



## Living Proof

*John Harvey*

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Cathy Jordan has gotten rich making up crimes and solving them in her bestselling novels. Charlie Resnick has spent his life contending with the real thing. Now, the no-nonsense cop has been assigned to protect the tough-talking writer from a stalker. From a cast of characters as colorful as any Cathy could concoct, Resnick must nail the guilty party--because someone's dangerous fiction is building into a deadly rage.

## Living Proof Details

Date : Published September 15th 1996 by St. Martin's Press (first published 1995)

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Author : John Harvey

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## From Reader Review Living Proof for online ebook

### Steve says

Poignant, sentimental, and shocking describe this Charlie Resnick novel. I also enjoyed the fictional authors he introduced us to. I'm so glad I decided to re-read these pieces of literature disguised as police procedurals.

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### Ricardo says

I found it boring and uninspired

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### Monica says

This is a bit of a departure from the other books in the series. Resnick and his group are assigned to watch over an American author of crime fiction in Nottingham for a convention dealing with crime fiction and noir films. The author is a bit Sue Grafton-ish, and has been receiving threatening letters. Her first appearance at the conference ends with a feminist demonstrator throwing blood red paint at her and some of her fans. Her counterpoint is a straitlaced, elderly British writer of cozies in attendance with her much younger (ahem) nephew.

The behind the scenes look at the conference(which is an actual event) is entertaining, as is the passing inclusion of Ian Rankin as one of the attendees. And Harvey probably had fun creating the alternate character and voice of the American lesbian PI protagonist of the visiting author.

In the real world, a pair of violent youths have been robbing and assaulting people and someone, apparently a prostitute, is stabbing johns with increasing violence.

It's a bit lighter than other books in the series, but still a very good read

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### Maaike says

Stars: 2.5

Grappig verhaal; voor een thriller niet echt spannend. De zaken die spelen hebben wel potentie, maar door de vele namen en de niet al te onverwachte onthullingen komt het niet helemaal over, helaas. Misschien komt dat ook doordat het boek al wat ouder is en omdat deze thriller er eentje uit een reeks is en ik die verder niet heb gelezen. Al nodigt dit boek niet echt uit om de rest ook te lezen. Jammer want de achterkant klonk zo veel belovend =/

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### Ian Brydon says

This is John Harvey and Resnick at their best!

As usual the action takes place in Nottingham (and I particularly enjoyed the occasional references to Loughborough!), and the beleaguered Resnick is up against it once again. A local festival is celebrating crime fiction and some classic noir films, and popular American author Cathy Jordan, responsible for the immensely successful series of garish and violent thrillers featuring feisty PI Annie Q Jones is the star attraction. However, she has been receiving threatening letters, and the police are approached to render additional security.

Meanwhile a prostitute is attacking her male clients at various venues around the city. Eventually, as the police feared would be the case, a punter is murdered.

As always with Harvey's masterful series of Resnick novels, the plot is entirely plausible and the characters perfectly credible. The readers shares Resnick's weariness and the sheer despair of Lynn Kellog, his long-suffering DC. And, as usual, we are treated to sumptuous descriptions of the marvellous sandwiches that Resnick somehow always finds time to construct!.

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### **Auntie M Graff says**

Harvey's two series (Frank Elder and Charlie Resnick) are worth investigating if you like police procedurals with a heavy hint of the psychology of the character. He delves into the lives of his detective, their friends and family, as he builds a picture of the victim's circle. Great reading.

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### **Jess George says**

Love this series, but did not like this entry quite as much.

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### **Trina says**

Well, I love Charlie Resnick. Love his personality, his cats and his sandwiches. This book wasn't that great but I was a bit surprised by the ending.

I've checked my library for the other Resnick books, but all that's left are the short stories.

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### **Mancman says**

Clearly I'm out of kilter with other readers in my opinion of this book. But in reality only my slight OCD for finishing books I start got me through this one.

Where do I start on why this did nothing for me?

I didn't like any of the characters, and I mean ANY. They felt like caricatures, and I didn't care what happened to them.

The plot was paper thin, lacked any suspense, pacing or real denouement. There was even a terrible "book within a book" aspect, which only served to highlight how bad the structure was. There were lots of crime writer references, given the plot line, and frankly I'd rather have been reading any of those than this. Sorry John Harvey, this is my first taste of your work, and I shan't be rushing back. The only bright spot in this? I

didn't pay for it - it was passed to me by my ex-mother-in-law. Clearly I'm not in her good books anymore....

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### **Colin Mitchell says**

As usual there is a great deal going on in this Charlie Resnick novel set in Nottingham. A book and film festival is being held and an American crime novelist has received threats, meanwhile men using the services of prostitutes are being assaulted and eventually one turns up dead of stab wounds. Throughout Lynn Kellogg is trying to come to terms with her kidnapping, from the last story, and her feelings for Resnick.

The book is all about victims. Victims of perceived moral damage in the letter writer, the prostitute was a victim of men who had abused her and others had been the victim of marital/infidelity issues and Lynn had been subjected to violence. The story offers no solution but then there is one. I don't think that men come out of this story in a very good light.

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### **Sandy Hall says**

I disliked the inclusion of the author-character's book, it felt unnecessary and was extremely distracting. I would have liked more focus on Lynn and what she was going through, plus a bit more exploration of the dynamic between her and Charlie, he's virtually an automaton with his routine of work, home, sandwiches, coffee, cats, repeat. The coincidence of Ben's old love was just weird, it didn't fit, it felt like a way to show a piece of Charlie's past that simply didn't exist.

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### **Nolan says**

Although it hasn't been long since I visited Inspector Charlie Resnick of the Nottingham police precinct, it was good to go back. These books are rather slow, and yet they keep me pushing the play button on the audio book player to the last word.

An American writer of mystery fiction is visiting Nottingham, and she has received threatening letters leading up to her visit. She's in town to do some book signings, and Inspector Resnick's team has been assigned to provide at least a modicum of protection. He can't do much, because his group is rather thinly spread already. In a rather interesting reverse of most detective fiction, a series of killings have taken place in which a mysterious prostitute is killing men after she lures them to their room. Initially, they're only humiliated or wounded and released. But one man ultimately dies, and his widow is someone Resnick knew from many years ago.

Both these plots are equally interesting, and I didn't see the solution to the prostitute murders coming at all.

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### **Kay says**

You have to really enjoy the Charlie Resnick character. He is likable and low key. In this book the low key

part goes to an all-time low. While mixing 3 different cases in one book you still have time for a quick nap.

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### **Alan Korolenko says**

Charlie Resnick is assigned to protect a writer of mysteries who is attending a crime writer conference. Resnick must also resolve a series of stabbings, the last of which ends in murder. The story moves along nicely if not with the urgency found in previous books in the series.

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### **Jill Hutchinson says**

I have read several books in the Charlie Resnick series and thoroughly enjoyed them. And this one was also headed in the right direction until the last few pages and then BAM!!!!.....out of the blue something happens which doesn't play fair with the reader. I like mysteries that give us all the information so that we know what the police know. I love a good twist ending to a story but not one that suddenly in the last three pages brings in new information that was not mentioned previously, even subtly. It makes you think that maybe you missed something but that is not the case here.

It is an interesting plot with the usual characters that we see in all the Resnick books and moves right along. Harvey's books are easy and comfortable reads and Charlie Resnick is a well developed protagonist. But, oh, that ending.....it caused me to rate it lower than I usually would rate the books in this series.

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