



Friends to Die for

Hilary Bonner

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Friends: can you really trust them? The next thrilling novel from Hilary Bonner. A group of friends living in London's Covent Garden are subjected to the whims of a dangerous prankster. At first, whilst disturbing, the tricks are funny. But as they continue they become more serious and violent, until finally someone lies dead. As the remaining friends struggle to manage their grief and identify the culprit, suspicion soon falls close to home and secrets furtively kept hidden are brought to light. Alliances are formed, and the once-cosy group begins to turn on each other. Could one of them really be capable of murder?

Friends to Die for Details

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Author : Hilary Bonner

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From Reader Review Friends to Die for for online ebook

Amanda says

This is an immediately engaging mystery.

A group of friends meet at the same restaurant for a meal every Sunday. They call themselves 'The Sunday Club'. We are presented with the cast of characters that comprise this club, which is somewhat overwhelming. It doesn't take long to get used to them and track what they tell each other, what they don't, and why. When you stir a mystery in with interpersonal relationships you get a whodunnit that starts as comedy with an edge, i.e Mr. Tickle, to a body count in an atmosphere of fear and suspicion.

A series of twists kept me from guessing who the biggest rotter was, by way of some rotten secrets from the not-so-innocents coming to light. An absorbing read.

Liz Barnsley says

An extremely addictive story this one, following a group of friends who meet up regularly forming a "Sunday Club" – when they start to become the victims of pranks which grow ever more sinister, it becomes apparent that there is a murderer in their midst...

I thoroughly enjoyed this one – a brilliant cast of eclectic characters can be found here, all brought together in friendship over a period of time but about to be torn apart by a wicked prankster. Initially fairly funny (I did have a huge giggle at Mr Tickle) then steadily getting more and more dangerous, the friends struggle to cope with the strange occurrences and begin to view each other with increasing suspicion.

Very cleverly constructed as we move between the friends and ultimately the police investigation, there are lots of lovely little twists and turns to keep you involved and as things get steadily more horrific, there is an intense build up of tension that keeps you turning the pages and the further in you get the more you will be desperate to find out whodunnit and why. A terrific book for guessing the culprit, there is some wonderful misdirection and yet the clues are all there for you, as the reader, to unravel. The sign of a great mystery novel.

The characters are all great fun, you would definitely want to know them in real life (well apart from one of course!). I particularly liked Vogel, the detective trying to unravel the mayhem and all of the friends have their own little quirks which you will relate to. There are some emotional moments as well as some very exciting ones – plus Ms Bonner manages to put you right into the action with a great sense of place, Covent garden really comes to life.

Overall this is a great example of when Crime Fiction works REALLY well – engaging, intelligent and a darn good yarn.

Highly Recommended.

Marjolein says

Well, that was fucking terrible. Honestly, how did this even get published? I didn't care for any of the characters, the dialogues felt very unnatural, the story itself was ok but the constant changing of POV was incredibly annoying - sometimes I didn't even know whose thoughts I was reading. Anyhow, I figured out who did it somewhere around page 200 and IT TOOK THE DETECTIVE AGES TO FIND THE MURDERER. This... was definitely a waste of time. Would NOT recommend it. I might write a longer review, but I don't even know if I want to spend more time discussing this book. One thing I do know for sure: if this crap can get published, my stories sure as hell can too.

I had to struggle my way through it and I'm glad I forced myself to finish it - on to better things!

Paula Sealey says

A group of friends calling themselves the Sunday Club meet up for dinner and drinks at Johnny's restaurant as often as possible. During one of their get together's, a member of the group lets slip a fact about their past. Unknown to them, the disclosed fact relates to another Sunday Club member and sets off a chain of events that eventually leads to murder.

After initially finding the number of characters introduced at the start a little overwhelming, I soon became really involved in the story and trying to work out who the member with murderous intent was and who had let slip a telling fact. The tension in the story built up nicely, and I enjoyed the plotline.

A well crafted story that will keep you guessing throughout.

*I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kristy says

the first half felt dreadfully long-winded, but in the end I didn't loathe this book as much as I initially did.

The passages from the killer's perspective were actually well written imo.

I can't honestly say I'd recommend it, but I suppose it'd be okay as a whodunnit for a book club?

Graham says

I don't think I can finish this. What with, to my mind, the unnecessary gore directed against female victims, the slack and pointless writing (e.g., It took her less than a minute to successfully open the door), and the strong echoes of Ten Little Niggers, if you will excuse my French, that is what it was called when I read it ... tawdry, meretricious and banal.

Pauline Johnson says

Thoroughly enjoyed this book and thought it was well written and very gripping, you never really know who your friends are and what their past history is!!!

Will read some of her other books in the hope that they will be just as good.

Maggie Kiely says

I thought this was an average read It took a while to get into it and don't know why the author gave the characters similar names to confuse me! Greg George Michelle Marlina etc. This group of friends meet at 'The Sunday Club' and when they all start suffering incidents they become spooked. I could not guess who the criminal was. The twist was interesting, slightly far fetched but I certainly did not anticipate it. Would recommend this one.

Ann Tonks says

Started to read but just couldn't get past the first couple of chapters. it felt like a rather forced Agatha Christie novel with an endless array of not very believable characters.

Nancy says

Ten people meet every Sunday at 5.30 for a casual supper at Johnny's Place restaurant in Covent Garden. They call themselves "the Sunday Club". Disparate characters with different lives. Then startling things begin to happen to them, one at a time. The incidents get creepier and more dangerous, even resulting in deaths. Why? Who's doing this? Is it one of the ten? I only recently discovered the writer, Hilary Bonner, and have also read her The Cruellest Game and Death Comes First. Each unputdownable once you start them :-)

Allie says

An unlikely group of 10 friends meet on a weekly basis for dinner at a Covent Garden restaurant - they become the victims of a prankster but the "tricks" become more and more malicious and sinister as time goes on. It is obviously an inside job, but who is behind it and why? Who do they trust when one of the group is murdered?

I loved the idea for the plot but the writing was rather disappointing, far fetched and rather repetitive at times. I had no real sympathy for any of the characters, none seemed likeable and the conclusion felt a bit rushed. Shame as was a promising start. Don't think I'll be rushing out to find any more books by this author.

Ruth says

Friends: can you really trust them? The next thrilling novel from Hilary Bonner. A group of friends living in London's Covent Garden are subjected to the whims of a dangerous prankster. At first, whilst disturbing, the tricks are funny. But as they continue they become more serious and violent, until finally someone lies dead.

As the remaining friends struggle to manage their grief and identify the culprit, suspicion soon falls close to home and secrets furtively kept hidden are brought to light. Alliances are formed, and the once-cosy group begins to turn on each other. Could one of them really be capable of murder?

A good read with a few twists and turns. I did guess the murderer, however I read a lot of crime fiction so that's probably why. Certainly keeps you reading to the end.

Kelly Bond says

Could not put it down

Kept me guessing to the end and it was so interesting the whole way through

Nicholas says

Oh dear, this was all just a bit dire. The characters were all caricatures of real people (there was a massive black man called 'Tiny' for goodness sake) and I couldn't warm to any of them - a generally unpleasant bunch. Clues to who did it were thin on the ground so the amateur sleuth wasn't really catered for either. Read her book, 'The Cruellest Game' which is marvelous and a class apart from this offering.

Jamie Rose says

I can't decide if I liked this or not. The story was ok but it gets a bit far fetched. The author has quite a few pointless elements that only exist to provide obvious red herrings. I couldn't take to any of the characters so it could be that. I normally enjoy books set in London but I didn't feel it portrayed London too much.
