



Tú te vas, tú te quedas

M.J. Arlidge

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Het meisje was amper nog in leven toen ze het bos uit kwam lopen. Het verhaal van haar ontvoering was donkerder dan de meest verschrikkelijke nachtmerrie. Maar alles wat ze zei was waar. Elk gruwelijk detail. Een aantal dagen later wordt een tweede in shock verkerend slachtoffer gevonden en ontstaat er een patroon. In tweetallen worden mensen ontvoerd, vastgehouden en uitgehongerd. Vervolgens krijgen ze een duivels dilemma voorgelegd: doden of gedood worden.

Inspecteur Helen Grace en haar team weten dat ze jacht maken op een ingenieuze psychopaat die zijn slachtoffers gebroken en vol schuldgevoel achterlaat. Niet alleen dienen ze als zijn visitekaartje, ze zijn ook de moordenaars. De slachtoffers lijken lukraak gekozen, de plaats van het misdrijf zorgvuldig uitgekiend. Iets moet alle slachtoffers met elkaar verbinden...

Tú te vas, tú te quedas Details

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From Reader Review Tú te vas, tú te quedas for online ebook

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

"On the floor by the phone you'll find a gun. It has one bullet in it. For Sam or for yourself. That is the price of your freedom. You must kill to live. Do you want to live, Amy?"

I've seen this concept done a few times already. Where the killer traps the people together with no food or water, gives them the only way out is through killing scenario. It's been done better with "Saw" and an episode of "Criminal Minds".

This book tries to move fast. Several characters get to be trapped in this hell but the book is moving so fast that you never get attached enough to care about them. It repeats itself so many times that I got bored.

I think the whole purpose of the book was to introduce the super/so called awesomeness of the main character Helen Grace. After all, now there is going to be a series. I think I'll skip those.

The story still could have been original (view spoiler) but it jumped all over the place. You would start the chapter at one point of view and then suddenly it was someone else's point next. I hate that shit.

So if you want a basic run of the mill thriller this one might be for you. I think there are better ones out there.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

I think I am going to love this series. I have heard so many great things about this series. This first book was just average to me. It wasn't anything that really made me intrigued. The worst part in reading a series is you have to read every book to get the whole experience of the series. Even though this book was just average, I am going to read the rest of the series. I liked Helen Grace and her character was done very well.

The title, Eeny Meeny, indicates that some hard choices are going to be made, but this one is incredibly hard. Arlidge begins with two victims in an unknown location. They have been drugged and dumped with no food, no water, no plumbing, no light. Once they awaken and finally give up yelling for help, a phone on the floor rings. One picks up the phone and is asked, "Do you want to live? One of you will kill the other and will be set free. The gun is on the floor near the phone." The phone is disabled as far as the victims being able to place a call. The victims go through psychological torture as they go from being revolted by the idea of killing or being killed, but eventually the choice is made.

Helen Grace is the Detective Inspector whose team is charged with resolving the grisly case, and too soon there is another missing pair, and then another. I thought this book was great in the beginning then happened to go flat and slow moving with clues gradually unveiled page by page, chapter by chapter. Can this possibly be random? Helen doesn't think so but the link is elusive. The reader learns tidbits about Helen's incredibly sordid and dysfunctional childhood, which explain her tendency to be a loner socially and a tireless detective, but could it possibly provide the link to these random kidnappings with such grisly outcomes? The questions, and the tension, lasts till the very last page of this novel. Detective Inspector Helen Grace has faced down her own demons on her rise to the top. As she leads the investigation to hunt down this unseen monster, she learns that it may be the survivors - living calling cards - who hold the key to the case.

There is more from Helen Grace, a tough and capable professional tormented by a dark side buried deep in

her past. She and her team are all likable and capable, but the team definitely looks to Helen for inspiration and leadership.

Lisa says

Eeny Meeny by MJ Aldridge is a dark creepy yes i said CREEPY thriller that had me spell bound i could not put this one down.

The story starts in a town South hampton where two people at a time are kidnapped & told to choose which one of them will die, How could someone choose?

A girl emerged from the woods barely alive her story was beyond belief but it was TRUE every single word of it.

Days later another desperate escapee is found & a pattern starts to emerge , whoever is kidnapping the victims has a grudge against DI Helen Grace.

WOULD YOU RATHER LOSE YOUR LIFE OR YOUR MIND?

DI Grace has faced down her own demons on her rise to the top as she leads the investigation to hunt down the psychopath, she finds that it may be the survivors living calling cards who hold the key to the case.

Meanwhile as she digs further & further into the case charlie & Mark are the next on the perps hitlist will they survive or will bothy die by the sword!!

I loved this book so much the characterisation of DI Helen Grace was wonderfully written & the rest of her team were really believable . She was a strong no nonsense woman that lived the police force.

A great debut for me have the next on my wishlist.

Kacey - Traveling Sister says

Book one in a very successful series, starts out with a bang!

We are introduced to Detective Inspector Helen Grace. Both fierce and fearless, she leads her pack of detective's with a strong-arm and iron will. She keeps most everyone in her life at arm's length not allowing herself to give or feel closeness or love. So when the inevitable darkness creeps in, she has her own unique way to "punish herself" keeping the demons at bay. Temporarily.

The team is called in to investigate a series of missing couples that are given an impossible choice in order to gain their freedom. Disturbing mind-games being doled out by someone seemingly with a hidden agenda. So why does Helen feel these crimes are directed at her?

A chilling read that takes you down that dark road asking yourself the question, "What would I do? Can I ever really trust someone?"

Be prepared to feel a little uncomfortable...perhaps a bit squeamish.

With high expectations I'm anxiously and quickly moving on to book 2 - **Pop Goes the Wiesel.**

A Traveling Sister read with Brenda!
Thank you for the recommendation Susanne!

Miriam Smith says

"Eeny Meeny" by M. J. Arlidge is the first in the Helen Grace series and wow! - what an eye opener to grab your attention. I was advised to start this exciting series from the beginning and I'm glad I did. Each book takes you through the career of D.I. Helen Grace and the murders and serial killers she encounters in her work and this first one in the series introduces you to her intriguing personality and to why she is the tough, no nonsense cop she has become. I anticipate all of the stories will be as excellent as this one and as Helen's career progresses you'll want to know of her from the very beginning, keeping the timeline in order. I've never encountered a policewoman quite like her and I did endear to her by the end, she is exceedingly unusual, in a way you can only discover if you read the book. The storyline is very unique and complements the introduction of Helen seamlessly. I was engrossed from start to finish and really can't wait to read more. I thoroughly enjoyed this dark and very twisted police procedural, I found it very hard to put down and I will make sure I read every book in this exciting series.

"Eeny Meeny" is everything I want and have come to expect from a serial killing/police procedural, in parts quite gruesome and distressing but with professional and polished writing and diverse and interesting characters.

Short, sharp and pacy chapters keep you racing through the pages, I highly recommend this author but agree that for maximum enjoyment you should start with this the first one (though of course this one can be read as a standalone) in an incredibly compelling and addictive series.

5 fabulous stars!

Laura says

The first in a multiple part series featuring detective inspector Helen Grace; this is a promising debut with all that good cop thrillers are known for. The author delivers what the synopsis suggests - and more.

The story is well paced and the chapters are kept short to ensure the readers attention is held throughout. Although this was quite different to the usual style of thriller I read, I enjoyed it nonetheless and felt Helen's character was well developed. As ever, it's pleasing to read a thriller with a strong female protagonist.

Although there are multiple characters to keep track of, the authors writing is well thought out enough to make it easy for the reader to decipher. There are a few red herrings as one might expect of this genre, and the mystery element of the story keeps you guessing until the big reveal. The ending is both satisfying and frustrating at the same time, which of course entices the reader to read the next instalment of the Helen Grace series - which I fully intend on doing.

A challenging, thought provoking read ideal for fans of murder mystery.

karen says

i was approved for this book through netgalley at a time when i had a bunch of books i had to read for that

program i read for, and right before i went home for easter. i brought three "litrtry" books with me, and this one on my NOOK, thinking vacation = lots of reading time, and i could plow through all of them no problem.

it didn't quite work out that way, as i had many personal-life traumas suddenly obstacling my path at the same time, and i wasn't able to concentrate on any of the books i was "supposed" to be reading. litrtry just wasn't cutting it for my diminished capacities of concentration. so i picked this one up, and it was exactly right for the state i was in: fast-paced, not intellectually challenging, with an engrossing plot and good squirmy violent bits.

it was just what i needed, but it's not the kind of book that's going to stay with you for long. it's a perfectly solid british police procedural, and great escapist candy for your brain, but it's not changing the map of police procedurals or anything. this is the first book in a series, but there's not that much time spent introducing the characters. in fact, i had to check to make sure that this was indeed the first book because there seemed to be backstory and character relationships implied without being explained. the relevant details eventually come to light, and it's preferable to have it done this way instead of just an info-dump of "here are the characters and their hang-ups," but at first i was a bit confused.

so, it's one of those passive serial killer-type novels, where people are put into elaborate "traps" with instructions from a voyeuristic psychopath, à la *saw*. in this case, the mastermind selects two individuals who are drugged, abducted, put in a locked room with a gun containing a single bullet and ... left there. no food, no water, no further instructions, just two people slowly being pared down psychologically and reduced to their most primal instinct: survival at all costs. as soon as the gun is used and a corpse is cooling on the floor, the doors are opened and the newly-created murderer is released into whatever scarred and traumatized existence they can manage for themselves after having made a terrible choice: my life is more important than your life.

detective inspector helen grace is tasked with stopping this killer before they strike again, but she's also gotta deal with the media, the troubling behavior of the other detectives on her team, and her own personal demons. and when it starts to become clear that the victims have a connection to her own personal and professional past, the emotional toll increases and the need to solve the case becomes even more important.

i am a huge fan of elaborate death-games, so this is right up my alley, but unlike others of its kind, there's really only *one* elaborate death game, repeated over and over. and while the tension escalates because of the tightening spiral of closeness the victims have to grace, after a while i was just like "oh, *this* again. and it's written with intensity and horror, as thirst, hunger, cold, boredom and desperation break down the victims, but it lacks the punch that things like *saw* and *se7en* have, because it's a personal vendetta, without that satisfying philosophical drive motivating the killer to bring it home to the reader/viewer, the thing that allows you to assess your own life-choices.

but it does what it's meant to do: you have some horrible murders, some red herrings, plenty of fear and doubt and guilt, and a satisfying conclusion that leaves everyone a little damaged. it's a fine piece of dark entertainment, and then you can get back to some more smarty-pants books if you want. or not. you do what your reading heart tells you to do.

Phrynne says

Isn't it great when you just stumble upon another really good series by accident! I can tell this one is going to be a really, really good series.

Helen Grace is outwardly an extremely capable and talented woman who always does her job and does it well. Inside she is damaged by earlier experiences, as main characters in crime books usually are! Helen however does not soothe her emotions with alcohol as is customary. She takes a different and very personal path.

There are a lot of deaths in Eeny Meeny and they are beyond gruesome. I tried not to absorb some of what I was reading especially as I have a bit of a phobia about maggots. This is not a book to be read while you are eating. The success of the book is due to the well described police work and the tension that builds as the murders proceed. By the end I was racing through the pages as I so wanted the last two victims to survive.

Altogether a very rewarding read and the next book is already on my list!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Two people are kidnapped, locked in a room with a gun and only one of them will walk out alive. Detective Helen Grace must find out who the kidnapper is, but as more people get kidnapped the hunt becomes more and more intense as the police try to figure out what links the kidnappings together...

I usually find no problems with reading books out of order nowadays. But, in this case, I kind of regret that I read *Pop Goes the Weasel* before I read *Eeny Meeny*. Why? Because a bit of the enjoyment of reading this book is gone because I knew who the person is who is behind the kidnappings. Don't get me wrong, the book was great, but I knew what would happen at the end of the book and that's just a takes away some of the thrills of the ending when everything is revealed. Despite that, I enjoyed reading about the hunt for the kidnapper.

I'm glad I read this because now I understand Helen and Charlies strained relationship in the sequel. I also look forward to reading more books in this series since it has become a favorite of mine.

Leo says

Reading this book reminded me why I don't usually read books like this. They reminded me that humans are so fucked up and life is so depressing.

But that said, it was a gripping book with quite a few unexpected twists up to the very end and it did live up to the premise. So, I do recommend it but now I'm going to watch cat videos on YouTube because I need something to cheer me up.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

“When you’re a prisoner, the days seem endless and hope is the first thing to die.”

Boy I *really* don't have many good things to say about this one. Let's start with the most glaring problem – the entire plot was very much

The “game” begins when two people are abducted. Once the captives wake up from the sedative they’ve been given they find they are trapped *somewhere* and left with only a gun and a single bullet. It is up to one of them to murder the other, at which time the survivor will be freed.

Upon the release of the first survivor Detective Helen Grace and the local police force come on the scene – only to realize this will be an endless game of more people going missing and more sole survivors emerging from captivity unless they can figure out who is the mastermind behind the abductions.

According to the blurb, *Eeny Meeny* was going to be "*dark, twisted, thought-provoking*"

Maybe it will be for some of you, but for me it was

The main problem I had was this was a book that didn’t require a whole lot of pages in order to tell the story. There are books that demand four or five or eight hundred pages for the telling, but a far-fetched mystery is rarely one. Not to mention the choppy paragraph style. A book with 420 pages **should not** have 100+ chapters. And if it does? The breakdown of said chapters needs to be thought out a lot more than this – multiple narrators, locations, flashbacks, etc. all contained in the same chapter made for very little cohesion.

There was also **waaaaay** too much talk and not enough action. When you’re not only dealing with a serial killer, but one who gets off on torturing the victims with both the “only one will get out alive” scenario as well as leaving them with zero food or water things could have gotten *really* twisted. Instead, there was one tasty little scene that made me want to lose my lunch . . .

along with a ton of filler. I get that the main point of this story was to introduce/be able to continue on with the “Helen Grace” character, but when said character breaks **ALL** protocol, the chances of her continuing her career as a detective would be slim to nill

And dare I forgot to mention that ending and the “whodunit.” Seriously???? The reader might not have been privy to enough information to figure out the bad guy, but for criminy sake Helen Keller Grace should have known who it was almost immediately. Way to be an awesome detective . . .

ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, NetGalley!

Susanne Strong says

5 Stars.

A Nail Biter. In more ways than one.

“Eeny Meeny” is twisted and somewhat depraved. And for some crazy reason I absolutely loved it. DI Helen Grace is one tough copper. She has been through it all and she has seen the absolute worst of it, or so she thought.

Amy and Sam hitchhike home one dark, cold night, when they are picked up by a woman in a van. They are thrilled at first, and then they wake up somewhere else. In an old dive pool out in the middle of nowhere. They find a phone and a gun. The phone rings. Amy picks up. The gun has one bullet in it - for Sam or herself. It is time to choose, who lives and who dies. And that is how the game is played. Who is it worse for? The one who chooses to kill or be killed? Now that is a loaded question, pun intended.

DI Helen Grace and her team race against time to find the missing pair and then, it happens yet again. Is it random or are the individuals connected in some way and if so how?

Helen Grace is a brilliant copper and she is also one heck of a woman. Tough and extremely disciplined and fallible as well. Her outlets are not the norm, at least not as far as I am concerned. That being said, I liked her a lot. Helen is a survivor and she thrives in the face of adversity.

For me, I couldn't tear through this book fast enough. It was like I was eating a bag of potato chips, where I couldn't eat just one chip. With “Eeny Meeny” I wanted to read this book as quickly as possible so I could start book two. M. J. Aldridge created a twisty turning crazy thriller here that had me grasping for breath waiting for its stunning conclusion. Kudos to M. J. Aldridge for this phenomenal psychological suspense.

Published on Goodreads, Amazon, Twitter and Instagram on 12.17.17.

Julie says

Eeny Meeny by M.J. Arlidge – A Helen Chase Novel- is a 2015 NAL publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is my kind of thriller! Dark, twisty, with nail biting suspense!

Helen Chase, detective Inspector, has her hands full when a diabolical serial killer begins abducting people in pairs, dumping them in a dive pool, with a cell phone, and gun provided. The hostages will receive one call informing them they have the option of survival only if they kill their fellow prisoner. Initially, they fight to live, but after weeks of starvation, eventually, one of them will crack.

As usual, office politics rears its ugly head, and it becomes clear a mole is leaking vital information, causing Helen to mistrust some of her best detectives. Then too, the reader will have to decipher Helen's own personal demons, which are really difficult to process.

This book is not for the faint of heart. The subject matter is disturbing, the violence graphic, and you won't be able to avoid having an emotional reaction to the games the killer is playing. Not only is this a gritty serial killer novel but also a psychological thriller. My mind was all over the place, being lead around by the nose, just like the characters in the book. It was a mind trip, an emotional roller coaster, with a shocking conclusion.

The story moved along at a quick pace, keeping me glued to my kindle. I even experienced a feeling of annoyance when I was interrupted a few times while reading this book. I couldn't put it down!

I didn't know how to feel about Helen Chase, to be honest. I have read many dark thrillers where the male protagonist has some dark past or haunting demons, and many female detectives that came from harsh circumstances, but never a female lead like Helen, who has some pretty disturbing habits. It will be interesting to see how her character develops from here on out. It's been a long time since I have read a serial killer novel this original. This is not a formulaic procedural!
I can't wait to read more in this series. 4.5 rounded to 5

Jan says

3.5 stars

I was really looking forward to reading this debut series police procedural, introducing the smart and strong Detective Helen Grace. While I can't say that I was disappointed, I did have some issues with the book that held me back from giving it a higher rating.

Here's some of what I did like:

- Like most all protags, Detective Grace comes across smart and powerful, a loner. But the author allows the reader to get to know the other side not shown to anyone else. This made her a lot more 'real' to me. (Although I do hate the stereotype that all strong, independent women have to ride motorcycles)
- I thought the flashbacks thrown in from the antagonist's point of view were very powerful and telling.
- The author spent just the right amount of time explaining the technical aspects to the plot, where a lot of authors can be very heavy-handed with this. I didn't feel like I was being lectured, yet I didn't feel like a dummy either.

For some reason, I'm a big fan of books that have short, quick chapters. When done right, I think it helps keep the plot moving forward at a quick pace, makes it easier to get invested in the characters, and silly as it sounds, there is something satisfying about completing a chapter, like crossing off an item on a to-do list. (I know, probably TMI) I think the use of short chapters here worked really well in helping to manage the subplots going on and the introduction of so many characters. On the downside, I think it fell flat on timelines. I struggled with figuring out how many days had passed since the last chapter, which was important in helping to understand just how dire the victims' situation really was.

The other disappointment for me was in the ending. The whole book was a build-up to the ultimate reveal and confrontation. I was looking forward to seeing how these 2 adversaries would spar as well as what new secrets would be revealed. But nothing...like a popped balloon it was over that quickly and left me feeling cheated and wanting more. There seemed too much of a disconnect that didn't seem relatable to me.

But, all-in-all I think this was a solid start to what could be a very promising series. It's already in queue and I'm hoping things only get better from here.

Sue says

Eny Meeny by J. Arlidge is a serial killer thriller/crime thriller, set in and around the city of Southampton, a

typical inner city. The story centers around a series of double kidnappings, where one captive is called upon to make a life or death decision. Eeny Meeny grabs you and doesn't let go until you reach the end, when the killer is revealed.

The victims were drugged, abducted, starved and forced to commit murder.

“She made me do it.”

They receive a distorted phone call that said, “Do you want to live? On the floor by the phone you'll find a gun. It has one bullet in it. For Sam or for yourself. That is the price of freedom. You must Kill to Live.”

They were in prison...and no way out. The gun still sits there. And then the trust begins to diminish.

This novel is the first in the new series featuring Detective Inspector Helen Grace. Helen has problems of her own and in many ways is a damaged individual who is fighting her battle from her past, but chooses to deal with it by burying herself in her work. And then she is assigned the case.

But as the book continues Helen starts to realize that the victims are linked to her and that this may be personal. Helen is assisted by two great characters Mark and Charley who both have problems of their own. Mark has lost his marriage and access to his daughter and Charley is pregnant.

This novel will keep you guessing as to who the killer is. I never saw it coming. The book has an intriguing plot, terrific characters and is written with short chapters that lead you to keep on reading. Then the structure started to bother me. Short chapters are fine, especially when you basically have a chapter for each POV switch. But then multiple POVs and different scenes started appearing in a single chapter, which made the chapter breaks feel less important. It is for that reason, I rate this book at 3.5 or 4.

This is a great first novel and I am looking forward to the next book from this author.
