



Old Friends and New Enemies

Owen Mullen

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The body on the mortuary slab wasn't who Glasgow PI Charlie Cameron was looking for.

But it wasn't a stranger.

Suddenly, a routine missing persons investigation becomes a fight for survival. As Charlie is dragged deeper into Glasgow's underbelly he goes up against notorious gangster Jimmy Rafferty and discovers what fear really is.

Rafferty is so ruthless even his own sons are terrified of him.

Now he wants Charlie to find something. And Jimmy Rafferty always gets what he wants.

There is only one problem... Charlie doesn't know where it is.

*** Also available in this stunning new series***

The best-selling: Games People Play

Old Friends and New Enemies Details

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Author : Owen Mullen

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From Reader Review Old Friends and New Enemies for online ebook

Sarah says

Old Friends and New Enemies is the second book featuring PI Charlie Cameron.

Set in Scotland, I loved the different places that are mentioned. Having lived there myself and still having family up there, I could easily visualise a lot of the areas mentioned having been to some of them myself. It did make me feel ever so slightly homesick.

I have to admit I really felt for Charlie in this book. He catches up with some old friends which to a certain extent has him hopeful about his future, only to have things take a severe turn as he ends up being placed in a very dangerous position.

There are two threads running alongside each other in the novel. One to do with Charlies old friends as well as a case he is working on for his own business. Both stories left me feeling quite melancholy. The whole novel felt deeper and darker, I think this is because both threads affects Charlie quite deeply which in turn affected me.

Old Friends and New Enemies is without a doubt an enthralling crime thriller. Through Charlies emotions the author draws you in so that everything he is feeling is passed on to the reader. It's one that after finishing I had to sit back and reflect on what I had just read and made me want to take my hat off to the author for the emotions that he had raised within myself. This is certainly a series that seems to be going from strength to strength.

My thanks to Bloodhound Books for a copy of this book. All opinions are my own and not biased in anyway.

Misfits farm says

Charlie finds an old friend- on a mortuary slab and so begins a trail to find out what happened to his university pal. An intriguing tale of Glasgow grit, Scottish scenery and the banter of friends old and new. An old flame steps back into the light then disappears as drug barons maybe on her tail through an innocent relationship- or is it?

Owen's characters always have depth and do what we would expect. That may sound daft, but there are no "fairy tale convenient get outs" whether he is talking about imminent divorce or a bust up. Charlie is a solid 3d character who has lived a little and lost a lot. His friend Patrick is the sidekick- a bad influence at times where alcohol is involved but his heart is always in the right place.

From the shores of Loch Lomond to the dirty backwaters of Glasgow this will have you page turning as there is more than one thread. With Owen's skill, every character comes to life and weaves into the plots keeping you there with them.

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an open and honest review

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: They dragged him from the boot of the car, down an embankment to the shore; gagged, bound and blindfolded. His feet scraped grass and stones, a shoe came off and was left behind. At the jetty, Kevin Rafferty waited in the boat. In a long career of violent persuasion, this guy had been the hardest to break. But it wouldn't last, when the blindfold came off he'd realise the loch was to be his grave.

THE BLURB: The body on the mortuary slab wasn't who Glasgow PI Charlie Cameron was looking for. But it wasn't a stranger.

Suddenly, a routine missing persons investigation becomes a fight for survival. As Charlie is dragged deeper into Glasgow's underbelly he goes up against notorious gangster Jimmy Rafferty and discovers what fear really is.

Rafferty is so ruthless even his own sons are terrified of him.

Now he wants Charlie to find something. And Jimmy Rafferty always gets what he wants.

There is only one problem... Charlie doesn't know where it is.

MY THOUGHTS: Old Friends and New Enemies: A tense and gripping Scottish Crime Thriller - all true, but neither tense nor gripping does this book justice.

This book follows on from Games People Play and again we meet with Charlie Cameron, who specialises in locating missing people; Jackie, the Manager of New York Blues, Charlie's 'local' for want of a better word; Pat Logue, Charlie's sidekick and husband of the long-suffering Gail; and DS Andrew Geddes, sometimes friend of Charlie who has been known to push the limits on what he unofficially reveals to Charlie.

Charlie is looking for a man who went missing after his teenage son committed suicide. There is an unidentified body in the morgue who just may be the man Charlie is trying to locate. Instead he finds an old friend, Ian Selkirk, whom he hasn't seen for years. Ian has been tortured. Whoever killed him wanted something. And now they think Charlie may have it.....

I have never before read an author who can pack so much meaning and imagery into so few words. His writing style could almost be called terse. It is also refreshing, dynamic and (as I have said previously) totally unputdownable.

Gripping? Yes. Thrilling? Yes. But both these words pale in the face of Owen Mullen's talent. Here is a new writer with a brilliant future.

Thank you to author Owen Mullen for a digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions. Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com <https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...>

Fiona says

Having read Mullen's first book, Games People Play a few months ago I had high hopes for his second book and I wasn't disappointed.

Some of the characters from the first book are re-introduced along with some new faces. Charlie has two cases on the go, the search for a missing husband and discovering what an old friend was killed for before he suffers the same fate. The two cases make for an exciting and suspenseful read.

We learn a lot more about Charlie and his collection of friends along the way and Charlie's mother's comment, that he is more like his father than he thinks has a ring of truth. Charlie is a flawed character and makes mistakes but his strengths make him so likeable I felt angry and protective towards him when he is betrayed by people he trusted.

A great read. I highly recommend it to thriller fans and will be grabbing the third book as soon as it is released.

Veronica ?? says

Old Friends and New Enemies is book 2 in the PI Charlie Cameron series.

Charlie has been approached by Cecilia McNeil to track down her husband who has disappeared after the death of their son. When an unidentified body turns up at the morgue he thinks his job is done. However the body is not that of the missing husband but an old friend of Charlie's, Ian Selkirk. How did Ian end up in the morgue and where is Fiona? Ian and Fiona were inseparable. While Charlie takes finding out what happened to Ian as his own personal case he will put himself in grave danger, be double crossed and reunite with the love of his life.

Mullen has written another gritty, brutal and unforgiving Scottish noir crime thriller. I always enjoy Mullen's writing style.

Plenty of *old friends* from book 1, Jackie from the NYB cafe, DC Andrew Geddes and Charlie's offsider, Pat Logue, make an appearance in this book with a few *new enemies*, in the cut-throat Rafferty clan, making Charlie's life hell.

In this book I found Cameron rather self indulgent and lacking motivation. I think I prefer his cases to be a little less personal.

Old Friends and New Enemies has a gritty plot with some unpredictable twists and a good dose of Glaswegian humour. Highly recommended. Well worth a read.

**I received an ecopy from the author*

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

This is the second book in Mullen's series featuring Charlie Cameron and I read the first one and really liked it, you can find my review here. Though you can read this as a standalone, I would encourage you to pick up the first book in the series as I really enjoyed the introduction to the characters and you'll be missing out on some important background information.

Charlie has two cases going on at once, he's hired in his role of a PI to search for Cecelia McNeil's husband who went missing after their son committed suicide, then he goes to see if an unidentified body is who he's looking for and is shocked to discover it's an old friend of his. Charlie has no idea how much danger this chance encounter will put him in and he struggles both personally and professionally as a result.

This book had a darkly emotional feeling to it even more so than the first book as the case leads Charlie to have run ins with a local gangster family. He had such a personal connection to the case that it provided some really interesting insight into who he is now and who he was in the past. As his characterization delved deeper, so did that of the other players in the book. Pat is back as Charlie's sidekick and he's as charming and lovable as ever. Jackie who runs NYB, the bar where they all hang out and work is dating someone new (again) and Andrew the police officer who is also a friend of Charlie's makes several appearances.

The setting of Glasgow shined through beautifully once again and the dark humor that I loved in book one was back with a vengeance. I'm always really pleased when a series gets better with each book and it definitely happened here. The tension was more palpable, the storyline was grittier, and the stakes were higher as Charlie faced some serious betrayals. I'm really enjoying Mullen's books and am very much looking forward to the third book to be released.

Mark Tilbury says

The blurb and cover both grabbed my attention and although I haven't read the first in this series, I downloaded this and enjoyed it. I felt it worked well as a stand alone, but that I was missing some information about Charlie - which I intend on rectifying by going back and reading the first book!

I liked the characters of both Charlie and Pat. They both bring their own set of skills to the cases and Pat tries to help Charlie when personal issues cause problems with work. The mix of thrills, tension, suspense and a touch of humour worked really well, as did the interactions and relationships between the characters.

A well written second in this series. I'm off to get a copy of the first!

Chris Nolan says

This is the follow-up to Games People Play, Owen Mullen's first novel about investigator Charlie Cameron operating in Glasgow. It builds nicely on all that was good in the first book both in terms of character and writing style. The twin stories of a search for a missing husband and the more personal story involving friends of Charlie's play well together and both are interesting and intriguing. The background of both Charlie and his group of friends and accomplices is well-developed and I am very much looking forward to Book Three!

Sharon says

Old Friends and New Enemies – gripping, gritty and dark Scottish crime novel that takes the reader from the scenic shores of Loch Lomond to the dark underbelly of Glasgow streets as Charlie comes up against one of the city's most ruthless gangsters.

I loved Charlie Cameron, as a character he has his flaws but these just serve to make him “real”, he is determined to get to the bottom of things even though it puts his own life in danger. Catching up with an old flame brings grief for Charlie and adds even more grit and drama to the story line.

I hadn't read the first in the series so did miss out on some of the nuances in the relationships with other characters and the back stories but this did not detract from my enjoyment or reading of the book. I love a book where I feel that I am “in the streets” with the characters and this book gave me that – I honestly felt that I was in NYB with Charlie at times and I have a picture in my head of what it looks like! This is a must in a book for me and Owen achieved it for me!

The book flows well and there is plenty of action and twists to keep the reader enthralled, highly recommended for fans of crime procedurals, thrillers and my favourite genre, Tartan Noir – 4 stars from me!

Jean says

Missing persons PI Charlie Cameron has his hands full when his search for an AWOL husband turns personal. In Owen Mullen's second of the Cameron series, *Old Friends and New Enemies*, Charlie is called to identify a dead body. Instead of Stephen McNeil, the corpse turns out to be that of a long lost friend. Making matters worse, the man had been tortured and stabbed to death before he was dumped in the drink.

Mullen brings back familiar faces – Cameron, his pal and occasional assistant Patrick Logue, DI Andrew Geddes, NYB manager Jackie – as he flips back and forth between the saga of Charlie's friendship with the dead man and his female sidekick, Fiona, to his present day life. Cameron struggles to give his full attention to Mrs. McNeil's problem as he becomes completely enmeshed in trying to solve the murder of his former friend. Enter the Rafferty thugs, the ever-suspicious DI Platt, and a romantic entanglement, and Charlie is up to his eyeballs in bad energy. Even Jackie's Toad God doesn't seem to change his fortunes.

This all sounds like a rip-roaring, action-packed thriller, but I found it to be rather sluggish and even wearisome at times. The final 10% did turn out to meet my expectations, and it made me wish that this had been the norm. I did like the turn of events at the end.

I also liked the added depth that Mullen gave to Pat. He loves his drink – “First one today,” he was always saying. But the man is quite likable and proves himself to be a loyal and trustworthy friend, despite his many other faults. Charlie seems to lack the drive and intensity that I would figure a private detective requires; Pat seems to be coming up with most of the plans. In Charlie's defense, however, he is love-struck and quite distracted through much of this saga. For the most part, I found this to be a slow go, and I did not enjoy it quite as much as *Games People Play*.

3 stars

Roxanne Little says

Old Friends and New Enemies is a fantastic book which I thoroughly enjoyed reading! Once again the adventures of Charlie Cameron and his cronies kept me gripped from the outset, with the detailed

descriptions of Glasgow and the surrounding areas making me feel like I was part of the story. Another fantastic read by an excellent Scottish writer - I can't wait to see what Owen Mullen has in store for Charlie Cameron next!

Brenda says

While I do like the characters in this series, this book like the first, could be improved. This one has Charlie investigating a missing husband as a minor plot and two old friends coming back into his life as the major plot. I think the resolution of the old friends was not as dramatic as it could have been. More should have been made of Fiona and I would have liked more emotion from Charlie. The missing husband resolution was more straight forward, but it was resolved after the other plot line. Should that have been reversed? As the title indicates, Charlie now has new enemies. I will be reading the third book in the series soon.

Catherine Campbell says

What a sequel! I really enjoyed Games People Play but Old Friends blew me away. As Charlie enters the shadowy domain of Glasgow's underworld gangsters, he finds himself embroiled in some very dodgy dealings indeed. The Raffertys are a nasty wee crew. As usual Charlie has more than one missing person on his caseload and as he searches, you will enjoy a tour of Scotland's scenic gems. We see even more of who Charlie really is as he rediscovers an old flame. The action is much grittier this time, in keeping with the storyline - don't be surprised if you gasp out loud on a couple of occasions - and the plot will have you hooked till the final page. Not to mention the goings-on in the lives of Pat, Jackie and Andrew. I couldn't put it down and look forward to seeing where Charlie takes us next. For maximum enjoyment, read the two books in order of sequence. You won't be disappointed.

David Baird says

This is the second book to feature PI Charlie Cameron, I loved the first book so had high hopes for this one.. it delivered..bucket loads

Some of my favourite characters are back. Namely Andrew Geddes and Pat Logue, these two from opposite ends of the spectrum can keep me amused for hours

So you want to know a little about the plot. Well once again Charlie is stretched to the limit with not only personal issues but also work and it's these competing storylines that make these books so interesting. Love, Friendship, Family and Business all compete for Charlie's attention in this one

This is a really personal case for Charlie. While out on a job he gets pulled into the world of Ian Selkirk a onetime friend of his. Ian got himself into a spot of bother and with Charlie looking into things some people suspect he might know more than he does..

I don't want to go into too much of the plot.. it would seriously ruin the enjoyment for you but let's just say there's more than one blast from the past for our favourite PI and this time Andrew Geddes isn't the only police officer involved.. Will this new detective want to help Charlie? Read it and find out :)

There's an underlying case playing out also involving Cecelia McNeil and her missing husband. With so much on his plate this case doesn't get his full attention but our Charlie always gets the job done and how this one ends shocked me to say the least.. loved it.

I think the thing I enjoy the most about these books is that it's dark crime.. just because Charlie is the good guy in this doesn't mean he's going to have everything his way and with this story in particular right up until near the end you really didn't know how he would make it out of the situation he got himself into

For me the best part of the book has to be Pat Logue.. that loveable rogue develops so much for me.. his whole character.. I just love him.

Charlie himself developed during this one also. We learn more about his family and it added a bit of depth to him that I felt was needed

I really enjoy this book. Gripping, intriguing, dark and one hell of a ride.

My thanks go to the author for the chance to read/review their work

Joanne Robertson says

Having read and enjoyed Games People Play by Owen Mullen, I was keen to read Book two in the series. There seems to have been a few books recently that have featured a PI as the central character, there to solve a mystery as an aside to a police investigation, but the charismatic Charlie Cameron is one of the better ones that I've come across.

I wasn't as emotionally involved in the plot of this second book as I was the first but it was an interesting twist to have Charlie searching for a missing husband and viewing a body that was possibly his at the morgue but instead the deceased turns out to be an old friend! Surely just a coincidence but Owen is then drawn into an underground world of gangsters who believe that Charlie is the key to finding a very large amount of cash. I loved the softer side of Charlie that came out once his old friend Fiona appeared on the scene. He doesn't give much away usually but I felt Fiona brought him out of himself a little more and that emotion fed through to his investigations. The usual sidekicks were back, Jackie at NYB and Pat which let us explore their back stories a little more. Although my favourite has to be the Big Issue seller who I hope has chance of a bigger role in future books.

Having lived in and around Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dunbartonshire for many years, I think a lot of my enjoyment came from recognising the local landmarks and I loved the authenticity of Charlie's surroundings. The start and the ending really held my attention but there was a time in the middle that I kind of lost my way a bit. Thankfully, once back on track the finale raced along to the end with an unexpectedly chilling last few pages. Although set in recent years, many times I felt as if I were reading a vintage PI story set in the 1940s especially in the way it was told in those short sharp sentences and dialogue. But this just added to this rather atmospheric and dark thriller.

Thank you to the author for providing me with a review copy and this is my unbiased review in return.
