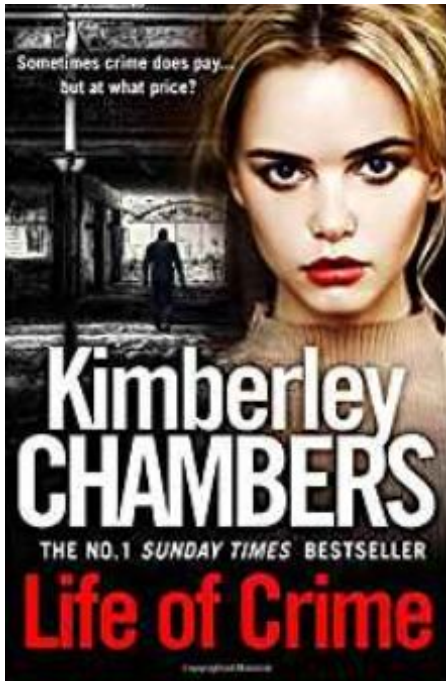


LoveReading Reader reviews of Life Of Crime

By Kimberley Chambers

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Humaira Kauser

*I feel like there isn't much to be said about Kimberley Chambers that hasn't already been said. **She is the queen of crime fiction. End of. She simply owns the genre and has captivated it so well. It's no doubt that her books just get better and better and 'Life of Crime' is probably her best yet.***

Peter Baiden

*Jason and Melissa live "on the edge!" The edge of London and Essex; the edge of society and the edge of success. Meeting in a Mel at a street market, Jason sees her as a way out of his past; but he cannot fully walk away from his roots in a "sink estate". Through their stormy relationship, Mel and Jason try hard to make sense of all that happens to them. Petty theft, drug dealing and violence follow them throughout their life, alongside a stormy relationship, until Jason commits a crime that could help them out of their dilemmas. Spending time in prison, he plans for himself and Mel a life that will place them in surroundings that are far removed from "the edge!" In a crowded "market place" of crime fiction, Ms Chambers needs a unique selling point, in "Life of Crime", she shows a keen understanding of people who are on the edge", without any attempt to patronise them, or her readers, in any way. **Written with pace and vitality, this is a story that keeps one's interest until the end and finishes in a totally unexpected way. I thoroughly***

enjoyed this story and have no problem in recommending "Life of Crime" without any reservations.

Sophia Ufton

What an amazing, gripping story. Such a brilliant author. Look forward to more of her work.

This book is based on two people, Jason and Melissa. They are an item. Jason is a bad boy and Melissa is always waiting for the knock on the door saying something's happened. After spending time in prison Jason decides to do one more "job" but this job could cost him everything.....

Alfred Nobile

A gripping and gritty story.

This book was something different from Kimberley. And something of the same. The clue is in the title.

Who chooses a life of crime? Or who is dragged into it, by birth or making the wrong choices in life...

For those of you have read previous books, namely her series books this will be a change. A standalone novel. It has all the ingredients of her previous books, gangsters and brassy women. Delinquent children all living in a world of their own.

Jason Rampling is such a man. A Del Boy character who ducks and dives and fate takes a hand when he meets Melissa and her friend Tracey and that starts Jason of on his life of crime. With all the lies, deceit and two timing that lifestyle entails.

I must say I really enjoyed Kimberley's style of writing. A fast paced story that has the reader gripped rapidly turning the pages, full of OMG, on the edge of your seat and why did you do that/say that moments.

Thanks to Harper Collins, Kimberley Chambers and Lovereading for the ARC.

<https://bertyboy123.wordpress.com/>

Phylippa Smithson

I persevered to get through this book hoping it would improve –

found it too rambling and chaotic in plot delivery. Good if you like to read rather than watch Soaps.

Jason knows he can do better and achieve his dream of escaping with his 5 year old daughter, his drunk mum, siblings from different fathers and the dead end world of life living on a renowned council estate.

The problem is the only way he knows how is by applying the ‘skills’ acquired in the world around him, a world which is nothing but criminal. In his 20s this amounts to reselling items acquired from dodgy sources. It also sees him working to identify the perfect mother for his Mum – ideally one who has a home of her own and wealth. He targets Melissa, daughter of a wealthy businessman but whose wealth has been achieved through somewhat dubious means. Whilst Melissa still lives at her childhood home, like Jason, she too is a single parent who is living with the result of a teenage relationship in the form of her son, much to the anger of her traditional parents.

And so as each page turns we see the lives of Jason, Melissa and those around them – parents, siblings, friends and criminals – unfold under a cloud of constant mayhem, risks, regrets and anger.

‘Life of Crime’ would make a good soap but, I personally think soaps are best kept for TV and not on the shelves of Lovereading for download or ordering.

Gill Williams

An interesting premise with plenty of twists and turns in the plot to keep you going to the end. And what an end, not one but two totally unexpected, shocking twists.

We follow Jason and Melissa from their first meeting at a market stall in Dagenham through their tumultuous marriage as Jason ducks and dives and Melissa wallows in becoming a housewife. There’s a very eclectic supporting cast of friends and enemies and horrendous families. Certainly plenty of action.

Having said that it was a bit slow to get into and too many mixed metaphors and descriptive verbs for my liking.

“Melissa urged” “Jason warned” “Melissa ordered” “Melissa hissed” “Melissa shrieked” and that on just one page.

I can actually see this as a very good visual production. The script is practically

written!

Maxine Broadbent

A compelling read with a host of characters dealing with a host of trouble in their own particular way.

This book roared along so realistically it felt as if I was there. Although the plot was complex, and the story told from many different angles, it was very engaging and easy to follow. With a large cast of characters and a lot happening, that is not always the case. And the characters were extremely believable, each presenting their own story in a fast moving series of events. The plot developed quickly with plenty of surprises to keep the reader awake and I thought the ending was particularly appropriate. A stimulating, thought provoking and riveting read.

Catherine Hogwood

A captivating story about a life of crime, mistakes, secrets, revenge and manipulation. Who will it destroy next?

At the beginning of this book I felt sure that I had a good idea of what the outcome would be. But I was very wrong! This book keeps you guessing until the final chapter.

Without giving major spoilers, this book focuses on Mel and Jason. Mel's best friend, Tracey, encourages Mel to come and see this lad that she has taken a fancy to. From just one meeting Mel's life changes.

This book was fantastic for character development! You saw a naive, single Mum change into a hardened adult who was capable of more than you would ever have imagined. On the other hand you saw a single Dad digging further into a hole with each interaction, until he was left softened and wanting out of his life of crime.

This book was an easy read and wanting to know the final outcome will definitely keep you reading. Who will be destroyed by their choices next and at what cost to everyone else?

A very well written and thought out story.

Reba Khatun

Jason has always lived on a council estate, surrounded by drug dealers and criminals. He's trying to make a better life for him, his four-year-old daughter, sister and brothers so when he meets single mum Melissa he's determined to use her to make a better life. He's hit the jackpot as her dad is a successful businessman but things don't go smoothly or easily as Jason's planned. Marrying her isn't going to be easy as he's not the faithful type.

*I did find the first third a bit slow to begin with as I really didn't like Jason's lack of morals but I'm glad I persevered as Kimberley Chambers writing is riveting. **By the end I was hooked and really hoped things would work out for Melissa. What an ending! I never would have imagined that in a million years!***

Sue Burton

Martina Cole in her early days (if you like that sort of genre). Worth a read but not brilliant.

*I started reading this book full of enthusiasm as I liked the characters especially Melissa and Jason and then I am afraid the book waned half way through and ended up skipping a lot. **The ending though was very good and totally unexpected**, it was a shame it took so long to get there.*

Rachel Bridgeman

A wonderful, gritty, urban crime drama featuring a family desperate to do one last job before turning their backs on a 'Life of Crime'.

A huge fan of Martina Cole, I was absolutely thrilled to have the chance to read Kimberley Chambers' latest thanks to Lovereading.

I tend to get stuck in a rut of what I love to read so this was the perfect opportunity to expand my reading.

It's an absolute belter of a book, one last job to end all jobs, but is there ever really such a thing? Are criminals a product of their upbringing or can they

really change?

It's a thrilling, rip roaring read absolutely not for those who do not like swearing or violence, it's not excessive just absolutely appropriate for the subject matter.

It is a book written with heart, passion and a fantastic set of characters that leap-off the page.

Many thanks for introducing me to Kimberley!

Krissy Rix-Clancy

A great story, loved the grittiness and twists.

It was strange reading a life of crime as I'm local to the areas in Essex it's located in. It did take me a while to get into but I flew through the last half of the book. I enjoyed the gritty storyline and the strength of some of the characters. Some parts of the story were predictable others twists were perfectly timed. I will definitely look for more books by the author.

Nicki Southwell

This is a hard hitting book not for the faint hearted. A look at life on the other side of the tracks, so to speak. Greed, negligence, anger, despair, airs and graces but where is love? Jason Rampling, young and streetwise, is determined to leave his life on the council estate behind. He has no love for his mother but feels responsible for his younger sister and brothers. By wheeling and dealing, he will make it and rid himself of the poverty and despair that was his upbringing. Melissa is a young girl who still lives at home and is bringing up her son without support, except for her parents. Her mother Carol, is a great comfort but her father cannot escape the shame of a mixed race grandson. However, he will do whatever he can to ensure that Melissa leads a good life with a man who will treat her well. This is an extraordinary story about life on a London housing estate, the gangs, violence and sheer effort to survive. Melissa sets her sights on Jason after seeing him at the Sunday market. Much to her friend's disbelief, he has eyes for Melissa and not herself. He is after the main chance when he realises who her father is. A self-made man with a

thriving business is good enough for him as the father of his girlfriend. Such utter desperation is brilliantly depicted by the author. Despite most of the characters being unpleasant, the story captivates the reader ensuring that this book be read until the end. There are two characters who know the meaning of love, but the rest are just surviving. The end is a surprise. Rough Justice!!

Edel Waugh

This is the epic story of one criminal family. From the very beginning it is an engrossing story with a bad boy at the center of it . Jason is one of those characters you will love to hate , he is completely out for himself but he loves his family dearly and is very loyal to them . When he meets Melissa it's not exactly love at first sight , but it is just what he needs . Here starts their journey. This story was SO good , I read it in one go and days later it's still running through my mind and it is the first book I would think to recommend if asked . These characters we follow through teenage years to middle age and through every conceivable crime imaginable , there was not just one straight plot going on but many intertwined which just increased how brilliant the plot was. I recommend this to everyone without any hesitation.

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk/2018/01/life-of-crime-by-kimberley-chambers.html?m=1>