



Death Note

Caroline Mitchell

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Twenty years ago you were forced to give your daughter up. Now she's back. Or is she?

Women who've had to give up children for adoption are being killed. A knock at their front door begins a nightmare from which they will never wake up.

East London Detective Ruby Preston and her team must hunt down a disturbed individual before someone else is taken. But when bodies start turning up, staged in perfect, domestic scenes, it carries the echo of a memory in Ruby's mind. The tinkling of a music box. A mother and child reunion...

Then just as Ruby thinks they've made a breakthrough, she receives a sinister email, and the case takes a terrifying personal twist.

Can Ruby catch the killer before they strike again? Or will her troubled past catch up with her first?

Previously published as Love You To Death

Death Note Details

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Author : Caroline Mitchell

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From Reader Review *Death Note* for online ebook

♥Rachel♥ says

Detective Sergeant Ruby Preston is the kind of detective you'd want on your side, a woman who yearns for justice and tries to do the right thing, even if her methods aren't always by the book. Unfortunately, the love of her life, Nathan Crosby, is on the opposite side of the law and they have a very tangled past and current relationship. I have high hopes for their future, but I'm not sure how things will work out given their circumstances. There were many POV's throughout the story, the main one being Ruby of course, but I appreciated getting Nathan's thoughts as it added another layer on their relationship, making me root for their romance even more than I would've without it.

Ruby is currently working on a case where women who previously gave up a child for adoption are being brutally murdered. It's clear, from having the POV of the killer, the person they're looking for is truly disturbed!

Love You to Death had me creeped out and eager for this deranged killer to be caught! My guesses at the killer's identity were completely wrong, but I do think that was partly because the author didn't let us in on some of Ruby's ongoing observations. If I have any complaints I think that would be it. I enjoy a good crime procedural, and this one set in London brought me back to the days I was addicted to the Brit series *Prime Suspect*, however, I found Ruby far more likable than Helen Mirran's character. I'm looking forward to picking up the next installment, eager to see how Ruby's complicated personal life plays out and for her next case!

A copy was kindly provided by Bookouture via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This review is also posted on [The Readers Den](#).

Liz says

I'd been given the third book in this series last year through netgalley. I really liked it and vowed to go back and start at the beginning. I'm finally getting back to read the first book in the series.

Ruby's team is handed a homicide that initially appears to be a domestic. But then the wife also turns up dead.

We hear from both Ruby and the killer, so we know more than Ruby. I appreciated that for once, the murderer is a woman. Lucy was given up for adoption as a baby and is searching for her biological mother. She has a list of potential women. She wants a reunion and a future with her real mom, but if a woman doesn't measure up, she's killed.

From reading out of order, I was already aware of Ruby's history with Nathan, the head of a crime family. But this book gives you the background of their relationship. Ruby is well developed, flawed but caring. Trying to do the right thing but forced to sometimes bend the rules.

Good sharp writing, well imagined scenes and a good creep factor. Looking forward to reading book two.

Bill Kupersmith says

So disappointed with this one, especially as the author seems someone I'd like. Figured out some of it but still believe giving the detective information not shared with the reader is breaking the rules of the genre. Lucy's First Christmas is apparently not a real movie so bogus as a clue. If you like straight out read once & discard thrillers with little real sleuthing, you may like this. Personally I hope the author returns to her paranormal stories. These are much more interesting & original. Also found Ruby's simultaneous relationships with a gangster & with a fellow officer shallow & meaningless. As the relationships matter much more than the thriller stuff for me, Ruby flunks her entrance exams for my personal detective squad. Jennifer Knight, however, is still very much in contention so I hope Caroline Mitchell will resume her true metier.

Carolyn says

This is a very chilling thriller with a very creepy murderer! The first in a new series, introducing Detective Ruby Preston. Brought up in the rough side of town and in love with childhood sweetheart, Nathan Crosby, son of a well known crime figure, she's a very different sort of cop, but one who understands people and their motives, using her instincts to solve crimes.

Women are being murdered and their bodies moved and staged in a specific pose, dressed in a specific ways that seem to make no sense. At the same time a young woman called Lucy, adopted at birth is looking for her birth mother and targeting women who gave up a baby girl for adoption. She wants to play a special game with them, one they must play by the rules and say just the right things.

Well paced and plotted, this was dark and sinister and downright creepy in places. Ruby's secret relationship with Nathan and his criminal brother Lenny threatens her job and her good intentions of staying on the right side of the law and I can see these relationships generating interesting dilemmas for Ruby as the series develops.

With thanks to Netgalley and the publisher Bookouture for a digital copy to read and review

Carrie says

Detective Ruby Preston and her team are trying to solve the case of a new serial killer on the loose. Young women who had given a child up for adoption are being targeted and murdered by a young girl who claims she is the baby that they gave up years before. Ruby however has her own secrets that may end up tying into the investigation.

Love You to Death is the first book in the new Detective Ruby Preston series by Caroline Mitchell. I've read a few other books by this author before and they seem to be a bit hit or miss with my tastes. For me this first

book wasn't necessarily a miss but I didn't love it quite as much as other reviewers seem to.

My main problem with this story really seemed to be that things just happened to sort of fall into place all throughout the book. It just seemed awfully convenient to have the main character have the back story that she had in the book. And I also didn't fully become a fan of this detective, she has a sort of sordid past that she's clinging to and while I enjoy a strong lead that will go off the books to solve a case I don't care for one that is toeing the line of right and wrong just for personal reasons as much.

Overall, this one was just an OK read to me but I seem to be in the minority as most reviewers seem to love this one so if you enjoy a good police procedural then this one might be right up your alley.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.wordpress....>

Bentley ★ Bookbastion.net says

Follow Me @ {www.BookBastion.net}

Those of you who have followed me here, or on my blog for awhile probably notice that I tend to hop around from genre to genre quite a bit. I find that it keeps things fresh, and keeps me from feeling like I'm sliding into a reading slump. I've become more and more interested in the suspense/thriller genre, especially over the last few months blogging and when I found out about this series I knew I had to give it a go.

There was a lot to love about this, but **the thing I probably enjoyed most were the various characters, each of which were unique and memorable.** I've spoken before in my reviews that nothing kills a book faster for me than when the characters all speak in the same voice, or feel flat. Have no fear of that here, because Mitchell's characters are full of personality and life.

Ruby in particular is something special. I enjoyed how layered she was. **A lot of books I've read have tended to shroud their main characters in protective bubble wrap, to keep them shiny and new,** but that wasn't the case here. Ruby is flawed, and haunted by choices made in her past.

But she's also strong, smart and driven - and these are all characteristics I can totally get behind in a lead character. That's not to say that the surrounding characters aren't great as well though. Many of them have totally unique voices and roles to play in this diabolic game of cat and mouse they find themselves in as they hunt for a killer.

I don't want to speak too much on the killer themselves, because I don't want to give anything away. However, I will say that there are a number of sequences told from their perspective too, which added a fun layer of tension to the mix and helped flesh out their reasons for what they do - even if they are totally twisted.

I had a lot of fun reading this. To explain why I'm bringing it down one star without spoiling anything is difficult. I will say that I took slight issue with some of the ways characters came by information. **For the**

most part, this is expertly plotted and really fast-paced. There was one instance in particular though that felt a bit cheap to me, as though there must have been a more subtle way of introducing this crucial bit of information into the story.

Otherwise, this was great fun and I'm sure fans of the crime procedurals and thrillers would enjoy this. I'm really looking forward to seeing what kind of trouble Ruby finds herself in for book 2!

★★★★☆ = 4/5 stars!

So I got approved on Netgalley for an arc of the sequel to this book. While I know that crime novels usually have self contained storylines for each book, I'm a completionist and making my way through this first!

Adrian Dooley says

A serial killer is killing women who have given their children up for adoption in the past. Knocking on their doors and pretending to be their long lost child, the killer kidnaps the women and try's to enact the perfect Christmas with them posing them as her mother as she acts like a small child. The enactment ends in disappointment and ultimately murder.

Detective Sargent Ruby Preston and her team face a race against time trying to find the serial killer before more women die. With little or no leads being left by the killer, things take a dark twist as Ruby receives some emails purporting to be from her daughter and intimating she is the killer, a child she herself gave up for adoption at birth when she was a teenager, a child she had created with her life long sweetheart but in many ways her nemesis Nathan. Nathan's family are gangsters involved in major violent crime in London, raised by his very violent father, himself and his brother grew up and took over his fathers criminal empire. As Ruby and Nathan's paths went in opposite directions, their careers could never be reconcilable and they spend their time mostly estranged. Can Ruby stop the killer before any more lives are lost? Is it really her daughter committing the acts and if so does she want to hunt down her own flesh and blood and arrest her? She keeps all this secret from Nathan and from her team as she tries to figure out what to do as the lines between police work and mixing and working with criminals become blurred in her search for the truth.

This is the first book in a new series from Caroline Mitchell to feature Ruby Preston. The good news is that Ruby is a pretty interesting character. Not all sweetness and light, she's a flawed character that walks on both sides of the law at times to get the job done. Her team are well rounded characters too and there's a good dynamic amongst them. Also her relationship with Nathan, the back story of their families is also very interesting and well fleshed out and looks a very interesting storyline to explore further in her future books.

The main problem I had with the book was the serial killer, the plot and motive around the serial killer and the ending. The serial killer part of the story just wasn't that interesting or engaging for me. I found the serial killer character extremely one dimensional and nearly comical at times, despite being a very nasty character. It was a character that just felt clumsy and clunky as did the motive and reveal towards the end. I just wasn't buying any of it or engaged by it. I found myself thinking the character and storyline were bordering on silly at times.

It's a shame because Ruby is a great character as is Nathan and their story and dynamic was the most interesting part of the book. Her team as well as are interesting and memorable,so all the ingredients are there for a good and interesting series of books. It's just the serial killer and storyline for me just didn't have

any depth or hold much interest, and as I said earlier bordered on silly at times. This, being such an integral part of the book took away a lot of enjoyment from the reading for me. I'm slightly frustrated because, despite my misgivings, I didn't hate the book. I quite enjoyed it mostly. I was interested in Ruby and Nathan and Ruby's police work. All the characters are there for a good series of books and it's a nice introduction to them. It's just that serial killer and storyline that let it down. Hopefully in book two there will be a case to solve and "baddie" that holds the same depth as Ruby and her team. I still had enough interest in them to find out how they get on when the second in the series is released.

I would like to thank NetGalley, the author and Bookouture for an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa says

Love You To death by Caroline Mitchell was not the read I thought it would be the hype over this one was high but for me it just didn't cut it while you have a strong premise woman being killed, tortured etc I just couldn't follow it as the chapters kept jumping from one thing to the other.

Although I liked the character of Ruby Preston she was a strong main lead but she had too many flaws, also I could not connect to her team at all don't ask me why? I am not sure if I want to continue with this series was a big letdown.

Angela Marsons says

Wow. Wow. Wow. That may give some indication of how much I LOVED this book. I have read every book this author has written and in my opinion this is her best work yet. Evocative, thrilling, dark, twisted and pacy. Pretty much everything I look for in a crime novel. Ruby Preston is a character that I will follow anywhere. She is dedicated and passionate but not without conflict. And boy do I like her conflicts, especially her relationship with her ex Nathan. This character has some serious mileage in her and I will definitely be following her story. The novel itself is so creepy that sometimes I found myself reading from between my fingers. Don't look - must look, kind of thing. Lucy is a true work of art and a character that captured my imagination from the word go.

The story motors along at pace leaving very little chance to breathe and more than once I had to remind myself to do so. It is superbly written with the perfect mix of description to action and characterisation, with a good helping of psychological suspense thrown in.

If you have not read any of this author's work I suggest you read this one. I actually would like to go back and read it again to savour the clues and expertise that leads to the final, explosive climax.

I am now eagerly awaiting the next instalment of what promises to be an addictive crime series.

Gary says

I discovered the writing of Caroline Mitchell on Net Galley in March 2015 when I read 'Don't Turn Around' and was hooked and since then I have eagerly awaited every book she releases. Her writing is a consistently high level and with its fast paced story-line grips the reader and draws them in.

This book 'Love you to Death' is due to be released on November 11th this year and is sure to be another success. Fast paced, great lead character and twists and turns, what more could you ask for.

This is the first book in a new series featuring Detective Ruby Preston who like most good characters has lots of history and baggage. In this book a serial killer is killing women who have given their children up for adoption and pretending to be their long lost child. On kidnapping the women she acts as a small child which ends up in their murder. Detective Sargent Ruby Preston leads a team who face a race against time to find the serial killer before more women die. The story takes a twist when Ruby receives emails allegedly from her daughter implying that she is the killer, a child she gave up for adoption at birth when she was a teenager.

I did enjoy the book and think that it will lead to an excellent series but if I am completely honest I didn't feel it was quite as well planned as previous books, but maybe I have been spoilt by the others.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Bookouture for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for a honest review.

<https://worcestersource.wordpress.com...>

Petra says

This is the first in a new British crime series by Caroline Mitchell.

As Detective Ruby Preston and her team are chasing a killer who targets women who have given up a child for adoption, Ruby's close connection to a local crime family and secrets from her past push Ruby to walk a fine line between right and wrong.

Caroline Mitchell does a very good job of introducing all the relevant people for this new series and provides enough details to make these into fleshed-out characters. There is a lot going on in this first fast-paced installment. So much so, that I was wondering at the end where she could possibly take these characters in the follow-up to keep this fresh and keep any character development going. So that will be interesting to see. Going by all the glowing reviews so far, this will no doubt be another successful series for Ms. Mitchell, but I have to admit I wasn't as wowed as other readers. My main problem was the character of the serial killer. There were times when I felt I was reading a satire. Rather than making me feel unnerved, I felt the killer was comical. When their identity was finally revealed (I had been convinced it was somebody else), it just didn't fit, and as far as the police procedural aspects are concerned, it was all rather too convenient.

Just prior to reading this, I finished a fantastic book about a female detective who starts a relationship with somebody she shouldn't, so it was difficult not to compare, and maybe I would have liked this more if I had read it at a different time. As it was, it was difficult to warm up to Ruby, and some of her decisions were hard to understand (e.g. contacting Nathan's brother??).

All in all, this was an okay read and as I said, I'd be interested to see how Ruby and Nathan's story progresses, but I'm hoping for a more chilling and believable adversary next time.

I received an ARC, chose to read it, and all opinions in this review are my own and completely unbiased.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

WOW!

All I have to say is that Caroline Mitchell is one brilliant author. This is the first book in the Detective Ruby Preston Series.

Caroline brings us a gritty, head-messing thriller which will really get under your skin. It is not for the faint of heart.

Ruby Preston is a cop with a past, well actually, it's not so much a past, it's more lingering on the peripheral, just there, ready to bring her world crashing down at any moment and this adds such an intensity to the book and to Ruby's character.

Ruby is brilliant, she has heart, she has passion and she is gutsy.

"I'm not your mother. You're a monster. I don't want you"

Women who gave a child up for adoption are being killed. A knock at their front door begins a nightmare from which they will never wake up.

When Ruby receives a mysterious communication from a woman calling herself 'Lucy', she begins to fear that the case may be a little too close to home. Her personal life is already complicated enough, but Lucy threatens to ruin it completely, forcing Ruby to confront a part of her life she thought she had walked away from for good.

I loved Caroline's writing, she really knows how to bring the characters to life and twist a plot so thick and devious that you will be left utterly breathless. I found myself unable to put this down, unable to stop turning the pages and completely shocked by the ending! I cannot wait to see what else Ruby and Nathan get up to, the future is really bright with this new series to look forward to!

I was so excited about this book that I had to dive into the second book Sleep Tight right away and devoured it before writing this review. I am working on that review right now.

I recommend this book to readers who are Serial Killer Lovers and love a dark gritty read.

Fans of Robert Bryndza will love this book. The writing is very similar. You don't want to wait on this one.

Mo says

4.5 strong stars.

Thanks to Elaine's review for pointing me in this author's direction. Really enjoyed it. I do love my Romance and sexy books but lately I have been delving into more Crime and Suspense books, especially British Crime books. First time reading this author but it will not be my last.

I really was hooked from the first page. Very intriguing and interesting and it did not let up for the whole book. I would have read it in one sitting except it was a busy weekend for me.

"This is all I fecking need," he muttered. "If this involves a local businessman, Worrow will be crawling over it like a fly on shite."

We had an Irishman - always good. Especially if it is done right! You know me and all things Irish. I can be a critical fecking bitch. You have to have the odd "feck" or two in there.

DOWNES

I loved Ruby. She loves her job, but her past means sometimes she is teetering on the edge of right and wrong. Cannot wait to see where it is going with her and Nathan.

RUBY

"I'm not the sixteen year old you shacked up with, Nathan. I'm thirty-eight years old. I have a good job and I run a tight ship."

NATHAN

I was guessing until the end. Who was it? Who was the bad guy?

**The dead did not bother her.
It was the living that played on her mind.**

As Ruby drove away, she wondered how much longer it would be before all her secrets came tumbling down around her.

I know my review might be a bit vague but you are better off just going in and experiencing it without knowing too much of the tale.

But there were no guarantees in a world where God did not listen.

Thanks to Netgalley for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Tick-tock, tick-tock.

Elaine says

5 Plus

On a hot September, Christmas tree lights flicker. Opposite sits a woman on a chair.

A girl is watching her with excitement, she asks.....

"**My name's Lucy. Are you my mummy?**"

You see **Lucy** is looking for her fairytale and that fairytale is finding her mother.

As soon as I started **Caroline Mitchell's** new thriller, I was totally enthralled by the story from reading the first chapter. It then just got better and better.

This had everything I would be looking for in this genre and more. Twists and turns throughout the book made it impossible for me to put down. You know.... when you can't wait to get to the end but don't want it to finish.

Detective Ruby Preston has been assigned to investigate the murder of a woman. Without any real clues they think it's a case of domestic abuse but when another person is also found dead **Ruby** needs to look into their past.

And with a new woman now missing it seems that the only connection is that they have given children up for adoption.

I really like **Ruby**, she loves her job but she also has a past that could threaten her career and she is determined not to let that happen. She's not your standard police officer and that just makes her more interesting.

Nathan Crosby is on the other side of the law, trying to clean up the bad things but he's held back by his brother **Lenny** and his mother.

Nathan was another fascinating character, dark, moody but there's one thing in his life that he can't let go.....(view spoiler)

Lucy is terrifying, desperate to find her ~~happy ever after~~ no matter what happens.

The author has turned this thriller into something totally different. It was moving, scary and exciting all at the same time and I loved how we really got to know these characters and what lay in their past to make them the way they were. The writing is excellent and I think this book will put **Caroline Mitchell** up there with the best of the best.

Definitely one of my top favourites for **2016**

Complimentary copy provided by **Caroline Mitchell** in exchange for an honest review

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

Don't believe the hype on the front cover of this book. Love You to Death by Caroline Mitchell is not an absolutely gripping thriller with a killer twist. It is not even a moderately gripping thriller....in fact, gripping does not enter into it. And the killer twist? I must have missed it.

Love You to Death has all the ingredients to be what it is promoted to be. We have women being abducted, tortured and then their bodies 'staged' for discovery in upmarket homes. These women all have one thing in common - they have all given up daughters for adoption. As has Detective Ruby Preston who is investigating the case.

But something is missing from the writing. There was plenty of scope for tension and OMG moments. It just didn't happen. Not once did I feel the quickening of my pulse as I read. Not once did I feel 'involved'. In fact, it was all pretty bland.

A very forgettable read.

Thank you to NetGalley and Bookouture for providing a digital ARC of Love You to Death by Caroline Mitchell for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.
