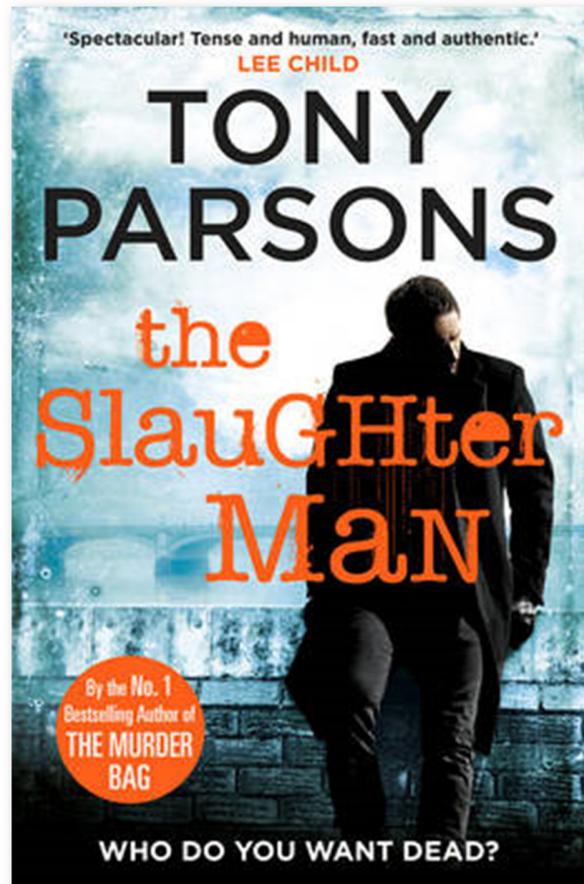


Lovereadng Reader reviews of The Slaughter Man by Tony Parsons

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereadng members.

Ray Orgill

*Detective Constable Max Wolfe is far from the usual London detective but this time so is his quarry. Many years back 'The Slaughter Man' killed his victim by shooting them in the head using a captive bolt gun which is a device used in animal slaughter prior to the final despatching. He was subsequently caught, convicted and jailed. However the same sort of thing appears to be happening again when four members of the same family are killed in the same fashion but this time the youngest son is kidnapped. Is this the original killer at work once more or a depraved copycat? DC Wolfe's task is to identify who has committed this dreadful execution before the kidnapped youngster meets the same fate. **A very disturbing yet thought provoking task with violence aplenty.***



Melanie Rose

What a great book! Very fast paced, easy to follow and just kept me wanting to read on till the end. This is the second novel to feature DC Max Wolfe but it won't matter if you've not read the first one. Hope there'll be more in the series soon.

Rachel Hall

As a long term enthusiast of the writings of Tony Parsons, creator of the beautiful Man and Boy saga I have long appreciated his talents. Returning to a Tony Parsons novel always feels like returning to an old friend - poignant, evocative and a much underrated author. I therefore approached his first foray into crime fiction with trepidation. I wanted 'The Murder Bag' to be a success and my word, what a wonderful novel it was! What I found was a cracking blend of a police procedural with a human element. It positively teemed with the spirit of London, it bristled along with a compulsive action plot and was rich in the detail and appreciation of a history of the criminal world, an often neglected aspect of many works of this genre. However, could Tony Parsons bring this mix to the party for a second time and, more importantly, did his leading man, DC Max Wolfe have the legs to become a fully-fledged defender of the people and protector of London?

Without a doubt, the answer to all of the above is a resounding, "yes!" Whilst taking all the elements of the first novel which were a success including Max's home life and the resultant impact of coping as a single parent, and building on from his first case with the Murder Investigation Team of West End Central, he has managed to create another novel with a fine appreciation of the history of London and a nod to the notorious crimes which the Black Museum is testament to. In this second novel, Parsons ratchets up the pace and manages to keep his home life on the back burner as he lets the classy plot lead us further and further into a riveting case. It is edge of the seat stuff and those with any kind of fondness for our capital will positively adore the observations and appreciation of the sights and sounds which define our city.

Building on from the first novel, Parsons sticks with the familiar formula and once again finds himself thrust back into the world of the Black Museum. On New Year's Day the team is called to an exclusive garden house in the wealthy setting of Highgate. The family has been murdered in a brutal manner and all points to the hallmarks of the work of a serial killer who used the very same modus operandi thirty years previously. This man is dying but the use of a gun for stunning cattle and a butchered family find Max pondering on these events. When it is discovered that the four year old son of the murdered family is missing, Max is forced to track down the perpetrator and look into this historic crime in order to help his progress in solving the latest crime. But could this latest crime be the work of the killer known as The Slaughter Man?

The second novel in a new genre is often the crux as to deciding whether to stick with a new cop and follow the further cases, and this is a magnificent chapter

for the latest London crime hunter, DC Max Wolfe. In DC Wolfe, Parsons has blended a man with a sensitive side and as in so many of his earlier novels, he can pack the emotional punch but this is a much understated element of the novel. He does not play on this factor and it speaks eons for his talent that he is able to let what is clearly a thoroughly researched plot with compelling characters take centre stage. **For fans old and new, dive in and give DC Max Wolfe a try, and get in with this series from the off... We can expect another in 2016 and I am an already a fully paid up fan!**

Suzanne Marsh

I read Tony Parsons first novel 'The Murder Bag' which I just couldn't put down and highly recommend readers to read it. 'The Slaughter Man' is an excellent thriller and I highly recommend readers to read this too. What I like about Tony Parsons is that he has created a Detective Max Wolfe that features in both of his novels. We get to learn more and more about Detective Max Wolfe from each novel. I found 'The Slaughter Man' a very good story and very frightening, it will have you on the edge of seat. **When an author produces a frightening, nail-biting story such as this, you know he or she is a good crime author to follow.**

A little about what to expect from The Slaughter Man: On New Year's Eve a boy wakes up to his father scream. His sister calls for the police. A wealthy family is found slaughtered inside their exclusive gated community in North London and their youngest child has been stolen away. I look forward to reading 'The Hanging Club' by Tony Parsons in 2016 when detective Max Wolfe returns.

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Judith Sharp

Fantastic, read it in a couple sittings. To quote Author Jeffery Deaver "DC Max Wolfe: More. Soon." **The first book in the series was a best seller, this will be too. Write faster Tony!!!**

This is the second book featuring DC Max Wolfe that I have read and I have loved both. Tony Parsons is a great writer who manages to inform as well as tell a great story. London comes to life in these books and makes you want to visit the haunts mentioned.

Max is a single parent whose family consists of his daughter Scout and their pet dog Stan. This is not some angst ridden detective and all the better for it. Yes, it

deals with violent crime but its heart shows through.

I won't go into the story, you can check that out easily enough. But do yourself a favour and give this a try. Me, I can't wait until the next one!!!

Phyllippa Smithson

I've read the first book from Parsons. And now read the second. Boy is he a quite brilliant British writer of murder-mysteries.

Max Wolfe is a single parent living with his 5-year old daughter, Scout, overlooking Smithfield Market, London. He is also a detective whose job is chasing down the most ruthlessly criminally minded. Not a good combination.

He is pulled into his latest case after the murder of a family of 5, killed it seems simply for being happy. The mother had caught the media attention when she had represented Britain in the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympic. And whilst she did not return with a medal, she did with her future husband whom she had met at the event and who, at the time of death, was running his own highly successful sports media business. Together they had had three children, the two oldest in their teens and four year old Bradley and were living the life that the glossy magazines reveal to us.

The investigation is not only to nail the killer, but to do so fast enough that the life of Bradley can be saved. His is missing. There is no body and Max is determined that he will be found alive, motivated even more so because of the love he has for his own child.

The urgency of the case, is reflected in the urgency of the writing. There is no relenting as the reader turns page after revealing page.

There are loads of murder genre writers but Tony Parsons has established himself as one of the best in the current list.

Melanie Kane

A fantastic fast moving incredible plot from the very beginning, this tale graphically incorporates everything from paedophilia, child abduction, murder, rape, subterfuge and Police ineptitude. I liked how the author worked in the contrast between the detectives home and work life highlighting issues felt by many single working parents.

Where this fell short for me was the Police incompetence, I found myself becoming increasingly frustrated by their bumbling efforts at hunting down the

killer which led to so many incidents of serious harm being inflicted on themselves. One couldn't help but feel they brought it on themselves, the despair and infuriation I felt impacted on the initial spark of this book. None the less I enjoyed this author and will be on the lookout for more of his work.

Helen Lowry

A murdered family, a young boy abducted and dark secrets, always a motive. Could an aging serial killer, having done his time, be killing again? Detective Wolfe hunts a killer with no mercy.

This is the second book in a series by Tony Parsons; unfortunately, I haven't read the first, as yet. However, I did enjoy this one and I quickly warmed to 'his' detective, Max Wolfe. For once, a likeable detective and a family man, albeit a single parent. Devoted to daughter, Scout, and dog, Stan!

The book has a gruesome start, with the discovery of a family murdered at home on New Year's Eve. A stun gun used on cattle is found to be the murder weapon, leading Wolfe to a convicted but released killer of thirty years ago – The Slaughter Man. He is old now and his family as helpful as ever. An added twist is the abduction of the youngest child in the family, not killed, but taken.

A child abuse ring adds to the story and finally, Wolfe untangles what exactly is going on and who is behind it all.

The last few chapters roll along, twisting and turning very quickly. Once or twice, I did find it all moved a bit too fast and it felt a bit rushed. Personal opinion, others will probably like that. It had a satisfactory ending and I always like that.

But, overall I enjoyed the book and would not hesitate to read others by Tony Parsons.

Andrea Dean

*Having never read his previous book 'The Murder Bag', I was eager to read his new book and was not disappointed. The storyline is very fast paced as you're carried through the different twists and plots as DC Max Wolfe tries to look for the murderer of a mother and father and two of their three children. Their third, youngest, son disappears and DC Wolfe needs to find him before he too is murdered. **The conclusion is rather surprising and keeps you hanging on until the last.***

A must for anyone who enjoys crime thrillers.

Edel Waugh

*When a husband and wife and two of their children are found dead with another missing it's up to Detective Max Wolfe to go on the trail of their killer. This trail will lead him to criminals from the past and the seediest most deplorable people in the underbelly of society, where nightmares can come true, and the most vulnerable are easy targets, where wealth can buy any manner of depravity. **I started this book and did not finish it until the end, it was impossible to put down even though some of the crime scenes described were not for the faint hearted.** The tension built from the opening chapter with its terrifying start to the story and continued throughout to the bitter end. This is must read for those who enjoy thrillers and Detective stories.*

www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com

Lorraine Baker

On New Year's Day, a wealthy family is found slaughtered inside their exclusive gated community in north London, their youngest child stolen away.

The murder weapon – a gun for stunning cattle before they are butchered – leads Detective Max Wolfe to a dusty corner of Scotland Yard's Black Museum devoted to a killer who thirty years ago was known as the Slaughter Man.

But the Slaughter Man has done his time, and is now old and dying. Can he really be back in the game?

And was the murder of a happy family a mindless killing spree, a grotesque homage by a copycat killer – or a contract hit designed to frame a dying man?

All Max knows is that he needs to find the missing child and stop the killer before he destroys another innocent family – or finds his way to his own front door ...

Books do not get any better than this - DC Max Wolfe is an excellent character and once you start reading this book it will be very difficult to put down - do not forget the other Max Wolfe books - especially 'The Murder Bag'.

Tanya Thurling

I can honestly say I absolutely loved this book. From the very first page your thrown head first into the action and it doesn't slow down.

This is the story of a family killed in their own home, their youngest child stolen and the murder weapon a gun used for stunning cattle.

With a similar killing thirty years ago leading them to a man known as The Slaughter Man, now having done his time and free, the Detective's have to find out if these horrific murders were in fact him or someone else, and find the missing child before it's too late.

Plenty of twists and turns, non stop action and plenty of fights and 'hairy' moments.

There's nothing I hate more in a crime thriller than skimping on detail. If a crime has happened, however bad it is, I want to know what happened, how it happened, and all the grizzly details. I don't like having to guess or fill the blanks in myself. I want to feel like I'm right there as it's happening. I want to feel what the victim/perpetrator feels. This book definitely does not disappoint.

I liked Detective Max Wolfe and he was made to feel a bit more like a human being rather than just a fearless, badass cop taking down all the baddies because there was a fair bit of focus on his relationship with his daughter. Although I did feel like I was missing out a bit on his story. Maybe it's explained more in the previous book, which only adds another reason to go out and buy it. Without giving anything away, this book had me on the edge of my seat, staying up late to read just one more page, and it even made me cry which gives it extra brownie points.

As a massive fan of Karen Rose, and I am guilty of comparing any crime books to hers, the only thing this book was missing was a steamy romance. In this case I think I can forgive it. I will most definitely be recommending this to friends.

Lisa Hall

I LOVED this book - a brilliant crime thriller that grabs you from the first page, I couldn't put it down.

I have read Tony Parsons before, but this was the first Max Wolfe book I had read. I LOVED this book - a brilliant crime thriller that grabs you from the first

page, I couldn't put it down. Tony Parsons has created a likeable, believable detective in Max Wolfe - I loved his manner, the fact that he's vulnerable, like any parent, and the way he reacted to certain events throughout the book was brilliant - and his other characters are easily brought to life. The storyline was fast-paced, with plenty of action and moments that made me gasp out loud. I thought there were going to be a few extra twists along the way, but the final twist was great, and all in all it made for a really enjoyable read. A brilliant read that I would definitely recommend.

www.reading-room-with-a-view.blogspot.co.uk

Kerry Bridges

The return of Max Wolfe sees another set of victims; this time one a missing child. A fast paced, easy to read thriller, which I really enjoyed.

Fresh from the traumatic events of 'The Murder Bag', DCI Max Wolfe and the murder team are called to the terrible site of a multiple killing; 4 members of a family have been slaughtered and their young son is missing. Max knows that the child needs to be found as soon as possible for there to be any chance of him being alive, but the only similar killings were done 20 years ago by a now terminally ill man who would have surely have no reason to kill again. Once again, Max is involved in a race against time to solve the murder and save the child.

As I mentioned, this is the second in Tony Parsons' DCI Max Wolfe series. I have read 'The Murder Bag' and found it a good read but slightly clipped in it's structure with shorter, repetitive sentences which made it feel, to me, a very masculine read. This book on the other hand, felt much smoother and therefore much easier to read and, coupled with much more sympathetic victims, was much more enjoyable from my point of view.

I do like the characters of Max and Scout and it is good to see them developing as the series continues. Several of the supporting cast also reappear but, like 'A Game of Thrones', be careful not to get too attached because you never know!

All in all, I found this an easy read and very much enjoyed not having to think too much about it - I'll be looking for the next one in the series when it comes out next year.

www.iamalwaysreading.wordpress.com/

Jan Kirkcaldy

*An absolutely gripping story from its horrendous beginning with a family in an expensive gated property area of London meeting violent deaths. The whole family died apart from their youngest child, a small son who had disappeared. Det. Max Wolfe's investigations take him into all walks of life from the very rich to a gypsy group one of whom had been convicted for a similar method of killing a family years before. Now out of jail he was among the first to be investigated. With so many twists and turns it soon becomes obvious nothing is straightforward and absolutely no one can be ruled out of the equation. Whilst the boy's extended family keeps up their hopes of his being found alive, the police are expecting to find his body. This is a violently descriptive book, the characters are scarily believable in many cases but after following every lead with Det. Wolfe and his colleagues there is a great deal of satisfaction when the unexpected conclusion is reached. **An enjoyable read particularly as you have to keep your wits about you to have a chance of beating the police at their own game.***

Clare Turner

Tony Parsons can certainly tell a story – but we already know that. The pleasure is that in his new genre of crime fiction these skills really come to the fore.

This is the second book featuring the rather engaging Detective Max Wolfe. An apparently perfect family has been murdered in a particularly gruesome way - in fact the murder weapon was a gun previously used to stun cattle before they were butchered. The ensuing search for the killer is far from straightforward, and is far-ranging both in time and in society, involving traveller communities, paedophile rings and all sorts of abuse. Mr Parsons certainly does his research and not only shows an encyclopaedic (and very atmospheric) knowledge of London, but expands his readers' education in areas as fascinating as the grisly "Black Museum" (a collection of criminal memorabilia kept at New Scotland Yard)

My main criticism is that the violence is rather too frequent and too graphic; for this reason I felt it was rather a "boys' book". It also abounds in clichés, both in character and plot, which can irritate a little. However even the clichés are tempered – Wolfe himself may be almost a "Central Casting" character - flawed but brave and dedicated, attractive to women etc. But this is tempered by his being a devoted single father to a small girl, and living in an unexpected

*location (Smithfield Market). But **Parsons' skill ensures that it is a page turner and there are enough surprises to hold even the most cynical reader's interest. And – the real test for me – I will definitely read no 3!***