



The Killing Room

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Nothing will ever be the same again . . .

In the heart of Philadelphia's badlands, Homicide Detectives Byrne and Balzano are called out to a particularly chilling crime scene. Once the pillar of the neighborhood, an abandoned church has become a killing room. At first it looks like a random act of violence. But then a second body is found, and a third. Each crime scene more disturbing than the last, each murder more brutal. And it soon becomes horrifyingly clear that a cold, calculating, and terrifyingly precise mind is at work. With very few leads, and a mastermind who always seems to be one step ahead, Byrne and Balzano are faced with challenges they could never have imagined as they race against time to hunt down their killer, before it's too late . . .

The Killing Room Details

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Author : Richard Montanari

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From Reader Review The Killing Room for online ebook

Gary says

A slow start but developed into quite a good book.
I did not find it a page turner but I will find time to read more of his work.

Jenn says

I found the ending a bit confusing. I had to read a few pages over and over and I'm not sure that was just because i was tired. It had been years since I read a Montanari novel and found I still enjoyed the writing style. Maybe the religious topic put me off somewhat too. I'd still read more in this series.

Peter says

What a page turner. I read the first two books of Montanari some years ago and came back with this one. Incredible suspense. You can't put down the book and follow every step Byrne and Balzano take to get the murderer here. What a plot with twists you don't expect. I won't tell you here who's the murderer. Read in and find out. I'm extremely enthusiastic about this page turner and have to read the next Montanari book rightaway. You definitely get addicted by his books!

Stargazer says

hmm, something missing in this series, but i do get pulled in here and there - enough to try another one anyway.

Eve Nolon says

I am unsure why I gave this book four stars when I read it for the first time two years ago. It's better than THE ECHO MAN, but honestly, it'd have to be a rambling experimental epic poem for it not to be better than THE ECHO MAN. It's hard for me to believe, what with the characterization given in MERCILESS, that Roland would drug and rape a 13 year old — several thirteen year old girls at that. I suppose I can twist it so that it sort of makes sense with MERCILESS but that's a game of Twister I'm not up to playing. William Hope reads books 5-7 and he puts me to sleep and not in a good way like Will Patton or Stephen Lang where I am lulled to sleep happily. I am bored into sleeping because the man reads every sentence like he's playing Eyore. I've been going back and forth between audiobook and ebook but I may just get through THE STOLEN ONES on ebook.

FIRST REVIEW: 6 APRIL 2014: 4 STARS

I was about to give up on this series after disaster that is THE ECHO MAN but I am so glad that I continued!

Definitely tied with MERCILESS as my favorite of the series.

Unfortunately Scott Brick is no longer reading the series and it cannot be said enough that a good narrator can elevate a mediocre story by country mile. William Hope is tolerable but I think I'll continue the series in the written form unless Brick comes back aboard.

Amelia says

I love the Byrne/Balzano series. The Killing Room was pretty dark and disturbing. What puzzled me was the ending when Gabriel Hightower met up with Maria Caruso instead of his Philly Brothers mentor Kevin Byrne some thirty years later. Made me curious to want to know what had happened to him.

Richard Murphy says

So I had never heard of this author or this series of books and I just happened to pick it up cheaply in a bookshop on a holiday whilst perusing.

Not the most exciting of introductions I grant you but and it is a big BUT what a treat. I really really liked this. Really close to scoring it 5* and the best book I have read this year. The most exciting part is this is the 6th book in the series and you have probably worked out already I'll be going right back to the beginning to start these off.

The story itself goes along at a good pace, loads of twists and turns along the way leading to a good ending that I must admit I was no where near to working out.

The lead characters (Balzano and Byrne) are 2 police detectives in Philadelphia. Its gritty, gruesome in parts, dark and most importantly the main characters are not just likeable but also very believable.

So whilst I go to the back catalogue, do yourself a favour and add this to your must read collection. You wont be disappointed.

Paul Brown says

I've read one other Richard Montanari novel "The Devil's Garden" and I'm starting to see something of a pattern. As a straight thriller writer he's pretty good however when he brings in the supernatural element it becomes something of a mess.

So "The Killing Room" starts off well enough as a "Se7en" style thriller but then comes the other worldly twist and frankly it becomes dull and pretty ridiculous. As I said in my review of "The Devil's Garden" the supernatural detective thriller can work you only have to look at John Connolly's early Charlie Parker novels for example but for me Montanari just doesn't deliver I think he'd be far better suited to keeping it simple and writing conventional thrillers (says the guy who's NOT a top ten bestselling author).

Overall in spite of its flaws I consider "The Devil's Garden" a decent book however because "The Killing Room" resorts to the tired religious themed murder plot and Montanari doesn't have the characters or the writing style to hold your interest I rate this book as mediocre

Barry Tipper says

This really did start very well, and it gripped me right from the start. The writing is clear and descriptive and I did feel there was a supernatural mystery forming, but somewhere along the way it lost that pace and ultimately the resolution and conclusion somehow shed the foreboding supernatural tones.

There were several elements that were a major part of the resolution that should have been explored in more detail. I might be being a little unfair here, as some of these things may have been explored in earlier books in this series, and as a result I might have missed some of the prior history that other readers will already understand. Unfortunately, I bought this unaware that it was part of a series and I'm sure several elements reference history in previous books.

Overall, I enjoyed the story, but ultimately it became fairly standard crime fare towards the end and I started to feel a little disappointed. Still, I'd recommend that fans of the genre should give it a go as it's a decent story, even if there are too many instances of the word 'gotten' for my liking.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

After reading raving reviews like "Scary good! You will leave the lights on long after reading this book" - Lisa Gardiner

And

"Relentlessly suspenseful.....hooks you instantly" - Tess Gerritsen

I was excited! Here comes a super creepy twists and turns serial killer with a religious twist type of book! The storyline had SO much promise, bodies turning up murdered in unusual ways in old abandoned churches, but that's the best bits, seriously.

The rest of the book is a lot of police procedural boring carry on mixed in with ever so slow and boring sub plots. Neither detectives Kevin Byrne or Jessica Balanzo did a thing for me as strong protagonists, I found both very two dimensional flat.

The flicking back in time to create a slightly creepy back story was ok but I put this book down enough times to know it wasn't holding me and it sure wasn't scary or kept me up all night reading. With too many better crime writers out there I won't be delving into any of Montanari's books again.

2 stars.

Jessica Bronder says

An ex-cop man is found, wrapped in barb wire, kept alive for ten days then left to be discovered hanging in a church. Then another man is found frozen in ice and another that had been forced to swallow stones. The

only clue Balzano and Byrne have to go on is: 7 Churches One God. It's going to be a race against time to link everything together, keep a nosy reporter out of their way, and stop the serial killer.

This is my second book from Richard Montanari and I have to say that I liked it. The murders and killer are dark and switching between him and Balzano and Byrnes kept the tension of the story high. I like when you are in the head of the killer, it's a great way to see how well an author can create damaged and deranged.

Balzano and Byrnes have been together for a while and you get this feeling as they proceed with the investigation. They work well together and have many beautiful areas of Philadelphia to explore to stop this killer. I admit that some of the story seemed to take a little bit to get rolling and lag in the police procedure but for the most part it was really good.

I enjoyed The Killing Room. I would be willing to go back to The Rosary Girls and start this series from the beginning.

I received The Killing Room from Partners in Crime Virtual Book Tours for free. This has in no way influenced my opinion of this book.

Curlyhair says

Another in the Balzano/Byrne detective series. Yes another grizzly serial killer is on the loose on the streets of Philadelphia, but with these two hunting them down, they won't be killing long. Cliche, but these books are well written and never boring.

Joan says

I enjoyed reading this novel. It is a good combination of detective work and character thought and information.

This mystery has a definite religious bent to it. Someone seems to be arranging murders that represent the seven churches in Revelation. I liked that aspect of the plot. I learned about how the Catholic Church closes up church buildings and what happens to them afterward. The plot itself is complex. The motivation for the murders is kept hidden until the end. That kept the plot going and kept me guessing who the actual murderer was.

I found a couple of aspects of the novel that puzzled me. Balzano is married with two children. Her husband is also a policeman. I want to know how she juggles two children with her many hours of police work. There is mention of taking the children to school and daycare, but what happens when she is called out at night or has a long surveillance shift? That missing aspect of her life made her character seem flat to me. The other issue is with Byrne. He did one action that seemed fuel for dismissal yet came through unscathed. And at the end, he did some things that I just didn't understand. Again, actions that I would think would lead to dismissal. That made his character seem larger than life and a bit unrealistic.

I recommend this novel to those who enjoy a good mystery with a complex plot and plenty of character

involvement. Some of the murders are a bit gruesome so beware.

I received a complimentary egalley of this book through Partners in Crime Virtual Book Tours. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Vivienne says

Another gripping thriller in this series featuring Detectives Kevin Byrne & Jessica Balzano. It has a strong religious theme, as did the first in the series.

I was slightly perplexed by the final few pages of the novel set 30 years in the future. I wasn't sure if this meant that Montanari had decided to wind up the series or was just offering his readers a glimpse far ahead leaving us wondering what had taken place in between. only time will tell.

Ingo says

Started August 15th, 2013.

Slow going. Read a few reviews before (none with spoilers) and am not sure, what to expect.

Now I am 39% into the book according to the Kindle count. And thinking: too far to abandon it, not far enough to expect the end soon.

As an Atheist, the religious theme together with a serial killer and the devil (?) could have been an interesting change for once.

But the writing style is dull and the main characters (the supposed good ones, being police), while deep and real, not my kind of people. If they were killed at 50% in the book, I would like it better - fat chance of that happening, but here's hoping. Places and the city of Philadelphia are interesting, not NYC, SF, LA, Washington DC for a change. But the main story-line drags along slow and meandering and broken with another story of the past which is a preamble to the killings, explaining them or the motives, I think. But even more dull than the story in the present. If and when I finish this (hopefully soon to read something more killing and entertaining) it will probably be my last ever book by this writer - unless a twist or something really unexpected happens, like picking up pace on the second half.

Nearly abandoning... yet still forcing myself to read further.

So far 2 Stars for the good description of a City I will never know.

OK, so now I have finished it, some of the different stories where nicely woven together and more or less solved.

For the ending 3 stars, but with a caveat: not recommended, too long and too much backstory for too many characters which was not very entertaining and added nothing for me to the main-story.

A few nice mysteries, one twist I did not see coming (when they open a closet to discover ...) and one that was too obvious: since first entering the story, I suspected one would-be victim and was right. Way too obvious. The whole case lacks a certain pace and drags along.

Would rather give 2.5, but that is not possible, so 3 stars it is. Unless you have a reason, like living in Philadelphia or liking religious crime, stay away from it. There are better books.

For instance: The Rosary Murders filmed with Donald Sutherland.
