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headline

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Quieter Than Killing** by Sarah Hilary

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Phylippa Smithson

This is a 'full on' thriller with twists and turns before everything comes together making Sarah Hilary one of the most compulsive story teller around.

Whilst the core story is carry on from previous books in the DI Marnie Rome series, 'Quieter Than Killing' can be read stand alone.

When three seemingly unrelated attacks occur, the first impression of the investigators is that there are the work of a vigilante(s) as each victim has, in their past, been attackers themselves. One a child kidnapper and abuser, one a wife beater and a third served time for physical attack. When the third victim dies as a result of his injuries, the team initially focus on finding a killer but the more they search, the more they come to realise that the other attacks cannot be treated in isolation.

As DI Rome and her team pursuit the various lines of investigation, it is Marnie's past that once again comes to haunt her. Could the attacks on the people renting her parental home (her parents had been murdered by her step brother) for the past 6 years have any link to the three attacks under investigation? And if so, what, why and how?

Hilary has truly become one of the most 'go to authors' when you have a need to read a gripping thriller that just cannot be easily put down.

Sue Burton

Brilliant book, cannot wait for the next instalment of Marnie and Noah.

Another great book from Sarah Hilary absolutely love all the characters in her book especially the lovely Noah. Some of the things described in the book regarding the treatment of young children makes you wonder what the world is coming to. Would recommend this book to everyone.

Krissy Rix-Clancy

Fantastic fast paced read - well written with lots going on.

I really enjoyed reading 'Quieter than Killing', it's a fast paced read with lots going on.

DI Marnie Rome has a series of attacks to investigate but then it gets personal, the terror in her past is trying to catch up with her. Somehow she has to work out how the crimes are connected and stop the perpetrator before anyone else gets hurt.

Although this is book four of a series I easily slid into the story and to be honest it could act as a standalone. I like Sarah Hilary's writing style and only once did I have to re-read a page to realise who was being described.

A very enjoyable read up there with other great thrillers I've read I rate this book 4 stars out of 5.

Joan Hill

Secrets, lies and damage from the past are avenged and vulnerability preyed upon by a criminal mastermind in an odious game of cat and mouse in this crime-filled novel.

Trouble is afoot for DI Marnie Rome and her partner DS Noah Jake when a series of so-called vigilante killings are linked to Marnie's troubled past when her family home is broken into and a hidden keepsake box is handed back to her. It seems the spate of crimes is linked to Marnie and she must once again confront Stephen Keel, her foster brother, who mercilessly killed her parents in a frenzied bloodbath. Stephen, now imprisoned, is serving out his sentence, so Marnie must pay him a visit in order to unravel how these attacks are linked and to lay the ghosts of the past to rest.

It's an icy winter in the streets of London as investigations proceed in the wake of an unreported abduction of a small ten year old boy. One or other of the boy gangs that roam the streets are suspected of the crime spate, but it's obvious that someone is playing dangerous games and stirring up trouble with a capital 'T', using the boys as cover. Time is running out for Marnie in this intense and sordid story of revenge, hatred and depravity. With her team stretched to the limit the suspense and mystery intensifies, the pace ramps up, as does the body count, until the novel's dramatic, chaotic and thrilling climax, leaving behind a tantalising cliff-hanger to be revealed in the fifth novel in the DI Marnie Rome series.

Rachel Aygin

Sarah Hilary's fourth novel featuring DI Marnie Rome is just as gripping as the previous books. I was kept guessing right to the end.

A vigilante appears to be attacking violent offenders but all is not as it seems. Sarah Hilary's fourth novel featuring DI Marnie Rome is just as gripping as the previous books. As the investigation unfolds, one person after another is suspected and the story is cleverly told from the point of view of several characters, leaving you wondering whether one of them could be the attacker. The detailed characterisation and back story make for a rich and complex read. I was kept guessing right to the end.

Lynda DeFreitas

Another thrilling story from Sarah Hilary that gives more clues to DI Marnie Rome's troubled private life, as well her professional life in the police force.

In this book there are serious assaults committed on people who seem to have no obvious connection, a missing child whose disappearance has not been reported to the authorities, and a mastermind who is avenging past wrongs and manipulating others to do their bidding.

Sarah Hilary's stories are pacey and well thought out bringing all the strands neatly together and incorporating a twist that I did not expect. Also there is a cliff-hanger at the end that makes me look forward to the next book.

I thoroughly recommend all of Sarah Hilary's books and this one in particular is not to be missed.

Megan Abbott

Breathtakingly addictive! I could not put it down.

As soon as I started, I couldn't put the book down, as you are automatically immersed into the wintery setting of London. When DI Marnie Rome's family home is ransacked, there are signs that the burglary can have only been committed by someone who knows her. Then a child goes missing, yet no-one has reported it. Suddenly, events seem connected, and it's personal. Someone out there is playing games. It is time for both Marnie and Noah to face the truth about the creeping, chilling reaches of a troubled upbringing. Unlike many crime/mystery novels that I have read, this plot was easy to follow but still featured the key elements of the genre. I loved how all the separate sub-plots connected at the end, which created the realistic sense of you solving the murder with the characters. I found it refreshing to read from a female detective's point of view, especially since it is stereotypically a male dominated genre. I would definitely recommend to anyone who loves a good murder mystery and I can't wait to read the other books in the series.

Tanya Thurling

I've read a few books by Sarah Hilary featuring DI Marnie Rome so obviously I already knew a lot about her and already felt connected to her character. In every new book you get a little bit more of Marnie's back story but that doesn't mean you have to read the others before this one. You don't. Everything is explained. Marnie has ongoing history with her foster brother Stephen, who's currently serving time for murdering her parents. This book sees a troubling break in at her childhood home, the home where her parents were murdered, and everything points at this break in being about Marnie. It's personal. Which means a visit to her brother and a few more hints at what really happened all those years ago and why. On top of this there are a series of violent attacks for her to deal with. Are they all connected? Why are they happening? Is this really about her or is it something else?

*I must admit, I had absolutely no idea what was happening until almost at the very end. Usually you have a pretty good idea 'who done it', and you can hazard a guess at the rest, but nope. Not this time. **It truly kept me guessing. Definitely fast paced and edgy which is a plus for me with crime thrillers. All in all a read I would recommend.***

Caroline Harvey

*After finishing this new instalment featuring Marnie Rome and her sidekick Noah, I can tell you **this author is moving from strength to strength and getting better with every outing**. The three previous books are best read before this new one and best in order as you will encounter the relationship regarding Marnie and her adopted brother Stephen running through all the novels.*

This one is very fast paced and interesting to read as there is so much skill involved in writing such a great story but secondly the relationship between the two characters Marnie and Stephen is outstanding and so interesting from both prospective.

As with all the other novels, this one has a crime story at its heart and it is oh so clever and such a joy to read and it will have you staying up into the small hours to find out what has happened. It really does grip you and you will get so far engrossed in the plot and the two main characters you won't want it to end.

Can't wait for Sarah to write some more. Enjoy-all readers who love quality crime novels and not the mediocre crime that is so chugged out these days. If you're new to this author give her a go and you won't be disappointed. I promise.

Jillian McFrederick

This is the first of Sarah Hilary's books that I have read and I am inspired to go back to the earlier ones to find out more of the main characters.

Although I found it hard to follow at first I was interested enough in the back story of DI Marnie Rome to want to continue. Her vulnerability and obvious personal past trauma warmed me to her and took me on to get more involved in the multiple murders which she was investigating. In addition the interjection periodically of the kidnapped child, which seemed initially to be unrelated, gradually moved the story on and was ultimately woven seamlessly into the plot as a whole.

My only criticism would be that it was hard to follow at first, with multiple characters and scenarios that took me a while to latch on to.

It seems that there are a whole variety of families in this world, some more nurturing and caring than others. This novel brings us in touch with many versions and leaves us grateful for what we have, no matter how

unconventional or apparently broken they are.

Ann Alderton

This is an accomplished police procedural with a compelling storyline which eloquently portrays the brutality of inner city estate life. *The urban bleakness of the winter setting and the sinister storyline about a crime which is encroaching on the lives of the lead detective and her colleagues is well presented, as is the related plot about the missing boy, Finn.*

The novel weaves the multiple strands together well and the varying narrative style and language as the story switches from the DI Marnie Rome viewpoint to the Finn viewpoint ensures that the reader is immersed in both storylines equally. The fact that the investigators are a part of the community where the crimes take place invests it with an emotional impact that is frequently missing in police procedurals. The biggest flaw in the novel for me was the relationships between the characters, where I felt there was more potential to explore the chemistry and psychology behind their motivations and interactions. There is a rich mix of characters to work with, many of whom, such as Marnie and Noah, have real skin in the game for family reasons. Aidan Duffy, Finn's father, is another character with potential for further development. As a series novel, I expect that there is more to come from these characters and their relationships, which is something to look forward to.

Les Wood

A really good read that keeps you guessing as to how characters are inextricably linked and which you should believe and trust.

This is a book worthy of your undivided attention. The story uses a number of characters that are weaved intricately being initially vicariously linked to each other. I never like to give away any of the story but, suffice to say, the plot, sub plot and the continual early addition of characters just adds to the intrigue. Your loyalty is, at the start, divided when it appears that retribution is being meted out on previous miscreants. But then those that you have warmed to are drawn into danger without apparent reason. A nice twist is that the case appears to have been resolved only for the story to go off in another direction. Sarah Hilary is a confident writer so I will be looking up previous titles in order to discover the regular characters back stories.

Beth Kemp

Sharp and pacy crime writing, featuring a strongly contemporary UK context and a high level of emotional engagement. The characterisation is a key strength, making this a compelling series.

Wonderfully tense and emotional procedural starring my now-favourite DI, Marnie Rome and her marvellous DS, Noah Jake. This is the fourth in the series, and I think you could start here without being lost, although I would personally recommend going back to Someone Else's Skin if you have the option.

We learn more about Marnie's past in this novel (as does she), as it's even more tightly woven in with her new case, and the stakes are also raised for Noah here too. I can't wait for the next one now!

As ever with this series, the characterisation is a real strength, and the occasional chapters from a different perspective offering insight into the killer's world add to the tension without giving away too much. (I still didn't know who it was until the perfect moment – although I thought I did, of course). I particularly appreciate the social aspects of these novels: the representation is great (well-drawn woman DI protag, black gay DS) and often the plots cover social issues which need greater attention.

Overall, this is a strong choice for crime fans, especially if you enjoy contemporary UK crime. Much as I do enjoy US writers, it's great to read something so dark and yet set in so familiar a context.

<http://hearthfire.bethkemp.co.uk>

You can follow Beth on Twitter: @bethkemp

Katherine Stewart

Intriguing plot, but not quite up there with the previous Marnie Rome books.

This is the fourth in the DI Marnie Rome series, in which she and her colleague, DS Noah Jake, are investigating a series of seemingly random assaults. The assaults appear to be carried out by a vigilante and there is a connection with DI Rome's trouble foster brother. Overall I enjoyed the quite complex plot and the further development of the Rome and Jake characters, but this did not draw me in as much as Sarah Hilary's earlier books in the series. Although this could be read as a standalone book, reading the other books would help in the understanding of the characters.

Laura Prior

A very dark story with a multi-layered plot that you can't put down – Can't wait for the next one.

This is the fourth of the DI Rome series but the first that I have read. You don't need to have read the previous books, although I do now wish I had and think I'll start back at the beginning.

DI Marnie Rome is investigating a series of viscous attacks on people with criminal convictions and it seems someone is hitting out in the name of justice. Alongside this there's troubled teenage gangs and a young abducted boy, although the case comes a little too close to home when Marnie's tenants, living in her deceased parents' house, are attacked during a break in and seems by someone who knows her. Somehow they are all not only connected to each other but also to Marnie's past she is trying to forget. This all slowly comes to the surface following a prison visit to her foster brother who killed her parents.

I'm normally quite good at predicting where a book is going and I thought I had this one all figured out, but I was wrong! I was shocked at the twist and conclusion of the case and then the book ended on a big cliff-hanger that already has me wanting more. Overall it is a very dark story which takes you on lots of twists and turns along the way.

Looking forward to the next book. Would definitely recommend.