



## **Cold Shoulder**

*Lynda La Plante*

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Lorraine Page is a down-on-her-luck ex-LAPD cop, recruited against her will to hunt for a serial killer. Cold Shoulder is the story of a young woman who has everything: a devoted husband, two beautiful daughters, and a successful career as a lieutenant with the Pasadena Homicide Squad. But when her partner is shot and dies in her arms, Lorraine's life starts to unravel. The after-hours drinking that once was social becomes her refuge, and soon she's not waiting until the end of her shift. From there it all comes undone with frightening speed: Drunk, she kills an innocent boy while on duty, is fired from the force, is abandoned by her family, and ends up living on the street as a prostitute. Cold Shoulder is the dramatic, frighteningly explicit account of Lorraine Page's fall and nightmarish recovery while caught between the danger of a serial killer on the loose and the manipulations of the old-boy police force that had ostracized her not so long before. The book reverberates with realism because it is based on a true story, one that has been meticulously researched and crafted by Lynda La Plante, a consummate expert in crime writing.

## **Cold Shoulder Details**

Date : Published October 20th 1998 by Random House (first published 1994)

ISBN : 9780679441038

Author : Lynda La Plante

Format : Hardcover 415 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Thriller

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## **From Reader Review Cold Shoulder for online ebook**

### **Mary says**

Good read, although if she had not gotten off the alcohol when she did I would have stopped reading. The main character, Lorraine Page was a Police Officer, a lieutenant actually, and she kills a young boy who is running away from her and he was not armed, she was drunk at the time. She was a hard character to get to like, but Lynda LaPlante gets the job done. Lorraine gets involved in a series of murders, and proceeds to "investigate" on her own. Lots of twists and turns and interesting characters.

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### **April says**

I picked this book up at one of the library sales because it had an interesting title. The book itself was interesting, but somehow not riveting. I found it slow to start, and not exactly captivating as it moved along. It was, however, an interesting book. I enjoyed the mystery, and the redemption of the main character. My three star rating, signifies that it was good, not great.

This book features Lorraine Page. Once a decorated Los Angeles police officer, wife, and mother, Lorraine takes up drinking with her partner after a rough shift, and then drinks more to try and deal after he is killed in the line of duty. From there, her life starts to spiral. She shoots an unarmed kid, which causes her to lose her job. Her husband leaves her and takes the kids. She is forced to sell everything to pay for her habit and ends up on the streets.

Her life begins to turn around when she is in a car accident and ends up in the hospital, and then a rehab. At the rehab, she meets, Rosie, who takes her in and helps her adjust to life outside.

Lorraine then stumbles into the case of a man who is beating prostitutes to death with a hammer. As she begins to piece more and more information together, she finds renewed purpose for her life, and may actually be able to help the police catch the killer.

Read Cold Shoulder to find an intriguing story of mystery and redemption.

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### **Tammi Ashbee says**

This book wasn't as good as her other but still enjoyable all the same

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### **Reader50 says**

This is the first book I've read by this author though I've enjoyed the "Prime Suspect" mysteries on PBS based on her books. It's a fast, exciting page-turner whose protagonist, Lorraine Page, is a former police lieutenant who is kicked off the force in Pasadena, CA for killing an unarmed youth while she was under the influence of alcohol. At one time she was a highly commended officer but her life becomes a shambles as

she is dismissed of her duties and divorced by her husband who takes custody of their two young daughters. Seven years later, living a life of crime and prostitution to support her drinking, she is viciously attacked by a would-be John but manages to escape. Lorraine is befriended by a hospital employee, Rosie, herself a recovering alcoholic, and together search for Lorraine's attacker who had killed several women in the past. The novel is filled with many colorful, quirky characters with a couple twists in the end. The plot was not as straightforward as I expected. Also as I read the book, I was rooting for Lorraine, hoping she could resist the pull of alcohol and get her life back together. The was, to me, a thoroughly sympathetic character.

Just as an afterthought, I wondered if a predominant thread in La Plante's books involves alcoholism as both the Jane Tennison character in "Prime Suspect" and Lorraine Page in this book have drinking problems.

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### **B W Billau says**

#### **Good read, good plot**

I enjoyed the story, although it got a little Ott at times, but hey, it's pretend right? I quite like the main character, but wish she would quit smoking, along with the drink, as it makes me a little nauseous. I do hate typos though, and there are quite a few, so I think a few quid invested in someone to go through it thoroughly wouldn't go amiss. I'm reading the sequel now, so that is a recommendation in itself.

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### **Doris Papadopoulos says**

this book is a page-turner.

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### **Shazza Maddog says**

Very well written and excellent storytelling in this novel. The problem for me was I just couldn't warm up to any of the characters.

Lorraine Paige is an ex-cop - alcoholism and depression sends her spiraling down a rabbit hole where she's turning tricks to get enough money to drink herself into another stupor. When Rosie, another alcoholic, meets her at a treatment center, Rosie is driven to offer Lorraine a place to stay once she leaves the center. In a search for a job, Lorraine manages to meet up with Art, a guy who runs an art gallery, and two of his friends, transvestites Nula and Didi.

But Lorraine really wants to just lose herself in her booze, so when a chance for some easy money blowing a guy comes up, she decides to take it and use the money to get drunk. But when the guy slugs her with a hammer in the back of her head, she fights back, leaving him with a scar on his neck. Somehow, she manages to make it home with the guy's wallet and a little over \$300, and manages to survive the blow without medical attention.

Then she finds out someone's been battering women with a hammer, just the way she had been, and her life

turns back toward possibly catching this guy...

The story, as I mentioned earlier, is very well-written. The twists and turns keep you guessing throughout and it's easy to see why Lorraine was such an asset to the force when she was a cop (before the drinking happened, obviously). But I just couldn't dredge up any empathy for her or her situation(s), and couldn't connect with any of the other main characters, either.

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### **Emma says**

The first Linda La Plante book I have read based in the U.S. and for the most part I enjoyed it. It was a little slow at times and some of the situations I found a bit implausible but overall good.

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### **Juliet says**

To be honest I lost interest simply because of how long it took for this book to start. And it doesn't matter how good an ending is, a unnecessary slow start to a novel dilutes any greatness the novel could have had.

I would like to try another from this author simply because she knows what she's doing she just didn't do it right.

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### **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

This one did not excite, thrill or interest the reader as much as many of her other books do. I am a big fan of La Plante, some of her books have been superbly written crime thrillers that keeps you holding on for more....not so with this one. The plot just seemed to take forever to even begin to have the slightest bit of momentum, then just when you think it's picking up it drops back a gear or two.

The female protagonist is the saving grace of the book, Lorraine Page - her character was gritty, real and likeable. The rest of the book was fairly insipid in comparison to her other books. Not one of her better works, I think many fans may agree. I would recommend this one only if you have nothing else to read. It could have been really good but simply, it wasn't.

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### **Ria says**

Absolutely brilliant, never read this author before, this was a holiday buy.

Was so enjoyable i want to collect the rest of her work.

A well crafted storyline with so many unexpected twists and turns it kept me guessing right up until the last page.

Well worth reading if you like fast paced thrillers and serial killers.

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## **Sridhar Babu says**

Author..

Lynda La Plante..

Characters..

Lorraine Page, Rosie Hurst, Bill Rooney, Brad Thorburn, Steven Janklow, Art Matthews, Norman Hastings, Didi, Holly, Nula ..

location ..

Los Angeles..

Genre..

Suspense..

PLOT..

Eight Girls, all prostitutes from different areas and a male named Norman Hastings were killed by a nightmare serial killer. All had been killed by hammer blows to the back of the head and suffered severe facial injuries. Their bodies left in a trunk of a stolen vehicle. No witnesses. Each case left open file.

Lorraine Page Ex Lieutenant of Los Angeles Police Department, hired by Captain Rooney as a paid street informer to help him in the case. One night Lorraine herself comes face to face with the killer, being attacked in a garage of a shopping mall by claw hammer and from the cufflink logo of her attackers shirt, she learns that the perpetrator is connected with the vintage car selling company. Assisted by her best friend Rosie Hurst, she finds out their prime suspects were Brad Thorburn and his half brother Steven Janklow two influential persons with political backing in Los Angeles.

Lorraine's further investigation points out that victim Norman Hastings, suspect Steven Janklow were both transvestites and were blackmailed by photographers Art Mathews and hookers Nula and Didi. With the backing of Captain Bill Rooney, Lorraine is drawn in to the dangerous investigation with no hope of backing off.

The best part of the novel is about Lorraine Page's come back from her dark past. Kicked away from police department because of her being alcoholic, divorced, losing her children to her remarried husband, capable doing anything to earn enough money to drink herself to oblivion. Being sent to rehabilitation center with no further hope. With her friend Rosie and Jake's support, getting her life back, as a private Investigator of Page Investigations. From my point of view, I think it would have been better if the author had given more of Lorraine's personal tragic life, her constant efforts to come back, than the routine 'serial killing' stuff.

MY COMMENT..

OKEY DOKEY ..

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### **Steve says**

I found this book difficult to get through. It was well-written, and absorbing, but the content was quite confronting. I thought the main character had hit bottom, and then went even further. The book built up nicely, with a bunch of twists, some expected, some unexpected. The climax was a little disappointing, but it turns out it wasn't the major climax, which snuck up on me. The resolution was a little rushed, but I suspect it leads into the next book in the series. I am not certain if I will read it.

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### **Balthazar Lawson says**

Lorraine Page was a police officer until she shot an innocent boy while drunk on duty. She is plunged into a 6 year drinking binge because she is also an alcoholic. This is the background to this story and being the first in a series it spends a lot of time introducing the character. I think too much time as it dragged the story out. This story is really the story of her getting sober and at the same time getting involved in the investigation of a serial killer. Some of it was totally unbelievable, but as it's fiction it's acceptable.

It was enjoyable enough but was really over done and drawn out.

On a side note, my edition of the ebook was also badly done as it contained lots of errors. Non existent words, bad punctuation, inconsistent font and words clearly missing. This is one of the bad things I find about ebooks, there are a lot more errors in them than in a paper book.

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### **Danielle Derecho says**

While the plot had an interesting premise, the book relied a bit too heavily on coincidences to keep the protagonist going and seemed to drag on in certain places. Towards the end during the final wrap up of the mystery I felt kind of cheated out on a good twist and while that was kind of fulfilled a bit later on, the initial fake out left me feeling a little unsatisfied at the end. Overall, what kept me reading was the author's writing and how my perception of the protagonist was so easily swayed by La Plante. 'Cold Shoulder' was overall an easy read with several twists that kept the plot interesting and intriguing character development, but didn't require too much thinking.

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