



Warped Ambition

Debbie S. TenBrink

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When the battered body of a teenage girl is found in a dumpster, Lieutenant Jo Riskin is called to take the case. Investigating with her partner, Detective Lynae Parker, Jo uncovers secrets, loyalties, and ambitions that give motives to a surprising number of suspects , including a boyfriend from the wrong side of the tracks.

While immersed in her current case, Jo is battling her own personal demons. After two years, she is still grieving over the loss of her husband, who was killed in the line of duty. New information that could help solve his murder, and let her move on with her life, is within her grasp.

Barricading her heart, Jo is determined to solve both cases and bring the killers to justice.

Warped Ambition Details

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Author : Debbie S. TenBrink

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From Reader Review Warped Ambition for online ebook

Linda Strong says

New book -- New author -- New series! 4.5 Stars

Lt. Jo Riskin, along with her partner Det. Lynae Parker, are called to investigate a body found in a dumpster. The body turns out to be a 15-year-old teenager who was last seen in an abortion clinic. She has been badly battered.

When they find that a friend of her father's gave her money for the abortion, the investigators immediately place him as the main suspect. He denies that the baby was his and he had an alibi ..of sorts. She also had a boyfriend that had broken up with her when he found out she was pregnant.

Secrets and lies abound as they rummage through the young girl's life and last moments.

Meanwhile, Jo is looking onto another case on her own time. Her husband, also a cop, was killed during a drug raid. His killer has never been caught. She can't move on until she brings to justice the man who killed him.

This crime drama, the author's debut novel, is very well written with entertaining and believable characters. I really enjoyed the relationship between the partners who are also best of friends. The ending was a bit of a surprise. I think there's the tiniest hint that the death of her husband and how it has affected her will continue in the next book.

Many thanks to the author / Red Adept Publishing, LLC / and Netgalley for the digital copy of WARPED AMBITION. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Jackie Roche says

I would like to thank NetGalley and Red Adept Publishing for giving me the opportunity to read this which I voluntarily reviewed.

This is a book which grabs you on page 1 and takes you on a thrilling roller-coaster ride that doesn't stop until the final sentence.

For once I did guess correctly who the murderer was, but that certainly didn't detract from my enjoyment of the book.

I liked Lieutenant Jo Riskin and her partner immediately.

I look forward to reading more about them in future books.

diane hockema says

Loved it!

Really enjoyed this book, started off getting my interest immediately. Didn't stop reading until the end. Will look forward to more books written by this author. Thank you!

Aletha Jordan says

Page-turner

Once I started reading this book I couldn't put it down. I loved Jo Riskin, as well as the other characters, especially Laynae. I can't wait for the next one.

Mary Tucker says

Fantastic book. can't wait until the next one comes out

Al says

This is book one of the Jo Riskin Mystery series and it appears to be Debbie TenBrink's first book. What a great start. I'm ready for book two now.

Police procedurals have been a genre I've enjoyed reading over the years. After reading this book and trying to put my finger on why I liked it I came up with two big reasons.

The first reason is the obvious one. The mystery at the root of the case (or for this book, the two cases) that the protagonist is trying to solve needs to hit the right balance. It can't be too obvious. If you're convinced you know whodunit shortly after the book starts and you turn out to be correct, the book isn't going to work. But the opposite, a last second twist that you could have never seen coming, maybe a random person walking off the street and confessing, is even worse. Warped Ambition hit that balance. The answer wasn't obvious, but the clues were there. (I won't say any more to avoid spoiling the story.)

The second thing that occurred to me was that I liked Jo Riskin and her partner Lynae and when I explored why I realized that it was because of their imperfections. They're human. Imagine a detective who is perfect. They wouldn't struggle. They wouldn't misinterpret something. They'd never make any missteps. And books with this mythical perfect detective would bore the reader to death. It's the imperfections of the detectives and their fighting through their own issues to get to the solution that make the story work. If sometimes we get to the answer before the detective, all the better. (I didn't this time, but it wasn't because the clues weren't there.) Ms. TenBrink has a winner with Jo and Lynae. Yup. I'm ready for the next one now.

****Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. ****

Sarah Veenkamp says

Great! I'm not usually into the mystery series, but I can't wait for the next book! The characters are likable and you can imagine them being a friend. It was fun reading a book set in the city I live in, it was easy for me to imagine all the different settings that are described. I'm impressed!

Ashley says

I Flew through this book! The description and details of the setting (small farming community and city of Grand Rapids) painted a perfect picture of the the areas. I enjoyed the twists and stories of the characters. Ordering the next book today!

Debra Riggs says

Great Author

Great book! Storytelling at it's best! I couldn't put it down and the twists and turns keep on coming! With and humor at times!

Carol Peace says

When Megan Tillman's body is found in a dumpster Lieutenant Jo Riskin is the one to deal with the case alongside her partner Lynae Parker. It seems 15 year old Megan was pregnant and Jo feels this has to have a bearing on why she was killed but who knew she was pregnant? They are not short of suspects and It seems at least one has the influence to make it difficult for them to question them, They keep hitting dead ends until they get a surprising lucky break, in the background Jo is still grieving for her husband who was killed in the line of duty 2 years ago but no one was ever caught. I loved following these two strong women characters throughout the investigation and though we do touch upon their personal life there is so much more to learn.

I loved the book and can't wait for the next, I do hope there will be a next following these characters. A great debut book and a definate page turner.

Thank you to NetGalley for a copy of the book.

A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says

Book source ~ NetGalley

Grand Rapids Lieutenant Jo Riskin and Detective Lynae Parker get a case involving a dead 15-yr-old girl in a dumpster. While in the middle of investigating the death of Megan Tillman, Jo gets word that a criminal being charged for a third time has information about the case involving her police officer husband's death and wants to make a deal. So, while she and her team are working the Tillman case, Jo and Lynae are also

chasing down this new lead. Jo doesn't just want it, she needs it. It's been 2 years since her husband was killed on the job and all leads to his killer have dead ended. Will this be the one to finally put Mike to rest?

Wow. Just, wow. This book grabs and doesn't let go. I cottoned onto the killer before Jo and her team settled on the who, but they got there with excellent detective work. The investigative journey is believable and exciting, the writing is fantastic, the characters awesome, the mystery twisty, and the dialogue flows. Mystery/suspense lovers must not pass this one by. Seriously. Don't skip it.

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

Warped Ambition is the debut novel of author Debbie Tenbrink, and the first book in the Jo Riskin Mystery Series. It excites me to be introduced to a new-to-me mystery/suspense author and a series with so much promise and potential! This intense, fast-paced story is well-written, and I soon found myself unable to put it down.

Lt. Jo Riskin and her partner Detective Lynae Parker are working the case of a brutally murdered pregnant fifteen year old girl whose body was tossed in a dumpster - like yesterday's trash. The twisted plotline results in several motives and suspects surfacing and for some time, I wasn't sure who did it. While I did eventually figure out what was going on, it didn't lessen my enjoyment of the story as the strong characterizations and attention to detail kept me turning the pages to the end. Adding to the intrigue and conflict in *Warped Ambition* is the fact that readers learn Jo is also privately working the case of her own husband's unsolved murder in a drug raid gone bad two years previously. She's obsessed with finding his killer, and it's through her investigation that we see the strong yet vulnerable woman who is unable to let go of the past and move forward. Some of the most poignant, heart-touching scenes in this book are Jo's visits to her husband's grave and the ensuing "conversations" she has with him. There's a hint of a possible love-interest to come for Jo, and I look forward to seeing if it blossoms and if anyone can bring the walls around her heart tumbling down.

Warped Ambition is an intense, intriguing debut novel that I enjoyed reading in a couple of sittings. Tenbrink's vivid, descriptive writing style sets the stage and tone early, carrying readers on an emotional and tense journey as the search for a killer culminates with a surprising twist. I'm looking forward to more from this author and series! A Must Read!

*Many thanks to the author for a copy of this book.

**Reviewed at Cross My Heart Reviews

Jason Daugherty says

Great

Loved this book!!! It was so true to life and the story was fantastic. Love the characters Jo and Nae. There was parts that hurt my heart and made me cry but there were parts where I laughed. Get this book...you won't be disappointed. Thank you

Judith Sopher says

Great story

Well written, great plot. Looking forward to the next book. No is not done with her husband's death. Good read.

Jo-Anne says

Sadly a young woman (teen) was brutally murdered and found in a dumpster; Lieutenant Jo Riskin was tasked with finding her murderer. Together she and her partner narrowed down the suspect list which was no easy task. At the same time, Jo had been trying to find her husband's killer. She had been obsessed with finding his murderer ever since he was killed on the job two years ago.

I loved Jo Riskin's investigative style. She kept digging until she found the answers. She and her partner worked well together with her partner helping to keep her in line sometimes. I liked getting to know Jo on a personal level as well as professional. I felt I knew her and worried about her at times. I absolutely lost myself in this story. Every time I thought I knew who did it, another suspect would come out. In the end, I was surprised to find out who the murderer was.

I want to thank Debbie TenBrink for gifting me Warped Ambition in exchange for my honest review which I am happy to give. If you like police procedurals with kick-a\$\$ female leads, don't miss this book.
