



Madness and Murder

Jenny Hilborne

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Frustrated by the rising body count and lack of evidence, veteran homicide detective, Mac Jackson, questions his own ethics when he risks the life of an innocent young woman to trap a cunning and sadistic serial killer. Known for his uncanny precision with a hunch, he's all too aware that, this time, the stakes are much higher if his gamble fails to pay off.

Jessica Croft, withdrawn, vulnerable, and emotionally scarred, moves from Sacramento to begin a new life in San Francisco with her twin brother, Judd. Ninety miles from the sinister, shameful secrets of her past, and the madness that tore their family apart, she hopes to find tranquility, maybe even love. However, her chance for happiness is short-lived when she suddenly finds herself the target of a relentless madman with a deadly agenda.

Loath to continue living a life of fear, Jessica tells no one when she takes a bold risk to draw him out; dangerously unaware of the trap he has already set for her. Now nothing may be able to save her except the accuracy of a hunch.

Madness and Murder Details

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Author : Jenny Hilborne

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From Reader Review Madness and Murder for online ebook

Sheri says

Madness and Murder (Jenny Hilborne)

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Jessica Croft and her brother Judd moved from Sacramento to San Francisco to start fresh and escape their past. Jessica hopes to have a happy life, and maybe meet a nice guy. Things are not going as planned. Her brother is gone a lot and seems secretive, her friend Alex has problems at work and Jessica is not sure how to help. Add to it there is a killer out there and no one seems to be safe.

When Alex and Jessica team up to try to resolve their issues, Jessica finds herself being stalked..the target of a madman. Flashes of her past are surfacing to haunt her....can there be a connection? Who can she trust...will she be able to escape her stalker and solve the mysteries surrounding her...and most important, how it this all connected?

Fast paced, all night read. I could not put it down. Suspense/Mystery readers will enjoy this read. I look forward to more work from Jenny Hilborne. No Alibi

Cheryl Landmark says

I love a good murder mystery and this one definitely fits the bill. Ms. Hilborne crafted a taut, suspenseful, chilling tale of revenge, murder, madness, courage and strong, relatable characters. It was chock full of twists and turns, red herrings and enough suspects that it was difficult to guess the identity of the murderer until right near the end.

There were several subplots that at first seemed disconnected, but quickly coalesced into a thrilling, fast-paced story that had me turning the pages relentlessly to see what happened next. Alex and Jessica were two very strong, courageous women who refused to become helpless victims and drew on hidden reserves of strength to thwart the actions of sexual predators, drug-dealing ex-husbands, and an insane murderer bent on brutal revenge.

Mac Jackson was a great character, too--a good cop, determined and relentless in his pursuit of the bad guys, and a man who possessed uncanny instincts and gut hunches. I will definitely be reading more of Mac's cases in the future.

Pamela McLaren says

a good effort for a new author.

Black Butterfly says

STARTED OUT PROMISING THEN FIZZLED OUT AS IT PROGRESSSED. THE STORY LINE JUMPS AROUND TOO MUCH MAKES I CONFUSING AT TIMES, THE CHARACTERS ARE UNBELIEVABLY STUPID. ALEX WAS WARNED ABOUT _____ BUT LATER GETS ANGRY AND SAYS WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE WARN ME ABOUT HIM. HUH-WTF? I STRUGGLED TO FINISH THIS ONE I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END. GLAD I BORROWED IT. GROANER! ;0

D.L. Fowler says

A captivating story made more intense by exceptional writing. The author kept me glued to the page from beginning to end.

The characters were rich and believable. Each risking everything in pursuit of their own personal stakes.

It's not everyday you pick up a book this good.

Carol MacInnis says

This book was incredible. Jenny Hilborne captures the readers attention right from page one! A horrible homicide of a set of young twins big brother sets the stage. Their Father cannot accept the fact that he could not keep his eldest son safe finally ends his own life. Now their Mother has lost her sanity and the twins are forced into the system. It is a tumultuous time for both Judd and Jessica and Judd acts out as any frightened child would. Through the years the Homicide Detective, Mac Jackson must help hunt down the killer of their past for the sanity and safe being of these twins. A fabulous read!

Andrew Kaufman says

Jenny Hilborne's smoothly executed writing style makes this an effortless and highly pleasurable read. By the end of the book, I felt as if I knew the characters, and yes, even cared about them; that's quite an accomplishment, one which many authors fail to achieve, even on a perfunctory level. Simply said, *Madness and Murder* is a must-read. I'm very much looking forward to seeing more from this talented debut author.

--Andrew E. Kaufman
Bestselling author, *While the Savage Sleeps*

Jeannie Walker says

"*Madness and Murder*" is a work of fiction.

Unfortunately, I know about someone committing a most heinous crime and showing no remorse. I remember hearing a penetrating scream coming from the courtroom. I, along with many others, stood in disbelief when we heard the sentence the jury gave the cold-blooded killer in my true story "Fighting the Devil".

The difference in a fiction and a non-fiction is that author can tailor and craft the outcome the way it should happen. I, along with others, really like the way Jenny Hilborne crafted her debut and very engrossing murder mystery. It is well written and has lots of twists and turns. My compliments to the author on a job well done!

Jeannie Walker - Award Winning Author of "Fighting the Devil" - A True Story of Consuming Passion, Deadly Poison, and Murder

"I Saw the Light" - A True Story of a Near-Death Experience

Sue says

Madness and Murder is an excellent novel I didn't want to put down. It is an extremely worthwhile read! I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and look forward to reading more this excellent new author.

Tom Elder says

A truly gripping read from Jenny

Brian Meeks says

Jenny Hilborne's debut novel, 'Madness and Murder', is a remarkable foray into the world of writing. I purchased the Kindle version and read it on my ipad, using the Kindle reader. At \$2.99 it is a bargain and I would recommend buying it, to anyone who likes the mystery/thriller genre.

The book begins:

"You have committed the most heinous of crimes, and you have shown no remorse. The court imposes the maximum sentence the circumstances will allow...life without parole."

From there on we learn of the tragic crime, followed by more heartache for our main characters. Ms. Hilborne's character development is spot on, giving the reader enough to get going and then building along the way. By the end of the novel they feel like old friends. For me, I want to finish a book, still curious about where the lives of the characters will go next, but satisfied in how they got to the end. In both cases, she had done well.

I don't want to give too much away and I am not a trained reviewer, so I will simply say that there is intrigue, multiple people to dislike and distrust, and soul searching by our heroines, which makes for a book which is hard to minimize. (See how I did that? I didn't say put down...but minimize...I am sooo 21s century...I digress)

I read a lot of Elmore Leonard and I wouldn't compare her voice or style to his at all, but I did find one similarity. The sign of a good book, in my opinion, is when I read a sentence or phrase, which is so nicely crafted as to make me put the book down. I mull the sentence over, think about it, and generally feel a warm glow of awe at the fine example of wordsmithing. Most Elmore Leonard novels give me 5 of these moments, Jenny's had 3 or 4, I am sure.

As I do with everything, I will rate her novel on the 'Meeks' scale (1 to 37), which though not an official weight and measure, is what I use. Scales based upon a number of stars can suck it! So I would give her a solid 33 out of 37. Most of the dreck I have downloaded thus far is at best a 15, with many struggling to make it to double digits. I would give Dan Brown's 'The Lost Symbol' a 33 too. Harper Lee's, 'To Kill a Mocking Bird', gets a 37. Bottom line, she is an exceptional writer and I enjoyed it very much.

END OF REVIEW

Now I would like to share six questions I asked of the author, who I have met on Twitter.

1) This was your first novel. How long did it take you to write it?

Eleven months for the first draft followed by six months of editing.

2) Have you studied writing?

No. I took English lit and English language at high-school, but no creative writing classes of any kind.

3) Who is your favorite dead author?

Sidney Sheldon

4) Which formats is it available in? (Kindle, Nook, ibooks, Sony Reader, Print...carved into ancient tablets)

I believe it can be downloaded to all ereaders, definitely Kindle and Nook.

5) You have a second novel, did you do anything different the second time around?

I learned a lot from the editing process of the first novel and wrote the second one based on that - in other words, without the initial unnecessary clutter. I also avoided weak words and weak sentences.

6) Do you believe that the people who changed the rule about 2 periods (changed to 1) after a period should be publically flogged, possibly burned alive, and then made to suffer ridicule in front of friends and family?

Okay, now I understand Q 6. In the UK, we call it a full stop. I don't care whether publishers want one or two, makes no odds to me.

That concludes the interview portion of tonight's post. Jenny did very well, scoring a 5 out of 6. She did miss the sixth question as the correct answer is, "I believe the people responsible should have all of those things done to them and possibly more. I would add a life time cookie ban and 3 week annual retreat alone with Snooki."

Darcia Helle says

Madness and Murder is the perfect title for this book. From the first page, both the madness and the murder held me riveted. The action is fast-paced, taking me on a rollercoaster ride from start to finish. Hilborne disperses little details throughout that allowed me to 'see' the setting. The characters are well developed; some I loved and some I couldn't help but despise. This is an excellent first book and I'm looking forward to many more!

A.F. says

Madness and Murder is a taut crime mystery, with a terrific underlying narrative of character interaction and a theme of second chances. There is a splendid interweaving of subplots, overlaid with a chilling murder spree.

In Madness and Murder the plot unfolds on twins recovering from childhood tragedy, a homicide detective, and a girl who met the wrong guy. Their lives intertwine on the streets of San Francisco headed straight for a collision course with a serial killer.

The novel is well-plotted with some nice twists and turns, red herrings and multiple possible suspects that keep you guessing and in suspense. The characters are realistic and human, plus the female characters do not come off as helpless victims even when targeted by less than scrupulous people. The flow of the book engages and keeps the pages turning effortlessly.

The plot does hinge on a couple of coincidences of fate, but nothing that stretches the bounds of credibility and the author's style makes it believable. Also, there were a couple of minor plot points that left me wondering a bit, but they don't distract from the overall quality.

Madness and Murder is a great mystery novel and recommended.

Connie says

Jenny Hilborne's "Madness and Murder" is a really good read. Her murder mystery's characters have depth and personality. The reader becomes quickly invested in what happens to them. I enjoyed the story, which moved along well and had a nice twist. A well-written crime novel.

Jen Wylie says

I'd like to start off saying that up until now I've been primarily a fantasy and sci-fi junky. That said, after

reading *Madness and Murder* my horizons will now be broadening. Jenny Hilbornes debut novel is a gripping murder mystery certain to keep you glued to every page.

Set in San Francisco, the story unfolds with Jessica Croft and her twin brother Judd as children. As you read their tragic story of murder and madness you meet Mac Jackson, veteran homicide detective. Jumping ahead to the twins as adults the story truly unfolds as Jackson grows frustrated in his inability to catch a serial killer. Jessicas past has always haunted her and continues to do so as she finds herself the target of a madman. Alex is another main character whose story is wonderfully weaved into the plot when she moves to San Francisco to be with the man of her dreams.

Memorable characters make this book a joy to read, not only are they believable but extremely well written with much thought and depth put into each. This is not a slow paced novel. From the first page you are whisked along with the well developed characters as a number of twists and turns provide no shortage of action and suspense.

Madness and Murder is an excellent novel I didn't want to put down. It is an extremely worthwhile read! I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and look forward to reading more this excellent new author!
