



## **Diva**

*Susan Fleet*

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# Diva

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## Diva Susan Fleet

Sexual obsession drives this riveting novel of psychological suspense. Beautiful, talented and ambitious, Belinda wants to be a star. But fame can be dangerous. Someone is stalking her. Rejection stokes the fires of his lust. Her manager dies suddenly. NOPD Detective Frank Renzi believes he was murdered, but murder may not be the worst thing Belinda must face.

## Diva Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2011 by Music and Mayhem Press (first published June 8th 2011)

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Author : Susan Fleet

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## From Reader Review Diva for online ebook

### Sheri says

Diva (Susan Fleet)

Suspense/Thriller Belinda Scully is a famous flute player, a Diva. She has many fans, one that has become obsessed. Frank Renzi , a New Orleans police detective is investigating a robbery. He is called to investigate the death of Belinda's assistant, he believes this was a murder. Soon Belinda finds herself at the hands of a psychopath, a crazed man who is obsessed with her.

The second in the Frank Renzi series, well written nail-biting page turner. Susan Fleet gets into the mind of the killer with vivid detail leaving you looking over your shoulder and wanting to keep the lights on.

I highly recommend to those who love thriller/suspense. I also recommend the first book in this series  
Absolution

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### John L says

Susan Fleet has spun two separate thriller plots into one story. Sound like a bargain? Believe me, it is. This is a good one!

Here we have a divorced tough veteran homicide detective in Frank Renzi and a widowed domestic violence detective in Kelly O'Neal, who incidentally happens to be a beautiful female. When they're thrown together as partners by two separate criminal investigations, you just can't help hoping that things are going to get interesting, if you catch my drift.

Enter two sociopath bad guys: a merciless G-Homie shotcaller street thug named AK, and a serial stalker/rapist whose name is ...well, who is this monster, anyway? You have to read the book to find out who he really is. They aren't connected to each other in any conventional way, but Susan Fleet laces their very different criminal enterprises into a bonus double feature that's filled with murder, suspense, yes, some romance, and brutal, sadistic, psycho-sexual obsession.

While lots of gunfire erupts, providing an oversized front-end loader full of dead bodies scattered throughout the tale, there are two principal victims, one of whom you'll like - and the other you'll probably just despise.

Susan Fleet's style is truly a kick in the pants. As a retired cop, I can tell you she did her homework and had me laughing aloud with some of her hilarious sardonic analogies. They could have been uttered by real police officers. So, I'm guessing she spent a little time around the real cops prior to writing this excellent book.

Will Renzi and his partner stop the evil-doers? There's one way for you to find out. Diva is just the ticket for a weekend's worth of entertainment (much better than a movie). Don't miss this one.

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## **Jayne says**

New Orleans Police Detective Frank Renzi is back in *DIVA*, a fast paced, gritty suspense thriller from author Susan Fleet. Fleet's intimate knowledge of the music world and sharp characterizations make her second book an intriguing follow-up to her first novel, *ABSOLUTION*. Enjoy!

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## **Peter says**

Fleet has crafted a New Orleans mystery starring a villainous villain, an infuriatingly divaish (new word) victim and in Frank Renzi, a solid but sensitive cop protagonist. Mixed in are sub-plots that expose the hellish aftermath of Katrina on the city's population and those paid to protect it. Not only has she crafted a story that will keep you reading, but like all good authors she keeps out of the way and lets the story tell itself. I'm adding the first Frank Renzi novel to my to read list.

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## **Maynard Allington says**

There is ample mediocrity in the thriller and mystery markets today, if only because of the E-Book revolution. But the small number of elite novelists still working in the genre just added a new member - Susan Fleet. In *Diva*, novelist Fleet covers all the structural bases essential to the architecture of a thriller. The plot line has been engineered with the precision of a blueprint. The author's writing style is lucid, crisp and never overblown. The dialogue is authentic for cops, as well as for the classical music world. Characters are well crafted, complex individuals, drawn into believable conflicts and emotional crises. They are people the reader cares about. Even the background characters in this diverse ensemble stand out. But where *Diva* truly excels is in its pace. The chapters are mostly short, and the action unfolds through adroit use of multiple POVs. Indeed, the pace charges forward from the first two pages and never slows. The character of the stalker surely ranks with some of the best and most detestable villains in the genre. In the end, he is totally believable. Novelist Fleet is a fresh literary voice, and definitely here to stay.

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## **Lisa Tortorello says**

*Diva* seemed like such a 'fad' title, that I almost didn't read this book because of it. I read Susan Fleet's first book *Absolution* and really enjoyed it, so I decided to take the chance on reading *Diva*, and I am certainly glad I did. It turns out *Diva* is a very fitting title that describes the prima donna flutist Belinda Scully who falls prey to a dangerous stalker that will stop at nothing short of having Belinda all to himself. I wanted to dislike Belinda because of her arrogance, but as the story progressed, she grew on me. Detective Frank Renzi (who is a great character) is in charge of finding Belinda's stalker and keeping her safe. This task turns out to be much more difficult than expected since Belinda is such a...*DIVA*! Will Frank Renzi outsmart the stalker before the stalker outsmarts Belinda for the very last time? Read *Diva* to find out for yourself!

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## **Jack says**

Post Katrina New Orleans provides an interesting backdrop for this crime thriller about a stalker who becomes progressively out of control.

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## **Amy Lignor says**

Okay, readers. We know all about suspense and 'edge-of-your-seat' thrillers, BUT when a writer comes along that can not only take the physical but the extremely psychological human emotions and interweave them together to make a story this dangerous and powerful - then you have definitely found Paradise!

Taking place in the horrific aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, readers find themselves in New Orleans surrounded by the worst that nature had to offer - not even thinking about the worst that 'man' had in store, as well. Belinda Scully is a multi-talented flutist who is at the top of her game. Literally, she finds herself in a luxurious world, where she's now a part of international performances, bringing her talent across the globe. Jake is Belinda's VERY hard working manager who does more for her than, I swear, the entire Royal Guard does for the Queen of England. And let's just say that Belinda takes advantage of the fact that he will always be there for her - calling upon him for many things that she could very easily do for herself. A Diva extraordinaire, Belinda becomes even worse when Jake and his partner begin to think seriously of moving to New York City.

While performing in London, an admirer approaches Belinda who seems to be far more than just a fan. (Think of all those frightening teenage girls on the news when Robert Pattinson gets out of a limo - you'll know what I mean.) Belinda's 'fan' will not leave her alone, and being the diva that she is, she (not gently) ignores him when he attempts to thrust a business card into her hands and warn her that she will need protection during her globe-trotting travels

While this captivating storyline is going on, there is yet another. A homeless teen by the name of Chantelle, and her jazz-musician boyfriend, have found themselves in a drug deal gone wrong; a policeman is shot and a hostage meets her demise. Attempting to protect the young girl, New Orleans Police Detective, Frank Renzi, hides her in a home where the drug dealers can never find her. Unfortunately, Chantelle takes it upon herself to make a choice she can not un-make. Escaping from the home, she goes back to her boyfriend, and soon a drug lord is on her tail.

When these two stories come together, people, the fireworks ensue. Belinda being stalked; Chantelle running from a vicious drug lord; and, a cop who gets involved with both of the women as he tries his very best to save them from their own ridiculous mistakes. Desperation brings readers to the height of the thrill-ride, as this author deftly brings it all together for a perfect ending to a perfect read.

The plot moves quickly, but easily - and never once confuses the reader with any mindless jargon. The characters are compelling, even if a bit 'witchy' at times, and even the music world is highlighted to a perfect 'T.'

Absolution was the first - Diva is the second - and I can not WAIT to see what's in store for us with the third! This is one writer who gives the 'Big Six' in publishing a new, fresh voice to listen to, and seeing her on the bestseller list very soon will not be a surprise. Enjoy this one!

Until Next Time, Everybody.  
Amy

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### **Elisabeth Zguta says**

Diva is a great sequel. I loved the first book of the series "Absolution", and Susan Fleet did it again, delivering to us a great story in the sequel "DIVA". The way she mixes her love of music into the story is creative and unique. Susan's description of post Katrina New Orleans is very observant and thoughtful. I truly loved reading this series so far and eagerly anticipating the next book.

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### **Dorothy says**

This is the story of a stalker that has been stalking Belinda for a long time. There a lot of twist and turns but it's a very good story. As always Frank Renzi is on the ball.

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### **Roderick Low says**

Set against the sombre and wretched backdrop of post-Katrina New Orleans, Frank Renzi plies his trade as a police detective. But policemen work in the context of criminals and victims and it is those we meet from the start of this enthralling book. In quick succession we are introduced to a very sinister character later identified as Barry Silverman, a manipulative and repulsive stalker, and Belinda Scully, a talented and famous flutist who is coerced into making a complaint about a possible attempt on her life by her over-anxious business manager, Jake Ziegler.

Within the first few paragraphs, the book moves into overdrive and never slows until the very last page.

Is Jake more than just a business partner? We are led to think so in the first few encounters but first impressions are often far from the truth. And when we meet the characters in a subplot, two black teens, Chantelle and Antoine, are soon revealed as people with a lot more depth to them than at first sight and for whom, in the end, we can only feel sympathy.

Every individual in this accomplished novel is carefully portrayed as the story unfolds, the main characters, but also the people around them - Frank Renzi's forbidden love interest, the police detectives with whom he works, the main characters' relatives that play important roles. To say much more would reveal too much. I was astounded at the pace of this book that never slackened from the beginning to the end.

Police dramas on the small and large screen have entertained us almost from the beginning of broadcasting. It is a proven formula with opportunities for the observer to love the heroes and heroines, hate the criminals, and second-guess the who and why before a solution is offered. Many of the best started out life as books, for it is on the printed page that characters can be properly developed and situations fully explored. I cannot imagine we will wait too long before Frank Renzi is seen on a screen at the local multiplex or in our living rooms.

Roderick Craig Low – author of 'Rewards and Dilemmas' and others.

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## **Joyce says**

This time a Flautist is being stalked, but she doesn't want to deal with it. Renzi gets involved when her Manager contacts the NOPD about it. She develops a crush on Renzi, who does not reciprocate. Meanwhile things are not good in New Orleans. Crime and criminals are pretty much out of control following Katrina. A teenaged girl runs away from a robbery in which someone is shot, a woman is carjacked and thrown out of the car while it is moving and dies as a result. Renzi catches the teenager and places her in a group home from which she runs away. The two cases intermingle because of a music connection. The stalker is living in a fantasy world and convinced he has a future with the Flautist, a not particularly likable diva. Telling the reader any more would lead to plot spoilers, but this is fast reading and will grab the reader's interest. Fleet's characters are those you want to get to learn more about.

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## **Mattie Patterson says**

### **Fine read**

I enjoyed the book. I want to see where Frank and Kelly are headed. I can not wait to read the book.

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## **Sherry Fundin says**

Belinda Scully, a solo flutist and soon to be famous, he thought. Today he would send her a message.

Renzi was just finishing up, when she walked into the precinct. Her escort insisted someone tried to run her over. Belinda shrugged it off, playing the Diva. Renzi knew neither of them was telling the whole truth, but before he could question them further, the phone rang. He was called away.

Belinda would repeat, over and over, "never give in to fear. Act successful and you will be successful. Believe in yourself and you cannot fail." She behaved like a Diva to protect herself.

It was the thirteenth anniversary of her brother's death. And it was the day before Friday the 13th. She avoided everything thirteen, but sometimes things are out of our control.

Belinda was returning home from a successful performance concert in London. She watched as the SUV followed her, keeping pace with her. Suddenly, it veered and slammed into the back of her Infiniti.

Frank had told her to call if anything happened. But what could she tell him?

Two accidents and now the letters were getting angry and threatening. Following Renzi's suggestion, she hired a body guard.

"I know all your secrets Belinda. What would your fans think if they knew?"

5 STARS - Would Highly Recommend To Others

Susan's covers are always great. They show the upcoming story inside the pages, making me want to find out what depravity has been afflicted on someone now. lol

I love all the detail she packed in her book. The story is very well written and draws me in quickly, not letting go until the end. She seems to pick topics that get my blood boiling and my anger levels at their maximum. I feel disgust and hatred for the evil that her characters inflict on the innocent and always cheer when they get their comeuppance. And I am quite comfortable walking the streets her characters walk through New Orleans.

Renzi is a bit of a rebel. He believes in right and wrong and sometimes he bends the rules to do the right thing. He likes dark haired sexy women, with a sense of humor - like Jane Russell. I loved the way Jane Russell bantered with Robert Mitchum in the movies from the 50's. Susan's use of this example helps me to understand and get into Renzi's relationship with Kelly. Of course, Renzi plays a trumpet and loves Jazz, it is New Orleans after all. I like that Susan includes these personal touches of her life into her books. Gives the books a feeling of authenticity.

Susan's descriptions of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina are detailed and will help you to picture what the town was like. The line between fiction and reality was definitely blurred to me.

New Orleans is not known for having the best police force to begin with. Now, with crime off the charts, the thugs in paradise dealing drugs and killing just to kill, it can be a dangerous place to live. Some of the worst atrocities were focused on women and with the shortage of police, it was an uphill battle.

It was a little over a year since Katrina and Renzi thought the thugs were winning the battle. So much devastation and trash, empty houses, squatters and crime. Much of the population did not return. How would they get back and what was there to come back to? Would they have a house, a job....It all smacks of reality.

I have been to New Orleans many times before and after Hurricane Katrina. I pass through Mississippi on the way there. The devastation is still very visible and impossible to miss. In Florida, it is obvious as well - the loss of beach, the starkness of the dead landscape, slabs of concrete where houses used to be - it will never be the same, but change is inevitable and the allure of the gorgeous waters of the Gulf of Mexico call to me.

Like all things in Nature, the land does try to find the balance. Too bad people don't work the same way.

Can you imagine a stalker? Knowing your every move, calling over and over, sending you letters. The creepiness of knowing they have been in your home, touching your things and who knows what else. The shadows in the corners, jumping at every noise. Looking over your shoulder everywhere you go. How deadly could or would it become? How would you get over it?

There have been enough real life stalker deaths of famous people to highlight the dangers and show us how real it can be. Imagine how bad it would be for us, the average joe, without the money and ability to hire protection.

Stalkers take a lot of time and effort to plan. Their fantasy and desire override any sense of reality and wrongness. They will kill to eliminate a competitor or threat or just to be noticed.

So, to sum it up, another fantastic book from Susan Fleet and I am definitely looking forward to more trips to New Orleans with her. And, as usual, her books create all these thoughts and feelings that I must let out, so forgive my rambling on. That's why they have 5 STAR ratings. LOL



I picked up this book on an Amazon free day. Thank you Susan Fleet for you generosity.

Susan Fleet

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**Cheryl Turoczy hart says**

Might want to read more of this series. Psychotic characters always seem to appeal to me.

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