



# Cristina

*Jake Parent*

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**Cristina** Jake Parent

**A gripping psychological thriller from a #1 Amazon bestselling author.**

Desperate to escape her past, Cristina Rodriguez moves into a picturesque hilltop home with an ocean view. The same place where, four years earlier, a young girl was kidnapped and murdered.

Both the house and the scenic California beach town seem perfect. Fresh air. Fresh faces. And the ocean is just ten minutes away. But as Cristina and her daughter set about rebuilding their lives, they soon discover that the past is not about to let go so easily.

A page-turning thrill ride, *Cristina* will grab you from the first page and keep you guessing until the very end...

## Cristina Details

Date : Published July 7th 2016 by Modern Minimalist Press

ISBN :

Author : Jake Parent

Format : Kindle Edition 407 pages

Genre : American, American Fiction

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## From Reader Review Cristina for online ebook

### Helen-Marie Rivera says

Within reading the first sentence, I was hooked and pulled in. I sat with my kindle in hand and started devouring this book. Where was this? Why hadn't I heard about it? The main character is a latina! EEEEEEKKKK! I haven't read a book this year yet where the main character was a latina. This one definitely ranked up there on my list. Did I mention the main character is a latina?!

You can read my full review on my blog here <http://bondingoverbindings.blogspot.com>...

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### Mairead Hearne ([swirlandthread.com](http://swirlandthread.com)) says

#### Rate: 3.5 \*

*Cristina*, the latest book from American writer Jake Parent, is a psychological suspense novel.

Published in July 2016 by Modern Minimalist Press, I received my copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

What did I think?..... Keep reading to find out...

Cristina Rodriguez is escaping a life that was full of hardship and tragedy. With her daughter Anise, she moves to the seaside town of Pleasure Point, California to start all over again.

The victim of abuse, both inside & outside her marriage, Cristina, after leaving her now ex husband Anthony, sets up home in a new town, with new faces and new friends.

After learning of the brutal death of the little girl who lived in the house she has viewed, Cristina, undeterred, decides she can cope with the memories that are tucked away in the walls and puts in an offer that is accepted.

The excitement, the pure joy of Cristina to finally be able to provide a safe haven for Anise is felt within the opening pages of the novel. Cristina is young. With all her life experiences, she is still quite naive and has not really researched the area properly. It is a house with stunning vistas and a bedroom for Anise. They are Cristina's priorities and with her decision made she moves her life to Pleasure Point.

As the plot line reveals, all is not as it seems in Pleasure Point.

Once a thriving economy, the town now survives primarily on the tourist trade. It is a town, quite honestly, I would run a mile from!!

Some of the individuals described in the novel are more like characters out of a horror movie. There are parts of town no person should enter. A crack den, where people left with hardly any semblance of humanity spend their days, crawling around like wild animals.

*'At first she thought he must be some kind of creature risen from the dead. The few chunks of stringy hair remaining on his head looked as though they had been singed by fire. His mouth gaped open, showing rotted teeth the color of a school bus. The filthy white t-shirt hanging off his gaunt shoulders was tattered, his blue jeans completely ripped down one side, revealing a bare leg covered in red sores. He was not wearing underwear.'*

*But none of these things were as frightening as his black eyes. Set deep in a high forehead covered with the same raging pustules as his legs, the man's oversized pupils were motionless.*

*Cristina felt, for that moment, like the dark, lifeless orbs were calling to her.'*

The descriptions make for quite an uncomfortable read and that would be a strength of Jake Parent's writing. You can almost smell the decay and visualize the horrors of a life lost to this evil.

Cristina finds herself caught up in many difficult and traumatic situations. She does befriend a few eccentric characters who provide her with stories of the destruction the town has suffered, sometimes at the hands of it's own residents.

There is an underlying menace of a cult living well hidden within Pleasure Point. A constant reminder of a very upsetting time in the town's very turbulent history.

There are scenes of the occult present in *Cristina* so be warned if this is your night time read!!!

Cristina Rodriguez is a born fighter. She is of Latino origin, with some very strong support by her side. She has seen enough and experienced enough in her own past, allowing her to face head on the challenges and fears that this new move has presented to her.

She worries for her life and that of Anise but she has a backbone that all the past abuse has failed to destroy. Cristina is a survivor.

*Cristina* is quite a disturbing read. There are scenes within the book that make for uncomfortable reading.

Jake Parent has incorporated quite a number of topics in the novel – violence, sex abuse, drugs, the occult and also, be warned, there are a number of explicit sex scenes. *Cristina* is a tough read, but it does have, at it's core, a mother wanting to protect her child from the dangers of society.

*Cristina* is a story of survival against all the odds.

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### **Livin' la Vida Latina says**

Reviewed by: Sandra

Rating: 4 stars

Review: "It had been four years since the little girl's body was found, mutilated and buried in a quarry near her home in Pleasure Point, California. The same home Cristina Rodriguez now wanted to buy." (7)

I don't know if I'd be willing to live in a house were a lot of deaths took place. But, then again, people die everywhere.

Having led a poor life, battling drugs and low-life scumbags, and escaping an abusive relationship, Cristina is a character that is both rough around the edges and nurturing at the same time. She's a tattooed recovering addict with a young daughter and only wants to make a life for herself in a new home. She is a feisty Latina! The best thing about her was that she comes from a long line of tough Mexicans, which made her as resilient as they come. Like her abuela always said: "quit crying and do what you need to do, because the only two choices you have in life are to fight or to give up." Yes, Cristina's past isn't pretty and she's had her problems, but her trying to make up for it and wipe the slate clean makes her an endearing character, especially when it came to her daughter. Her story is written with a raw, richly urban, and destitute Hispanic voice. Being Hispanic myself, I definitely related to this aspect.

"Cristina had always been a magnet for the eccentric people of the world." (81) And you can't get any more eccentric than ghosts!

The story started off slow, at first, but it becomes easier and more interesting once you get into it. It was well-written with a cast of well-defined and relatable characters. I must admit that some of the characters are pretty kooky and just plain weird. Of course, once the ghostly brick-a-bracs started happening, that's when it started getting better. A troubled history, a strange disappearance, and the wandering spirits that linger in that house—that mixed with Cristina's bold, snarky attitude and her fight to survive made for a compelling read.

Readers will root for Cristina as she learns to face her fears, fight for her daughter, bury the past, and tries to put the demons to rest.

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A great read!

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### **Lin Spradley says**

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Great thriller. Kind of figured out who the bad guy was close to the beginning but still good.

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### **Julie Roy says**

Incredibly unrealistic and predictable. The ending was silly. An FBI agent sends a civilian, who less than an hour before was hanging by her wrists in the bad guy's basement, onto a rocky ledge pounded by ocean waves to save her daughter while he (the FBI guy) waits in the darkness to take a shot? Come on.... That ending combined with the ghost girl made me a bit angry for having bought this book. The relationship with the sadistic xhusband had a ring of reality to it, hence the 2 stars. I don't usually leave reviews but I bought this book based on the ones I read....not sure if they are real or planted. This was no, on the edge of your seat thriller.

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### **Sarah Joint says**

Can we just talk about this cover for a moment? It's beautiful. I love it. I want it as a poster! Piqued my interest immediately and once I read the description I was sold. I was lucky enough to win a copy of the ebook from the author but this in no way affects my opinion. My reviews are always honest.

I loved this book. It was exciting, tense, and sexy. There were even some moments that really creeped me out, and I always enjoy that. The writing flows great. Not a difficult read. I read it in one sitting because it pulled me in. I loved the characters and couldn't wait to see how it ended. Might be a nice beach read, or even on a relaxing, stormy day off. Just make sure you have time to read the whole thing then, because you'll probably want to. You might end up like me and finishing it at six in the morning after just deciding to read a few chapters.

Cristina is a beautiful, strong single mother. She's also an addict in recovery. Having dealt with her demons, she's a fantastic mother to her little girl and wants to give them a new life away from her abusive ex husband. This means moving to seemingly quiet, beautiful Pleasure Point. Striking ocean views, a brand new start, and attractive surfers, what could be better? However, the house she moves into has a terrible past. Years ago, a young girl about her daughter's age was stolen from her bed. She was found dead a month later and her stepfather was found dead with a suicide note confessing to the crime. Her mother then hung herself in the house. While disturbed by the history of her house, she doesn't let it stop her from making it a home for her and her daughter. She then begins to have frightening nightmares about the family that used to live there, and she learns some disturbing things about the town's history. But she also meets a handsome surfer and makes friends with a charming neighbor. When her ex tries to force his way back into her life and the frightening events in the house escalate, she has to figure out how to keep her child safe. And maybe unearth some town secrets on the way.

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### **Charissa Kerr says**

OUTSTANDING! I only give a book five stars if it "pains" me to pause while reading it AND if I continue to think about it when I am not reading it. Often books claim to grip-you-from-the-start; this one is the epitome of that phrase! The characters seem so realistic that you would not believe this is fiction. The pace of the plot never dampened, so there was never a "good" time to take a break! The setting was so captivating, that I had no problem visualizing the environments that will certainly haunt me for a long time. Haunt in a good way of course. The writing facilitated both the hungry speed-reader and the patient connoisseur of dialogue. It was presented as raw reality instead of the usual extremism attached to character personas, which was incredibly refreshing. It was also a beautiful snapshot of real life drama: the light in the dark and vice versa. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to be thrilled by a rollercoaster of suspense and examination of the human psyche!

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### **Karen M Seelbaugh says**

My first Jake Parent novel. I liked it so much I read his first novel as soon as I finished Chritina. That novel was just as good if not better!

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## **Joy Corkery says**

Originally published here: <https://joyfulantidotes.com/2016/09/0...>

For me, this book had two different stories; two different pasts determined to haunt Cristina. First is Anthony, Cristina's deranged but very wealthy ex-husband, who is determined to take Anise from her solely as a means of punishment, and who will do anything to win. Secondly, there is the history of Cristina's new home, where four years earlier, a young girl was kidnapped and murdered. In my opinion, these stories didn't connect and could easily have run independently of each other in separate books. However, both stories had me gripped and my interest was held as the story changed from one "past" to another. Separate or not, together the stories successfully showed Cristina as the sassy, strong woman she was.

Cristina is the type of character you root for. I found here a good female lead, not just because of her strength, but the confidence she built up following years of feeling worthless. Cristina is described as a curvy, sexy Latino woman – and she knows this. She dresses to enhance her sex appeal and there are times throughout the book where she is admiring her own body. Admittedly, these scenes had me uncomfortable at first; they seemed too raunchy. But, I realised that my discomfort was a consequence of society's claims that woman should not flaunt themselves, or even love themselves for that matter. I applaud Parent for creating a character not afraid to do either.

In terms of how the story is told, Parent was successful in building suspense, whether it be the slow build-up of Cristina's back story or the mind-boggling "who done it?" question I continually asked myself. His writing style was fluid and easy and the end product for me was a combination of *Gone Girl* and *The Lovely Bones*. The story smoothly went from pleasant to creepy, allowing the creepy scenes to become even more so.

I would certainly recommend Cristina to anybody looking for a quick-read thriller – just don't read it alone at night!

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## **Vigilant Reader says**

Title – Cristina 59

Author – Jake Parent

Genre – Mystery, Suspense, Psychological Thriller

406 Amazon Pages

Rating 3 stars out of 5 Posted 8/20/16

Cristina Rodriguez – recovering drug and alcohol addict now in A.A. She's divorced from a brutal, sadistic husband.

Casey Peters – surfer, shop owner, boyfriend. He's a recovering drug and alcohol addict.

Location Pleasure Point, California near the Pacific Ocean.

Cristina had a lousy childhood, ran away from home and got into hard drugs supported mostly by prostitution.

Casey was straight and at the top of his profession when he became hooked on drugs.

Cristina and her five year old daughter Anise move to the picturesque small town of Pleasure Point to escape Anthony, the ex-husband. The house they buy was the scene of the brutal murder of a four year old girl and her parents. It is questionable that the real murderer was caught.

In addition to the genres listed by the author, the story also relies heavily on the occult. The ghost of the young murdered girl appears to give Cristina clues about who murdered her and her parents. Of course, the clues are so generic they could fit any male. Then a Catholic Priest performs an exorcism to drive the ghost away. But, of course that doesn't work.

The cast of colorful characters is entertaining. Half are eccentric and downright weird.

The editing is good, but in my opinion there are far too many fragmented sentences.

The plot is weak. A development company owns most of the beach property and wants to build the city into a classy tourist mecca. Why then would they leave standing a rotting, abandoned old part of town that has become the home of large numbers of filthy, infected, hard core drug addicts? Only because it is crucial to other aspects of the plot.

Warning! Contains explicit sexual descriptions and abundant cursing.

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This review was provided in exchange for a free book.

Vigilant Reader Book Reviews.

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### **Katarzyna Polek-craven says**

This is one of the best books I have read recently. If not that pesky thing called "job" I would have finished all 409 pages in one sitting. The plot draws you in right away and won't let go till the very end. You get behind the main heroine and want to protect her from all that is lurking around the corner.

Jake D. Parent has improved his craft tremendously since his debut novel and I can't wait for his next book.

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### **Mary M says**

#### **Made it to page 10**

This is one of worst ( it's in the top 3) I've read this year ( it's 8/1). Every box is checked: feisty feminist, recovering alcoholic, single mother with adorable 5 year old, uber shapely Hispanic gal, and nr. LA beach location. There will be others; I didn't get that far. There's nothing wrong or remarkable about any of these characteristics deployed judiciously (like they might be by a better writer), but ticked off as early, often and serially as this young lady author does so is borderline funny. Remember, this is by page 10. (Oh, I didn't mention the black, lesbian AA sponsor). This is not a murder mystery; it's a sociology master's thesis. If you want characters that ring true and are not covertly looking for therapy of some kind, look for another book; ANY other book.

### **Catherine Townsend-Lyon says**

Wow! What a ride with this one! The author should be proud!

The storyline is exceptional, Jake's writing style unique, and it has all you need in this one to keep you gripped from page one to the very last page for a murder mystery. Lace a bad childhood, drug and alcohol use to escape her past and a divorce from an abusive husband and you have an excellent book! Cristina has all that and MORE.

Do not hesitate a moment to buy and read this one. As it is why I gave it 5-Stars . . .  
High Suggest this one!

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### **jody higinbotham says**

#### **Couldn't relate**

A pretty good book but I had no frame of reference to Christina. I live in a small town in Ohio and have never seen a Hispanic person. I had to use a Spanish/English dictionary a lot but it was more than that. I can't imagine why people get addicted to drugs and quite a few characters were. It's a weakness of character and I have no sympathy for addicts. Her character was weak enough to be a prostitute her self for drugs. Totally unacceptable behavior. I couldn't relate to any character.

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### **Shiloh says**

I really enjoyed this book. Jake Parent did an amazing job making you feel the characters and their struggles!  
Bravo-!!!

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