



Deadly Partnership: Murder, Blackmail and Voices from the Spirit World

Richard Gardner

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On his retirement, widower Paul Jenkins decides to live with his sister by the sea. But having moved in, the idyllic life that he has been hankering after is thrown into turmoil when he comes face to face with a burglar in the middle of the night.

His impulsive reaction to the intrusion has disturbing consequences when he is confronted with some unsavoury characters. However, it is the dead that he has far more to fear from.

Deadly Partnership: Murder, Blackmail and Voices from the Spirit World Details

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From Reader Review Deadly Partnership: Murder, Blackmail and Voices from the Spirit World for online ebook

Dianne says

British crime writers excel at their craft. The detective series presented by the BBC are exceptional. One knows from the beginning episode that the detectives will solve the case. With Deadly Partnership we are not so sure that the killer will be caught for this detective tale has a Stephen King style of plot. It takes a unique talent to write about seemingly normal people who are far from normal. This is one of Stephen King's specialties and it is evident in this crime story by Richard Gardner. We think we are reading about a very typical widowed and recently retired successful financial manager. "Paul was suddenly feeling a sense of loss. Being set free of his working commitments also meant that he had been robbed of his status in the world. Never again would he be in charge of a large department. People had ceased to depend on him to make decisions or tell them what to do. Although a perfectly able person, from this moment on he would be watching from the sidelines while others did the work; somebody of no importance who would spend the rest of his life doing things that didn't matter very much." This retiree Paul Jenkins is wicked to the core. Stephen King writes his novels with the criminal/maniac/protagonist as the person to be feared. Richard Gardner has written from the killer's perspective. This switch makes every aspect of the crimes more intense for the reader. Read Deadly Partnership before it gets made into a thriller movie.

Toni Osborne says

Murder, Blackmail and Voices from the Spirit World

At first I was leery reading this book after all voices from the other world is not my kind of excitement and by far not my cup of tea. Was I ever wrong thinking this and so glad I said yes to Mr. Garner's request to review his book. This was a very captivating read.

Right from the opening page I was hooked by this dark and clever storyline. The author feeds his story and builds suspense in calculating steps, drop by drop. It begins with an introduction to the main character with Paul Jenkins decisions to live with his sister Julie in their child-hood home after retirement....this may not have been a wise decision. Our first meeting with the spiritual world comes when Julie attends a séance.

After moving in Paul's idyllic life turns into turmoil when he comes face to face with a burglar, his reaction to this intrusion had tragic consequences. It is not the first time Paul has taken matters in his own hands and it seems that those who have disappeared in the past are not completely gone....from then on we have strange occurrences, medium visits and more murders.

I enjoyed this book. It has a cracking great story with characters easy to connect with. The story provides surprises after surprises and the medium aspects are at its bare minimum. What kept me glued was wondering the outcome, what will Paul do next, who will squeal on him, will he get caught, what about his son, his sister, old friends and the riffraff Paul associates himself with, what's next....This story is very well-written with enough suspense to have us flipping the page at a rapid pace...that good.

Virginia Ronan ♥ Herondale ♥ says

****I received a PDF copy from the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you Richard Gardner!! =))****

“Gary gave him a long hard stare. He had always thought of his father as being honest, decent and fair-minded, but over the last day and a half he was seeing a different side to the man. A dark side that was cold, calculating and almost devoid of a conscience.”

First of all I have to say that **“Deadly Partnership”** was completely different than the books I usually read. People who know me, know that I’m a sucker for YA and fantasy. This time however I decided to read something else. So when Richard asked me if I wanted to read his book I was so curious I immediately said yes. XD

It’s not often you get to read a crime book with mystery elements and I wanted to know how the author pulled it off. *lol* They say curiosity kills the cat. In that particular case it thankfully didn’t though. ;-) Oh well, to be fair, there actually were quite a few deaths in this book (view spoiler) but they were done so nicely I couldn’t help but relish them. ;-P

Truth be told, there was some sort of morbid humour that ran like a thread through the entire book and I found myself savouring it so much. Haha! For some reason Paul’s and Gary’s antics amused me immensely and halfway through the book I was shaking my head so hard, I almost felt dizzy. I couldn’t help but wonder how this would all end and I constantly wanted to know what would happen next. I think this alone says enough about Richard’s skills! *lol* I was puzzling over the ending until it was finally there and yes, it actually surprised me somehow. XD

I don’t want to reveal all too much about the plot so all I’ll say is that we have: Paul a retired widower, his sister Julie, his son Gary, a psychic that communicates with the ghosts in the spiritual world, curious neighbours and a burglar.

To find out about the rest is up to you! ;-P

All told, this was not only a very unique and intriguing story but also something completely different! =))) I can really recommend it to anyone and if you have a sense of irony and some sort of dark humour I’m sure you’ll enjoy it as well. XD

Bam says

This story is quite different; I found I could not put it down. As the title implies, there is murder and blackmail and even some psychic phenomena.

Paul Jenkins lives in Chislehurst in southeast London and has recently retired. When his son Gary approaches him to request a hefty loan for his construction business, Paul comes up with a plan. He will sell his house, move in with his sister in the family home in Petermouth and Gary can pay off the loan by doing some remodeling work for them. His sister Julie is amenable: the family home was willed to both of them

and they've always gotten along well.

Julie is interested in spiritualism and after attending her first meeting, invites Mary, the medium, to their home. Mary has a warning for them from the other side: be sure to keep their windows and doors locked. They assure her that they always do.

Gary moves in with his father and aunt to start the renovations and shortly after, Julie leaves for a two-week trip to Greece. In the middle of the night, the two men hear someone in the house and sneak downstairs armed with weapons. After a violent struggle ends with disastrous results, the two men have to make a decision which will have many repercussions for them in the coming days. What are they capable of doing to protect their secrets and lies? I was reminded of the Sir Walter Scott quote: "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive," as things get more and more complicated.

There are lots of surprising twists and turns with a the touch of the paranormal and a satisfying ending. I enjoyed the author's writing style very much, very British. Paul is an interesting, complicated character with a surprising dark side, who seems able to salve his conscience with what he thinks are well thought out reasons for his actions. Will the whole house of cards he has built come tumbling down?

Note: Richard Gardner, the author and Goodreads friend of mine, asked if I'd be interested in reading his new novel and writing a review. I was happy to do that. Thank you, Richard, for the opportunity.

Linda Strong says

Paul Jenkins is finally retired and decides to sell his house and move in with his sister. What Paul doesn't know is that his sister is a spiritualist and believes that the dead can and do talk. A medium who says she has a message from their mother is invited into their home. The medium passes on a strange message ... make sure all the windows are closed and locked.

Paul scoffs, but a few nights later he forgets to close one window and awakes when he hears noises in a room downstairs. He wakes his son who has been staying there to help with renovations and together they approach the burglar.

Downstairs they find a young man ransacking their house. What happens next is something that no one could guess .. and it has a profound affect on Paul and his son. Together they make a decision that will change the rest of their lives.

This is a riveting story .. of blackmail, murder, and voices of the dead. The paranormal aspect is only a small part of this tale. There are twists and turns around every corner that kept me rapidly turning pages to see what happened next. The book is very well written with some good characters, some bad ... but all are memorable.

Many thanks to the author for the advance copy of DEADLY PARTNERSHIP. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Jaanaki says

First, let me thank the author for giving me this copy in exchange for an honest review.

Paul Jenkins , a newly retired finance director decides to shift from London to stay with his sister Julie in their ancestral home at Piedmouth. Julie is an aspiring spiritualist. Paul's son Gary has financial problems and he approaches Paul for help. Paul agrees to help his son on condition that Gary, a builder agrees to carry out renovations in their ancestral house at Piedmouth in exchange for the money. They accidentally stumble upon a burglary in their house , which ends up in an unexpected murder and the plot speeds into a maze of twists and turns.

This is basically a thriller with a paranormal touch to it , an unexpected turn of events and an unanticipated twist at the climax. I liked the story. The story line was tight with no loose ends and the narrative was precise and neatly written. The plot kept me hooked from the beginning to the end ,even though I started reading this with a slight skepticism since this is a new author for me. The characters are also well developed and in a few pages we realize that all of them are flawed in some way and not as innocent as they seem , especially Paul. I strongly recommend this to those who love thrillers .

Kathi Defranc says

This was an interesting read, a man retires and moves back to the house he grew up in ,with his sister, Julie. Paul, the retiree, is happy to fix up the house and live there, where old friends are around and they can talk about the good ole' days. But some things are different, a burglar is climbing into the neighborhood houses at night, and all must shut their windows before bed. The first night Paul and son Gary go out, they are pretty drunk and Paul forgets to shut windows. Hearing a noise later he encounters a person stuffing things in his pocket. When the guy turns Paul hits him with the hammer he carried for safety, but hits very hard. From here we follow all that arises from this crime. Spirituality melds in nicely in the story, but as we learn more about Paul it becomes slightly far-fetched, he has killed before, several times. The story is written well, some characters are done nicely, as the medium , Mary, and sister Julie.

I did receive a copy of this from author Richard Gardner from which I can give you my thoughts, and I thank him very much for this chance.

Richard Gardner says

When widower Paul Jenkins leaves his executive role and the bright lights of London, he's determined to make a fresh start, and leave the secrets of his past behind.

But starting over again is not easy when the spectre of his past comes back to haunt him, as he finds himself in an ever tightening web of murder and deceit.

A lost love brings a glimmer of hope but, the secret she hides will set in motion a series of events from which there can be no turning back. How far will he go to protect his own secrets when the dead will not be silenced?

Dianne says

My Rating: 4.5 Stars

His retirement was supposed to be idyllic and peaceful, but for Paul Jenkins, once a respected senior financial executive, life was about to become a series of hellacious nightmares, complete with the spirits of the dead. It all started when the widowed Paul convinced his sister to share their family home with him. Little did he know the spiritual medium with a message from beyond was more than cheap parlor entertainment or that his sister would believe the voices from beyond the grave.

It all started when he left a window open and a burglar took advantage of the fact. Like most of us, Paul took decisive, defensible action, but that action would come back to haunt him in more ways than one when he attempts to bury what happened.

DEADLY PARTNERSHIP by Richard Gardner is a trip into the mysterious, the deadly and the webs we weave when we first choose to deceive.

Paul appeared to be re-gaining his roots, going back to his childhood home, reconnecting with the girl he left behind and beginning another chapter in his quiet and ordered life. One action will begin a tsunami of bad choices and proof that there is no perfect crime, or cover up, because somewhere, someone may be watching and somehow, they will uncover murder, mayhem and a thousand-fold of pain.

Do you believe in communicating with the spirits of the departed? Do you believe a loved one is watching over you? Richard Gardner presents an excellent tale of suspense, remorse, justice and atonement that is dark, detailed and filled with “normal,” flawed characters who are just like people we pass on the streets every day. A fascinating read, which while not presented at a rapid pace, certainly carries an attitude of high tension and fear that is razor taut. Who knew retirement could be so dangerous?

I received a complimentary copy from Richard Gardner!

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Nat K says

Paul Jenkins is a recently retired widower. After a lifetime of being a loyal employee as the financial controller of a large company, Paul makes the decision to leave the bright lights of London to move back to the seaside town of his childhood. Paul's sister Julie has retained the family home of his youth, and both agree to pool their resources and to live out their retirements together.

It all starts wonderfully. Paul & Julie fall into a routine and get on well, Paul reconnects with his high-school sweetheart, and friends from his school years.

When Julie goes on a cruise around the Greek Islands, she leaves her/their home in Paul's capable hands. While undergoing desperately needed renovations on the home with his son Gary, Paul accidentally leaves a window open one night to let out the paint fumes, and this when the story really takes off.

Awakening to noises downstairs in the middle of the night, Paul confronts the burglar...

I hovered between feeling sympathy for the situation Paul Jenkins found himself in, and a sense of revulsion at his guile and seeming cunning as the body count continued to rise.

It was interesting how one spur-of-the-moment decision led to another poor choice, then another.

This is a very well thought out plot, and I loved how the character's lives and stories interwove with each others. I didn't see the end coming at all. This story reminds me of the types of suspense novels I used to read as a teen, the type that keeps you engrossed from start to finish.

Many thanks to the Author, Richard Gardner who kindly offered me a copy of his book in exchange for an honest review. A thoroughly good read.

Mary Grand says

Excellent read. The writer has created a very complex protagonist and the fact that such violent and extreme events are set within a very normal and suburban setting makes them all the more shocking. I was really gripped from the first page to the last, it never gave up surprising me. Highly recommend.

Jayne says

Many thanks to Richard for providing me with a free PDF copy of his book in exchange for an honest review.

Deadly Partnership is not a book I would ordinarily buy as I'm a sceptic where spiritualism is concerned. Having said that, it is only a minor part of this book and fits in well with the storyline. Scepticism aside, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The first chapter had me hooked and I found myself unable to put it down. The story flows well and is a very easy read that took me roughly eight hours to finish.

The characters were likeable. I found myself particularly endeared to Paul despite the revelations throughout the book. Gary, Paul's son, didn't sit too well with me though, given his easy acceptance and complicity in the unfolding events. Then again considering his father's propensities I guess the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.

Overall it has an interesting plot with enough twists to keep the reader engaged right through to the end. It's not often that a book will grip me enough that I will read it in one sitting, but this one certainly did. If you enjoy a good thriller this one is most definitely for you. I can't recommend it enough.

Vicki says

This novel had me feeling one way then another about the characters. One moment I liked and understood Paul, then in one sentence, I didn't. In one moment I liked Angela, then I found that I didn't.

Back and forth I went all through the book and to tell the truth at the end I am not quite how I feel about them all.

The story turns on a dime and knocks me off my feet. Always unsure if the moral high ground. I will continue to mull over this book and it's cast of characters.

At some points I began to think overkill, much? Yet, I was invested. I wanted to know the results of these events.

I found in some ways the story cliché while obscure at other moments. With that said, there was always a twist I didn't see couldn't see coming. So it remained unique.

Filipa Barbosa says

A fantastic read! Really enjoyed this book. Great book I can't put it down because it has drawn me in so much, I just have to know what happens and continue.

Thank you Richard Gardner for a copy of the book and for writing an amazing story!

Mandy says

Interesting story

I have never really read a story quite like this before. The author asked me to read and review it and I agreed. This is the story of Paul, who upon his retirement returns to his home town to live with his sister in their childhood home.

But one night something happens that changes everyone's life forever.

I have to admit that I did not like a single character in this book, but that's not a bad thing I think, given the way in which the story unfolded. I thought that the story was an original one, and kept me interested throughout. I liked the writing too, I found that I wanted to keep reading in order to find out what was going to happen. I felt the ending was very apt and it felt like a natural conclusion to the tale.

I would recommend this book and enjoyed reading it.
