



Back in the Habit

Alice Loweecey

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It's been over a year since Giulia Falcone fled the convent, and her new case is the stuff of nightmares: she's going back. Giulia's former Superior General has hired Driscoll Investigations to confirm that the sudden death of Sister Bridget, a troubled young Novice, was a suicide in order to squelch a lawsuit. Did something drive Sister Bridget to desperation? Or was she murdered? Gathering every ounce of courage to confront her past, Giulia dons the dreaded habit--putting a serious damper on her budding romance with her boss, Frank--and returns to the Motherhouse to investigate. What she uncovers is less than holy . . .

Back in the Habit Details

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From Reader Review Back in the Habit for online ebook

Cathy Spencer says

I enjoyed the book. I thought the premise was good and I enjoyed the insight into convent life. I also liked the heroine's endeavours to make up for lost time in the romance department with her boss, and pick up tips from Cosmopolitan magazine. The solving the mystery part of the story certainly went off in a direction I hadn't anticipated, and I found it just a touch implausible. Also, style-wise, I like my writing a little leaner.

I might add that my husband enjoyed the book very much and couldn't put it down.

Judy says

Imagine the nightmare of having to go back to the convent you left less than two years ago undercover to help the very Mother Superior you left to avoid. Giulia Falcone is persuaded to do this by her boss in Falcone & Driscoll Investigation. It was an interesting look inside a convent during a "homecoming weekend" (a celebration of St. Francis's Day by Franciscan nuns). I hope the ending was rather implausible, otherwise I really feel for the nuns of today. Still it was as exciting as I have come to expect from this series.

Sallee says

I could hardly put this down..it was a page turner. Written by a former nun, it gave indepth detail on convent life. The mystery was great and I can't wait to read the first in her series, Force of Habit.

Cyndy Aleo says

I have purchased *Back in the Habit* twice: first, the week it came out, and the second time at a book signing with the author, Alice Loweecey, after my father read and loved my first copy. As my taste in books is usually at the opposite end of the spectrum from my father's, that's probably a sign of how fun this book is.

::: The Plot :::

Giulia Falcone has been an assistant investigator for P.I. Frank Driscoll for only a few months, and out of the convent only a short while longer than she's been an assistant investigator. When the order she left needs help, though, she agrees to go back into the convent undercover as her former self, Sister Mary Regina Coelis, to find out whether a Novice's suicide was really a suicide, and if so, how it could possibly have happened.

Giulia finds more than she bargained for in a convent full of secrets and a personal struggle with who and what she is now compared to her time in the convent.

::: Mystery and Mayhem :::

Lowecey has a great voice as a writer, and keeps the mystery fun and light, even when it deals with darker subject matter like corruption in the Catholic Church. Her own experiences as an ex-nun lend a reality to Giulia's predicament. While the story could have seemed completely farfetched, Lowecey wrangles an impressive cast of characters, and gives life to many bit players who may have gotten lost as cardboard cut-outs with a less deft hand.

Back in the Habit is a fun follow-up to Lowecey's first book -- *Force of Habit* -- and the unresolved sexual tension between Giulia and her boss is a terrific subplot I hope will be resolved in future books.

Marie says

I had never heard of Alice Lowecey until she came into my library to pick up a book that she had on hold! We got to talking and she said she was an author which I thought was really exciting. Before I left for the day, I went looking and found "Back In The Habit" on the shelf. I charged it out and finished it in one day. When people say you write what you know, it couldn't be more true of Ms. Lowecey. Her style of writing is fun and funny but keeps you in sync with the storyline at the same time. Great characters that you feel right at home with; they could be your next door neighbors. Great reading!

Betty says

Giulia Returns To The Motherhouse.

Giulia enters the Motherhouse of Franciscan community to explore the conditions that cause a Novice to commit suicide. There is excitement as the Nuns prepare to celebrate the joining of the 3 communities on Saint Francis Day. Giulia is not happy to be back as her problems have not changed. As day draws closer she has not uncover any reason The Novices are overwork. Unless Giulia finds the answer it may mean her death. Parental guidance suggested.

Deneé says

I received this book as a Goodreads First Reads. This review is more like 2.5 stars. I love the idea of the book, an undercover investigation in a convent, but it didn't quite pique my interest as much as I would have hoped. It dragged on a bit, and there were some chapters that hardly seemed necessary. I liked the ending, and I felt that if there were other parts and chapters in the book that was as exciting and interesting as the ending throughout the book, this would've gotten a better rating from me. Besides have all the nun/convent/religious terms confound me, I also felt that there was a lacking in character growth and personification; the characters could've used some descriptive elements. In all the book was a good fast read, with an interesting ending and I might, one day, try to find and read the first in the series (A Force of Habit.)

Haggis Chihuahua says

SRSLY, an exceptionally good read. I mean, I've actually been dreaming about walking through the Mother

House and interacting with Sister Fabian and Sister Mary Stephen. And what charmers those two are. I didn't think it was possible, but Loweecey is getting better. Looking forward to the next in the series.

BTW, I almost never give five stars, so don't let the four stars fool you. This one's well worth your time and money.

Vickie says

I am so happy Alice Loweecey has joined Henery Press, my go-to publisher for my Nook books. I already love this series after just reading the first book and now I know she is in good hands.

What an eye-opening mystery this was. Driscoll and Falcone are hired by the Catholic church to investigate the death of a young Novice at a nearby convent. The same convent Giulia left over a year ago. Now she has to go back undercover and face her dragons. Lead dragon is Mother Superior and she wants the death ruled as a suicide so the routine can back to normal. Giulia knows something is amiss and will do the investigation in her own way. Especially since it means putting the habit back on and returning that life, if only for a [hopefully] short while.

We find out that there was good reason for the departure and the dread she feels for the return.

Can't really go into too much without divulging spoilers, but DADGUM! There is definite foulness afoot with the convent walls.

Giulia makes me laugh and want to be her friend. I am very particular about my friends, especially women. Women can have agendas. Giulia does not. I really look forward to the rest of the series.

Definite recommend.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Our sleuth, Giulia Falcone, newly hired as a Private Investigator in training, is sent to her worst case possible...undercover at the Motherhouse. Eager to gain important clients, Frank Driscoll, head Private Investigator of 'Driscoll Investigations' sees this job as a great opportunity to get better clients and cheerfully assigns traumatized Giulia to the case.

Giulia, now must resume her past as Sister Mary Regina Coelis. As Regina, she must undercover why a Novice committed the most dreadful of sins, suicide. What drove this young woman to such lengths when she could have escaped the convent (jumping the wall,) and from the safety of her family's home quit the life?

In this novel we are introduced to Giulia's former foes and reasons that she found convent or community life just too much. There is such evil running through the halls that I found this book to be a page turner. I do wish a better balance had been offered though.

Mas. Loweecey does write a compelling mystery. I was held enthralled by the storyline and wondering what would happen next. Was I shocked? A bit, I must admit. Now, I will go see if she has published a new book lately.

Susan says

Giulia Falcone is getting used to life outside the convent, and her still incipient relationship with boss Frank Driscoll, when the detective agency gets an assignment requiring her to go back--undercover--to find out why a novice committed suicide. There were only three novices in the convent to start with, and only one was close to the dead girl, whose parents are threatening to sue. No one knows convent routine like Giulia, and nobody else is capable of standing up to the domineering mother superior. Giulia must not only find reasons to ask about the dead Sister Bridget, but she must resist the pull of a life she had once loved and had torn herself away from. I liked the first of this series, and this one is even better, despite villains without much nuance.

Amy says

I really like the premise of this book, but I had a really hard time with Frank jumping to conclusions and not believing Giulia. Some more character development might have helped with that. I do look forward to reading more in this series and seeing where things go.

Mark Baker says

The last thing former nun Giulia ever wanted to do was go back to her former life, but that's just what she's had to do. Her PI company has been hired to find out why a Novice committed suicide, and the best way to do that is for Giulia to become Sister Mary Regina Coelis again. Not only is she confronting her past 18 months on the outside, but she's having to look for secrets. Was it a simple suicide? Or will Giulia uncover more?

I waited too long to get back to Giulia, but I'm pleased I got to visit her again. This book really allows her quite a bit of character growth since it is forcing her to face her past. We do not see as much of the other series regulars as a result, but when we did, we got some of the laughs I expect with the characters. The mystery does take us to some darker places, but it is good. I do feel that the character growth overshadowed the mystery at times, but overall I enjoyed this book.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Betty says

Giulia enters the Motherhouse of Franciscan community to explore the conditions that cause a Novice to commit suicide. There is excitement as the Nuns prepare to celebrate the joining of the 3 communities on Saint Francis Day. Giulia is not happy to be back as her problems have not changed. As day draws closer she has not uncover any reason The Novices are overwork. Unless Giulia finds the answer it may mean her death. Parental guidance suggested.

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Kay says

I love Alice Loweecey's books. I'm a "cradle Catholic", no longer practicing, and I think she does a great job portraying both the laity and the religious in her novels.

In this installment, Giulia finds herself headed back to the convent as an undercover agent when Sister Bridget (a novice relocated to the Motherhouse with her fellow nuns when 4 communities of Sisters of St. Francis were combined), allegedly commits suicide. Bridget's family is suing the order for wrongful death, and Giulia's former Superior General, Sister Mary Fabian, hires Driscoll Investigations to determine why Bridget had killed herself, and she is the one who suggests that Giulia return to the Motherhouse ostensibly to attend the Saint Francis Day reunion. In reality, she wants Giulia because, as a former nun under Sister Fabian's thumb, she thinks she can get Giulia to agree with Sister Fabian's version of the reason for Bridget's suicide. For some odd reason, Sister F. has completely forgotten that Giulia is her own person, and sheep-like obedience isn't in her make-up.

As Giulia dons the habit and returns to the scene of the crime, she finds herself immersed in all the old feelings that had her opting out of the sisterhood 14 months before, and now she has to fight off not only that angst, but keep her guard up because it looks like there is an awful lot that has contributed to the young novice's death.

I really appreciate the way that the author keeps the story moving. This isn't a book that I could put down and go back to in a day or two. I had to keep reading because the story grabbed me and wouldn't let me go.

If you like thrillers, I think you'll like Giulia's story, but I would suggest that you start with book 1 - Force of Habit - so that you are better acquainted with the characters. Now I'm on to book 3 - Veiled Threat!
