



Deadly Crimes

Michael Hambling

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Detective Sophie Allen faces her toughest challenge in a gripping new mystery by best-selling author Michael Hambling

A young man's mutilated body is found on top of the Agglestone, a well-known local landmark on Studland Heath

It seems that he was involved in a human trafficking and prostitution gang. But why is DCI Sophie Allen keeping something back from her team? Is it linked to the extraordinary discovery of her own father's body at the bottom of a disused mineshaft, more than forty years after he disappeared?

Discover an intricately crafted mystery that will have you gripped from start to finish.

If you like Angela Marsons, Rachel Abbott, Colin Dexter, Ruth Rendell, or Mark Billingham you will enjoy this exciting new crime fiction writer.

DEADLY CRIMES is the second in a new series of police detective thrillers featuring DCI Sophie Allen, head of the recently formed Violent Crime Unit in Dorset. An English county which includes a stunning section of the coastline, but whose beauty belies darkness beneath the surface.

DCI Sophie Allen is Dorset's acknowledged expert on murder and violent crime. She is 42 as the series starts, and lives with her husband and younger daughter in Wareham. Her elder daughter is studying in London. Sophie has a law degree and a master's in criminal psychology. Her brilliant mind conceals some dark secrets from her past.

DS Barry Marsh is based at Swanage police station. He's quiet, methodical and dedicated, the perfect foil for Sophie's hidden fragility.

AVAILABLE NOW DARK CRIMES, the first book featuring Sophie Allen. A young woman's body is discovered on a deserted footpath in a Dorset seaside town late on a cold November night. She has been stabbed through the heart . . .

Deadly Crimes Details

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Kathy says

This is rather a different brand of DCI, our Sophie Allen, so these books have interest in that element alone. There were some pretty bad characters in this book who had been getting away with trafficking women for some years and murdering some along the way without notice. The hunt begins in earnest when a body turns up on top of a stone landmark/ Sophie and her team are hot on their trail, just missing them at more than one location as Sophie takes one young Romanian girl who escaped back to her own home. And then there are all the connections as a member of this gang turns out to be the one who murdered Sophie's father she had never known. Yup, a whole lot of very emotional stuff not usually found in police procedurals.

Adele says

Whilst I enjoyed the story, I actually had an issue with the characters, specifically the main one & her family. The cadence of the dialogue was really jarring and off putting, everything was just so formal. The main story was really interesting and the policing side of it was meticulous but I don't think I will be continuing with this series as I cannot seem to connect with the main character.

Lynda Kelly says

I was trudging my way through this, it seemed. I said after reading his first book that I hoped this one would be tidier but it isn't and in the end I'd had enough. It was boring me a little and there's nothing I can really put my finger on aside from the mistakes but I just wasn't looking forward to reopening it each time I did. I happened across one mistake too many and gave in but that was at 51% so I'd given it more than a fair crack by then. Even Sophie seemed a little too insipid in this story.

He missed out a lot of apostrophes again and when I hit vets practice it was the proverbial straw. In the prologue 1969 was mentioned yet later on we learn it was 1968. A rubbish mistake. ords were missing in some sentences (..held a Monday evening) yet peculiarly added in others (as the small group of left the room)...

Informed was used instead of uniformed, he used capitals weirdly yet again, I had no idea why Sophie was baffled by police being in a place at one point when she knew they were arriving by boat and she'd only just asked someone to speak to them. All in all it was too scrappy by half and I won't bother with anymore of this series.

Pat says

That was quite a dark book. A brutally murdered body found on top of a local landmark rock leads DCI Sophie Allen and her team into a dark web of human trafficking, torture, abuse and criminal pond scum.

At the same time an 'old' body recovered from a disused mine shaft causes Sophie great personal distress as the body turns out to be her father, who died before she was even born. The discovery causes Sophie to re-evaluate everything she though she knew about her background.

As she vows to uncover the circumstances of her father's death and investigates this as well as the human trafficking network it almost cripples her emotionally. The characters in this series have now really come to life. I really liked the ending. I thought I knew who the mysterious masked woman was but, now I'm not so sure.

CL says

Detective Sophie Allen and her partner DS Barry Marsh are investigating a human trafficking ring that's being run by career criminals. Now a young man's body has been found on a roof top and his tongue is missing and it appears he was involved in the human trafficking. Then Sophie's father's body is discovered and she has to rethink her ideas of who he was. She had always thought he had abandoned her and now it seems that may not be the case. This was a great read and I will read the other stories about this character. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

Elizabeth says

Detective Sophie Allen faces her toughest challenge in a gripping new mystery by best-selling author Michael Hambling

A young man's mutilated body is found on top of the Agglestone, a well-known local landmark on Studland Heath

It seems that he was involved in a human trafficking and prostitution gang. But why is DCI Sophie Allen keeping something back from her team? Is it linked to the extraordinary discovery of her own father's body at the bottom of a disused mineshaft, more than forty years after he disappeared?

my rating: 5 stars

I loved it, loved everything about it, and will be picking up a copy when I can. loved the main the character, this had me hooked from the start of the book and had me pulled in to the ever end of it. with that said I would love to say thanks to NetGalley for give me a chance at founding a new series to get in to .

Joann says

DEADLY CRIMES is the second in a new series of police detective thrillers featuring DCI Sophie Allen, head of the recently formed Violent Crime Unit . It takes place in an English county which includes a stunning section of the coastline, but whose beauty belies darkness beneath the surface. I've enjoyed all of this series so far, and will continue to follow Sophie Allen. Well written, page turner and overall a really good decent read.

Eliza says

Always enjoy Sophie Allen, her crew and her family. Her mother Susan is the least developed.

Good story in about 7 hours of listening. No padding just the story moving along.

A dead body on a high rock with its throat slit and tongue removed. So begins the investigation that leads to sex trafficking and resolution of the dead of Sophie's father.

The reader is left wondering if Sofie was the mysterious woman from the S&M parlor. I think she was.

Pia says

I'm definitely in a minority here. After reading many reviews, I'm still not convinced it's an amazing book, although I did find it easy to read and enjoyable.

My issues are the same as in book 1: the story is good, well crafted and delivered, but the writing feels choppy and too colloquial, simple.

There's two stories going on: The "mystery" part which starts with the body of a man lying on a local landmark and then we have Sophie's life history, which is based on another mystery and gives us a better insight into her character, which is something I do like in a book.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Valerie Campbell Ackroyd says

Didn't actually finish this book. The language was grim, the storyline is grim, and the writing just didn't make up for the grimness.

Janet Hollman says

What a Story

My goodness what a tale of twists and turns . Stories within stories within stories. Bodies popping up everywhere, you get whisked along in this tale. It's like an express train only stopping at a station to dig up another body. A brilliant read.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Detective Inspector Sophie Allen is head of the Violent Crime Unit in the English County of Dorset. In the second book of the series Sophie faces a tough challenge finding out who murdered the young man whose body was found on top of Agglestone, a local landmark with is tongue cut out. When a young woman is found to have escaped from human traffickers, they are able to tie the death to the ring, but finding them is another matter. We also find out more about Sophie's family when the body of her father is found and she meets her grandparents that she did not know.

This was an interesting and well written story, which I liked better than the first in this series. There are two crimes being investigated that have occurred two decades apart and throughout the story, it becomes apparent that they are linked. With bodies being discovered throughout the area, time is ticking before more young women may be killed. This is a police procedural with a flawed main character. Her past comes to a head in this story. We meet her family in this book and they are a rather staid bunch in my opinion. The

villians in this book have great personalities, they are vicious people, yet are loved by others. The police that Sophie works with are all smart, yet sometimes stumble upon clues and information. I loved the interaction between Sophie and Barry, her Detective Sergeant, both are so different yet they seemingly have the perfect working partnership. Once again I listened to this book and I am not sure about this series. I have the next two ready to go on audio, so will go ahead and listen to them and see if this is a series I plan to continue with or not. I enjoyed the audio more this book as I had gotten used to the narrator.

Linda Strong says

Detective Sophie Allen is investigating a human trafficking/prostitution ring run by a gang that's been active for some time. A young man's body is found on the roof of a famous landmark. His tongue is missing .. is this a message for others?

On the personal side of things, Sophie's father's body is found at the bottom of mine shaft. She never knew him, he was killed before he knew he was about to become a father. For all these years, she's resented the man she thought just bailed on her mother. Now she's coming to grips with newly found grandparents.

The mystery is what these two events have in common.

DCI Allen is brilliant at her job. She has a background in law and criminal psychology. She's strong and determined and wants justice for the victims and closure for their families. DS Barry Marsh is quietly dedicated and is the perfect partner for Sophie.

Although this is the second in this series, it does well as a stand-alone. As always I would recommend reading DARK CRIMES first.

The book is well-written, characters are likeable. There are tons of suspects to keep an eye on. I look forward to seeing more adventures for Sophie in the future.

Many thanks to the author / Joffe Books / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

3.5 Stars

I've been having a love affair with British crime novels this past year and now I'm including Michael Hambling in the authors I've following. I haven't read the other books featuring DCI Sophie Allen, but Deadly Crimes worked well as a stand-alone.

There are two crime plots in this book, a 40 year old murder and a current time frame human trafficking case. DCI Sophie is in charge of the human trafficking case and for personal reasons is monitoring the 40 year old murder. The victim was her father she never met. As clues to the perpetrators are uncovered by her team, similar names start to come up in both cases. The plot of these two cases, how the police unraveled the clues and the criminals they have in common is really good.

There are a lot of characters in this book and there was a time or two where I thought I would need a cheat

sheet to help sort through them. Most of them were well fleshed out, but some felt like they needed more development.

I think anyone who enjoys British mysteries and crime stories will enjoy this one.

Thanks to NetGalley, Joffe Books and Michael Hambling for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Ms Kathryn Pizar says

Another case solved for Detective Sophie

Well, just like the first book *Dark Crimes*, this also had a Phew! ending. A book that kept me reading in almost one sitting, with a break only for a nights sleep and breakfast.

A fast paced plot with plenty of action and this time also very personal to Sophie herself, with her past finally being revealed. She and her team once again get to the bottom of an investigation, this time involving murders that took place twenty odd years before, and the wide spread and evil crime of trafficking young women across Europe for really only one gain. Money, and lots if it.

A really great book which I thoroughly enjoyed, and it won't be long before I get onto number three.
