



Untainted Blood

Liz Mistry

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An unmissable new crime thriller

In a city that is already volatile, tensions mount after a Tory MP in Bradford Central is discredited leaving the door open for the extreme right-wing candidate, Graeme Weston, to stand in the resultant by-election.

However, Graeme Weston is not what he appears to be and with secrets jeopardising his political career, he must tread very carefully.

Meanwhile, a serial killer targets Asian men who lead alternatives lifestyles and delivers his own form of torture.

As DI Gus McGuire's team close in, the deranged killer begins to unravel and in an unexpected twist the stakes are raised for Gus.

Are the murders linked to the political scandals or is there another motive behind them?

DI Gus McGuire and his team are back and this might be their toughest case yet.

Also available in the best-selling DI Gus McGuire series:

Unquiet Souls

Uncoiled Lies

Untainted Blood Details

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Author : Liz Mistry

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From Reader Review Untainted Blood for online ebook

Sandra Leivesley says

In this third book in the DI McGuire series, Gus has to investigate the murders of several Asian men who are tattooed with a swastika before they are killed. Alongside this there is Graeme Weston, an extreme right wing politician who seems intent on stirring up as much racial tension as he can.

The storyline. (about racism) is quite topical at the moment, and very hard hitting as some of the scenarios in the book are all too easy to imagine actually happening. The author deals with this subject quite bravely and sometimes it makes difficult reading. The chapters are quite short and this made me want to read 'just one more' when I really should have been sleeping! There are twists and turns galore in this book and the tension builds and builds, and I didn't guess who the killer was until just before the reveal.

There is quite a large cast of characters. Gus and his team are back. I was desperate to know what had happened to Alice after the conclusion of Book 2 and Ms Mistry cruelly made us wait several chapters before we find out. There's also a new member of the team, Taffy, who is a great addition and I look forward to hearing more about him in future books. We also get to meet some of the characters from the previous books.

This book (and the series) makes a fabulous read. Ms Mistry brings Bradford to life and I can't wait to read more.

Julie Lacey says

This is a great book!

It's the first I've read of the DI Gus McGuire series, and I will definitely be reading the others now too. The book is centred around the hunt for the 'tattoo killer' who is targeting a particular group of people. I guessed one element of the killer's identity but did not know who it actually was.

The book is well written and keeps you gripped throughout and has a few twists that made me gasp!

I highly recommend this book especially if you enjoy crime thrillers.

Thanks to Liz Mistry for sending me a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Susan Hampson says

This is the third book in the DI Gus McGuire series but the first one for me. I have certainly started on a top notch story, controversial, topical and with such realism it was scary. I could just imagine going into a shop and reading these sort of headlines and it made my blood run cold at the thought.

This story centres round Graeme Weston an extreme right wing politician that stirs up racism in the city of Bradford. He thinks nothing of breaking the law to make a point for reasons to 'reclaim' Bradford back. So when an Asian man is found brutally murdered it doesn't raise any sympathy in him or for the second. A serial killer that has their own sadistic and wrapped message for any Asian men that don't stay to their own

kind. Is this just one step too far for this politician with a secret?

This is one creepy serial killer. The story is told through short chapters, each one by a character in the story, including the killer, although you don't of course know who they are. There are so many characters in this story and so many topics raised too but they never become over whelming, each one fits into the story perfectly. I think what it does do is make you realise just how many people just accept situations rather than getting help. That I do believe is very true.

As each chapter is read the momentum builds until there is very much an urgency about reading this story, it really does feel like a race against time. The police need to find out if there is some sort of connection between the victims that connect them all to the killer in some way. One of my favourite detectives was Alice Cooper, quick thinking but also with a very subtle humour with her too.

I just loved this team of detectives working with DI Gus McGuire, the only thing I regretted was not reading the books in order. This is very much a stand alone story but there were things about the team that I couldn't guess. Their lives run through all three books. It has definitely left me wanting to know what I have missed and I do intend to find out.

I just loved Liz Mistry's writing style, there is such a simplicity about it that makes it very easy to follow, as all the characters are very distinctive. This was also, in my opinion a very difficult subject, very raw and emotional in real life but executed with perfect balance. A superbly written modern story.

I wish to thank Bloodhound Books for this ARC which I have shared my honest thoughts.

Lovedreadingthis says

The 3rd in a series, I need to read the other 2 but generally this worked as a standalone.

Told over the course of a week (and I want to say in 'real time' as much as a book can be), this fast paced crime thriller had me hooked from the outset. DI Gus McGuire, struggling with his own demons, leads the investigation into the racially motivated murders in Bradford, where tensions are heightened by the canvassing of extreme right wing candidate – Graeme Weston.

This contemporary piece of fiction captures and magnifies the post Brexit / Trump swing where overt racism alongside hate crime are on the rise. The characterisation in this book is superb, from the damaged, but very likeable DI McGuire, haunted by past events and throwing himself into his job to hold everything together. Then there is the far right, the Albion First supporters, repulsive in their political agenda and shocking in their undisguised racism. The supporting cast of colleagues, friends and family develop nicely and as the story unfolds their characters evolve and their stories emerge. Meanwhile the murders are happening and the pressure mounts. As with much fiction there are secrets and lies and things are not always as they seem. I enjoyed the way the story was told, in the most part in the third person narrative, with the exception of the killer, whose identity remains unknown until the end but who we hear from in the first person. Personally I didn't work this one out until close to the end, I had a few suspects for sure but this book concluded everything nicely for me, with nothing left unexplained.

LJ (On The Shelf Reviews) says

Set in a post Brexit Bradford racism is definitely the main theme of this book. Asian/black men are being kidnapped and tortured, the Nazi insignia (I couldn't remember what it was called and I'm certainly not googling it), tattooed on them. Hate group and wannabe political party Albion First, headed up by Graeme Weston and his manager Michael Hogg, are prime suspects.

This is my first introduction to DI Angus 'Gus' McGuire (with his team) and his pathologist dad Dr Fergus McGuire. I have not read the first two books, *Unquiet Souls* and *Uncoiled lies* but I don't think it's really necessary to enjoy this book (although I may be adding them to my tbr pile after reading this book!).

Liz Mistry created some absolutely vile, but exceptionally believable, characters, Graeme Weston and Michael Hogg, that made Nigel Farage and UKIP look like fluffy bunnies. I have genuinely never wanted to see fictional characters strung up from the nearest lamppost so much!

I will also applaud Liz for the array of diverse characters from in her book that I feel reflects modern Britain.

At the beginning of the book you're dropped right into the story, with two murders having already taken place and a third happening in quick succession. I did feel like I'd missed something at first but as the book went along it really pulled me into the action. I feel like I'm not doing the complexity of the plot justice, but I don't want to give away any spoilers.

What slightly put me off this book was racist language, mainly from the killer's perspective. I found it a little hard to read. I also figured out the killer by about half way through but there was lots of misdirection that at times I did doubt myself.

But overall a really good book, which although the story started a little slow, it really hooked me by the end and I could put it down!

Sarah says

Untainted Blood is the third book in the DI Gus McGuire series. I wouldn't say it was essential to have read the previous books in the series but think readers may find it helpful to at least have read the second book, *Uncoiled Lies*, before reading this one. This is because there is something that happens in that book that has a deep impact on Gus.

I have to say I found the story line in this book to be quite hard hitting. The author tackles quite a few sensitive subjects from domestic abuse to racism.

Graeme Weston from the first time the reader meets him, I took an instant dislike to him. He is someone that is so up himself and has little to no time for anyone else. Not only is he a terrible husband, his beliefs in politics make him someone that the everyday people of Bradford would not want to be representing them.

I love the working relationship between Gus and his team. They work really well together and he is a good strong leader who people respect. Through Gus's family life with his parents though you get to see a different side which is something I have really enjoyed throughout this series.

There is plenty to keep the reader gripped throughout the story. There is certainly a lot of leg work that Gus and his team have to go through to narrow things down to who the murderer can be and the author skilfully keeps us guessing right up until the shocking end.

Untainted Blood is yet another great book in an already gripping crime series. I have to admit to racing through the pages towards the end to what was an extremely satisfying climax. This series is certain to appeal to fans of A.A. Dhand.

marjorie hall-venmore says

I love the Liz Mistry books, I find them gripping and keep me glued to it until finished, this one was just brilliant, the character of DI Gus McGuire is awesome. It's almost forgot hey they are a real person and you actually get to know them, I can not wait for the next release

Jen says

Now if you are someone who is easily offended by racism or books with racist themes then I can categorically say this is not a book for you, as the racism in this book is as in your face and as abhorrent as anything you may have seen on television, particularly the racial motivated clashes which have been broadcast from the US of late. If you are open minded and accept that this is a sad part of society which, while reprehensible, is still prevalent, then carry on reading. For this is a book which taps into every despicable part of our society – every prejudice, every fear – and gives them life. And yes it is, on occasion, in a gratuitous way, one which will make you sit up and take notice.

Set in the world of extreme right-wing politics, with men and women who are not afraid to make their hatred of non-white, non-British people known, people who are willing to take their actions to a violent level, there is no hiding from the tension and ill feeling which leeches from the pages. It can make reading parts of the book very uncomfortable and certainly you only pray that you don't actually know anybody quite so vile in your real life. Tapping into the post-Brexit animosity and violence directed to all people deemed 'foreigners' the story revolves around a serial killer, targeting largely Asian men, and a want-to-be MP who hopes to take his hatred into main stream politics in Bradford. Being a highly ethnically diverse town, this is a fine setting for such a novel and the number of potential victims, and likely suspects, is high.

I won't say too much about the plot but it is a one which is fuelled by secrets, lies and hatred, and nothing is quite as it seems on the surface. There are certain events which only fuel further violence and certainly things which may come as a surprise later on in the story. Clues are dropped throughout, so perhaps some of the big reveals are less surprising but they are still effective and inform the story in a way in which even the police cannot suspect.

This is my first introduction to this series and I can see that I've probably missed a lot in not reading the first two books. DI McGuire is clearly haunted by events from his past and these inform the tone of the story, certainly of his persona. I get the feeling too that while this can read as a standalone story, there are some major events referenced which may provide spoilers if the books are read out of sequence. Gives you a good reason to go and buy more books now doesn't it?

McGuire is a haunted soul, his own distractions and depressions sometimes affecting his ability to concentrate on the job. Certainly, his colleagues are concerned for him and it is easy to understand why. Being a man of mixed race, he is also on the killer's radar and this adds a layer of jeopardy and tension to the story, especially when it becomes personal.

The story largely follows the investigating team as they try to piece together what has happened but there are also sections in which we follow the twin daughters of one of the victims. They have surprising links to events beyond the fact that their father has been murdered and one of the twins is hiding a big secret, one which is slowly eating away at her. Their story is quite emotional and the fragile nature of one twin

compared to the feisty nature of the other rings true, even if in fact both are suffering in their own way. There are also sections told from the killer's perspective and you can see the slow unravelling of a very deranged mind as they try hard to carry out their master plan. But while the why may be obvious, the who is perhaps less so.

What I did love was the dynamic between McGuire and Alice. Their interactions were easy and natural, in spite of the nature of what they were facing. Alice got McGuire to face some of his demons and accept things that he cannot change and he definitely need that. I also loved his father, who is also the force pathologist. McGuire senior provided many of the lighter moments in the story, his character so different from his son's.

This is a gritty read, the racism sometimes hard to read but sadly not hard to believe. The pacing was slower than I expected but this is not a bad thing, and when the tension ratchets up, so does the speed, particularly near the end when the stakes were at their highest. There is a kind of uncompromising reality about this book. The murders are sickeningly brutal, the twisted logic so inexplicable that you needed to see justice served. Whether you think it finally was is a decision for the reader.

A compelling read with characters I could certainly get behind and I'll be looking forward to reading more in the series.

Dee Williams says

The Gus McGuire series just keeps on getting better. I found this story quite unnerving due to the far right groups, which, as we all know, do exist. This made it a hard read, knowing that the racism that happens in the book, really does go on in the world and isn't just a story. Gus, Alice, Sampson, Compo and now Taffy make a great team, you can feel them feeding off each other and they have a great bond. I would highly recommend this book and the whole series.

Sheila Howes says

Prepare to be thrown in at the deep end! The book opens with an introduction to the killer, who is targeting Asian men who have alternative lifestyles. By Chapter 2, the mortuary is in play, as is DCI Angus (Gus) McGuire! The book continues at this pace, telling the tale from several different viewpoints, including Gus, the killer, a wannabe MP and a journalist.

This is the third in the Gus McGuire series, however, it was my first outing with the team, and I found it read well as a standalone. His past is reflected on, enough for me to want to go back and fill in the gaps, but you don't feel you're missing out by having not read any of the previous books.

This is not an easy book to read. It contains a lot of racism, so if you are offended by that sort of thing – or find it an uncomfortable read, I would advise giving this one a miss. Whilst I enjoyed the storyline, I did feel the need to take a good shower after reading some of the characters viewpoints!

The characters are well-drawn and have some interesting characteristics. Whilst the main team of investigators are Gus and Alice, I found the antics of some of the smaller characters most amusing – especially Taffy, the newest (and not the brightest) addition to the team! This was a very good thing –

especially considering the dark themes in the book.

At 480 pages, this is not a short book, but it is an edge of your seat page turner. I was hooked!

Thank you to Sarah Hardy at Bloodhound Books and the author, Liz Mistry, for giving me the opportunity to receive an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review

Katherine Sunderland says

I thought this thriller was a complete breath of fresh air. Why? Because it felt really alive, really contemporary and really relevant. It references the political and social concerns of today and it tackles the issues that face communities today.

This crime novel also felt full of energy. It is fast paced, action packed, full of dialogue and vividly drawn characters. It is firmly rooted in Bradford with every last attention to detail included so that it is very easy to picture the setting. The location and setting is important to the novel and the author has depicted the city and area very effectively. I have a little knowledge of the area and felt that it was really accurate in its portrayal. Mistry is obviously passionate about the area and the city's community.

There are several key characters to get to know in the book and they are all well crafted and all very three dimensional. There is a very effective anonymous narrative that is suitably threatening and menacing and actually, all the narratives have strong voices and distinctive characters. Although the chapters are often short and they switch from character to character quite rapidly, it is easy to follow and easy to build up a picture of who everyone is and what is going on. It is the first book I have read in the series and I did find it fine to read as a stand alone, but as with all series, obviously there is an overriding story arc to enjoy so I'm sure I would benefit from reading *Unquiet Souls* and *Uncoiled Lies* - something I will rectify immediately - even if it's just because the titles are so clever!

Mistry ensures that there is a real sense of urgency and pace to the novel by using each day of the week as a heading. Immediately this creates high level tension and a sense of building towards something or that sense of a ticking clock which inspires all sorts of excitement and trepidation for a crime novel! The location and time of day is also sighted at the beginning of each section which also keeps the reader on their toes and enables Mistry to weave in several different threads effectively. As I said before, this is a fact paced novel and there is no time to pause for breath as Mistry launches the reader headlong into the action.

I don't want to give away any spoilers or reveal anything that might give something away but I would recommend *Untainted Blood*. It has every single ingredient you want in a fast paced, exciting, modern day crime thriller. Mistry knows how to write a great detective story and she has also written a story that is full of diversity and social issues as well as crime, with a confident and assured voice. I would love to see this televised as it reads so well and would transfer so easily to screen. The book will appeal to anyone who enjoys a solid detective thriller.

Craig Gillan says

Fast becoming one of my favourite series. Gus and his team are an amazing cast of characters

Clair says

I recommend that you don't embark on reading Untainted Blood until you have read Unquiet Souls and Uncoiled Lies as there are lots of references to past relationships and investigations.

Gus is still reeling from the investigations and personal changes following Uncoiled Lies but he doesn't have long before he's thrown into another when a body is found with a disturbing and distinctive tag.

Untainted Blood is not an easy read due to its controversial subject matter - the basis of this book is racism therefore the language is graphic at times, although necessary for the book. It just wouldn't work if the people with the strong racist views didn't use the same sort of language. Once again, Liz Mistry has bravely tackled extremely difficult subjects; highlighting the sad truth of Britain today - this is very topical of today's country, embarking on Brexit and the racial tensions with the rise of UKIP etc. as well as domestic abuse. Throughout Untainted Blood we hear directly from the killer and these sections are chilling but give an extra dimension to the investigation and narrative.

Whilst there are some truly horrible characters in this book, there are also some truly wonderful ones who fight for what is right. One of the things I adore about this series is the working relationship of Gus's team as well as his relationship with his parents, which is one of admiration and respect (as well as embarrassment at times when it comes to his father!).

This is a complex investigation which is having to play a political game as well as taking all the teams patience when dealing with Graeme Weston and his extreme right-wing party.

A fast-paced, page turner which keeps the reader gripped through to the very end.

Donna Maguire says

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

Well now I have had a sit down and caught my breath, I can finally do my review for this book!! This is the third book in the DI Gus McGuire series but the first one for me and I really now wonder what I've been missing – this book was brilliant!!

The writing style was spot on and it covered a controversial but highly relevant topic and boy it was done well. I read the book in just a few hours as I wanted to get to the ending, it was far too tempting to put down and before I knew it, just one more chapter was three quarters of the book and I'd completely lost myself in the story – excellent book, loved the story and characters and definitely going to go through the previous books now – 5 stars – loved it!!

Melanie Lewis says

This is a brilliant book, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I hadn't read the previous two, (although I will now),

but that didn't impact on my enjoyment in any way. Gus McGuire is a decent and upstanding man, who, unusually enjoys excellent relations with his colleagues and his boss. In addition he comes from a normal family; he has parents and a sibling. It's a refreshing change not to have to wade your way through the police's traumas, trials and tribulations before you can even begin to get to grips with the story. That's not to say Gus comes unencumbered, but it's adult and reasonable baggage! The story is fast paced, with some truly repugnant characters and some genuinely lovable ones as well. A good mix of both. The pieces of the jig saw fall into place as the story moves along and leads to a satisfactory conclusion. Well written with good characterisation, I look forward to reading more by Liz Mistry and I heartily recommend this book.
