



Malicious Intent

Kathryn Fox

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Malicious Intent

Kathryn Fox

Malicious Intent Kathryn Fox

A gripping and powerful new thriller -- the debut of a stunning new voice in suspense fiction -- and the first appearance of a tough and remarkable investigator, pathologist, and forensic physician, Dr. Anya Crichton.

The only female freelancer in the male-dominated field, pathologist Dr. Anya Crichton will take any work she can find to pay child support and her mortgage, get her new business off the ground, and battle her ex-husband for custody of their three-year-old son. Things turn around rapidly, however, when her expert forensic evidence is instrumental in winning a high-profile case -- and new work offers start pouring in.

But Anya's investigation into the drug overdose of a young Lebanese girl is raising troubling questions. Startling coincidences between this sad and tragic death and a series of seemingly unrelated suicides that Anya is also examining at the urging of her friend and colleague, detective sergeant Kate Farrer, suggest that there's a monumental evil at work in the shadows. With each scalpel cut, Anya Crichton's forensic prowess and deductive brilliance are pulling her relentlessly toward a sinister plot and a devastating truth -- and once she enters the lethal darkness, she may never again see the light of day.

Malicious Intent Details

Date : Published April 25th 2006 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780060857950

Author : Kathryn Fox

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller, Fiction, Cultural, Australia

 [Download Malicious Intent ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Malicious Intent ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Malicious Intent Kathryn Fox

From Reader Review **Malicious Intent** for online ebook

Alex Cantone says

Malicious Intent introduces Sydney-based Dr Anya Crichton, a forensic physician who is often called in assist with sexual assault cases. Anya has a gifted three-year old son, Ben but her ex- a dropkick called Martin - has custody and plays mind games. Her best friend DS Kate Farrer has an attitude which gets people offside, colleagues and the general public alike. Attorney Dan Brody is a slick and a womaniser, Vaughn Hunter is a psychologist with a sympathetic ear and an obsessive tidiness no woman could stand.

The main story here is a number of women who suicide, who share drug-resistant herpes and strange fibres in the lungs. One, a Lebanese girl promised in an arranged marriage, who is deemed to have disgraced her family, is found in a toilet block with drug paraphernalia. Her father beats her alleged boyfriend, leaving him in induced coma. Other victims include a nun, a female doctor and a nurse.

The strength here lies in the medical and forensic details, less so the survivor guilt from a family tragedy from Anya's childhood and problems with her ex - the backstory at times threatening to overwhelm the plot. I guessed early in the piece who the villain was (too many visual clues), but the lesser characters were well-played and the climax nail-biting.

Helen McKenna says

Dr Anya Crichton has just started freelancing in the male dominated field of forensic pathology, but work is sparse - until she is asked to look into the seemingly non-suspicious death of a teenage girl from a Lebanese background. A few minor details from the case are disturbingly similar to another case she is working on....then another and another. Too bizarre to be a coincidence, Anya realises she has uncovered some kind of sinister plot and more frighteningly, that a serial killer is on the loose.

I was a big fan of Patricia Cornwell's early work and this book reminded me a lot of that. With the strong female lead character working in the same male dominated field and the gory (yet fascinating) details of forensic pathology as the theme, I was hooked right from the beginning.

You really get a sense of Anya right from early on in the story and can sympathise with her as she struggles to cope not only with career challenges, but also personal ones, including having lost custody of her only child. I thought she was a well-developed character and can see the potential for growth as the series continues.

There is a fair amount of forensic/medical jargon within the storyline, but I didn't find it too bogged down in it. If you have read in this genre before, you would be familiar with most of it and if not, you do start to learn as you read. I enjoyed the Sydney setting and the realistic portrayal of the "boys club" when it comes to working with police and other related agencies.

The book has got a good pace to it and the suspense builds nicely as the story moves to its conclusion.

A great debut novel and I look forward to reading the other titles in the series.

Book Concierge says

3.5***

From the book jacket: (Sydney's) only female freelancer in the male-dominated field, pathologist Dr. Anya Crichton will take any work she can find to pay child support and her mortgage, get her new business off the ground, and battle her ex-husband for custody of their three-year-old son. When her expert forensic evidence is instrumental in winning a high-profile case, new work offers start pouring in. But Anya's investigation into the drug overdose of a young Lebanese girl is raising troubling questions. Startling coincidences between this death and a series of seemingly unrelated suicides that Anya is also examining, suggest that there's a [serial killer] at work.

My reactions

Great debut in a crowded field. Fox writes a tense, compelling mystery thriller with a (mostly) strong female lead. Anya is intelligent, resourceful, and tenacious. But she is also prone to self-doubt when it comes to certain aspects of her life. As a free-lancer, and female to boot, she's fighting an uphill battle convincing the police that her findings point to a crime, so she's forced to pursue the investigation on her own. Her best friend, Kate, is a detective and begins to become an ally, but then betrays Anya's trust when dealing with the lone survivor.

Because this is number one in a series, there's a lot of personal background that has to be covered, and in this case Anya's own back story is instrumental in shaping the current plot. It helps to explain why she's such a loner, and her personal troubles with her ex-husband make her emotionally vulnerable.

I had identified the culprit pretty quickly, certainly by half-way through the novel, but enjoyed watching the characters figure it out for themselves. I recognized that Fox gave the reader clues that Anya and the police did not have. The ending somewhat sets the reader up for future installments. I would hope that her relationships with Kate, Martin and Brody are continued and developed further as the series progresses.

Rob says

First up, thanks to who ever nominated this book for reading this December. Not only have I not read any of Kathryn Fox's work, I had never even heard of Kathryn Fox, but now I do. She has joined my TBR list of authors.

Really enjoyed *Malicious Intent*, there is nothing linear about this book. Great plot and a couple of strong sub plots.

Main plot. The most unlikely girls start turning up dead by suicide. They all have full Brazilians and weird fibres in their lungs. Dr Anya Crichton, a free lance Pathologist, is hired by the brother of one of the dead girls to look further into what the police have. The more Anya looks the more confused she becomes. But with her own persistence and the help from some friends Anya starts to see beyond the mist. The ending is very tight and leaves things pretty open ended, just begging for Dr. Anya Crichton's next case.

There is also a, light, look into Middle Eastern family culture. A family dominated by a patriarchal father

who's word is law.

On top of all that there are the problems that Anya is having in her private life. She is divorced and her ex has guardianship of their son.

The only fault I have is, at the start of the book there is a lot of very Scientific terminology. It took me ten minutes to get my tongue around some of the words only to be forgotten ten seconds later.

This is a great read and come highly recommended.

Kathryn says

This is the first in the Dr Anya Crichton series and I really enjoyed it. I actually guessed “whodunnit” at about half to two-thirds of the way through, which is unusual for me. I listened to this as an audiobook, and enjoyed Jennifer Vuletic’s narrative voice.

It isn’t as graphic as the couple of Patricia Cornwell books that I read many years ago, or as spine-chilling, but it is still compelling reading. And in fact the Patricia Cornwell's I read went a little too far, and I have no desire to read more. But I will definitely be continuing with this series.

Carolyn says

This debut novel by Kathryn Fox is the first in her series featuring Dr Anya Crichton, a pathologist and forensic physician. Anya has recently set up as a freelance specialist and is struggling to get her practice going when she is asked by the family of a young girl who recently died from a drug overdose to review the autopsy reports and confirm the cause of her death and notices some unusual features in samples of her lung tissue. When these same features turn up in the lungs of other young women whose deaths have been attributed to accidents or suicides she investigates further and finds other links between the seemingly unrelated cases. Unable to convince the police that the deaths are suspicious, she begins to chase the evidence herself.

The story is well structured and interesting and moves along at a good pace. Anya is a single mother of a young son recently separated from her husband, an ex-nurse who currently has custody of their son, Ben. She struggles to balance work and time with her son, making her seem human and vulnerable, and perhaps a little too trusting in good looking men. Her friend Kate is a police officer and I would have liked a bit more development of her character, but I'm guessing this will come in future instalments.

The author is a doctor herself with an interest in forensic medicine but keeps the medical jargon to a minimum and the explanations of forensic procedures are clear. I thought the plot got a little strained at the climax with the revelation of how the women acquired the unusual findings in their lungs but the ending was nevertheless quite gripping and I thought pretty good for a debut novel.3.5★

??Julie ? says

I did enjoy this book a lot, although I thought it got a bit lame in some areas involving descriptions of complicated apparatus used by the main bad guy, but this was a minor glitch and didn't put me off too much. I also thought the lead character Anya a little bit gullible at times....though, again not enough to spoil it.

I was aware that this is the authors first novel and made allowances for that, and have to give credit for a strong story which has the potential to grow into a really good series.

I will read the next book in the series, but I do hope the lead character Anya shows a bit more strength than she did here. Otherwise I'm not sure I will continue on with the series.

To be fair, I think I was expecting her to be a bit more kickass, though I'm not sure why?...although it does occur to me now that she's a Doctor and not a cop, so I suppose she wouldn't be as streetwise as her friend Kate, who is a cop..detective actually.

I don't know why but I kept expecting her to be a bit more feisty, perhaps she came across that way to begin with and then fell short...as it turned out though, she was...compared to Kate.

Still, I was surprised at how she [Anya] showed such poor judgement at various times.

Hopefully her experiences in this book will make her character stronger in the future books.

All in all, I thought it was pretty good for her first novel...I gave it 3.5★s

Sonia Cristina says

3.5 estrelas

Gostei do início desta série, protagonizada por uma médica e antropóloga forense, passada na Austrália, ou seja, 2 elementos que muito prezo em livros. Gostei da forma como a autora envolveu a protagonista, a Dr.^a Anya, em algumas situações, relacionadas ou não, com o caso policial em investigação, dando a conhecer mais do meio em que Anya trabalha. Estes assuntos relacionados com investigação médica fascinam-me.

Sobre a investigação à morte, aparentemente overdose, de Fatima, bem, quem diria as voltas que aquilo ia dar? Nem quis acreditar quando foi revelada a mente por trás de tudo... (view spoiler)

Achei que o final podia ser mais arranjado, com mais informação, (view spoiler)

MaryG2E says

[As the relationship between Anya and Vaughan developed, I had imagined he might become her romantic interest in the following books of the series. Well, I was certainly proven wrong on that point!! ;)

There was a lot of scientific information included in the book, which (a) demonstrated how much research the writer had done, and (b) gave t

Jeanette says

This is another flavor Doctor of Forensics who-dun-it procedural genre. Not only because it is Australian either. But for me it was quite apart in style and voice than most of the English or American fare.

Anya has her own tragedies and the current situation of being able to see her son every two weeks for the weekend hours only, not having custody- doubles the ante, IMHO. Her ex's employment and economics is also negatively affected by her own role in certain cases (that Media gossip mongering invective judgment playing a large part). And they do not agree and don't get along on sticking to the rules either.

But in the case/plotting the female associate in her job is not a friend in the sense of a Rizzoli and Isles. Quite different. Anya for her help and mentoring gets paid back in betrayals that rather kill the case at one point. And also are pivotal in the demise of the one living witness.

It's redundant in a way that these seldom are. All of the victims seem to have these odd fibers shaped like tiny dumbbells in their lungs. They seemed to have all committed suicide. Their previous weeks or days too-missing or left on their own volition. I nearly quit the book because of the description and long explanations for these "shapes" to/for every other character in the book. Repeated and repeated. No one would believe that Anya surmised that these shared "shapes" connected the various open cases. But come on, too much repetition is a big downer in this genre, IMHO.

It's too long. And what lost an entire star for me was the verbose nature of explanations for under characters or hear say. And especially the reveal- which I found nearly impossible to believe.

Ironically I just this past week read a book about a 27 year hermit, and hermit norm behavior in general. And one of the premises of this case and behavior explanation re the perp is that humans cannot be left alone in solitary for any length of time without it being a torture to the point that they will do anything to relieve it. And that's just not true. Real hermits, and some not even in that category do not interpret any aspect of solitary confinement as torture. Or in some cases, even an unacceptable unpleasantness.

Maybe because this was #1 in an eventual series there needed to be extra abundant domestic and under character "explanation"- but that paled. So I would give another a try to see if that was the case here. Anya herself is not at all perfect, and at times not particularly likable either, IMHO.

Australian law varies from other locations more heavily on the market in this genre presently. So that is rather interesting to the not exposed to this style and distances of characters' movements.

It is not a cozy. There is very little foul language but the grit factor for results in all cases is deep.

Diane says

A new to me author! As always, it takes a bit to get use to a new author's style and in this case, some of the lingo. The story is based in Australia and moves along at a good pace. The big question is how are all these victims connected. Forensics does play a major role in solving this, but so does instinct. I had an inkling as to

who the "bad guy" was, but I was never very sure about it. Some red herrings, and a few obnoxious cops are thrown in the mix. Good read, can't wait to tackle the rest of the series!

2 thumbs up and 4.5 stars(because of a couple of TSTL moments).

Steve says

I was prepared to give this book only 4 stars, until I realized that I could not put it down. The first book in a series is always hard, since you have to introduce the character, as well as set the scene, and then build up the story, which the author accomplished very well. It was rather difficult to read in parts, sometimes due to an overload of medical jargon, and other times due to graphic content. The climax was rather delicious, full of suspense, and kept me turning pages, but the resolution didn't really happen. I can not wait to read the next one.

Li'l Owl says

Fast paced Aussie read! Nice change of scenery! Will be reading this series in future!!

Book Addict Shaun says

3.5

Kathryn Fox's books have been on my TBR for a while and I immediately moved *Malicious Intent* to the top when I found out that she was the co-author of James Patterson's *Private Sydney*. I have been searching for crime fiction set in Australia for a while but only recently have I started to read some of the books that I found. *Malicious Intent* is an enjoyable read and a great introduction into what I hope will prove to be a series worth reading through to the end.

Dr. Anya Crichton is a pathologist and forensic physician and she is one of the only female freelancers in the field. The fact that she works freelance kind of makes her role in the book make more sense given that she becomes almost like an investigator as the case progresses. The story carries great authenticity because Kathryn Fox is a doctor herself and so the whole story is believable and written in a knowledgeable way. Anya is asked to look into the suicide of a teenage girl and she soon notices similarities between the girl's death and a number of others that she is working on with friend and colleague DS Kate Farrer. The police are reluctant to pursue the links that Anya believes she has unearthed and so she is forced to investigate alone to uncover the full, sinister truth.

I was expecting *Malicious Intent* to be a little bit more gory than it was, but given the nature of the cases involved that wouldn't have been necessary. This is something I hope to see in future novels though as readers of my blog will know that I am a fan of the gore. The characterisation in *Malicious Intent* is brilliant, especially Anya who I liked from the word go. Her home life plays a role in the story and influences how she thinks and acts. She is in the midst of a custody battle with her ex-husband and it was different to read a story where it's the mother fighting for custody of her child. The fact that money is sparse is a deciding factor in the kind of work that Anya accepts. There's enough going on in the story to keep readers guessing but I think

seasoned crime fiction readers will work things out far sooner than they are revealed in the story. That said the finale of the book is a thrilling one and has left me eager to read more from Kathryn Fox.

Denise says

3.0 out of 5 stars Good start!, August 21, 2008

This review is from: *Malicious Intent: A Novel* (Paperback)

This was a pretty good first novel. It got a little bogged down with TMI sometimes, lots of detail and then all of a sudden, lots of action. I had already figured out who "done it" midway through the book, probably because so many thrillers are so formulaic and you know it's someone you have 'met' or who is close to the character or on the periphery so you just mentally start detecting them out. Interesting story of these all tied together but the culprit was just your basic ordinary psychopathic sadist. I will try #2 -- I rated this one 3.5 stars. The protag Anya is more interesting and more human than Kay Scarpetta or Tempe Brennan and I liked her a lot more. Like the Australian setting and her lifestyle.
