



Taken for Dead

Graham Masterton

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Taken for Dead

Graham Masterton

Taken for Dead Graham Masterton

It is a sunny Saturday in county Cork, and an Irish wedding is in full swing. Drunk uncles are toasting the bride. The Ceilidh band have played for hours. But the cutting of the cake will bring the wedding to a horrifying end. For there, grinning gruesomely up from the bottom tier, is the severed head of the local baker.

Katie Maguire, of the Irish Garda, does not have any leads - until another local businessman goes missing in horrific circumstances. The murders appear to link to The Kings of Erin, a terrifying gang of torturers and extortionists. But these are dangerous men. And they will stop at nothing to throw Katie off the trail...

Taken for Dead Details

Date : Published December 15th 2014 by Head of Zeus (first published February 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Graham Masterton

Format : ebook 384 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller, Cultural, Ireland

 [Download Taken for Dead ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Taken for Dead ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Taken for Dead Graham Masterton

From Reader Review Taken for Dead for online ebook

Petra says

Book 4 in the Katie Maguire series and the first one that isn't up to the 4 stars I've given for the others. This one deals with cases of kidnapping. Local businessmen are being kidnapped by a group called The Kings of Erin. I still enjoy the mix of history and mythology that Masterton inserts into these books and the sense of the Irish setting was excellent again. But Katie's 'development' in this one was terrible. I am referring to her decision-making regarding her new next door neighbor. I don't mind a protagonist with some flaws but that took stupidity to a new level. Then there's the now standard cringe worthy sex scene. Masterton is fantastic when it comes to gory horror scenes, but the relationship and love aspects of this series are starting to be a tad formulaic.

I started off listening to the audio version, but had to abandon it because, 4 books into the series, there was suddenly a new narrator. I don't give up easily, but a potential 13 hours of monotonous, school-like reading out loud was more than I could bear.

The book ends in a bit of a cliffhanger, and I look forward to reading the next part, hoping that Katie will return to be the strong female protagonist we saw in the previous installments.

Tobin Elliott says

For the fourth book in the Katie Maguire series, this is the first one that I felt Masterton took his foot off the throttle a bit. This felt more like a transitional novel, as though he had to set up the action for book five.

To start with, Masterton has absolutely never shied away from the gross stuff in this series. It's been, to me, one of the distinguishing features of the series, a police procedural coming from the mind and fingers of an established horror author.

Only this particular one felt more like your standard police procedural. The overtly nasty serial killer never appeared in this one, and some of the victims actually got away.

Thankfully, this was the first book to not have the now-expected lesbian scene. I have nothing against them, but they've always just felt shoehorned in for some unfathomable reason that only the author could explain. There was, however, the standard reasonably explicit awkward sex scene. Seriously, I love Masterton, I really do, but I wish he'd just stick to his strengths. Because, even though he worked for Playboy and has written several "great sex" books, the sex in this series is simply groan-worthy.

And one other thing. Katie Maguire really needs to up the security on her house, or hire a security guard or something. This is the third time in four novels that someone has perpetrated a particularly vicious act of violence in her home. She really needs to do something about that. No kidding, if I was her neighbour, I'd have moved long ago.

Other than that, even though the violence was toned down and a couple of storylines are being set up, it's still a fun read. Looking forward to the fifth book.

Paul says

Taken For Dead – Pulsating Irish Thriller

Taken For Dead is the fourth thriller in the Katie Maguire series written by bestselling British horror writer Graham Masterton which is set in and around County Cork. What makes this a brilliant thriller is that the twisted mind of the horror writer brings it to the thriller and genre and ratchets up the tension, the blood and gore, not that I am complaining. This is an original and twisted take by a writer who digs the depths of his dark writing psyche and delivers on every page so that you really do get an explosive finish!

Katie Maguire is a detective Superintendent in the Garda in Cork heading up a number of investigations in to all various kingpins of crime, she is rather perturbed especially when a known criminal is able to evade justice and walk free from court. She knows that her sexist Acting Chief Superintendent Brian Molloy will give her a lecture on not taking her eye off the ball and letting the bad guys get away with it.

Maguire's life becomes a lot harder when the head appears baked in to a wedding cake and all hell starts to break loose there seems to be no evidence whatsoever to the criminals and the person who wound up in the cake. As more near bankruptcy businessmen seem to go missing and a ransom is demanded a group called The Kings of Erin claim the credit. This group even taunt Katie and are not afraid of anyone as they kill two police officers and many of the witnesses to the crimes.

Katie cannot understand why at every turn she is being defeated it is as if the Gang have an idea of what she is doing and where she is going. It is not helped that she has a new neighbour at home who takes too much interest in her and never seems to leave her alone he comes across as a sexist bully with no regard for any female.

To solve the case she does not realise how alone she will be and that could possible put her at risk but Katie Maguire is intent to find if there is a leak at the Police Station as well as catching the Kings of Erin. One thing Katie does understand is that the Kings will stop at nothing to silence all those who come up against them and to succeed she must face them down and the enemies within to crack the case. Whether she does you will just have to read to find that answer.

This really is a hard boiled crime thriller that does not sugar coat the darkest parts of the Irish state and delivers a blockbuster of a thriller. The story is original with some great dark and twisting moments throughout the story that makes you think at every turn who might be the culprits and how does it all tie together. An engaging and powerful thriller that delivers on all levels and I will never be able to think of County Cork in the same light again.

Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λου says

Π?ρα πολ? καλ?! Ωρα?α πλοκ? και ενδιαφ?ροντες χαρακτ?ρες! Η Katie περν?ει αρκετ? σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο και μ?χρι την τελευτα?α σελ?δα υπ?ρχουν ανατροπ?ς!
Το απ?λαυσα πραγματικ?!

David Highton says

A very violent and ruthless kidnapping gang, a difficult neighbour and an unfair boss all conspire to make life tough for Superintendent Katie Maguire. I love the Irish dialogue in these books. The second half better than the first. Will read #5 in the series

Jane Walker says

This is the worst junk I've had the misfortune to pick up in a long time. Female detectives are very popular at the moment; but this one is written by a man, and the star has no credibility. First we have a ludicrously improbable seduction, and a sex scene described in the sort of pornographic detail only indulged in by a very bad writer. Then comes a double murder dwelt on in loving detail which made me doubt Masterton's sanity. Then I gave up. It's awful.

Joe Geesin says

A tale of Gangs in Corke, Ireland. Gangs ancient and new, extortion and kidnap, and a police force rotten to the core.

Well written and at times fast paced, the book introduces some nasty characters, ones you don't like to read about, and Katie Maguire manages to pull through. Some emotional ups and downs, but that's part of the game here. Some disasters and losses too. The losses of some police offices is always bad, unless it's a bent one.

An open end, looking forward to the next one.

Simon Okill says

Taken For Dead (Katie Maguire #4) by Graham Masterton is a masterful crime thriller full of menace and mystery, just as this genre should be. In Katie's fourth outing there is more drama and anguish in her life which perhaps interferes with her professional life, well that is the opinion of her male chauvinist pig of a boss. But in true Katie fashion she puts her personal troubles aside to solve her next grisly murder spree. And in typical Masterton style the reader is spattered from head to toe in gore galore, but stylishly done.

On a bright, sunny Saturday in county Cork, an Irish wedding is in full swing. Drunk family members toast the bride and groom. The music is perfect and then comes the finale - the cutting of the cake. Inside the bottom tier is the severed head of the baker. Well you can't have your cake and eat it!

Katie Maguire of the Irish Garda does not have any leads, until another local businessman suffers in similarly horrific circumstances. The murders appear to be linked to The Kings of Erin, a terrifying gang of torturers and extortionists. And they will stop at nothing to throw Katie off the trail. As her investigations gather pace so the Gang stay several moves ahead of her, and it would seem there is a rat in the force, or is there? The psychological horror is set at ramming speed and the pace is fast and furious.

This psychological horror is so highly recommended I dare anyone not to read it! A true classic in crime fiction and the greatest crime series ever written.

Rebecca Hock says

This book was just okay. It is the first one in the series that I have read. I will not go out of my way to find another. If I see one at a charity book sale I may pick another one up but I would not buy at full price. The main character is a high level police officer in Ireland but at times she is portrayed as being an incredibly stupid woman who lets her emotions totally foul things up for me. A very disappointing read.

Alex says

Bizarre. This book constantly flicks between gratuitous violence, overt sexism, kidnapping and fraud, and soft porn at quite an astonishing rate. I found the whole story too fantastical by far, and the relationship sideline between Katie/David/Sorcha just pathetic. Predictable 'baddies' you could see a mile off. However I did quite like the character of Katie, and despite everything I was intrigued enough to read to the end! Won't be rushing back to read more of this author though.

Marissa says

Katie, what the hell happened?

I loved the first book, thought 2 and 3 were just okay, but this one seems to have totally sunk a formerly likeable, intelligent, strong female protagonist to several new lows. The total narcissism and one bad decision after another continue to escalate with each new story. Since Broken Angels, the books all end on a cliffhanger of some sort. If you write a good story, Graham, you don't need to resort to a cheap trick to get us to come back.

#5 comes out in a few months. Not sure if I'll even bother.

Joyce says

4 and 1 / 2 stars

A party is celebrating a wedding when they cut into the cake they discover something hard. The father of one of the celebrants takes the cake partially apart to discover a human nose and an awful smell. He calls the police.

Katie and her team have several cases on the go. One is a missing young girl. She was recently spotted in a car by one of her friends. Another is trying to gather enough evidence to bring to trial a bad guy who runs the biggest and most vicious prostitute ring.

Katie has a new neighbor named David Kane who is awfully nosy. His wife's name is Sorcha. He reminds her of her boyfriend John Meagher, who has gone back to San Francisco. The first night they move in, Katie

is awoken at 2:30 in the morning to the sound of what sounds like a fight next door.

The head in the cake belongs to the baker himself, Micky Cronan. He apparently has been dead for about a week. Why did no one report him missing? What about his wife, Mary?

Katie's new boss, Acting Chief Superintendent is a misogynist of the first order. His name is Bryan Molloy. He tells her to back off of the Michael Gerrety case. He is the local "businessman" who is running the prostitutes. No surveillance or anything. One of Katie's team has been looking into Molloy's financials and has discovered some oddities. She gets into a verbal contest of wills with him.

During an interview with Mary, Micky's wife, Katie learns that some people she will only identify as "they" had threatened him. His death doesn't come as a huge surprise. They mysterious "they" wanted 100,000 euros to let Micky go. They told her that he was unharmed. Mary handed over 87,600 to the kidnapers. It was all she could raise. She finally tells Katie that the persons who took Micky called himself one of the High Kings of Erin.

The next man to go missing is Derek Hagerty. He owns a garage/car dealership. His wife Shelagh was told to get 250,000 euros. She received a jar with teeth in it. First, she goes to the police, taking the jar with her. Talking to her boss and getting agreement, Katie decides that the police department will pony up the 250,000. They hope to get Derek Hagerty back alive.

Meanwhile, Katie's married neighbor David is making himself a pest and asking her out.

Katie's team sets up a trap for the kidnapers when they come to pick up the money. Things go wrong when a car following the kidnapper gets blown up. When Derek escapes from his kidnapers and is found on the side of the road by passersby, something in his story doesn't add up. Then thugs show up on the doorstep of the people who took Hagerty in after rescuing him. They abduct them.

Katie is getting a load of grief from Brian Molloy. He blames her totally for the mess made of the ransom drop. And lets the press know in a press conference.

The reader learns what exactly the scheme is behind the kidnappings.

The murders, torture and mutilations continue. More people are kidnapped. The police force is under fire in the press. People are frightened. Katie is taken off the case by Acting Chief Superintendent Molloy. Katie thinks he is up to something. Her personal life takes a dive as well.

After meeting on the sly with an informer and talking to a man cycling by an accident, Katie puts the clues together. She receives a visit from the High Kings of Erin. The case comes to a head with a flaming accident. Katie gets good news at the end of the novel.

This book is very well written and plotted. I truly enjoyed it. Graham Masterton is such a fine writer. His books read linearly and in plain language as he takes us through the police investigation. The reader can tell that Mr. Masterton has a history of writing horror. His descriptions of the torture inflicted on the victims are such a great addition to his novel, but I realize it's not for everyone. I can't wait to delve into the next book in this series.

Petra Bohackova says

Joooo, všechno dobře dopadlo. Ale chvíli to tak nevypadalo. Nepoctiví na vysokých místech ... Každý na každého něco ví...

Julie Kellner says

I have been reading Graham Masterton for over 30 years & this series is my least favourite. Not enough of the thriller & horror I love so much in his books. A mediocre thriller

Joe Stamber says

I've been reading Graham Masterton's books for over 30 years and with the Katie Maguire series he has added another string to his bow. This mystery/crime series has been consistently good but I did consider giving the latest addition a lower score. There were a couple of scenes where characters took a course of action that they just wouldn't have, and it didn't work for me. However, by the end I realised that I had enjoyed the story too much overall to give it less than 4 stars. Fans of the series wanting more of the same won't be disappointed.
