



# The Girl Who Broke the Rules

*Marnie Riches*

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## **The Girl Who Broke the Rules** Marnie Riches

The pulse-pounding new thriller from Marnie Riches. For anyone who loves Jo Nesbo and Stieg Larsson, this book is for you!

When the mutilated bodies of two sex-workers are found in Amsterdam, Chief Inspector van den Bergen must find a brutal murderer before the red-light-district erupts into panic.

Georgina McKenzie is conducting research into pornography among the UK's most violent sex-offenders but once van den Bergen calls on her criminology expertise, she is only too happy to come running.

The rising death toll forces George and van den Bergen to navigate the labyrinthine worlds of Soho strip-club sleaze and trans-national human trafficking. And with the case growing ever more complicated, George must walk the halls of Broadmoor psychiatric hospital, seeking advice from the brilliant serial murderer, Dr. Silas Holm...

## **The Girl Who Broke the Rules Details**

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Author : Marnie Riches

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## From Reader Review The Girl Who Broke the Rules for online ebook

### Steve Sutherland says

I found the previous book in this series, "The Girl Who Wouldn't Die" a little predictable, although it was a very good read. I remember thinking at the time that I hoped the next installment would be equally as good to read but less predictable. I have to say, I wasn't disappointed. I thought early on that I might have figured out who the murderer was. However, I couldn't have been more wrong! Added to the litter of dead bodies across The Netherlands and England, there was also George's love triangle with Ad, her student boyfriend from Amsterdam and Detective Paul Van Den Bergen of the Amsterdam police.

An excellent read that really made me want to read more and more from this author and about these characters. Along with the killer plot which has enough red herrings and twists and turns to keep you interested, there's the added bonus of a cliff hanger ending that is making me really want to read the next episode in George McKenzie's story. I've pre-ordered the next book in the series which was billed on Amazon as being the final book in the series, however I did see a twitter post by Marnie Riches today which hinted that she may be reconsidering that decision as the series is so popular. I do hope that there are more adventures to come.

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### Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

This is book two in the series. I've got to admit I jumped right in and read this before book one. Although this can be read as a standalone I think reading book one would have given me more background to these characters.

Georgina (George) is studying for her PhD in UK while cleaning a strip club at night. Paul Van den Bergen is a chief inspector in Amsterdam. Paul asks George to go back to Amsterdam to tell with a case he's working on.

If your looking for a fast paced thriller then I definitely recommend this story. Be warned there are graphic parts.

Wasn't too keen on the ending. Hope we don't have to wait too long for book three. Will certainly be reading book one before reading more of this series.

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### Richard says

The second of three books that re-unites a young English woman with her Dutch detective friend in Amsterdam. He is an old fashioned copper in what is basically a police procedural; she is a post graduate student researching the criminal mind and serial killers.

Their paths cross when a series of gruesome murders spills over into the UK.

Not an original plot but brought to fruition with such love and care it makes for compelling reading.

The sexual chemistry is tangible between the main characters. Will they get it on and if so how will it influence their caring relationship.

I loved this interaction and the comedic elements throughout that lighten some of the more gory aspects while never distracting from the horrific crimes described.

For this novel again the author writes a strong cast of characters that compliment the engaging story. She has hit upon a way of writing that is both raw in its realism but none judgemental its reflections on the perpetrators. There is no pantomime villains, the evil exists within the society these people live within. So the violence and its aftermath is only adjusted to with the humanity and integrity of the investigators. As usual no-one is above the law and out of reach of the killers. No-one will be the same person if they survive the police enquiry, reach the final page and love will not run smoothly it would seem. Another terrific read and thrilling story of the darker elements of life which in this book is only a page turn away.

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### **Sue McQuaide Kitt says**

What an amazing and gripping sequel to The Girl Who Broke the Rules. In this book we travel between London, Amsterdam and Germany and there is a thrill a minute. Georgina McKenzie is conducting research into pornography among the UK's most violent sex-offenders but once Paul van den Bergen calls on her criminology expertise, she is only too happy to come running.

There are quite a few familiar characters such as the Amsterdam police team and dear old Ad. There are also some really nasty sickos in this book as the team trace down the killers.

I love Det. Paul van den Bergen's character which is crying out for the love and caring of a good woman. Georgina is as tough and hardened as ever, with a mouth that can shut down the toughest of them all and is not afraid to tell it as it is.

There is quite a cliff-hanger of an ending and I hope I am correct in guessing what happens in the beginning of book 3 which I am looking forward to.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for this exciting ARC which I highly recommend.

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### **Sarah says**

The Girl Who Broke the Rules is the sequel to The Girl Who Wouldn't Die.

Again, based mainly between London and Amsterdam, The Girl Who Broke the Rules is as dark and gritty and even more twisted than the first book.

The parts of the story where George (Georgina) visit Silas reminded me very much of Silence of the Lambs. Silas is a very complex character who likes to play with peoples minds. He certainly sent chills up my spine when reading chapters with him in.

Even though George is back in London it isn't long before she's flitting between both cities to help her old pal detective Paul Van Den Bergen.

I must admit to not being too keen on the direction that the relationship between George and Paul takes. George is a very tough girl who hasn't had the best of upbringings and even though I can appreciate her character I find it very hard to relate to her. Paul is actually quite a loveable character, he is quite messed up also yet I just wanted to reach out and mother him.

For anyone who loved the first book you certainly won't be disappointed with the sequel. The author has

delivered yet another gripping read that leaves you wanting more.

Many thanks to NetGalley and HarperCollins UK, Avon for an Advanced Readers Copy of this book.

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### **Sean Talbot says**

This was one of the best sequels I have ever read. The follow up book was simply amazing and one that I will long remember.

George McKenzie is a great character that has shown a lot of growth in each of the books. I love the fact that she isn't cold to people even with her background. She is a marvel to read about and has such a caring heart. I always want a happy ending.

Paul Van den Bergen is a great character who is a police officer in Amsterdam. He seems so crusty but that hides the heart of gold.

The only thing I don't like is the ending being a bit of a cliffhanger. I want to know what happens.

Thank you for such a wonderful book to read it was truly one of the best of the year.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for allowing me to read and review this book. It was a pleasure to read this book and to see the growth of George.

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### **Kindle Ninja says**

Reviewing The Girl Who Broke The Rules is hard.

Let me explain.

All the elements I love in a crime thriller are masterfully depicted against the backdrop of the seedy underbelly of Amsterdam.

The suspense is relentless. The characters unyielding.

Shifting timelines and switching points of view offer reprieve from the most gruesome depiction of madness and perversion.

The feverish storytelling never lets up and the palpable sense of danger and menace lingers like a shadow with a scythe.

Then there's Georgina McKenzie. George. The feisty and sometimes irreverent heroine who brings emotional turmoil to an already besieged Chief Inspector Paul van den Bergen, who's at his breaking point. For a heroine, she's not all that likeable. Therein lies the rub. It's difficult to reconcile the fact that I love this sequel so much, but have a hard time "liking" George.

But liking a main character is never a rule to enjoying a twisted macabre tale. If it were, I certainly broke it (ha! See what I did there?)

Likeable or not, George is a compelling character that not only adds intrigue to an already twisted story, but also thrusts readers into a literary quandary: "Does a character have to be likeable?"

Combining a dark, twisty plot with skillful writing makes *The Girl Who Broke The Rules* an absolutely gripping thriller!

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### **Book Addict Shaun says**

Despite nearly every single crime blogger I know raving about Marnie Riches' first novel, *The Girl Who Wouldn't Die*, I sadly never got around to reading it before *The Girl Who Broke the Rules* which I was a little disappointed about because this book was brilliant and Marnie Riches has a very bright future ahead of her in the genre.

The first thing I look for in a new crime series is for something that sets it apart from all the other books in the genre. Crime fiction is a crowded genre but occasionally an author comes along and delivers a book which is completely fresh and original, but which at the same time keeps a sense of what makes a crime story so addictive in the first place, and adds to the story all those things that made us fans of the genre in the first place. From the book's Amsterdam setting, to the writing to the brilliant characterisation, everything about *The Girl Who Broke the Rules* was spot on for me, and I can't wait to go back and read Marnie's debut novel.

In terms of the story I am loathe to reveal too much and so will stick with my obligatory blurb insertion for those that might not know what the story is about. The mutilated bodies of two sex-workers are found in Amsterdam, and Chief Inspector van den Bergen is under pressure to find their killer before the red light district erupts into panic. He calls upon Georgina McKenzie to offer fresh insight into the case and because of their history, she's more than happy to accept. When another body turns up elsewhere, things get a whole lot more complicated for the duo and it falls to Georgina to enter Broadmoor psychiatric hospital in search of an inmate who just might be able to offer some help.

My favourite crime author is Chris Carter and one of his most recent books, *An Evil Mind*, was a real character study into a truly damaged human mind. He created a character that instilled genuine fear into the reader because of how real the portrayal felt. I got that exact same feeling with the character that Marnie has created in Dr. Silas Holm, the serial murderer that Georgina has been sent to interview in Broadmoor. I like the fact that Marnie chose to set part of the book there, rather than creating a completely fictional version of a psychiatric hospital. It's an atmospheric read in places, helped along by the fact that you know the author has clearly done their research.

I love short chapters that get you straight into the action and Marnie wastes no time at all in getting the story going. It's a multi-layered mystery with enough unsavoury characters and twists and turns to keep even the most seasoned wannabe detective guessing and at times, it is a very dark and gruesome read which for me, is always the best kind. Each chapter is titled with where that particular chapter is taking place and that helped me to visualise things better, and I had the book read in no time at all so if *The Girl Who Broke the Rules* is on your TBR, please ensure that you have a good few hours free before picking it up! 2015 has been a fantastic year for us crime fans, and it continues with this release from Marnie Riches. Highly recommended.

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### **Emma says**

I love George. She's clever, determined, sexually free, modern, difficult- all the things that make her feel so

much more like a real woman. Like so many people I know, she even has (in my opinion) a very dubious taste in men, but as I would with any friend, I let her get on with it and she'll have to learn on her own. As long as she's happy and all that...

The plot in this instalment was definitely better than the first, as was the writing, but despite my serious respect for the author's creation of her main character, this series hasn't grabbed my imagination. I felt it in the first book, but thought it might just be first novel vibes. After the second, i'm in no rush to read the third.

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## **Suze Lavender says**

Chief Inspector of the Amsterdam police van den Bergen has to solve a complicated murder case. There are two bodies, women with a link to the sex industry. He calls Georgina McKenzie because he thinks she can help. She's doing a PhD in criminology and pornography is her field of expertise. George wants nothing more than to go back to Amsterdam and she decides to help him, no matter what it will cost her. Together they're trying to make sense of the murders. Unfortunately the killer doesn't stop and their case becomes more and more complicated. The same goes for the relationship between George and van den Bergen... Will they come out of this horrible mess unharmed?

The Girl Who Broke the Rules is the second book about George and van den Bergen. I love this unique duo and think they are a great team. Their case is so big that it's difficult to make sense of it. I couldn't wait to find out more and couldn't stop reading. I kept wanting to know more and ever since I finished reading this book I only have one wish and that is to read the next book in the series. Marnie Riches is a great writer who knows what she's writing about. She chooses more than one country as her setting and it works. I love the international aspect and reading about Amsterdam through her eyes is fabulous.

I really enjoyed both the suspense and the abundance of gripping aspects in this book. The story has a clever construction and I like that every character is educated. This is a high level thriller. For me the story couldn't be long enough, I didn't want to stop reading. I liked the end and think the cliffhanger is fantastic. The Girl Who Broke the Rules is intelligent, filled with tension, moving and entertaining, it's a more than complete package that I highly recommend.

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## **Michelle Ryles says**

After The Girl Who Wouldn't Die I was eager to read what was next in store for George McKenzie and Paul van den Bergen after the little spark of sexual tension was ignited. Although you could read this as a standalone, I welcomed the characters as I would old friends and feel that it is beneficial for full enjoyment of this book to know the history that was set out so breathtakingly in The Girl Who Wouldn't Die.

Marnie Riches writes with such a skill that grabs you round the neck and draws you into the book, although there were moments that were a bit squeamish - I do wish there was an equivalent of hiding round the back of the sofa when reading! I had so many visual scenes in my head as I was reading this, and the Amsterdam setting is so colourful and vibrant that I could almost hear the hoot of the horns and the chatter on the street.

Again, we have another fast paced thriller as George races against time to identify the killer causing havoc, not just in Amsterdam but across the channel. My reading speed increased the further I got through the book until I was left breathless at the end. All that was missing was a massive 'TO BE CONTINUED' and I for one, cannot wait for The Girl Who Walked in the Shadows to complete this outstanding trilogy.

I received this e-book from the publisher, HarperCollins, via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## Marina says

\* Copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\*

Amsterdam. Black woman, naked, her lifeless eyes staring in the unknown. Her corpse is ripped off, her internal organs missing. Paul van den Bergen has one more murder to solve.

London. Georgina (George) McKenzie is in psychiatric hospital observing a patient, a serial killer. She works on her doctorate in criminology, has a special sense for details, what makes her more than a good detective. She is civil, but she is connected with van den Bergen, and he calls her to help him to solve the murder of the African girl in Amsterdam.

When second body appears, ripped off like an unzipped bag, it is more than obvious that it is a work of a serial killer. Both victims are murdered in similar way, both are from the streets and nobody misses them.

Van den Bergen and George are starting one hell of a journey to find the serial killer who kills people from Amsterdam to London. The lead will take them to the underground world of children's pornography, slave trading and prostitution. It will take them to the finest and most respective surgeons in the world. From one end of the line to the another, when it comes to the twisted human mind, there are no limits, there are no boundaries. Still unhealed from the previous case, van den Bergen and George have to smooth their differences and join the forces in order not just to find the murderer and stop the killings, but to heal their own wounds, physical and emotional.

The relationship between van den Bergen and George is constantly on-off. She has a boyfriend, Ad, but she has a crush on van den Bergen and he has a crush on her. But his consciousness tells him that she is his daughter's age. There is chemistry, definitely, but also many unanswered questions between them. Each one of them lives in his/hers own bubble, not letting the other one in. As the story goes, the differences between them are getting smaller and this relationship is definitely going somewhere.

This is book two from the series and I feel sorry not starting from the first book. The second one can definitely stand alone, but I would like to know how it all started.

„The Girl Who Broke the Rules“ is one hell of a book. There are scenes in the story so tensed that are very hard for reading. Brutal, sadistic, violent, fulfilled with creepy details. Some of them were very hard for me to read. Ms. Riches has written a psychological thriller that won't let you sleep at night. Creepy, scary, violent and emotional, will take you on a journey that you'll never forget. A new turn-over on every page, a lead that goes to a dead end, a creepy scene where new murder is going to happen. This story has it all! Totally recommended! Attention, it will leave you sleepless for couple of nights because you won't be able to put it down till finish reading it!

My opinion: 5 / 5.

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## Christine says

George McKenzie is back and I am celebrating! I missed her.

This year, I discovered the award winning author Marnie Riches and her wonderful creation George. Thank you Twitter for your part in this. Anyone who has not read the first George McKenzie book, should be ashamed of themselves. This is a MUST READ crime series, with an absolutely compelling heroine in George. The books have a lovely European air about them, with gritty crime at their centre. This is exactly the kind of crime I want to read.

In the second story, George is now studying for her doctorate and is well on her way to becoming a Criminologist. She has to interview the sinister Dr. Silas Holms, a psychopath locked away in Broadmoor. Paul van den Bergen contacts George asking for help with a particularly vicious series of murders. Soon George is back in her beloved Amsterdam offering her criminal expertise and getting into all sorts of trouble.

George is just as fantastic as ever, with her insight into evil and her down to earth commentary. She is tough, with a caring heart. I was fascinated by her interactions with Silas Holms, the creepy evil psychopath. Very much echoing Hannibal Lector/Clarice Starling, Riches pays homage to 'Silence of the Lambs'; as George meets Silas. I love that kind of dynamic. Her love life is just as complicated; with a long distance boyfriend and a serious attraction to another man, van den Bergen. Van den Bergen is eccentric and a very decent sort of bloke. He seems to shine more in this book. I was willing a happy ending for George. This is crime, so I don't want too happy. A little bit happy works for me!

This is seriously one of my favourite series of the year. Confidently written with the kind of dark tone, I crave. Marnie Riches is a writer to watch. She was born to write crime and she is undoubtedly up there with the best.

After the brutal and shocking ending, I am impatient for The Girl Who Walked in the Shadows. Give me more George NOW!

Recommended! For crime fans everywhere!

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### **Victoria Goldman says**

Reading The Girl Who Broke The Rules was like coming back to an old friend. I think this book is even better than the first in the series. It can be read as a standalone. But if you haven't read the first book (The Girl Who Wouldn't Die), I suggest you read this before The Girl Who Broke The Rules to help you understand the main characters' backgrounds.

Yet again, the reader is transported between the dual locations of London and Amsterdam, following an investigation into a series of gruesome crimes. George is in London researching pornography among violent sex offenders for her PhD, but a disturbing case leads her to join Chief Inspector Paul van den Bergen in Amsterdam. Women are being brutally butchered, and certain evidence leads the police to suspect that this could be linked with human trafficking.

Both George and van den Bergen's personal lives are a mess. George's relationship with her boyfriend Ad is in jeopardy and van den Bergen is paranoid about his health. George is brash and hard as nails with plenty of attitude, a consequence of her difficult upbringing, and very different to sensitive van den Bergen (who is old enough to be her father). Yet not only are they friends and work colleagues, but it's clear that they are attracted to one another too.

The writing is fast-paced and highly readable with some graphic and gory descriptions. As the story progresses, the tension builds up and the body count rises. I had no idea about the identity of the murderer,

and the culprit was a complete surprise.

The ending is also shocking and totally unexpected. Be warned that it will leave you hanging. It's left me desperate to read the third installment.

I received an Advance Reader Copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Mary Johnson says**

The second in the trilogy with yet another complex European plot, this is truly a book of our times. Vulnerable asylum seekers who become sex workers, baby mothers (and sometimes worse) are just part of the victim list in this fast paced murder story.

The main character has advanced her education since book one but not lost either her talents or her quixotic nature. Her 'loving' and crime connected family rub shoulders with her mentor and return to make relevant contributions to this cast of characters and crimes.

Yet again, Ms Riches has taxed the memory of this senior by the cast and plots that abound. Yet again, I cannot wait for the sequel but my chest-hammering heart is glad of the respite! Regrets? There are more books than three in these characters, who could slip nicely into plots about everyday serial killing baddies and still be engaging - without the memory challenge!

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