



# The Octopus Hook Murders

*Terry Rich Hartley*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Octopus Hook Murders

*Terry Rich Hartley*

## **The Octopus Hook Murders** Terry Rich Hartley

Two power driven women with vastly different careers share one thing in common: kidnapers have ripped the fabric of their families. State Attorney General Carrie Sullivan-Bledsoe's son, Bobby, disappeared after baseball practice. Tabloid mogul Aubrey Allbright learns that her niece, Caylee, was snatched from Aubrey's mountain cabin. The crimes appear to be unconnected at first, but evidence soon suggests related psychopathic serial killers are involved, and that is the worst possible news for the hostages.

Investigative duo Gus Bolderjack and Mattie Hendrix race against time to rescue the kids, and quickly become targets themselves. If that's not bad enough, they find themselves in a universe ruled by political ambition and double-dealing characters, including those they're trying to help. Treachery, greed, criminal psychology, and tabloid journalism fuel this adrenalin-pumping story from beginning to the end.

## **The Octopus Hook Murders Details**

Date : Published 2013 by Createspace

ISBN : 9781491077801

Author : Terry Rich Hartley

Format : Paperback 281 pages

Genre : Thriller, Business, Amazon

 [Download The Octopus Hook Murders ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Octopus Hook Murders ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Octopus Hook Murders Terry Rich Hartley**

---

# From Reader Review *The Octopus Hook Murders* for online ebook

## Grady says

An Informed Psychological Thriller

Terry Rich Hartley comes to his consistently strange quality of writing of terrifying thrillers with a background as a professor of psychology, a research psychologist, and a keen eyed journalist who likely has witnessed horrors akin to the ones he creates in his novels. *THE OCTOPUS HOOK MURDERS* is his eighth book, and if his other books are as creatively gruesome and spine-tinglingly frightening as this one, then we have a literary Hannibal Lector on our hands. Writing of this caliber can either drive readers away in horror or pull them in like a seductive potion that drips into the psyche until the last page.

The title of the book comes from an actual 'sports tool': a size 7/0 fishhook with an extra large gap between its shank and tip, and known specifically as an octopus hook. And it is with this contraption that Hartley hooks us into the story in the first pages. The manner in which he describes the first work of horror - the kidnapping of Bobby, the Attorney General's son, by a fat man who offers him a late night lift, only to transport Bobby to a hidden destination where fat man, Bobby and Beard man concoct a gruesome version of sexual deviation (hanging Bobby by an orally placed octopus hook along side the erotically charged fat man who needs added suspended by the neck pre-orgasmic asphyxiation before penetrating the boy) that leads to a murder of one of the two suspended participants. With that degree of imaginative horror Hartley introduces psychotherapist Dr. Augustus Bolderjack, a serial killer profiler who baits serial killers into stalking him, and then snares them by hook or by crook. Bolderjack enters the case described, only to find that Bobby is bait and he's actually the target of two sadistic serial killers sharing goals and a thirst for revenge. And as the PR states, 'kidnapping, hostage taking, colorful cops, criminal psychology, and tabloid journalism fuel this adrenaline pumping story from beginning to end.'

Terry Rich Hartley creates characters and incidents out of his psychologist's understanding of the criminally insane mind, and that is where he succeeds where others dip too deeply into bathos. His talent is rich, his writing skills are polished, and he is able to deliver a story that no matter how dark, he keeps a little light shining on his well-devised ending. Read with caution and if at night, with the lights on.

Grady Harp

---

## Veritas Vincit says

This was one of the more shocking novels I've read in a while, not because the plot was so extreme, but because the writing was so intensely graphic and brutal. I'm not easily fazed by gore and murder, but the characters in this book were cruel and sensationally well-written. If you want to look into the face of evil, this book is populated by plenty of people who fit the description. Bolderjack, however, is starkly contrasted, but far from perfect. Obviously, there are plenty of detective/mystery novels whose anti-hero is a bit rough around the edges, and this is no exception, but that makes the interaction and the plot believable, even in its wild, over the top nature. The psychotherapy angle reminded me of a modern take on *Silence of the Lambs*, and while that is a bold comparison, I think that Hartley deserves some serious praise.

My only complaint with the novel is that it almost tried to do too much. Having two serial killer stalkers kept me on the edge of my seat/bed throughout the whole of the book, but at times, the tension became commonplace. It was as though every page was trying to outdo the last, and without proper peaks and valleys, the big impact moments become harder to properly appreciate. This was a terrific book, no doubt about it, but when an author tries to make a thrilling masterpiece that hardly slows from start to finish, it can be an exhausting ride that leaves a reader overwhelmed with emotion, but ready for lighter fare. Anyways, I will certainly read more Bolderjack novels in the future, since he is a wonderfully written character that is versatile, insightful, flawed, brilliant, and ultimately human. Nicely done.

---

### **Tod Ehrmantraut says**

Completely enthralling and fascinating to the very end! Absolutely loved the book! Terry Rich Hartley has an amazing ability to create and develop a story which so deftly describes the methods and lengths at which the criminally insane will go. From beginning to end, this is one of those books you can't set down and walk away from. It is a very gripping must-read story! Reading this novel was truly a 'five star', spell-binding roller coaster ride! I look forward to more Gus Bolderjack stories in the offing....

---

### **Anita Kearney says**

Bolderjack is like an entire agency of profilers, he is also a person who will not hesitate to brawl if it is needed. Terry Hartley has given us a cast of characters that you would expect to find in a Patterson novel. There is also special agent Mattie Hendrix, she is a no nonsense type of gal, then there is Dr. Janice Conway who has an undercurrent to her character that makes one think she could be as dangerous as the criminals she chases.

These are just two of the very strong female characters Terry has created, in a genre that is not really known for them. This is a very good book but there are a few editing mishaps that might give some people pause. If you can get past the grammar mistakes and left out words, you will be able to enjoy this terrifying story. It is well worth the effort it takes to do so.

---

### **Kristine says**

When I saw that this book had many 5 stars ratings I was really looking forward to reading it. I must say, I am a little surprised and disappointed. I read a lot of psychological thrillers and this one just wasn't that good. It was so unnecessarily gratuitous and sickening.

The story begins with the kidnapping of an AG's son. The main character, a criminalist basically, is asked to help out with the case. He and the AG have a bad history, but that part of the story is not developed at all. Then there is a second child, a girl, that is kidnapped and a tabloid reporter is asked to help with this one. The two eventually end up being connected, but the story line as to exactly how and why doesn't really make much sense. Without giving anything away, some of the actions of some of these characters were not believable---especially the actions of the AG.

---

## **Linda Collings says**

I just won this on a give away on here! I loved it!

---

## **Kendra says**

The title of this one intrigued me right from the start. Being a long-time horror fan, I'm always interested to know what the contemporaries are up to. This book is an interesting mix of pulpy detective novel, gritty horror story, detailed procedural, and character study. The story darts from character to character, allowing you brief aside-like peeks into their heads amidst the action, which is what strongly reminded me of King. Hartley's ability to describe horrifying scenarios in raw, simple terms reminds me of Elroy's disarming and matter-of-fact presentation.

The attorney general's son has gone missing, and it's up to a reclusive, hard-bitten criminal profiler to get to the bottom of it. At the same time, a seasoned tabloid journalist on the crime beat has been summoned by a kidnapper who's responsible for spiriting away a young woman while she was on holiday with her family. The big question is, can each of these old dogs catch the scent of the bad guy (or bad guyS) responsible for these kidnappings, before it's too late?

The villain of the piece, known as Captain Hook, is truly a warped specimen and reminds me a great deal of the character Abin Cooper from Kevin Smith's Red State -- a man who loves to mix brutality and violation with his religion. All of the white hats have their quirks and are charming in their own ways and, individually, they could easily hold up series on their own. The dialogue between characters is also natural and enjoyable to read. Gus and Moe feel like characters dragged grumping and swearing from a Humphrey Bogart movie or a Sam Spade novel. Gus's colleague, Janice, in particular, was a favorite female character of mine. Intelligent and sultry and interesting.

All in all, this is a great book to lose yourself in on a long, rainy weekend.

---

## **Ann says**

I read this novel on Kindle before the print version was released. It truly has a great plot with fast action and exciting twists. I'll let the book description speak for itself but add that I was pleasantly surprised to find such strong women characters, considering that the protagonist is a male hunk. Special Agent Mattie Hendrix is a hoot as well as tough as nails. Dr. Janice Conway is beautiful, self-reliant, secretly dangerous, and is Gus Bolderjack's match in love and intrigue. Carrie Sullivan-Bledsoe and Aubrey Allbright are equally ruthless and cunning. The serial killers in the story are creepy and their mental derangements are well defined, as only someone with the author's background could do. The main character, Dr. Augustus Bolderjack, could be a creation of John Sandford if Sandford wrote about psychotherapists instead of cops. I trust that Bolderjack will become the center of a series. Well written. Strong language. Not for the faint of heart.

---

## **John says**

If the title alone doesn't snare you, then the first five pages will, holding you in place just as the octopus hook pierces the palate of the book's first gruesome victim. I am not one for thrillers, but the title intrigued me, and the writing from the very first sequence was clearly done by an author who knows how to weave a story, and draw a reader in. The writing style is raw, violent, and meticulously crafted to suck a reader into a visceral world of the grotesque minds of twisted serial killers, and the brilliant perceptions of those who hunt them. It took a while for the heart of the story to develop, but the vignettes built the tension to a fever pitch before I'd even been reading for 30 minutes.

From there, the book only gets better, and with the introduction of Moe and Mattie, Hartley makes it very clear that he not only understands human nature, but can translate genuine interaction and emotion onto the page in a way that makes us believe him. Nothing felt contrived, or like it was deliberate exposition. Hartley expected certain things like allusions to previous cases and personal relationships to be almost immediately understood, and he has a talent for showing rather than telling, which in this gruesome and twisted novel that only gets more complicated as you move forward, is essential to get the full impact of the events.

Although I haven't read Hartley's other work, I certainly will now, since I imagine that they will be just as well-crafted, gripping, and sincerely terrifying to warrant a daytime read in a well-lit room. This is the mastery of language that books should be written with, and the creativity to entangle a plot so deeply that a reader has no choice but to forge ahead, playing detective and psycho whisperer all at the same time. A fantastic achievement. Well done.

---

## **Joawmeens says**

We are in Generation Remix, whether you like it or not. People like things that they like, but they LOVE things that are like a bunch of things they like. This is starting to sound like an insult, but trust me when I say that *The Octopus Hook Murders* does it right.

Psychotherapist Augustus Bolderjack (if you're not sold by his name alone, you're dead inside) is a profiler that is called in when a serial killer is possibly on the loose. He is called in when a young man named Bobby is found murdered, and hanging from a FISHHOOK that was pierced through the ROOF OF HIS MOUTH!! You know when someone mentions spiders or other kinds of small, creepy crawly bugs, and now you are itchy? The roof of my mouth itched for hours, and I kept running my tongue across it after reading that..... Anyway, he finds out that Bobby was actually used as bait, and that Augustus Bolderjack is the real target of the murderers.

Looking back on this book, it has reminisces of *Silence Of The Lambs*, *Criminal Minds*, *Dexter*, movies like the fugitive, and every female protagonist from any Joss Whedon written anything. If that sounds like a jumble of things that are fairly similar, and difficult to keep straight, well you are one step ahead of me in my character analogy. There are a fairly large amount of characters and plot thread throughout this book, and they get a little jumbled at times, which can be difficult to keep straight.

Overall, I like everything that I compared it to, so obviously I enjoyed it. It could have done with a little bit of trimming the fat, but other than that, it was a really solid book. I recommend it.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm still itchy from mentioning spiders, and now I have to take a shower...

---

### **Lauren says**

“The Octopus Hook Murders” one of those books where you don’t realize how much you have read until you reach the next chapter. To use the term “page-turner” is a cliché, but it’s true—the thriller aspect of this book made me flip through it way more quickly than I had anticipated.

Dialogue is quick with realistic banter—almost a bit too realistic where I had to re-read some parts to get a good grasp on the story’s progress. I’m not a usual reader of torture-killing novels, but Terry Rich Hartley’s ability to write a solid story made his novel worth it. I like strong characters—doesn’t matter if they are male or female—and this book has plenty of them. Like a true detective novel, it gets very personal with Gus Bolderjack, a serial-killer profiler and psychologist who uses a complex strategy to catch these murderers. Through his characters, Hartley proves his expertise in the human condition, making all of them relatable, complex and memorable. A story can have a good plot but simple characters, but not in this case. The characters form the story instead of being lost in its intricacy—because what serial-killer thriller isn’t complicated? They survive and live among all of the novel’s twists and definitely hold their own, which speaks very highly to Hartley’s ability as a writer.

This is one of those books where you will always be anticipating something. Just when the plot seems to have relinquished a little and your heart rate returns to normal, Hartley throws you a curve ball and the entire process repeats all over again. A great book for those who like “blood-and-guts” with the complexity of a well-written episode of a tv detective show.

---

### **Kristina Reading says**

Two thumbs up to Terry Rich Hartley! I absolutely loved this book! I recommend it to anyone who loves a good thriller! There are plenty of characters in this story you are sure to connect with at least one!

I love that there are "strong" women in this book, a few times Mattie even made me laugh! Because Gus is an ex-profiler this reminds me of Criminal Minds (TV show) probably why I was so captivated from the very start. I love how there is a twist (although it's given away on the back cover, "Gus is late to discover that the kids are bait and he's the target of two gruesome serial killers sharing a thirst for vengeance").

---

### **Stephen V says**

I often think of prose as poetry, as the flow of sentences create a melody only my eyes can hear. This story satisfies that desire completely. This story, however, isn't for everyone -- namely the faint at heart. Blood, being bound -- you get the idea. The protagonist, Bolderjack (a bit of an obvious "tough name" choice, but I digress), has a daring take on getting serial killers on his radar, something that could easily become a good movie adaptation, but I won't give it away. It's pretty clever, a bit Dexter-esque even.

Naturally, the world he commands so well gets the best of him when he encounters forces that push him to

new levels of danger. This has been the best read I had a good few months. Highly recommended.

---

## **Keelan says**

[book was received through a Goodreads Giveaway]

An intriguing plot and I loved the characters. The tension is kept high throughout the story, with the main character needing to catch the killers despite interference from everyone to the killers themselves to families trying to protect their children. The characters are well-written and each have their own strong motivation: with the possible exception of some very minor characters, there's nobody who exists just to be (or help) a 'good guy' or 'bad guy'. Even the main character's love interest has motivations and a role outside of being a standard girlfriend and/or damsel in distress, which isn't very common in thrillers (or in pretty much any book with a male main character and a female love interest).

It's not my preferred style of writing – mostly, I prefer to start off knowing very little about a character and learn about them slowly as things go along, but this book gave most of the character's backstories very early on, in levels bordering on infodumps. There were also several scenes where foreshadowing implied something hugely dramatic was about to happen but the situation fizzled out instead. Taking both factors into consideration, (view spoiler) Overall, not my favourite thriller ever, but definitely a good one.

---