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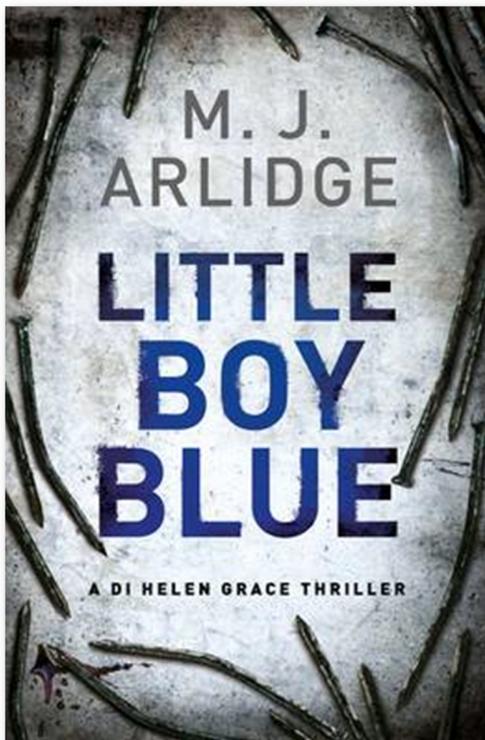
LoveReading Reader reviews of **Little Boy Blue**

DI Helen Grace Thriller

By M.J. Arlidge

PENGUIN
MICHAEL
JOSEPH

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Emily Wright

You don't have to be kinky to enjoy this book! Fast paced narrative, along with perfectly pitched clarity and atmosphere in the plot, make 'Little Boy Blue' compulsive reading.

The Annual S&M Ball at a Southampton club ends with the brutal murder of Jake Elder, a professional dominator. DI Helen Grace vows to catch his killer, but she has a secret personal connection to Jake. The world at the heart of Helen's most intimate moments has become the focus of a high profile investigation. As the body count rises Helen is unable to keep suspicious, prying eyes away from her...

'Little Boy Blue' had me hooked from the first chapter. With a powerful opening and more information packed into the first fifty pages than I would have thought possible, the author kept me in suspense throughout. This novel was my introduction to DI Helen Grace (and S&M!) Thankfully, the backstory provided me with enough history to understand the various strands whilst leaving me curious as to how the key characters have developed over time.

The S&M theme could have made this novel an uncomfortable read, but I personally didn't find it so. Arlidge's writing of the more graphic scenes is both bold and straightforward, with a down to earth quality which keeps the novel

firmly rooted in thriller territory.

The ending, with a twist in the tale, left me breathless and the cliffhanger in the final chapter means that I am eagerly anticipating the next book in the series.

Gavin Dimmock

DI Grace hunts a killer targeting members of the BDSM scene. Or, is the killer hunting Grace?

I reviewed the first DI Grace book just under two years ago and found it “a thoroughly enjoyable read” and “eagerly” awaited further instalments. However, this is the fifth in the series and I have not yet caught up with Grace and her story arc since that initial book.

A killer is targeting members of the BDSM scene, the crime scene leaving little for the police to work with. Grace was a client of the victim and must handle the case without revealing her links to the bondage world. Meanwhile, the killer draws Grace ever closer.

With an intriguing plot, a fast moving storyline and punchy scenes, this tale rattles along to a pulsating climax. *The writing is clean, the dialogue crisp and the pacing of the plot keeps the pages turning. Reading the previous four books is not a necessity in order to follow this tale, although it would be useful to fully appreciate the history of each character and the tensions between them.*

I have to admit to not really enjoying this story and, when checking back, I was surprised that I enjoyed book one so much. Despite being an intriguing tale, I didn't find one character that I liked; in fact, I found them all rather unpleasant. For me, this was a story I endured rather than enjoyed.

Would I read the sixth story? Without spoiling this tale for others, possibly, but only to see how, if even, the author rescues Grace.

<https://themoustachioedReader.wordpress.com>

Follow Gavin on Twitter: @Gav_The_Bantam

Humaira

I don't know where to begin with this book. It's more than gripping. It's highly enthralling.

It took me some time to read this book but now I'm just kicking myself because it

was so good. It's one of those books where you want to read fast because you just have to know what is going to happen. Highly enjoyed it and recommend for everyone to read this glorious book!

Follow Humaira on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/

Caroline Harvey

Wow, what a great book. *The series every crime thriller reader must read, starting off with 'Eeny, Meeny'. It's best to read in order as the character of Detective Inspector Helen Grace is developing brilliantly as you read through the series. This is the fifth book and is as good as the first. Small chapters so very quick to read and makes you want to read as it helps to keep the intense story line going at a fast pace. **Didn't want it to end and so looking forward to the next one. Brilliant. 5 stars from me!!***

Phyllippa Smithson

My word, Helen Grace is unlike ANY Detective Inspector you will have followed in a series before. And boy what a hard-hitting thriller this was with remarkable twists.

Grace finds her personal life interests coming into direct conflict to her professional when a series of murders are investigated. Whilst it becomes obvious that there is a serial killer on the loose targeting a certain profile of victim, the investigation leads Grace to realise that there is a further link – herself.

My first exposure to DI Grace was 'Eeny Meeny', and 'Little Boy Blue' is again a no bars held convulsive read. Arlidge really is setting herself apart from the average thriller with gritty, real life characters with their own faults and challenges as individuals. The story lines are full of structure and totally gripping.

Tough but rewarding thriller.

Jan Kirkcaldy

This is an odd one – not least for me because I know Southampton so well that most places mentioned really do exist including the Common, a Santander bank in Shirley and a Wilkinsons in Park Street. When it comes to the gay and S and M clubs such as “the Torture Rooms” in the story, who knows but they may well

be there under other names. It is in this club that the first murder happens in the form of sadomasochism in the back room of the club. Detailed and enlightening!

*After this occurrence we meet motor bike riding policewoman extraordinaire - DI Helen Grace and her colleagues and she is a person you soon feel you would rather not know. Into S and M herself and with a dubious past it is still obvious she's an excellent detective and mostly respected by her team. Other murders follow and I had to keep reading to get a grip on what soon became a fascinating crime investigation. **With squabbling detectives, off the wall characters and a story that took many twists and turns** it's so surprise that I'd no chance of solving the crimes. Still it was different, **kept me interested right up to an explosive and unexpected ending** which put the story up in my estimation.*

Not my sort of book but I would like to try another by this author to see what other scenarios he may come up with.

Follow Jan on Twitter: @cadizzye

Carol Peace

A fast paced all engrossing crime book.

Wow what a whirlwind of a book. I was lucky to get an advanced copy from <http://www.lovereadings.co.uk/> for an honest review and here it is.

*DI Helen Grace is in the thick of it again and when a body turns up in a nightclub she is devastated to learn it is someone she knows. The circumstances and where it is found means she doesn't enlighten the rest of the team, her private life is not a conventional one and she doesn't want have to explain herself to them. This does however mean that Helen is working her team very hard and she finds a tentative friendship she has with Charlotte is strained and resentment finds its way in. Helen has to find the killer before she is exposed but who is the person spying on her? Or is it just her imagination. **I was gripped from the very first page right up to the last and still wanted more.** I would recommend every crime lover to read this.*

Suzanne Marsh

M. J. Arlidge always weaves magic on me once I start reading his novels I just can't close the book. I read 'Eeny Meeny' and I am

delighted to of read 'Little Boy Blue'.

I was rooted to my sofa reading 'Little Boy Blue', barely getting up to make myself a cup of tea.

What is really good news that as M. J. Arlidge is the UK's most exciting new crime writing talent goes into hardback for the first time. Over 500,000 M. J. Arlidge books sold in the UK alone.

There had been a murder in the torture Room at a Southampton night club. Detective Inspector knew the man they found dead as Jake Elder, he was the man whose company Helen had paid on numerous occasions over the years who'd beaten her dark introspection during their S&M sessions. Instantly Detective Inspector knew that she couldn't offer up any of her private life to DC Charlie Brooks.

Will Helen Grace secret stay safe forever? Does anyone else know about her double-life? And will Detective Inspector Helen Grace be able keep her secret away from the police force forever?

There is Sally, an intelligent woman married to Paul for twenty years, he was very ambitious and hard-working. But what was he up to so late at night? And who was he with?

If you are a thriller fan then you will love this new thriller by M.J. Arlidge as a lot happens in this page turner novel Little Boy Blue.

I am already looking forward to the next novel.

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Edel Waugh

*When a murder is committed in the notorious Torture Rooms Club it's up to DS Helen Grace to try and figure out who is doing this. Helen has her own interests in this bizarre case set amid the S & M club scene. In a world where its occupants come from every walk of life, they all keep their mouths shut as some have more to hide than others making it very hard to get leads in the case. The story is an interesting one, this unique club where so much is shared with strangers and similar minded acquaintances makes a great setting for a crime. Most of the people have their identity hidden there and so it made it hard to figure out who it was and why someone would do it or could it be game that went wrong. **This was a fast paced read and had an ending I was certainly not expecting, the characters were all pretty flawed, but***

their imperfections made them all the more human. If you enjoy stories about what goes on behind closed doors then I think you will really enjoy this intricate story told through the eyes of someone whose job is to find out secrets, but who has plenty of secrets of their own.

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/02/little-boy-blue-by-mj-arlidge-review.html?m=1>

Sue Burton

I loved the story and the characters. Helen is still my favourite character. When I think I know who the killer is it turns out to be wrong. And boy was I wrong.

Helen Grace is brilliant at her job but she has a secret life away from work. If it was revealed it would probably cost Helen her job which is the tangible thing in her life.

Magdalena Vidgen

I read the first book in the DI Helen Grace series when it was first published and eagerly waited for the latest, the fifth instalment.

I started reading as soon as it arrived and by the end of the day I was more than half way through. But **as the daylight waned and I found myself alone I had to stop reading! I got so spooked** I was jumping at the merest noise outside! I had to put the book down and watch a Disney movie to calm down a little... only to finish my book the next day.

In the course of novel we are faced with a heinous crime, committed seemingly without a motive. And again DI Grace must find the clues to pursue the killer.

What I like about these books is the fact that the perpetrator is so obscure, committing a perfect crime - no motive, no trace evidence and no leads for the detectives to work on. There are many lines of inquiry, but many are dead ends, bringing police back to the square one...

The plot is well constructed, the 'red herrings' plentiful, the dead ends frustrating, the conclusion... shocking.

Janet Gilliard

After a blip with the last Helen Grace novel Arlidge is back on top form. Set a

world most of us know little about- BDSM. Helen Grace is in an invidious position when her personal and professional lives collide during a triple murder investigation. **I read the last few chapters almost holding my breath. I can't wait for the next novel in the series.**

Angie Rhodes

A body has been found in a Southampton nightclub, and even though Detective Inspector Helen Grace has been to a lot of murder scenes, this one shocks her. Helen knows the victim, Jake Elder, is her friend, but she cannot tell anyone, for the simple fact that Jake liked S&M and this is how Helen knew him. He was her dominator and work mates have no idea that Helen enjoyed her darker side.

All too soon there's another murder and Helen is no closer to catching the sick killer who takes great pleasure in using S&M in his killings. **As tempers rise Helen's hold on the case is taking its toll and things are unravelling fast.** Will she be able to keep her private life far away from her work? Or is all going to catch up?

Daran Bellingham

Another fantastic case for Helen Grace.

If you have read the previous DI Helen Grace cases then this will not disappoint. If you are new to DI Grace, this book will have you wanting more. The cases in this novel revolve round the murky world of BDSM, a friend of Helens is murdered at a munch (BDSM meeting club), I won't mention the friendship in detail as this would give away his identity from the previous books.

The character DI Grace is as good as Prime Suspect's Jane Tennyson and has some quirks herself (don't they all) but they are credible.

A great addition to M J Arlidge's DI Grace series.

Barbara Goldie

Dark and complex, shocking from the opening chapter, a compulsive read.

A body in a nightclub, a second killing, dark secrets and many twists and turns. If these appeal to you do not miss this book. Another great offering by M J Arlidge, it's plot is exceptional, very well constructed and cleverly written.

Although it is number five in the series I feel it is a good read as a standalone novel and if you have not read any of the previous titles will certainly have you seeking them out. Some parts to refer back to past events and Helen's former life but this does not distract the reader in any way. The opening had me gripped; it is very readable, fast paced with gritty characters. The atmosphere created is tense and edgy. Helen grew on me quickly from the start, a very strong character well drawn, I especially enjoyed the insight into her professional life and this combined with the problems she faced in her personal life made her very real. I look forward to more from Helen in the future.

So if you like a real page turner, where the characters come to life, with believable descriptions and dialogue in an easy to read style, then the gripping storytelling of M J Alridge should not be missed.