



Answering the Call

Ali Vali

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As New Orleans recovers from Hurricane Katrina, Detective Sept Savoie recovers from a gunshot wound with the help of her new love Keegan Blanchard. As the city returns to normal, so does the crime rate. Sept's first case back on the job is a strangely ritualistic killing, which quickly escalates into serial murder. As the bodies start to pile up, the last thing Sept needs is the city's newest celebrity crime writer, Nicole Voles, poking into the case looking for information for a new bestseller, especially when Nicole appears just as interested in Keegan as she is in murder. Time is running out and innocent lives are on the line. But with all her focus on finding a killer, the secretive and seductive Nicole Voles may just steal what matters to Sept most.

Answering the Call Details

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Author : Ali Vali

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From Reader Review Answering the Call for online ebook

Farah says

Answering The Call is the sequel to Calling The Dead.

If you've read Calling The Dead then you'll definitely would like to get this onto your read shelf - hard to resist Sept + Keegan and definitely you don't want to miss the gore.

Calling The Dead was on sale for 4.99 the other day - thank you, Lex. Answering The Call is available on Scribd..

This book just came out a few days ago and most of the trustworthy reviewers had already shared their thoughts on it. I think the ratings were 3 - 5 stars.

The thriller took main stage, there were a lot of murders. I tried to keep up with the digits but after a while, I couldn't be bothered anymore. A copycat was copying the methods of several serial killers. I should be excited right? I wasn't, it felt unreal. Why? Some murders were planned but some were coincidence which didn't fit a serial killer's modus operandi. Too many weapons and instruments were used, I was curious to see the SK's shopping list as he / she shopped at Walmart.

Almost everyone in the book was gushing over how smart Sept was, I disagreed. I even repeated some scenes to agree with them but came out with my original opinion.

O.T.T. elements -

1. Keegan's family over fixation towards Sept.
2. Sept's overconcerned towards the Blanchard's safety. Hardly any attentions paid to her own family, were they chopped liver?
3. The cheeks kissing, there were about 14 of them.. There were more actually + it wasn't only between Sept and Keegan. Almost every good guy / gal got their cheeks kissed. Please ignore this fact, it was a personal issue.
4. The murders

I still love Keegan and Sept, they were absolutely a strong unit - always checking in, sharing their feelings and very loving. Ms.Vali made an excellent quote in Calling The Dead.

“Ugly things are like big pieces of furniture, don’t you think?” “How so?” “They’re easier to carry if two people share the load,” - Keegan Blanchard

Dana-Adriana B. says

Detective Sept Savoie has to solve some ritualistic killings. This is a nice mystery book, I love the plot and the characters too. It is my first book by Ali Vali and I like it very much.

Thanks to Netgalley for this copy.

Irene (Functioning LesFic Addict) says

POV: four 3rd person POVs

Style/Pace: not too slow or fast. Perfect for the genre.

Sex: explicit but not raunchy.

Age: not sure, but they have to be at least 30 or older

Triggers: gruesome murder scenes

Rating: **3.45**

Synopsis...

Sept meets the most prolific and strategic serial killer I've ever read in lesfic.

Pros...

Once again, the mystery is solid. You won't be disappointed. As a matter of fact, you might find yourself bothered by how impressed you'll be with the killer. I was also impressed with Sept. She is the cream of the crop detective and I found myself going back to reread the clues to see how she made her always accurate deductions. The fun thing is what when you read it a second time, you see how she got there!

Cons...

Once the mystery was solved and the killer was revealed, the author just dumped the entire backstory of the killer on the reader. It's a con because it felt amateurish. I felt like the author could've slipped the reader bits and pieces as the story unfolded instead of telling us all at once.

Secondly, in book one, the romance went from 0 to 100 in a matter of weeks. In book, two the author up the ante even more. These two MCs moved waaaay too fast for me to get a good grasp on the relationship and learn to like them as a couple. I really hated this because romance a critical part of my reading experience and sledding it down would've make this book a near perfect read.

Lastly, Nicole's POV was not needed. The blurb made it sound like she was going to be a negative factor on the MCs relationship but I could tell from chapter one that there was no way she could come in between Keegan and Sept's whirlwind romance. It was a waste. I was really looking forward to some partner drama!

Feels and Final Thoughts...

The mystery was about 75% as good as the first one which, in spite of its flaws, still makes it another must read for those that like these kinds of books. My 3 star rating is mainly due to my annoyance at the romance. Ignore that if romance in a crime novel is not important to you.

Melissa B says

Absolutely loved this book. This story will keep you on the edge right up to the end. Ali Vali has such a wonderful way of developing characters that come alive through her writing.

This is her second novel with Sept and Keegan and their families. Her skill has them drawing you in and wanting more. She understands how to bring them to life with her words.

I look forward to more in this series. I am a true fan of all her work and believe she gets better with each new novel.

Betty says

Ali Vali is a master of complex and riveting mysteries that will keep you on the edge of your seat reading until the end, and Answering the Call is a perfect example of her mastery. Answering the Call is the second in Ms. Vali's Call series and takes place months after Calling the Dead ends with most of the same characters and adding some new protagonists to the tale. The setting is also the same as the first book, the recovery period of post Katrina New Orleans.

This second book is just as intriguing and multi-layered as the first novel. Ms. Vali also has all of those little plot twists that she throws into the tale which keeps you guessing and totally surprises you. For instance, I knew who the bad guy was about halfway through the story. I was proud of myself for figuring it out so soon. Good thing I kept reading because then I made it to the end of the story and found another of those little plot twists and...well, you will have to read it all the way to the end yourself to find out.

As I mentioned above, Answering the Call is the second book in the Call series, and to be honest, it really is not a stand-alone book. You really need to get Calling the Dead and read both books in the order they were written. If you only read this book, you will miss a good deal of information that it would be impossible for the author to give you in a blurb. I also think you would have a hard time connecting with the characters since they were already established and evolved in the first novel. Reading the books out of order would ruin the first book for you as well since the killer in the Calling the Dead is known in Answering the Call.

I encourage you to buy both books and read them in order. They are both outstanding mystery/romance novels and you will be glad you did.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and Bold Strokes Books for an honest review.

Rainbow Reflections:

<https://rainbowreflections.home.blog/>

susan says

???????

I have been a Cain and Emma fan since book one. But I do believe Sept and Keegan are up there with them now. I loved the suspense, mystery and passion in this storyline. I had an idea of who I thought the killer was but I was double shocked at the end? Ali killed with all the characters...they had their parts to play in the story. Thank you Ali for a great adventure. I definitely recommend this book.

Joc says

This seems to be a continuation of Calling the Dead and while I don't like to read books out of order I didn't have any problems following the story line. Following the traumatic injuries Sept Savoie sustained in capturing the serial killer Alex Perlis, she's now recovered and ready to return to work. She and her partner, Keegan Blanchard, are just about to return home from their romantic getaway when a parcel is delivered to

their door. The toe in the jar signals that Sept is back at work. Investigating the death of a woman and two police officers is further complicated by the arrival of an author wanting to do a story on Alex Perlis. Nicole Voles is persistent and disruptive.

This novel has an interesting premise, loads of dialogue, a couple in love, an intense investigation and it's set in New Orleans. Keegan and Sept have great communication. I love the concept that they each come from powerful local families; Sept from a family of law enforcement and Keegan from a dynasty of restaurateurs. This should be a perfect novel for me but it isn't. For some reason I just don't click with Vali's writing. I can't pin-point anything that actually bothered me while reading but I felt completely disconnected from the story. This is my second novel by Vali and I felt very much the same in that one too.

I reckon if you're a fan of Vali this won't disappoint but I think I will save us both from my reviews and ratings in the future.

Book received from Netgalley and Bold Strokes Books for an honest review.

Bethany says

Just want to start this review off with a slight disclaimer - I know that a ton of people love Ali Vali's writings, but personally, I have a bit of trouble with her style. It's not that it's bad, not at all! Vali's writing style just doesn't work for me for some reason. I think part of what bothers me is the character names that are not quite the norm, and part of it is just her style. Please read my review with a grain of salt!

Answering the Call is the second book in a series, and I didn't really realize that until I was done. I prefer to read books in order, but not reading book 1 didn't really harm my ability to understand or enjoy this one. I have a feeling that I missed out on the romantic connection between the MCs Sept and Keegan by skipping book 1. I did totally ruin the surprise of who the killer from book 1 is by reading this one first, so read this one first at your own peril. I couldn't go back and really enjoy book 1 even if I wanted to at this point since the suspense is ruined :(

This one starts with our MCs already together and in love, and right after Sept is back at work after being injured, she's thrown immediately into an intense investigation of dead police officers. To make things worse, there's a novelist who's wanting to do a story on Sept's last case, and she's incredibly disruptive.

I was able to figure out the who-dun-it for this one before the ending, but that didn't bother me too much. Really, my only issue with this one was just my own issues with how Vali's style just doesn't work for me personally. If you like other Vali novels, you'll probably enjoy this one too.

3.5 stars, rounded down to 3.

****Many thanks to the publisher for providing me with an ARC copy in exchange for my honest review.****

Carolyn McBride says

There are so many things to say about this book, I've actually been pondering this review for hours.

First off, it is a sequel. This is not a stand-alone book, and I wish I had known this before starting to read. I picked up on this early in the first pages when events were referenced and I had no idea what the characters were talking about. So I went back to BSB and bought the first book, *'Calling The Dead'*. Without going into that book's review here, let me tell you the two books and their titles are as inter-woven and necessary to each other as a right shoe is to the left.

So, I'm going to assume that you've read *'Calling The Dead'* and trust me when I say, you want to. Really. Now you're wondering if this book is any good. It is not just good, it is a gut-grabbing, hair-curling, roller-coaster of twists and turns all wrapped in a murder mystery. This is not your grandmother's mystery! There is blood and guts here, and lots of it. There are sick and twisted bad-guys with sick and demented goals. There are good guys and gals too, lots of them, who want to see the depravity stop and people protected. Chivalry, high emotion and love abounds here as well. The story is paced well and the characters, and there are many, are so well crafted, that you'll swear they aren't made-up. Both main families feel so real that you think that you could just call them up. There is only one question I was left with, but it makes no difference to the story.

Why is Sept's hair white?

So in closing, first, get yourself a copy of *'Calling The Dead'*, then get yourself a copy of this book, *'Answering The Call'*. Prepare to lose yourself in a world of Ali Vali's making. Leave the dishes unwashed, let the dog out before you start reading because you won't want to be disturbed afterward. Oh yeah, and enjoy Mike too.

Fabulously creepy cover, a wonderfully gripping story...what are you still doing here? Go get your own copy!

Aleana Harris says

I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I love it!!!! It was great to see Sept and Keegan again and the rest of the characters. I didn't think we were going to get another book with them..

It starts off with the killer killing a cop and then sending a thumb to Sept and Keegan while they were on vacation and this starts a another killing spree.

I love Sept and Keegan relationship because they talk and listen to each other especially love Keegan Gran Della she a hoot. I like how they include everyone as their family.

The plot remind of storylines on Criminal Minds and if the author continue to write about Sept and Keegan and company I can totally see this as a tv show or web series. It be great to see a lesbian lead on tv screen.

Lex Kent says

This is the long awaited follow-up to the book Calling the Dead. It actually starts shortly after Calling the Dead ended. I enjoyed this quite a bit. I do think I liked Calling the Dead a tad more, but they were pretty equal. You could just pick up this book up and start reading but I absolutely recommend reading Calling the

Dead first. A big part of the mystery in *Calling the Dead* is who is the killer? If you read *Answering the Call* first it will ruin who the killer is for the previous book. Also, *Calling the Dead* has when our two main characters first meet, so to really understand their romance you should start at the beginning. (*Calling the Dead* is only 4.99 right now so not a bad time to take a chance on it)

These books follow Detective Sept Savoie who we first met in Vali's Cain Casey series. In fact Sept is very similar to Cain except she's on the right side of the law. If you are a fan of the Casey series the chances are high you will enjoy these books.

The best way to describe these would be mystery/thriller/romance books. The mystery is quite good and you find yourself trying to figure out who the killer is the whole time. This book was easier to figure out the killer than the first book, but I still wasn't sure until the end. Vali gives you little clues to figure it out and it's just pure entertainment.

I do want to give a violence warning. Both books deal with serial killers so there is a lot of blood and dead bodies. These books are not for the squeamish. But it's not all darkness. You have a romance and family relationship that keeps the gore from being too much.

I'm a Vali fan even though her books don't always work for me. I was glad to put this in the yes it worked side. If you are a Cain Casey fan, don't pass these up. Grab *Calling the Dead* first and get ready for a heck of a ride.

An ARC was given to me for a honest review.

Emma says

Answering The Call is SPECTACULAR! I love ALI VALI and have been waiting for the follow up to *Calling the Dead*! I love, love, love these characters! I really would like to see the Melinda/St.John story! HINT - HINT- TO THE AUTHOR!

I really don't know where to start...except to say that the book is wonderful on all levels. I don't want to share too much of the plot, but Sept is a detective and her girlfriend is Keegan, a chef. The story is set in New Orleans. The supportive characters are wonderful. Della is hilarious. I love her sharp wit and her compassion. However, I was hoping Keegan's sister, Jacqueline, might end up with Muriel (Cain's cousin) in the Devil Series. I do love the Muriel/Kristin match as well! So all is good. It's just too much time between these delightful characters just sucks. I am hoping that Ali decides to do a series of Sept and Keegan's next adventure - especially with the way she ended the book! The same goes for the Devil series - one a year of each would be a dream come true for your readers Ali!

ARC was provided by publisher for an honest review.

Agirlcandream says

Ali Vali picks up where *Calling the Dead* finished with Sept Savoie recovering from her injuries and getting back on the job just as a copycat killer begins to litter the New Orleans landscape with dead bodies. Sept and

Keegan have little time to contemplate their engagement and once again the lives of everyone Sept knows and loves are in peril.

The first book starring our intrepid crime fighter was published in 2008 so the author spends a bit of time catching readers up on the serial killer and their actions in the previous novel. I highly recommend reading *Calling the Dead* before reading this second installment. Once again we have graphic violence in abundance. This killer is not so precise as the one they are imitating and that makes hunting them down that much more difficult for Sept and Nathan. Added to their challenges a fictional crime writer, Nicole Voles has decided to write about the first murder spree and is another thorn the detectives don't need with the body count mounting and the clues few and far between. Nicole is clever, shifty and also interested in Keegan. She's not above horning in on the current murder spree with the help of her FBI father. Sept just can't catch a break.

Crime thrillers run a fine line between action, violence bordering on the macabre and the police appearing to have any chance of cracking the case and capturing the monster. I found myself losing faith that the entire force and forensic guys would ever find a clue. New characters mean lots of red herrings but I needed to know there was hope that justice would be served. Vali was effective at ramping up the tension but I wished the police procedural part would have yielded faster results without the large number of casualties and possible targets.

Satisfying ending and a clever one at that for those of us who think we can crack every crime and every criminal case.

ARC received with thanks from publisher via NetGalley for review.

Carrie says

I couldn't finish this. I tried and tried but gave up around the 40% mark.

I think this works as a standalone even though it is a series. The author explains important things from the past that are integral to the plot of this one

I had a hard time with the amount of characters. Many in Keegan's family. Many in Sept's family. All the people on Sept's team. Writer and her father. Several branches of law enforcement. Some sex workers, Killer. Etc. Seriously too many to keep track of.

The romance had already been established in book 1 so there was not any anticipation or interest from that side of things. And whoever is doing the killing this time is referencing kills from book 1 so that didn't catch my interest either.

Really wish I could have gotten through this as a lot of people have left positive reviews.

I received an ARC from Bold Strokes Books through Netgalley for an honest review.

R says

I like crime/mystery novels so I figured this might be an interesting read. It was...and so much more. The characters were multidimensional- and some were downright creepy. In order not to give anything away, I'm not going to expand on the creepy part. But there were many ritualistic killings involved with vivid descriptions. However, not everything was doom and gloom. There were lighter moments throughout the story, especially with the family matriarch, Della, and her threatening-teasing ways. I enjoyed the strength of the family and their dynamics when dealing with life's many issues. The love between Sept and Keegan was also very well developed. The author did a great job capturing the emotional toll that cops and their life partners face especially when killers strike close to home.

Suffice it to say this was a very fast paced read mainly because there was always something happening ...sometimes bad...especially with Sept "answering the call"-one to duty and one to death.

If you enjoy this genre, the author will not disappoint you.
