



The Surgeon

Tess Gerritsen

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IN BOSTON, THERE'S A KILLER ON THE LOOSE...

A killer who targets lone women, who breaks into their apartments and performs terrifying ritualistic acts of torture on them before finishing them off. His surgical skills lead police to suspect he is a physician - a physician who, instead of saving lives, takes them.

But as homicide detective Thomas Moore and his partner Jane Rizzoli begin their investigation, they make a startling discovery. Closely linked to these killings is Catherine Cordell, a beautiful doctor with a mysterious past. Two years ago she was subjected to a horrifying rape and shot her attacker dead.

Now the man she believes she killed seems to be stalking her once again, and this time he knows exactly where to find her...

The Surgeon Details

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Author : Tess Gerritsen

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From Reader Review The Surgeon for online ebook

Wendy Darling says

If you're just coming into the Rizzoli and Isles books, be aware that these are very different from the AMC series. Dark, gruesome, and complicated, the series follows the strong Detective Jane Rizzoli through several fascinating cases. (Maura Isles plays a bigger role in the later books, though I'm not as big a fan of those that focus on her.) The writing is excellent, the stories are mostly consistently good, and they're terrific thrillers for fans of Chelsea Cain or Karin Slaughter.

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

Heart stopping read that kept me on the edge of my seat, biting my nails while reading as fast as I could turn the pages. Intense suspense at its best!

Old_airman says

Maura Isles is totally missing. Jane Rizzoli is so much different than the TV show. I am a fan of the TV show so I decided to start with book #1. I was not disappointed in the book, but it was a bit of a shock to see Rizzoli as a homely, outsider fighting for her what was due her. The development of the characters was outstanding. The focus upon the impact on the lives of victims was fleshed out more than in any other crime novel that I have read. The surgical element was a bit overdeveloped for my taste, but I am one of those folks who doesn't like blood and gore. All in all, this makes a nice read and opens up the series to many diverse paths.

? Irena ? says

[When a detective puts her own selfish, low self-esteem feelings before a freaking rape victim, I'm kind of done with the said character. At one poi

Sarah says

The Surgeon is a brilliantly-crafted tale of horror that's just so terrifying that you can't bear not to look. Seriously.

The story begins with a successful physician named Catherine Cordell who was nearly murdered a few years back in Savannah but lived to tell the tale because she blew her attacker away before he could finish the job. With her attacker's death, the string of grotesque torture-murders ends in Savannah, but then resurfaces in Boston. Which is just where Cordell now resides. The new murderer, nicknamed "The Surgeon", moves through Boston like air carrying out his sick fantasies that are identical to the string of murders in Savannah.

You'd think it were the same killer, but how could it be?

Follow Gerritsen as she masterfully leads her characters (who are real and well-developed) to solving the puzzle of the Surgeon, a terrifying tale like none you've ever read before. You won't regret it.

Abby (Crime by the Book) says

Picked this one up on a whim and WOW did I enjoy it. I'd never read a Tess Gerritsen book before and I was hooked!! I can absolutely see why a TV show was made from her books - THE SURGEON reads like it's made for the screen. This book was fast-paced, totally addictive, and also totally chilling. It's a cop-vs-serial killer story with a twist: Gerritsen applies her own background in medicine to add a whole extra dimension to her crime novel. I loved the hospital setting, the medical details, and the creepy serial killer "The Surgeon." This is really just fast-paced entertainment!

Buggy says

Opening Line: *"Today they will find her body."*

The Surgeon has been dubbed as *Rizzoli and Isles book #1* and even though this was a very good read I think anyone coming here as a fan of the TV series will be disappointed as the only similarities between the two is the name of one of the characters. Maura Isles is not in this story and Rizzoli is no Angie Harmon, (and probably one of the most dislikable heroines I've ever read- more on that later) If you're at all sensitive to blood and vivid medical details (or rape) then this probably won't work for you either as the surgical element here is graphic, bordering on overdeveloped –it's pretty obvious that author Tess Gerritsen is a physician.

Having said all that, this was still a fantastic read. The writing is excellent, the story fast paced, and all the characters are well developed. The plot is suspenseful, gritty and terrifying concluding with one hell of a bad guy. In fact I would say this was hard to put down except for the fact that I was so creeped out I dreaded picking it up (does that make sense?) Anyways, I definitely felt the need for a change of pace after this, like chick-lit or something fluffy with puppies.

The Surgeon centers around a series of murders taking place in Boston. The young women are all found at home, in their bedrooms and the crime scenes are a bloody mess, the bodies sliced up and missing...an internal body part. The precision of the killer's methods suggests a medical background and the media dub him "the surgeon".

Investigating the murders are detectives Thomas Moore and his partner Jane Rizzoli -described as homely, self-loathing, jealous (and just downright bitchy) Through their investigation the police soon discover almost identical killings several years back in Georgia. However that case was closed when the victim fought back, shooting her attacker. Are these Boston slayings the work of a copycat then?

Seeking out that last victim, Moore and Rizzoli find Dr. Catherine Cordell, now also living in Boston. After consulting with her they discover that these new slayings are being recreated with chilling accuracy. As the

murder spree continues “the surgeon” gets closer and closer to his intended victim, almost taunting the police and they can’t catch him, and they can’t protect Cordell from a ruthless hunter.

There is a bit of romance here to break up all the medical procedures but Rizzoli remains an unlikeable character throughout, with her guard up to such a degree that it’s no wonder none of her colleagues want to work with her. Luckily we get several other POV’s to choose from and Detective Thomas Moore was a welcome distraction. We also get inside the head of intended target and former victim Catherine Cordell and “the surgeon” himself who remained anonymous to me until the very end. His internal dialogue is freaky. Speaking of which this whole book freaked me out, it’s so well written but just not an enjoyable read, as it’s dark, vivid, bloody and quite the ride. I’ll be looking for more from Tess Gerritsen.

Jim says

“Hell, no one ever knows who the monsters are.”

Detective Thomas Moore was heading to Maine on his vacation when he is called back to Boston. There has been a murder. The lead detective is Jane Rizzoli. The reason Moore is called back is that the latest murder bears striking resemblances to another murder a year ago where he was the lead detective. Thomas Moore and Jane Rizzoli are to work together on this case and she is not happy. She is the only female detective in the homicide unit and it is not easy. There is no doubt that some of the other detectives treat her badly but Rizzoli has an attitude that does not help her ... or her career. She wants to solve this crime and prove herself ... without help from her male partners.

The two cases that force Moore and Rizzoli to work together involve attacks on women. A killer is targeting women. Breaking into their homes in the middle of the night, performing ritualistic acts of torture, and then killing them. Soon other cases come to light and it looks like they have a serial killer on their hands. The press dubs the killer "The Surgeon" because he appears to use a scalpel in his attacks and has anatomical knowledge.

As the investigation intensifies Moore and Rizzoli learn of a similar crime spree in Savannah two years ago. The last victim, Catherine Cordell, managed to free herself and killed her attacker. Now Cordell is living and working in Boston ... a surgeon. The killer in Boston seems to be recreating the crimes that took place in Savannah with chilling accuracy. He appears to be taunting her, targeting her. Recreating the details of Cordell’s ordeal in Savannah. Invisible.

This is the first novel by Tess Gerritsen that I have read and I enjoyed it very much. It won't be the last. Thomas Moore was very likable. A man they call Saint Thomas who mourns his wife and is honorable. Jane Rizzoli was not as likable. Especially if you have a preconceived idea from watching television. However, I found that Rizzoli grew on me. She reminded me of Detective Erika Foster in the series by Robert Bryndza. Started out as someone with a bad attitude, a chip on their soldier. But, her dedication and hard work in solving the crimes wins you over and by the end of the book perhaps you see another side of the character.

Jonetta says

Detective Thomas Moore recognizes a pattern when a young woman is found gruesomely murdered in her

home. The details of the crime are identical to that of another young woman he investigated a year ago. Even more troubling is the link to another assault over two years ago. However, the victim, Dr. Catherine Cordell, not only survived the attack but killed the man responsible. Are they dealing with a copycat or something else.

Those looking to see Jane Rizzoli & Maura Isles featured at the forefront will need to wait until the next book. The author decided to explore the Rizzoli character after this story and Isles doesn't make an appearance here.

This was a graphic story so be prepared for that, not only the murders but the ER trauma procedures. Despite that, it's a well written police procedural and mystery along with the medical. The characters are well defined, flaws and all. Moral and ethical issues abound and are dealt with honestly, not always delivering clear cut resolutions. I really liked the bends and twists, fast paced with a climactic ending. It also has a perfect set up for the next book. I disliked Jane Rizzoli in this story, a lot, but she is someone I want to learn more about and maybe will redeem herself.

Fred says

Tess Gerritsen Fans Group Link - *my 2nd read*****

The first book in series. Tess has medical school education at University of California. With that she writes with "extensive Medical terminology" easily understood. Her knowledge of Boston is nice.

Boston Homicide Unit's Jane Rizzoli & Thomas Moore lead a murder investigation in the South End with Elena Ortiz(22) raped, tied with duct tape, "catgut" stitches & a missing Uterus (female organ). They find Diana Sterling(30) was murdered last year with same technique & missing Uterus. They both lived near the same hospital. Anna, Diana's sister, claims a necklace on Elena belong to Diana, is it a murderer's souvenir from victim to victim link?

Boston Homicide finds Uterus' missing murders in Georgia. Dora Ciccone(22) a medical student is killed first. VICAP's database (violent criminal apprehension program) list 3 killed. Dr. Catherine Cordell attacked, escaped Dr. Andrew Capra, the suspect.

Catherine moved to Boston's Back Bay 1 month after the attack. Claims she got away & killed Dr. Capra? Took 1 year off, being afraid, now works at Boston's Pilgrim Medical Center/Hospital.

Catherine's internet username is CCORD & tells Det. Moore of a car's license plate "POSEY FIVE". They confirm Elena's internet user name was POSEY5. Catherine says they both used Boston's chat room, POST ("post-traumatic stress disorder") for "RAPE".

Boston Herald's headlines are bad "The Surgeon Cuts Again". Then you will need to figure out the link between the dead Dr. Capra & "The Surgeon from Chicago to Boston?

FYI only - this is the first book in the "Rizzoli & Isles" series - Det. Thomas Moore is Det. Jane Rizzoli's partner not Dr. Mauri Isles.

Brenda says

review and rating to be revealed soon

Jenny says

The Surgeon is book one of the Rizzoli and Isles Series by Tess Gerritsen. Detective Thomas Moore and Detective Jan Rizzoli caught murder of a woman whose uterus is missing. Both Detective Thomas Moore and Detective Jan Rizzoli started to think is there a serial killer on the loose in their city. The readers of The Surgeon will follow the twist and turns of Detective Thomas Moore and Detective Jan Rizzoli investigation into the murders.

Tess Gerritsen has provided the readers of The Surgeon a new strong women detective Jane Rizzoli. I enjoy reading The Surgeon. I like the way Tess Gerritsen describes the problems women have in law enforcements. I also enjoy the way, Tess Gerritsen describes the interaction between Detective Thomas Moore and Detective Jan Rizzoli. I like the way Tess Gerritsen portrays her characters especially Dr Catherine Cordell.

Readers of The Surgeon will learn about the consequences of rape for women and how a rapist can come back and attack their victims a second time. Also, Readers of The Surgeon will learn about the law enforcement procedures. Readers of The Surgeon will learn about hospital procedures and what is involved to be a surgeon.

I recommend this book.

Raíla says

The Surgeon is a remarkable, wonderfully well-written thriller. I had never read such an amazing story like this in my whole life. I am serious. The killer's speech feels so real! While reading, I had the feeling that someone was watching me, like... It's scary.

So many mysteries behind every little thing of the investigation... There's a moment when they induce hypnosis in the main victim, Catherine Cordell, so she can remember things from the crime scene, which is also minutely described. It's been carried with me forever, I don't know why, but I always remember this part. And, then, the end is pretty unexpected (at least, it was for me). I didn't even imagine who the killer would be, where he'd live, how would he act under certain circumstances of the story.

Tess is one of the best and I am so honored to have the opportunity of reading her books.

Sue says

The Surgeon is a brilliantly written medical thriller, that will have you gripped and terrified from page one until you finish the novel. As a avid reader of mystery, suspense thrillers, this novel delivered so much more.

It was all a game. The Surgeon fed on terror. He attacked women who were victims. He was always in control. The victims had been tied down, raped and gutted.

Three women had been raped but only one victim had reported her rape to the police. All three had sought medical attention in different places. The Surgeon had been attracted to their pain.

The story begins with a successful physician named Catherine Cordell who was nearly murdered a few years back in Savannah but lived to tell the tale because she blew her attacker away before he could finish the job. With her attacker's death, the string of grotesque torture-murders ends in Savannah, but then resurfaces in Boston. Which is just where Cordell now resides. The new murderer, nicknamed "The Surgeon", moves through Boston like air carrying out his sick fantasies that are identical to the string of murders in Savannah. You'd think it was the same killer, but how could it be?

Follow this talented author as she masterfully leads her characters to solving the puzzle of The Surgeon, a terrifying tale like none you've ever read before.

You will never leave your window open at night again!

Punk says

Thriller. **Trigger Warning for discussion of rape.**

Let's review:

1. "He identifies and removes only the organ he wants. Nothing more. And what he wants is the womb." [...] "He hates women," she said. "He cuts out the one thing that makes them women." (p.60)

2. Ignoring the water bottle and the disgusting object it contained... (p.67)

3. "'She thought: 'It's my fault. I shouldn't have been so careless.' But that's how it is with women.' She looked directly at Moore. 'We blame ourselves for everything, even when it's the man who does the fucking.'" (p.126)

4. Above all, he did not want her to think him condescending. More than any woman he'd ever met, she commanded his respect. (p.136)

5. Hair was so very personal. A woman wears it, sleeps with it. It carries fragrance and color and texture. A woman's very essence. No wonder Catherine had been horrified to learn that a man she did not know possessed such an intimate part of her. (p.195)

6. "He only assaults women who act like victims." (p.247)

1. So a womb is the thing that makes a woman! Glad we solved that.

2. This is Rizzoli thinking and the "disgusting object" is actually a tampon. I'm assuming it's unused because how would a bunch of men get a used tampon, let alone shove it into a bottle of mineral water, but how could a clean tampon be considered disgusting unless you hate women and/or female bodies?

3. Fucking! A word with excellent shock value! HOWEVER, fucking is sex. Rape is not sex. Sorry, but you're only perpetuating the misconception that rape is just a kind of unhappy sex. Also nice is how this character (angry, possibly man-hating, woman) is saying that all women blame themselves for being raped.

4. Oh no, it's not condescending at all to be given respect for being a particular kind of *woman*, rather than simply a human being. You have to respect the ladies in a different way than you respect men. Because otherwise that might lead to gender equality.

5. Yes, Thomas, that's why Catherine was horrified to find out that HER RAPIST HAD CUT A LOCK OF HER HAIR AS A KEEPSAKE. Because hair smells good, and is infused with womanly essences. NOT BECAUSE IT'S COMPLETELY INVASIVE AND CREEPY AS FUCK.

And that final quote. Do I even have to explain that *no woman acts like a victim*?

The problem with this book is that it revolves around a murderer who hunts, terrorizes, dismembers, and kills women. So let's assume he hates women, or at least harbors a lot of rage toward them. Then there are the male psychologists who are attempting to understand him, and thus, in a professional setting, use words like "bitch," for instance. Are they trying to mimic what they see as the thought patterns of the suspect or do they routinely refer to women as bitches? It's not clear. There's little to no framing language or verbal hedging that allows us to make that distinction. The male detectives are trying to track and identify the subject, but they don't let that stop them from enjoying a good rape joke at the crime scene; meanwhile Saint Thomas (he of the dead wife) feels vaguely unhappy about it but doesn't do anything to stop them. Even Rizzoli, who is female herself, seems to dislike, suspect, and resent women almost as much as her male colleagues do.

I can't separate the narrative from the authorial intent. All I know is that it sucks, okay? It's full of rape, casual misogyny, and an almost subliminal devotion to the idea that women are VICTIMS VICTIMS VICTIMS. Also, according to this, the sole thing that makes a person female is the uterus or -- god help me -- *womb* as they insist on calling it half the time. Again, that's probably just what the detectives see as the suspect's mindset, but the conflation of uterus and womb is problematic on any level. Not everybody's uterus is a womb.

After all that it seems petty to complain about the stilted introspection, the purple prose, the lengthy italicized sections where the murderer talks about his craft in the most pretentious language imaginable, or the fact that I didn't like any of the characters, but I'm still going to complain. Rizzoli might grow on me, though, so that leaves me with the difficult decision of whether to give Gerritsen another try.

This is a mediocre book about a terrible subject made worse by clumsy writing about rape, VICTIMS (not, let's be clear, survivors), and being female in a male world. Um, not recommended for anyone. I've read a lot of trashy thrillers in my time and I will shrug off a lot of iffy things in the interest of mindless entertainment, but this set my mind into angry overdrive. Not relaxing at all.
