

## Lovereading Reader reviews of Cut Out by Fergus McNeill

**Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.**

### **Victoria Goldman**

*'Cut Out' is a clever mix of psychological thriller and police procedural. It has a brilliant well-written fast-paced plot. I read it in one sitting, which for me is the sign of a great book.*

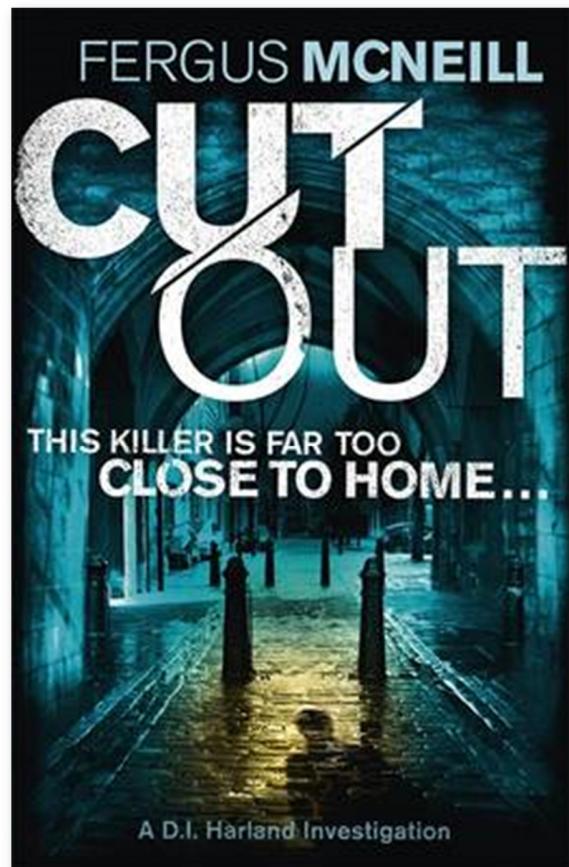
*'Cut Out' is a clever mix of psychological thriller and police procedural.*

*The book is divided into sections - three months earlier, one month ago and two weeks ago interspersed with the present - which makes it very easy to follow.*

*The past, and build up to the present, focuses on Nigel and his fixation with his neighbour Matt, whose girlfriend Laura has now gone missing. Nigel wants to be Matt - he moves his furniture around, buys new clothes and breaks into Matt's flat to spy on him.*

*The other sections of the book - the present - focus on DI Harland and his team, who are searching for Laura. There's also the murder of a local drug dealer that needs to be resolved. Could the cases be linked?*

<http://off-the-shelfbooks.blogspot.co.uk>



### **Suzanne Marsh**

*Fergus McNeill is a British author who tells the story about What if someone*

wished that their life was more like yours? Exactly like yours. And what if they lived upstairs from you? There is more than meets the eye in this chilling novel. So much happens in this story that you won't be able stop turning the pages.

A dead body was found by the bartender in the club toilets. Detective Inspector Graham Harland took in the scene inside the club toilet cubicle. A male victim dead slumped down in the corner in the club toilet. Someone had sealed the victim eyes, nose and mouth and his ears with some sort of fast-bonding stuff. Someone even glued the dead's man hands to the wall. Detective Inspector Harland has to unravel the disturbing truth to far more to this case and more.

**This story has it all** - wanting to be friends and, fascination that drifts into obsession. Then there is the question for Detective Inspector Harland to find out who and why did they kill a man leaving him for dead in the club toilet.

'Cut Out' is **a great tense police procedural for crime fiction fans**.

I hope every reader really enjoys reading 'Cut Out' as much as I did.

[www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com](http://www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com)

### **Joanne Nuttie**

I'm a big Peter James fan and have fallen in love with Roy Grace from the Dead Series so was pleased to be able to read and review this book.

Very quickly it caught my attention, an interesting storyline, simplistic but wanting me to read more and more.

**I enjoyed the story and as there were lots of twists and turns I quickly became hooked and ended up reading it in a few days.** Nigel's role in the story surprised me as at first I thought he was just a nerd... I was then gripped even more. I felt the author rushed the ending slightly but it didn't stop my enjoyment of it.

D.I Hadland caught my attention and would like to know what happens next?? As I've now realised this is the third book in the series I will purchase the other two and look forward to reading any others.

### **Sue Burton**

**Excellent book, shall make sure I read the series.**

Really enjoyed reading 'Cut Out' and will go out and purchase the first books in the series as would be interested to read more about DI Harland. For fans of

*Peter James, Tim Weaver etc they will really enjoy this book and look forward to the next one.*

### **Russ Pasquill**

*When socially awkward Nigel, who's obsessed with his "friend" Matt, in the flat below, brings a girl home, Matt's love life becomes an infatuation for him.*

*Nigel buys a pair of wireless miniature cameras, enters Matt's flat, whilst he's out, with his own set of keys, and positions one camera, hidden in the living room, the other in the bedroom. He can monitor Matt from within his own flat using his iPad.*

*After relentless spying on his friend he sees Laura regularly visit Matt. He believes her to be his girlfriend. Nigel becomes fixated with her and convinces himself that she's his girlfriend too.*

*When Matt and Laura's relationship is in jeopardy Nigel fears he will lose Laura. At this point Nigel switches from observer to participant and Laura goes missing.*

*D.I. Harland has to solve the case.*

*A gripping psychological thriller which grabbed me from the start.*

*The story alternates between D.I. Harland's investigations and Nigel's life.*

*Nigel is timid, reclusive and only his work gives his life any purpose. Matt is the opposite and Nigel wants be a mirror image of him.*

*As the main passive aggressive antagonist Nigel's character is fascinating. At moments I felt pity for him, irritation, but ultimately he is unwittingly creepy.*

*D.I Harland plays his role well but it is ultimately his side kick, Imogen, who proves to be the hero of the day.*

***This was an addictive read. It was great and I finished it within the day.***

### **Sheila Johnson**

***An unusual detective "whodunnit" best read without any distractions!***

*Not a bad detective "whodunnit". I found the eventual outcome of the two (or more) sub-plots a little unlikely and, at times, potentially confusing. I thought*

*Laura as a character hard to believe in - a teacher who felt the need to augment her income through doubtful photographic work when she already had a healthy sex life.*

*A bit over-complicated but frank was a colorful character. The suspense was maintained if you could carefully follow the plot. Reminds me of the plot for the "single white and female" A good book to read on holiday where one can concentrate.*

### **Lynn Pettitt**

***Slow to start, but really held my interest after a few chapters, and I didn't expect the conclusion.***

*I wondered whether I would be able to get into this as the first few chapters seemed like just another police story. Then the second part was written about a different character and I persevered. I really couldn't find anything I liked about him, but then afterwards I realised that was probably the point!*

*The police characters had just enough personal info to make them more rounded without getting too involved.*

*I felt sorry for the guy who was unwittingly being "copied" until I realised that he, too, wasn't really a good person. The only real victim being the girl.*

*The story got quite involved with just enough allusion to past unsolved crimes to give an inkling as to where it might go, but I wasn't expecting quite where it went! It got far more exciting and interesting in the last third of the book.*

*All in all I enjoyed this book, but have to be honest and say I may have given up after a few chapters had I not been reading it to review.*

### **Lisa Lamb**

*As a fan of psychological thrillers, and lover of a gory murder, I was eager to get stuck into this book.*

*It is actually very difficult to go into the details of the story without giving too much away....*

*I have to be honest and say that I found this book rather uncomfortable reading, but purely because what Nigel was doing was actually very believable.....this could actually happen in real life! The thought of someone being in my home, doing what Nigel did to Matt really made my skin crawl. However, in saying*

**that, the story was so utterly gripping I just had to read on to find out what happened next.**

*There are a couple of very unexpected twists near the end of the book which really gave a fabulous ending.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed discovering DI Harland and will be seeking out the earlier works in this series. I highly recommend this book to all, an utterly compelling read!*

### **Cyllene Griffiths**

*A lonely man takes the fascination with his neighbour far beyond what can be considered idle curiosity. Nigel's admiration leads him to copy his neighbours' dress and mannerisms, nosy through his post and even take an overactive interest in his girlfriend. But it goes too far when he perceives she is being badly treated by his neighbour and Nigel decides to step in. The resulting chaos is investigated by DI Harland and his new partner DS Imogen Gower leading to a terrible discovery of abuse and obsession and a connection to some cold cases from DS Gower's past.*

*The novel is written jumping from present day to backwards in time and back again to the present. Because of the style employed, somewhat disappointingly, by about a quarter of the way through this book I felt that I had a very good idea of what was going to happen – not great for a murder mystery! Nevertheless I continued reading and was pleasantly surprised by a twist near the end. Overall, however, I think a different writing style would have improved the suspense of what is an inventive and intriguing story.*

### **Sallyann Spittle**

*As a massive fan of Peter James's detective books, I was a little wary about the praise given to the author of this book. However, I was not disappointed. Fergus McNeill is brilliant.*

*In this story, DI Harland is a gripping character with his own story hidden between the pages. The case in question in this book has you sitting on the edge of your seat and is disturbingly realistic. Also, the way in which you are taken from the scene of the crime via the victim and the culprit's viewpoints is riveting – I couldn't put the book down and am now reading the two books that prequel this one.*

**Praise for Fergus McNeill – now one of my favourite authors.**

**Alison Bisping**

*Very convincing! Thoroughly enjoyed reading this and it kept me guessing up to the end. DI Harland - this is the first time I have met him, but I now intend to read the other books he features in.*

*The story is based in and around Bristol and I could picture it. There's a murder (of course), which even by what he has seen previously, 'gets' to DI Harland. But, he is soon off that case to help with a search for a missing person. (I felt there is some personal history here which not having read any of the other books yet, probably would give background). He has a new partner, Imogen - how will that relationship work out?*

*You have the 'good old neighbour who sees everything'. But does she and is it all as it seems?*

***A great read - a page turner that I didn't want to put down and was keen to spend as much time reading it as I could. I wanted to know the outcome! That to me means it's a great book.***

**Edel Waugh**

*This deeply disturbing story is centered around Detective Inspector Harland. He is a good guy who has seen a lot of tough crimes in his career so, when he starts to investigate a crime that took place in a bathroom of a club, little does he know where it will eventually lead him. While that crime was gory it is not the only worrying part of his job, as he is now investigating a young woman called Laura who has been reported missing by her friend. The investigation sends DI Harland and his sidekick Imogen to Matt, the missing girl's ex-boyfriend, Nigel, who lives upstairs and is friends with Matt, and the downstairs neighbour Mrs Hamilton. Add in a dodgy photographer and **this is one creepy read that is not worth putting down for sleep. Stay up and read this instead! I recommend this for all thriller fans.***

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>

**Julie Bertschin**

***When curiosity turns into obsession - your worst neighbour ever imaginable. Gripping and engrossing story of one man's crusade to***

**be just like his neighbour.**

*Very enjoyable page-turner of a story, detailing the spiralling obsession of Nigel, the man in the upstairs flat. When Matt moves into the flat below him, Nigel is at first curious about his new neighbour's life. This soon turns into an obsession where he needs to know everything about him and almost become him, by dressing the same and buying the same beer! A truly engrossing read which demonstrates how obsessions can turn deadly. Fantastic.*

**Ray Orgill**

*A quite horrific murder is featured in the opening stages of this Bristol-based detection story. An unfortunate character has been rendered unconscious and then various parts of his face have been super-glued together: his eyes, his nose, his mouth and even his ears have been sealed so a dreadful death by suffocation ensues. He has then been super-glued to the tiled wall by the application of glue to his arms, head, hands, feet and back and then left in an awkward parody of a scene of crucifixion. Detective Inspector Graham Harland is brought in to solve the mystery which is very convoluted and puzzling and involves many strange characters and events. A **very entertaining and chilling read.***

**Debbie Patrick**

**What if someone wished their life was more like yours? Exactly like yours? And what if they lived upstairs?**

*Found this slow to get going until the second part, when it really took off and I then really enjoyed it. I had never heard of this author before, but will be keeping my eyes open for more books by him. Would recommend.*

**Jocelyn Garvey**

**This is everything a thriller should be. Good plot with well written characters and always a brooding sense of menace in the background.**

*The book opens with Chief Inspector Harland being called to the scene of a particularly horrific murder of a drug dealer. His hands have been super glued to the wall and his eyes, nose and mouth glued shut. He has suffocated. There is very little evidence to go on but as he starts investigating he is switched to a more urgent case. A local girl is missing.*

*Her boyfriend Matt is the obvious suspect but he appears innocent and there are no other leads.*

*We then go back in time and meet Nigel who lives in the flat above from Matt. He is a homeworking computer nerd who initially becomes interested in Matt when he moves into the flat below him. Matt is everything he is not, popular with friends and diverse interests.*

*Nigel's interest slowly becomes obsession. He learns everything about him. He changes his flat around to make it the same layout as Matt's. He starts opening Matt's post, wearing the same clothes, watching all the same television programmes and generally trying to be Matt and Matt's friend. Then a girlfriend appears in Matt's life. His obsession then turns into something darker.*

*To say much more would spoil the intricate plot.*

*This then becomes a real page turner. Twists that you don't expect.*

*A really good thriller with a good ending.*

You can follow Jocelyn on Twitter: @JossG

### **Katherine Stewart**

***Intriguing plot about a young man who takes an excessive interest in his new neighbour.***

*I really enjoyed this story, the first I'd read by Fergus O'Neill, about a lonely young man, Nigel, who becomes obsessed with his new downstairs neighbour, Matt. Alongside this is an investigation into the disappearance of his neighbour's girlfriend. The double narrative - one side showing DI Harland's efforts to investigate the missing girl, the other narrated by Nigel - works to good effect. Nigel's narrative left me chilled as he went to greater efforts to get to know Matt better. A really interesting plot and I will search out more by Fergus O'Neill.*

### **Rachel Aygin**

***I thought I had it all worked out but found myself thinking “What? But this never happens in a crime thriller!”***

*A fast paced crime thriller with an extraordinary twist in the tale. I love it when a writer manages to pull off an unusual and unexpected twist. I never saw it*

*coming. I thought I had it all worked out but found myself thinking “What? But this never happens in a crime thriller!” Biting my tongue not to reveal what happens! The plot is tightly wound and told from the point of view of various different characters, all skillfully portrayed. What's not to like?*

### **Phylippa Smithson**

***Given the extensive number of murder-mysteries on the book / e-book shelves, I was disappointed in my first read in the D I Harland series – engaging though it was, there was just no ‘wow’ factor.***

*Whilst running a murder investigation of a known drug supplier, Harland is pulled off by his senior to look into the disappearance a young woman, Laura. Laura is recently separated from her boy-friend Matt who comes under the focus of the investigation as he denies having seen her since before she disappeared, despite evidence to the contrary.*

*It is in interviewing Matt’s neighbours that Harland come across Nigel. And at that point, the story reverts 3 months earlier, and follows the life of Nigel. During that time, Nigel meets his new neighbour Matt and as the days and weeks unfold, we witness Nigel’s increasing obsession with his neighbour, which culminates in him more and more seeking to become Matt. The extent of how far he will go to ‘be’ Matt runs parallel to Harland’s investigation of Laura’s disappearance.*

*To write more would perhaps reveal too much and spoil if for others.*

*Suffice to say, a very credible story verging on a psychological thriller at times, but just wish Harland was a little more rounded as a character and personality.*