



End of the Roadie

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Brendan Phelan, rock star, is playing in a stage show that includes guns and whips. As it reaches its climax, a shot rings out--but it's not part of the show. The body of Oliver Joplin, one of the road crew, lies lifeless outside the stage door. Detective Inspector Angela Costello and her team investigate, but they quickly discover that several stage hands, and Phelan himself, are adept with firearms--and that Joplin was widely disliked and distrusted. So why had Phelan kept him on, despite the reservations of his crew? Joplin's emails reveal the presence of a shadowy figure stalking the dead man. Who might profit from Joplin's death?

Little by little, Costello unpicks the web of lies. But unless one key person opens up, she can't crack the case. And that is not going to happen.

End of the Roadie Details

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Author : Elizabeth Flynn

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From Reader Review End of the Roadie for online ebook

Susan says

Oliver Joplin wasn't a very good roadie, but rock star Brendan Phelan insisted on having Oliver work his tours and shows. In fact, he was having a private discussion with Oliver when a shot rang out, ending the roadie's career. Angie Costello and her crew are called to work the murder, and find that Oliver had his finger in many pies. Their job is complicated by the fact that Phelan has many fans, including Angie's step-daughter, and one of the team as well.

Damaskcat says

Brendan Phelan is a popular rock star who uses gun shots and whips in his stage act. But after one performance a gun shot rings out for real and a body is lying dead by the stage door. Oliver Joplin is the victim and it seems when DI Angela Costello and her team start their investigation that no one really liked Oliver.

As the police gradually dig deeper into everyone's private lives and secrets it soon becomes clear that the star himself has a secret he doesn't want them to know though he seems an unlikely murderer. Angela and her team find themselves immersed in the intricacies of stage shows and the obsessions of the star's fans. Not to speak of all the scams associated with concert ticket sales.

I found this an entertaining read and after reading the previous two books in this series I am getting to know the police characters and I like them. It's good to read about a police team which works well together and who actually like each other. This book can be read as a standalone novel or as part of a series. I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley for review.

Patti says

Very enjoyable! I highly recommend this series!

Dogsandbooks says

Not bad. English of course, sort of predictable mechanism although characters were not. Show business backstage, with a bit of humor. Definitely will read more by this author. DPL book.

Asia says

I was given this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review
This was a fantastic book, well paced after the initial slow start, great mystery. The protagonist is a strong

character I really enjoyed reading about.
Loved it and would definitely recommend

Sophie says

End of the Roadie is the third book in the D.I. Costello mystery series and I've really enjoyed reading all three books so far – each creative and engaging with surprising twists along the way.

Whilst this book will most likely appeal to fans of cosy crime, it does present a serious outlook on a relevant crime which we've heard a lot about recently in the media. I found this aspect to be developed really well and though it's quite a gritty and sensitive subject, I thought the author handled the crime and particular attitudes and motives towards the crime well, whilst adding her own twist to it.

Brendan Phelan is a rock star performing at the Apollo, Hammersmith – a concert attended by D.C. Gary Houseman and his girlfriend. The night soon turns into something different than expected for Gary, as at the end of the gig he discovers Oliver Joplin, Brendan's roadie, has been murdered.

I loved the investigation into this crime. Though I found it a bit of a slow-burner, once it got going I couldn't put the book down. There were many twists and red herrings and things which weren't always what they seemed – this had me really engrossed in the book and eager to discover who had killed Olly, and why. I really liked Brendan's character too. He was quite charming but there were always some doubts about whether he could be trusted, but either way I enjoyed the deeper look into his character and how life wasn't as rosy for him as one might expect given his rock star status.

I also loved Angela and Gary in End of the Roadie but actually I liked all of the inspecting team. The dynamics between each one of them was refreshing to read and I enjoyed the banter between them as well as their relationships on both a personal and professional platform. An aspect of the team I really liked was how we get to see their thought processes so clearly, when required, that it makes the reader feel in the know too and how we are working out the mystery at the same time and pace as they are. Angela's ideas especially were conversed to the reader in a way that we know the things she's picking up on but not dealing with straight away, or the things that have struck her and the potential links she's found. Yet at the same time, there is an element of surprise in the way they handle what they've found or discovered, and suspense is wonderfully weaved into the story at times where I was waiting with bated breath to see what Angela, Gary and the rest of the force had uncovered.

Overall I found End of the Roadie to be an entertaining and satisfying read. There were a few loose ends that when thinking about the book a little while after finishing it I would have liked to have seen cleared up. But the story itself had me hooked and this was another mystery novel by Elizabeth Flynn that had me gripped and unsure of who the culprit was. I had guessed correctly at one point but changed my mind before reaching the end. There were so many little hints and suggestions and then things which altered everything and that's what I really loved about this book – how easy it was to get involved in the mystery and how fun it was trying to figure it all out.

Emily says

I was given a digital copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Trigger Warnings: Child rape, homophobia.

Also: Some major plot spoilers.

I'm going to be perfectly honest here. I was tremendously uncomfortable to the point of rage with one of the major plot points being the blackmail of a rock star for thinking he committed statutory rape. Especially how the detectives involved handled this knowledge, which included justifications like: it was probably not his fault because he swears he thought she was older and also the (allegedly) 14 year old girl he (thought he) raped was probably just in cahoots with her older brother, the blackmailer. Another justification (and I quote): "many girls that age would be sexually active." So, you know, no big deal since she'd probably be having sex anyway? The mind boggles.

Overall, this book did not impress me, almost from the beginning. Admittedly, I haven't read the first two books in the series, so perhaps they help fill in some blanks, but I found most of the recurring characters one dimensional. I didn't care about any of them, mostly because I just didn't know much about them. The plot reminded me of an episode of Law & Order: there were pages and pages of interviews with witnesses, coworkers, and family members, which consisted of the same character information being rehashed over and over. There was a brief, shining moment of potential plot twist about a third of the way through, but that was greeted with an immediate and deliberate attempt to shut it down. This particular scene is the definition of basically everything I hate about the world:

"So is Brendan gay?" asked Jim.

"Oh, no!" They all turned towards Leanne and the horrified look on her face drew a laugh from them all. She hesitated before adding, "He's got a girlfriend."

"That's no guarantee of anything," said Jim.

"Well, he's not," protested Leanne, putting her hands on her hips.

"OK," said Angela in a soothing voice. "I think we'd have picked up on it before now if Brendan was gay, Jim."

::sigh:: Slow your roll, Jim. This entire room of (presumably) heterosexual people are the authority on what gay people look and act like, so they'd damn well be able to tell if someone was gay or not. And they're willing to put their hands on their hips to prove it. In fact, the very mention of homosexuality stirs feelings of both horror and amusement. No need to go interview more people to find out for sure (seriously though, why stop now?), we've collectively got this one covered. Super gross.

As for the mystery, Elizabeth Flynn started dropping clumsy hints to the solution early enough that I was able to guess the outcome with little effort. Strangely enough, I wasn't particularly bothered by the show business setting. I felt like Flynn did an adequate job of defining terms and situations for the readers who wouldn't be familiar with them.

Only giving this one 1.5 stars because it wasn't a difficult read, just kind of clunky and offensive.

Paul Trembling says

To my mind, a good police procedural needs an intriguing crime, realistic and well developed characters and the steady, methodical unravelling of the mystery leading to the culprit. Preferably one that no one would have suspected at first. 'End of the Roadie' ticks all those boxes. A smooth, well plotted and very satisfying read.

Carrie says

I had a hard time getting into the beginning of this book. Maybe a tad slow, but the middle really picked up with its interesting developing characters and hooked me. I quite enjoyed the Detectives and police work angle of this book and would read another by this author.

A goodreads giveaway winner!

Jessica Higgins says

Intriguing and suspenseful! I couldn't put it down until I found out who the killer was!

A young detective constable is out on a date with his boss's, Detective Inspector Angela Costello, step daughter. They got to a popular concert act featuring Brendan Phelan, who uses guns and whips as part of the act. It was a phenomenal show and after it is over, his date wants to try to get a look at Brandon from the alley. Suddenly, Gary hears a gunshot and rushes by the bouncers only to find one of the roadies has been shot. After calling D.I. Costello to the case, they begin to unravel several different scenarios of why the roadie, Oliver Joplin, was shot. They find out that Oliver was connected to drug trafficking, blackmail, and even ticket fraud. The problem isn't who would want to kill him, but who actually did. The further they press, the more they find they may be in for a smoke and mirrors act if they can't find the smoking gun.

This was the first book in the Angela Costello series that I have read and I have to say that it is a really good read. I haven't been reading into a lot of books that are set in the London area, but this one was just a really fun mystery to try and solve as I read. When I do read British police procedural novels, I also hope that the DI and DC have a lot of banter between the two of them, but that wasn't much of the case here. It was more of a senior to junior mentor relationship, but it still worked great. I also really enjoyed the dynamic that the DC was dating the DI's stepdaughter, which made some situations uncomfortable for both characters.

The plot of this book was written extremely well. It keeps the reader going in circles while trying to figure out who really did it and why. There are plenty of obvious suspects, but the one that actually pulled the trigger doesn't appear to be the one throughout the whole story, which is typical of the "quiet one in the corner." Overall, it was a very clean mystery, just the kind I really enjoy.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. The opinions and views expressed within are my own.

Gayle Pace says

MY THOUGHTS

From a roadie to a rock star, Brendan Phelan's crew member Oliver Joplin is found dead. He is found shot in an alleyway. The thing was the alleyway had been guarded by security. You will think, this is an easy one to solve, officers were there immediately. That's what I thought too but not so. Investigator Angela Costello takes on the murder. So many deep dark secrets and oh, so many lies to divide between important to this case or not. Oliver wasn't exactly liked by many, actually he was disliked immensely. I had some real trouble with this book. I wasn't getting anything new from it. It was the same ole' same ole' murder mystery to me. It wasn't until about 3/4 of the way through when I got really interested in D.I. Costello. A strong, no nonsense woman but siding on the path of justice. As she worked with her team, she wasn't one of those, I'm in charge and we do it my way or the highway. She took into consideration their thoughts and ideas. There seemed to be a connection with Detective Gary Houseman. They complimented each other. They knew what the other was going to say before they said it. Just a look said so much. I was hoping for maybe a romance to start but who knows? The author takes on, very professionally, some very touchy subjects. I won't tell you what. Read and find out. I kept thinking I had this solved. What was the detectives' problem. So easy. Typical who dun' it. Well, as I turned the pages, I was wrong. The author kept just enough hidden to keep the reader guessing. Guessing until the end. If you grab a copy of this book to read, don't give up easily because as you read, you will become totally absorbed. I wonder if that was the intention of the author?

I RECEIVED THIS BOOK FROM THE AUTHOR AND KREGEL BLOGGER PROGRAM AND VOLUNTARILY DECIDED TO REVIEW IT.

Whispering Stories says

Detective Inspector Angela Costello is called upon to solve the murder case of Oliver Joplin, long-time roadie to rock star Brendan Phelan. Oliver is shot dead shortly after the bands' gig at the Hammersmith Apollo, in an alleyway that is guarded by the rock stars' security team. With an officer on the scene within seconds of the shooting, you would have thought the killer, or evidence would be easy to find. Not so in this case.

Can Angela and her team sift through all of the lies and hidden secrets, to discover who really shot Oliver, a man despised by so many?

I have a confession to make about this book. I nearly gave up on it! I read until chapter four, but I found myself really struggling with it. I didn't care for the characters and couldn't find a connection with them. I was also a little perplexed at some of the narrative. However being a reviewer, I try not to quit part way through a book, so I ploughed on.

I then realised that I was at chapter ten and I hadn't moved; hadn't even spoken to anyone – I was just

absorbed in the story. Something changed, whether that was in me or in the book, I'm not sure, but I found myself submerged in the murder investigation.

D.I. Costello is a stern, but very fair woman. She is definitely a team player and works along with her officers, rather than dictate to them. I loved the connection that she has with her officers, especially Detective Constable Gary Houseman. The two of them reminded me of being in the CID office on my work experience as a teenager, and the verbal exchanges that the officers used to shout at one another in a playful manner, and how they can work effortlessly together without the need for words when needed.

During the investigation, some of the secrets that are uncovered are of a very sensitive nature, especially in today's society. Ms. Flynn has written these difficult plot-lines with compassion and had Angela Costello handling these discoveries with professionalism. They are also approached in such a manner so as not to make the reader feel uncomfortable.

The story takes us on a journey through a web of lies and dead-end trails. As the story unfolds, we are left scratching our heads as to who the culprit could be, leading us into a whodunit scenario, one that I was kept guessing right up to the end.

I'm really glad that I carried on reading, and I can thoroughly recommend this book as an enjoyable thriller which you will find hard to put down.

Reviewed by Stacey at www.whisperingstories.com

Noor-ul-ain says

I was given this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This book was so good I finished it in one day. It was amazing I recommend it. An amazing mystery and a well paced book. D.I Angelo Costello is lifeeee.

Truusje says

This was my first book by Elizabeth Flynn and the third in a series. I picked it because of the title, and I really enjoyed reading about bands and crews and concerts. It all seemed fairly authentic to me. It was also a nice change to have a detective who isn't a jaded alcoholic. On the other hand, she and her team didn't seem particular professional. Some of them could've easily been mistaken for 16-year old fan girls/boys rather than 20-something professionals. The mystery was reasonably well plotted. I had no idea who had killed the roadie until we got to the end. However, I do feel it was resolved rather quickly without giving the readers many clues about who it was. The investigation mainly seemed to consist of interviewing people and meetings with the team. Despite a considerable amount of (unnecessary) inner dialogue and (unnecessary) mentions of note-taking, there wasn't a lot of thinking or detecting going on. Also, a few things were mentioned at the beginning of the investigation as unusual (view spoiler) but they were never mentioned again. Apart from the lack of professionalism by the police in parts of the book, I also had my doubts about when certain people were interviewed, and what they were asked. (view spoiler) Another thing that bothered me was that whenever the recent cases of child abuse by public figures were mentioned, it was added that many of them were false accusations. I almost felt as if the author had a hidden agenda in this respect.

I never really got a feel for the characters; it all stayed on the surface. Most of the book was a recitation along the lines of 'they did this, next said that, then went there and finally solved it all' and I think that's why I never connected to the characters.

The End of the Roadie is not a bad book, but I don't think it's particularly great either. I'm sure other readers will enjoy it more than me, but I think it's only a 2.5-stars book.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: End of the Roadie - A Mystery for D.I. Costello Book 3

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ASIN: B01IHFVKU8

Reviewer: DelAnne

Reviewed For: NetGalley

Rating: 4.5 Stars

I received a copy of "End of the Roadie" from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Publisher's Description:

The gig at the Apollo was a triumph. Apart from the dead body outside the stage door.

Rock-star Brendan Phelan knows how to thrill a crowd - gunshots and cracking whips punctuate the thudding bass and crushing guitar chords. But after the show has ended, another shot is fired and Oliver Joplin, long-time roadie, is found lifeless, with a shocked Phelan towering over him.

Detective Inspector Costello is called and quickly discovers Joplin was widely disliked and distrusted. But who would profit from his death? Little by little, Costello unpicks a tangled web of lies. But secrets have left tongues tied and unless someone breaks the silence, the killer may never be found...

Elizabeth Flynn is a Londoner of Anglo-Irish parentage. She has a background in the theatre both as an actress and in stage management. She is the author of the Mystery for D.I. Costello series

My Review:

First do not give up on this book when you first start reading, with its slow start it can seem a bit tedious at first but when it begins to pick up its pace quickly and steadily. I found it to a fun read that after the introductory chapters was a fun read. DI Costello is a strong character that seems to be a stern, strictly by the book type woman, she shows sensitivity and in how she handles the information she gleans in her investigation. I gave "End of the Roadie" a 4.25 out of 5 star rating.

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