalley to read and review.

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### **Cindy says**

I received this book for free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Sweet Vengeance = sweet read! I literally devoured this page turner in about three hours. I had to keep reading until I found out who was behind the murders of Tessa's identical twin girls and her husband. Tessa spent ten years in prison wrongfully convicted and railroaded for the murders. I felt for Tessa on page one and was so happy when she was released but all was not over, the real killer was still out there. I was so angry for Tessa when it was revealed how little investigating the police did and how they quickly pinned the crimes on Tessa without collecting enough evidence. You could feel Tessa's anger at this jump off the pages, this is how well written and well developed the character of Tessa was. By the end of the book I was completely surprised at what really happened to Tessa's family. This book definitely was a fast paced Mystery/Thriller with a touch of feel good romance. This review was originally posted on My Fiction Obsession

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### **Helen Drake says**

This was such an interesting book, I almost finished it in one sitting. I have always enjoyed Fern Michaels but I haven't read her for a while. This was a slight departure for her, a murder mystery which takes place in the near future, 2021. The main character, Tessa, has been in prison since 2011, convicted of killing her twin daughters and husband. She had been convicted on very little evidence. She is positive that her late husband's brother, Liam, is responsible for these murders after he had molested her daughters. After being imprisoned for 10 years, she is released after a ruling by the Florida Supreme Court. A new lawyer, Lee, agrees to take on her case along with Sam, a friend of her husband's who is the CEO of her late husband's company. She is released into Sam's guardianship and must wear an ankle monitor. Worst of all, she has to return to the house where the murders took place. Luckily much of the house has been remodeled but not the swimming pool where Tessa found her murdered family.

Her new team is looking to clear her. New evidence and new witnesses will prove she could not have been the murderer. But is what Tessa is learning really possible. What happened on the day of the murder and who was there? Tessa has the support of her psychiatrist friend as well as Sam, as she tries to adjust to all that is happening around her. She is still worried that she will return to prison.

She feels so much anger at the people who could have come forward 10 years ago that would have prevented her going to prison. She is also harboring so much hatred for her husband's brother Liam who has disappeared and for his mother who she feels is hiding him. But when she finally meets with her in her lawyer's office, her feelings start to change.

What I appreciated about this book is that it paints a realistic picture of how hard it is for a woman to readjust to freedom after being in the controlled world of prison. The smallest things make a difference. The effects of the media stalking her and her home are also explored as well as how Tessa's fear of her daughter's being exposed to the media ultimately leads to their deaths.

There is a twist ending that I suspected based on the clues scattered throughout the book. The only thing I was confused about is the name of the Island where Tessa lives is also used as the name of the place on the mainland where she was when her family was murdered.

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### **Laurel says**

I was given an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest and independent review.

This book started slowly and it was very difficult to get into. But I persisted and the second half was better. It was a good storyline, but there was something missing in terms of tempo and mood. It felt like the facts were told but the emotional side was missing and the narrative appeared quite clinical in places.

Unfortunately I was underwhelmed, as the book had enormous potential in terms of the plot but failed to match up to that.

3 stars

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### **Kristine says**

It's been a while since I have read anything from this author and the summary sounded interesting so I thought, "Why not?" Actually, now that I think about it, there was probably a reason for that.

It was EXTREMELY difficult to finish this story. The main protagonist was irritating. So irritating, exasperating, frustrating, annoying....hmmmm, getting the gist? It got to the point that I just wanted to tell her to "shut up". For a character that should have naturally garnered sympathy, actually a tremendous amount of sympathy, due to the circumstances of the plot - it was actually quite a feat to make that character so unappealing to the reader that you honestly couldn't care less about her. That is truly talent.

This character (Tessa) was beyond unbelievable. Not only was she unlikable, but she gave the reader no reason to even WANT to care about her. Her actions and her behavior were difficult to read/listen to, and not at all realistic. Or, I guess a better way to describe her actions would be maddening. Instead of a mother who honestly wants justice - and someone who honestly didn't know what occurred to her family - she seems to do everything in her power to prevent the truth from coming out. From having preconceived ideas that cloud her judgment (and that would have been okay as long as she took the time to just listen as evidence was coming out) to yelling at witnesses and screaming at witnesses, saying that they are lying. Then, interrupting the output of crucial information by having irrational outbursts that are really just extremely annoying - all of these actions would have been okay and even somewhat justified if she was even just a BIT likable.

Honestly, her behavior was so difficult that it just took me out of the story. It became more of a nuisance that everything else was just background. Who was the killer? Oh yeah, was this a mystery? All I know is that I'm glad it is over.

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### **Donna says**

#### **Disappointing**

The set up for this book is compelling: a woman is tried and convicted for the murder of her husband and twin daughters. She spends ten years in prison until a legal advocacy team finds a way to request a retrial. She is freed and returns to her home...the scene of the crime. Then the story unravels with illogical scene after illogical scene. Not as precise and compelling as her other books.

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### **Heidi Lynn says**

First, I would like to thank Fern Michaels, Kensington Books and NetGalley for providing me with this book so I may bring you this review.

I have been a fan of Fern Michaels work for a long time. However, Sweet Vengeance in my opinion is her best book to date! From the prologue Fern got my undivided attention with her description of what prison life was like for Tessa. One thing that made this book interesting than any other book she has ever written is that it was written in the future. In this case it was written in 2021. So, things were a little different then. In this book Tessa goes back and gives a little history of who she was before she landed in prison. That person shaped her to the person she was today.

I loved the part of the book on how she mentioned she loved reading her entire life. I can relate to her saying that books protect her sanity. I use books as an escape from reality. As did she. Plus, she got to work in the prison library.

I felt sad for her that her daughters and husband were gone and no other family existed. That she felt alone. It is really a great read that is Fern's best work.

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### **Donnajo says**

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced reader's copy of this book.

Sweet Vengeance by Fern Michaels. This book was hit out of the ballpark for me. I really enjoyed it. The characters and storyline pulled me in from the first page. I've read past books by this author and she has never disappointed me.

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### **Maggie61 says**

I have always loved Fern Michaels but needed a break from the Sisterhood series I really enjoyed this novel

about a woman, Tessa, claiming she was wrongly accused and convicted who voiced to get revenge on the real killer when she was released from prison on a technicality. A really good book with a couple of surprises thrown in but also very sad at all of the lives cut short in one day; it can't help engrossing you and keeping you emotionally invested.

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