



## Until It's Over

*Nicci French*

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Young and athletic, London cycle courier Astrid Bell is bad luck - for other people. First Astrid's neighbour Peggy Farrell accidentally knocks her off her bike - and not long after is found bludgeoned to death in an alley. Then a few days later, Astrid is asked to pick up a package from a wealthy woman called Ingrid de Soto, only to find the client murdered in the hall of her luxurious home. For the police it's more than coincidence. For Astrid and her six housemates it's the beginning of a nightmare: suspicious glances, bitter accusations, fallings out and a growing fear that the worst is yet to comea Because of it's true that bad luck comes in threes - who will be the next to die?"

## Until It's Over Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2007 by Michael Joseph (first published 2007)

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Author : Nicci French

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## From Reader Review Until It's Over for online ebook

### Donna Kerseboom says

Ik wilde iets luchtigs lezen. Dat deed ik, en nu heb ik wel weer genoeg gehad voor het komende jaar.

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### Rachael says

2.5

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### Susan says

I liked this story, but didn't particularly care about the characters - and there were many of them. The second half of the book threw me out and as a writer myself, I felt it was a bit of a cheat to retell the same story from the murderer's viewpoint. I think I would've included the murderer's viewpoint at the same time as the original storyline, leaving the reader in suspense as to who the murderer is until the end.

I found the ending disappointing because the epilogue jumps too far ahead without revealing any new information. I felt that the story might've worked better if it had ended with the final arrest and without an epilogue.

That said, I enjoy reading [and learning:] from Nicci French novels. I'm intrigued with Nicci & Sean's [husband and wife:] working relationship - particularly as my hubby and I write together too.

## **Laura says**

Nicca French are one of those authors what i call my comfortable reads as i have now read 5 of thier books and know i like both the style of writing and the general story lines of the books.

With this one it was as always full of twists and turns and i loved that.

It only let itself down at the end where i felt the ending was a tad incomplete.I would have enjoyed a fuller ending with a small story as to what happend to the rest of the housemates.

Otherwise a great read and would definately read more by this authors!

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## **Thom Swennes says**

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, jinx is someone or something that causes bad luck; also: a state or period of bad luck caused by a jinx. British dictionaries call it an Americanism and basically hope that it is a condition that affects others. The Thesaurus lists as synonyms: hex, charm, enchantment, condemn, hoodoo, nemesis, bewitch, plague spell, voodoo, black magic, evil eye and kiss of death. I call it Astrid Bell. The writing tandem of Nicci Gerrard and Sean French has done it again! Astrid Bell is a young and athletic London cycle courier that has bad luck. This applies not only to herself but especially for the people around her. After suffering a biking accident, the woman that inadvertently opened her car door without looking, turns up murdered a few paces from Astrid's house. This is soon followed by the gruesome murder of a client and then they get even closer. Are these related or just random acts; is it a complot or just bad luck? The reader is sent on a trip through the streets on London and the lives of many interesting and forgettable people. The authors relate the mundane daily life, actions and interactions of a group living under the same roof in the heart of London. This writing duo once again applies (also used in Catch Me If You Can) the writing no no of starting in the first person form of one character, only to change it halfway through to another one. This does give them the ability to examine each one minutely although it tends to sometimes be confusing. This is not only a book of death and murder but also one of life and hope. This book is one for the masses and I highly recommend it.

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## **Robin says**

Very good book.

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## **Hermien says**

This book did not come up to scratch. The first part is told by Astrid describing how she finds three dead women. The second part consists of the same events, but told by the killer. Then in the last 10 pages Astrid entraps the killer, he gets arrested and Astrid lives happily ever after with a brand new lover. No explanation as to how or why Astrid and the police became suspicious of the real killer in the first place when they already had somebody in custody with evidence galore. I was hovering between two and three stars, but then thought that experienced crime writers like this should do better and their fans deserve better. So two stars it got. I have read a lot of Nicci French novels and I find them becoming increasingly disappointing.

## **Elizabeth says**

This was an interesting experiment in form, with the POV shifting about 2/3 of the way through the story. Unfortunately, the reveal comes quickly after, with the result that the later chapters are just a rehash of the narrative that add little to the story or character. The shift allows for explanations, but the creepy tension (well created in the first part) completely dissipates as a result.

Knowing the culprit early in their piece of the telling also means that the resolution of the story then hinges on whether or not they'll be caught, and how that will play out. It was interesting enough to keep me reading - I definitely wanted to know - but then after all of that recounting the ending felt contrived and rushed. The plausibility of the story in general requires a fair suspension of disbelief as the murders continue, and while that's fine for the genre, by the last chapter I was actually rolling my eyes.

I agree with another review that suggested the POV shift may have been more effective if the authors had stuck to the more traditional form of interspersing the two throughout. Not sure it would have ultimately made the narrative stronger or not? Maybe, though, it would have made the read feel less like a (failed) formal experiment on a fairly pedestrian plot.

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## **Anna says**

I've read all their books & love them. These first got me into murder mysteries /crime, as they're not gory, more like psychological thrillers.

Very clever idea about telling the story from 2 points of view & extremely interesting to observe the same scene from the 2 different angles.

I was disappointed at the last few pages, it didn't seem quite finished.

Enjoyed reading an excerpt from the next book at the end & the interview with the authors.

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## **comfort says**

### **AUDIOBOOK**

I really like the narrator of this story, it added to the enjoyment for me.

A bunch of "friends" sharing a house seemingly all is well until our heroine seems to be attracting dead people (not ghosts). Several people she either knows or is a few degrees separated from are dying violently and there are similarities.

There are lots of dynamics happening between all the house-mates and life in the shared house is not as idyllic as it first appears, but then they are all (mostly) growing older and really their situation cannot go on like it is, as they are not uni students anymore.

Of course the police suspect her as it is very suspicious that she is "stumbling across" dead bodies.

I didn't guess the ending til near the end, which is always a good sign.

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## **Keri says**

### **3 STARS - I LIKED IT AUDIOBOOK**

This is the first book by this author that I've read and I enjoyed it. A lot of reviewers for this book state this isn't the best Nicci French book so I am encouraged because I enjoyed this one. It's of course a murder mystery set in London and there is a house full of people who we figure are the most likely to have done the crimes. I couldn't figure out exactly who might have done it until it was revealed to us... at about 2/3 into the book the POV changes from Astrid to the murderer. At that point we go back and in an abridged way we get the story over again but from this new POV. I didn't really like this, it was at this point that I felt a little bored during parts. It might have been better to alternate between the two POV's throughout the book instead of going through it all again toward the end.

There was only one other thing that kind of bothered me, I wouldn't say Astrid was TSTL (to stupid to live) but I felt she was way too unconcerned about the situation at times, like she didn't really grasp the severity of her dilemma, but that was only in a few places.

Overall, I enjoyed the story and I will try another book by this author.

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## **Donna says**

Nicci French always does a good psychological thriller but this one didn't seem as tense as previous ones I have read. I wasn't overly bothered about the characters, it seemed like there were a couple too many to actually get to know them.

The book is essentially in tow halves. The first half is the story of Astrid, a bike courier who is linked to three murders, although she didn't commit them she just kept finding the bodies! The second half is a retelling of the same story but through the eyes of the murderer, starting with revealing who it is. So halfway through you already know who did it and you are just getting the explanation of why and how.

I have another of her books on my to-read pile, I hope it is better than this one.

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## **Christie says**

I can honestly say I've been a Nicci French (husband and wife team, Sean French and Nicci Gerrard) for over a decade, but I may have to quit them after reading *Until It's Over*.

Astrid Bell is in her early 20s and works as a bike messenger in London. She lives in a huge house with university pals Pippa and her former boyfriend (and owner of the house) Miles. They share the space with

Mick, Dario, Davy and Owen. They're a family, in a sense.

*Until It's Over* opens with an accident. Astrid is riding home from work and is almost at her house when someone opens their car door and Astrid goes flying off her bike. The woman in the car is a neighbour and she's mortified at the accident she's caused. Astrid is unhurt except for minor cuts and bruises. But later, the woman turns up dead. And hers is just the first murder connected to Astrid Bell.

*Until It's Over* is supposed to be a mystery. About two thirds of the way through, though, the narration changes. Instead of following Astrid's first person narration, we suddenly find ourselves in the killer's head. I guess this was so we could understand their motivation. Um. The killer is Crazy.

Nicci French is usually such a dependable author -books that are page turning, psychologically complex and fun. *Until It's Over* was none of those things. I didn't believe in (or care about) any of the characters. It wasn't suspenseful. I often felt myself shaking my head in disbelief at the way characters interacted each other in a sort of oh please way.

I think if you've never read Nicci French – you absolutely should. But don't read this. Read *Killing Me Softly* (which remains my favourite) or *The Safe House*.

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### **Meagan Thompson says**

I found this book by sheer luck on discount at BAM and am so glad that I did. Very rarely does a written story have so many characters that you really get to KNOW during the course of a novel. You don't just know your protagonist or antagonist, every character is crucial. The characters are pieced together with many layers thus making them more real, more believable on a large scale.

The story. I absolutely tore through this book like my life depended on it. The questions that arose were not always quickly answered nor were they what you would expect. I stayed on the proverbial edge of my seat throughout this story. The descriptions were simple and realistic and I am still overwhelmed by the final outcome. I LOVE that you don't have to wait until the END of the book to know what is truly happening.

2/3 of the way into the book you will either be shocked or angry. Probably both. The glimpse into the mind of our villain is disturbing and fascinating.

I don't have time to express all of the good feels I have for this book nor do I want to spoil it for anyone. I've recommended it for years and will continue to do so. If you want a novel that grabs your attention and refuses to let you go, this is the novel for you.

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### **Eveline says**

In het verleden las ik al vaker boeken geschreven door Nicci French. De stijl beviel me wel en doorgaans zijn de boeken vlot leesbaar.

Bij aanvang van dit boek bleef ik wat op mijn honger zitten, het kwam wat chicklit-achtig over, waarschijnlijk door het feit dat de samenwonende jongvolwassenen vrij centraal stonden. Toch werd mijn interesse voldoende gewekt om verder te lezen. Het leuke is wel dat je na enige tijd een tweede deel in het boek ontdekt, waar je vanuit de beleving van de moordenaar leest. Het allerlaatste, maar zeer korte derde deel biedt dan weer weinig meerwaarde.

Leuk tussendoortje!

