



Desecration

J.F. Penn

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Death isn't always the end.

From New York Times & USA Today bestselling author, J.F.Penn comes this emotionally charged thriller about the dark side of human nature, the first in an action-packed new series!

LONDON--When the body of a murdered young heiress is found within the Royal College of Surgeons, Detective Sergeant Jamie Brooke is assigned to the case. An antique ivory figurine found beside the body her only lead, she enlists Blake Daniel, a reluctant psychic, to help her discover the message it holds.

The investigation leads them to a sinister secret society known as the Lyceum, who revel in human vivisection and murder.

When personal tragedy strikes, Jamie has nothing left to lose and she must race against time to stop the mysterious Lyceum before it claims yet another victim.

As Jamie and Blake delve into a macabre world of grave robbery, body modification, and genetically engineered monsters, they must fight to maintain their sanity, and their lives.

A story of vengeance and justice, a dark mystery with an edge of the supernatural, Desecration will keep you turning pages. Warning: Not for the squeamish or faint of heart.

Desecration Details

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Author : J.F. Penn

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From Reader Review Desecration for online ebook

Kristi Lamont says

Depravity/violence = titillation and porn masquerading as a murder mystery. Not my cup of tea.

Ashley Person says

I'm a big fan of the author's non-fiction works and this is the first of her novels I've read. I really liked it. The most surprising thing was that she really didn't shy away from the darker elements. I kept expecting the story to pull back and give a lighter ending, but that didn't happen. In addition she showed that characters had to deal with the consequences of their actions which a lot of authors don't do with fast-paced thrillers. I liked the main characters and definitely plan on finishing the series.

Ami says

My friend, Amanda, tickled my curiosity with this book when she talked about it. She did warn me that it wasn't pretty. The main detective in this book, Jamie Brooke, is dealing with a quite depressing situation: her daughter is dying... Plus there are a LOT of macabre surrounding the case, as in a whole lot of mutilated bodies, all in the name of science. It challenges my comfort level, for sure.

But the mystery itself is good. Yes, a LOT of times when the author describes the condition of those deformed mutilated bodies, I felt my stomach churned. However, I couldn't stop reading it, really. I was pulled into this dark side of science, as well as being quite invested in Jamie... and later, Blake Daniel, the man who has gift of psychometry.

By the way, although the series is named "London Psychic" but in my opinion, the book is *plain* good ol' murder mystery and investigation. Yes, Jamie has Blake's help of psychic reading but Blake's scene-time on page is not as many as Jamie. Heck, his name doesn't appear until about 1/3rd part of the book.

I will continue with the next books in this series. The box set that contains the three books: Desecration, Delirium, and Deviance is sold only for \$0.99 on Amazon. I figure that is an EXCELLENT deal :)

Rae Else says

Desecration (The London Psychic Series) is a kind of supernatural thriller and I thought it would be the most up my street to start with reading.

It's not just fast-paced, lots of mystery and conflict throughout, but Penn's prose and the summation of her characters is beautiful.

It starts in the Huntarian Museum, in the Royal College of Surgeons. The museum has a collection of

specimens on human anatomy. In the very opening chapter a woman is murdered at the museum, the collection providing a suitably garish and disturbing backdrop. Next we meet Jamie, a detective in the Metropolitan police, who is tasked with solving the woman's murder, which in its surgical nature seems to be connected to the setting where it was carried out.

We go with Jamie on her journey to find the killer, from the West End where we meet some of London's wealthiest aristocrats to East London, with artisans and artists. There are more gruesome scenes with plastination as art (where the water and fats in a cadaver are replaced with plastics to create a body that can be preserved and displayed). We also get an insight into the world of extreme body modification. Both subjects provide tension and interest to the developing story and characters, but Penn also delves deeper into these subjects. She asks questions about the body as art, about the right of the dead and about the living's relationship with them.

So much in this to think about and get lost in.

Craig Jr. says

I received the audio book version of this book. Joanna Penn is an excellent writer, but this novel was definitely not for me. It is a very gruesome read, think of watching *Bones*--but a lot more detail on the nasty parts. Some people will enjoy that, and that's great, but it unsettled my stomach a bit. I'm not the type of reader who can appreciate that type of visual and violence. However, the plot is interesting and everything is tied together well. I believe the mother-daughter relationship was a bit too much--it almost felt forced and while you felt sorry for what the scenario was--it felt you weren't entirely connected with the two of them. The emotion was a bit detached. I think it may have been forced too much and with all the violence it gave the reader a bit of disconnect. The ending was satisfactory and seems like it's a good start to the series, but it's just not for me. If you like detailed description of guts and internal organs, you'll probably enjoy this novel very much. I will warn you on the audio version, the British narrator is a bit annoying to listen to. I've noticed with a few narrators that they start the sentence strong and fast, but she slows down at the end of the sentence. When this is done for every sentence, it was rather irritating for me. I'd rather have the narrator just narrate the novel instead of: **STARTING FAST AND LOUD AT THE START** and slowing down at the end. Though, that may just be me.

Harule Stokes says

First, I have to say, Mrs. Penn is an excellent writer. Her prose fantastic.

The story itself is interesting. A murder mystery that centers around the mutilation of a corpse, but it's not that simple. Said mutilation was clearly done by someone with surgical knowledge and done in a... strangely artistic fashion. This moves the reader into a world of body art taken to the extreme and the creation of art with corpses. Very interesting stuff, but it plays a bad-drop to a not-so-complex murder mystery.

What I didn't enjoy was the long breaks between action scenes where Mrs. Penn goes into long extended breakdowns of the scenes. This slowed the scenes to a crawl, robbing it of its potency. Also, there are a number of characters but they all "sound" the same. If Mrs. Penn didn't tell you who was speaking, it would be impossible to tell the characters apart at times. It's clear between the daughter, the psychic and Jamie (the protagonist), who's speaking, but all of the other characters feel blank. It's also obvious there was much

greater feeling in the scenes those characters are in than scenes without them. I can feel her slide into a writing groove (best moments in the book) with those characters.. but it disappears when those characters aren't there to interact.

So, I'm hoping the next book that features Jamie also features the psychic as well. Not solely because I like these characters, but because she does her best work with these characters. Their interplay, aside from her daughter, did more for the book than any of the other scenes put together.

Mrs. Penn is a wonderful writer and I'd buy the next book featuring Jamie and the psychic.

J.A. Ironside says

Audiobook

I honestly don't know whether I enjoyed this book. As previously mentioned I am not at all squeamish, I've read lots of books that were more violent or had more troubling themes, and yet there was something about this one that got under my guard. It kept me listening despite the fact that I didn't care over much for the narrator. (Mostly because unless she was doing character voices, she was quite monotone with little emotional colour, so reading really quite gripping scenes she sounded as if she was about to fall asleep.) I've spent a fair amount of time in morgues and labs, not to mention hospitals. I've seen some very grim stuff IRL (A&E permanent night duty for a few years leaves you with few illusions about humanity in tact), but the cold reptilian way that certain characters in this book act even put ice in my blood. I grew to love Jaime as a character and Blake had my vote from the get go. I'll definitely be reading the next book.

Elisabeth Zguta says

This story is action packed, well researched and emotionally charged - as are all of J.F. Penn's novels. I enjoyed the prologue peek into the murderer's mindset. It is a jump start into the tale, a foretelling of the horror just around the corner.

This new story series contains a strong heroin, Jamie Brooke, who has a definitive unique personality. Jamie is a wonderful character, very human, with complex desires. The author did a great job getting into the head of the mother in pain, the dedicated detective, as well as the woman with needs. The other characters also have a great deal of depth to them and are very believable. I especially recognized the intense research the author did in regards to the body art community, handling her writing with respectful observance and acceptance. The novel has many original twists to a detective themed story line.

I totally recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a great adventure, with mysterious people, and anyone who has an open mind to new ideas, and likes a nibble of horror. This is a great read.

Mark Tilbury says

Review of Desecration by J.F. Penn

Jamie is investigating the murder and mutilation of a young woman and trying to come to terms with her young daughter being terminally ill. Both parts of her life get intermingled when she meets Blake, a reluctant psychic who can see details of the murder unknown to the police, and aspects of Jamie she'd rather have kept private.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. All aspects of the plot and the mix of characters worked well. I found out more about Jamie as the story progressed from what she said and did in the present, rather than through the use of back-story.

I had worked out who the killer was quite early on, but that didn't spoil the book for me as it took me on twists and turns as the investigation deepened. The ending brought everything together well and I didn't see how Jamie was going to escape her predicament, but was pleased with how she did so.

Jamie and Blake are great characters that I know are in at least two more books that I am going to read. J.F. Penn writes excellent antagonists in this and her ARKANE series and never has anyone deserved what was coming towards them than the murderer at the end of this book.

A gripping read.

Icy Sedgwick says

If you've previously read JF Penn's ARKANE series then be aware that these London Psychic books are not more of the same. These books are darker, more twisted, and altogether more satisfying. Detective Jamie Brooke might not be saving the world from the power of religious relics but she's solving murders and still bringing the bad guys to justice. Aided and abetted by clairvoyant Blake Daniel, Jamie really does go through the wringer in this tale of anatomists, vivisection and scientific experiments gone mad. A scene in the middle of the book with Jamie's daughter Polly even made me cry - and the last book to do that was Neil Gaiman's The Kindly Ones.

You were warned!

J.F. Penn says

My latest book!

“One of the most original mystery/thrillers that I've read in a long while. Its topic of life and death, soul and body is harrowing and poignant, shocking and profound.”

David Morrell, New York Times bestselling author of Murder as a Fine Art and author of over 40 novels

"A riveting exploration of the dark side of the human heart" ?New York Times Bestselling Author CJ Lyons

"In a book which takes the reader on a journey to hell and back, J.F. Penn demonstrates her huge talent for conveying the depths of human depravity." ?Amazon #1 Bestseller, Rachel Abbott

Anna says

Just finished reading this and really enjoyed it. Interesting characters and a good story. I look forward to reading the next book in the series. This will be added to my read again collection, the highest honor I can give a book. I received a free copy from the author and this is an honest review

Saravanan Pandi says

"Desecration" is the fast moving and intriguing novel which has correct proportions of whatever needed for the thriller story.

The story revolves around a Detective sergeant Jamie Brooke who is assigned to investigate about the murder of a young heiress, Jenna in a grotesque manner.

Jamie always finds time to spend time with her dying daughter, Polly admitted in hospice despite busy investigating the people who were present at the crime scene and people related to Jenna including Jenna's father Christopher Neville and her mother Esther Neville.

As an unexpected blow Polly dies and so Jamie plans to cremate the body as per her daughter's wish but the very next day, body of Polly goes "missing". Hunch feeling of Jamie relating this body theft to the desecrated murder of Jenna, Jamie races fast to find the body of her daughter and the perpetrators.

Author, Joanna has succeeded in creating requisite impressions on the characters involved in the story by her vivid descriptions. And I would recommend strongly to all mystery/thriller lovers. I loved reading this novel..!!!

Elizabeth Ducie says

When you are just back from a week's holiday and your desk is calling to you, the last thing you need is an unputtable-down book. But Desecration is just that sort of book. I started it yesterday morning, kept reading throughout a train journey at the end of a long two-days of travel, lay awake into the night reading, and finished it at the breakfast table this morning. It is well-written, full of carefully-researched science, but with a sprinkling of mysticism, and a gripping thriller. Some of the descriptions of human mutilation may be a little difficult for more squeamish readers to take, but they are based on real incidents.

I have read Joanna Penn's marketing books and swear by them; this is the first time I have read any of her fiction. I will certainly be reading a lot more of it in the future.

Simon Jenner says

As if Detective Sergeant Jamie Brooke's investigation into the macabre world of grave robbery, body modification and genetic engineering wasn't enough to keep her awake at night, when it takes a personal turn, she is not only struggling to expose a gruesome underworld but is also fighting for her life.

Desecration certainly lives up to its name. It is a dark and graphic mystery/thriller that deals with plenty of unique and unusual albeit uncomfortable themes, including corpse art and dissection. Just how depraved humans can be is explored in this action packed and well researched story. The fascinating historical information was dropped in effortlessly. Who knew for example that necrophilia was only made illegal in the UK in 2003?

I was drawn into this book by the prologue, told in the first person, where we meet the antagonist and catch a glimpse of their chilling character. (I actually wish there was more of the book in this style.) We are then introduced to DS Jamie Brooke and follow her journey into the sick world she finds herself investigating. But this is so much more than a police procedural. Jamie is a tortured soul whose young daughter, Polly, is dying. Her story is heart-breaking and there are very moving scenes. When Polly dies, I wondered what would happen to the case as Jamie takes personal leave, but then there was a huge twist in the story. There is never a dull moment as the horrors of the case are combined with Jamie's personal life and her interesting partnership with Blake – a psychic who can read objects.

As I read the book, I wondered about the truth surrounding the bizarre, grisly acts discussed so the author's note at the end was enlightening, though unnerving. I was also glad to read that Jamie and Blake will be working together again soon.

So if you're looking to learn about dark but fascinating topics in an original thriller (this is definitely not a cozy mystery) where you will develop an emotional connection with the main character, this is the book for you!
