



No Smoke Without Fire

Paul Gitsham

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DCI Warren Jones has a bad feeling when the body of a young woman turns up in Beaconsfield Woods. She's been raped and strangled but the murderer has been careful to leave no DNA evidence. There are, of course, suspects – boyfriend, father – to check out but, worryingly, it looks more and more like a stranger murder.

Warren's worst fears are confirmed when another young woman is killed in the same way.

The MO fits that of Richard Cameron who served twelve years for rape. But Cameron never killed his victims and he has a cast-iron alibi.

Then personal tragedy intervenes and Warren is off the case. But the pressure is mounting and another woman goes missing. Warren is back but will the break he desperately needs come before there's another victim?

No Smoke Without Fire Details

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From Reader Review No Smoke Without Fire for online ebook

LaShana says

I figured out who was guilty in the beginning. After that, it was kind of tedious waiting for the experts to catch up. Overall good read. Slow in the beginning, but catches up in the end.

A Reader's Heaven says

(I received a free copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.)

DCI Warren Jones has a bad feeling when the body of a young woman turns up in Beaconsfield Woods. She's been raped and strangled but the murderer has been careful to leave no DNA evidence. There are, of course, suspects – boyfriend, father – to check out but, worryingly, it looks more and more like a stranger murder.

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A very solid 2nd outing for DCI Jones. On the trail of a rapist and murderer, Jones and the police run down every clue and evidence they have and are continually frustrated. The tension gets thicker as the story builds to a climax.

This was a solid book but, for me, very run of the mill as far as plot and characters were concerned. A good story but nothing that really stood out.

Paul
ARH

Mainer207 says

This has become a favorite author and series.

Walt Bristow says

Can Detective Chief Inspector Warren Jones find a serial killer before the killer brutally rapes and kills again? The first murder leads DCI Jones to suspect the victim's boyfriend and father. Then another body is found – carefully hidden to give enough time for vital clues to disappear but not so well that it won't be

found in a few days. The murderer seems to be taunting the police.

As any reader of mysteries and police procedurals knows, most murderers are somehow connected to the victim. The hardest killings to solve are when the killer and victim are strangers. DCI Jones begins to wonder if these killings aren't going to be that type.

Suspicion falls on Richard Cameron, recently released from prison after serving twelve years for rape. However, Cameron did not kill his victims. And, there is no physical evidence that Cameron was involved. However, when the third body is found, DNA evidence says Cameron is the killer. Cameron disappears. The evidence against him mounts. Another victim. But the killer seems to be getting more careless. Then suddenly the evidence begins to suggest that others may be involved.

You will enjoy this second DCI Warren Jones book by biologist-turned-science teacher Paul Gitsham. The characters are well-developed and the addition of Jones' personal tragedies adds to rather than detracts from the plot. The story itself has enough twists and turns to cause even the most jaded of mystery readers to wonder where the story will eventually lead. There are clues aplenty to identify the murderer – if you're paying close attention. But if you skip through parts of the story that you think are merely added fluff, you may just miss those carefully placed clues.

This review is based on a pre-release version provided through NetGalley.com.

Ceri says

I have to ask if this man is married to a teacher or used to be a teacher. There was an awful lot of stuff about how hard teachers work and how difficult their job is which amused me because I am married to one! Enjoyable book though a little too much about the main character's personal life which didn't add anything to the story and made it drag a bit in places. An interesting plot - I did guess who the rapist/murderer was quite a way before the end but there were some interesting twists and turns and the final chapters were exciting to read.

Gary Van Cott says

The good thing about this book is that the relationship between Jones and his wife is much better than it was in the first book. The murders, however, probably by design are so similar that the book isn't that interesting and the perpetrator is obvious from early in the book.

Woofas says

Thoroughly enjoyed this tale of serial murders, well told without resorting to some of the ridiculous twists used by some thriller writers. I felt that the police were a little slow to pick up on the clue that led to the resolution of the case, but we can't all be perfect! Perhaps the fact that the DCI hails from my home town added to my enjoyment.

Susan says

From a technical point of view, this was a well-written book. I felt like it was a little more drawn out than it needed to be. I possibly felt that way because the murder is apparent at about the 60% mark. Once you know who it is, you want to shake the detectives for missing the obvious. Still, a good read.

Pat says

This book continues where the previous one left off. It is another solid police procedural with solid, professional characters (yay). This time the team is on the trail of a brutal rapist and murderer. There are plenty of suspects but very little solid evidence. The police pursue every lead and eventually close in on the killer. But he had abducted another young woman. Can they catch him before she, too, is murdered? Nicely written and very readable, I just wouldn't say this will keep you on the edge of your seat - it wasn't that exciting.

Jim says

Writing is a bit amateur until the end, when his action description seriously picks up the pace and gives a satisfying conclusion. However, somewhat easy to guess whodunnit early in the book. That needs some work in Gitsham's new books.

Anna (BooksandBookends) says

I received a copy of this book from the book's publishers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

One murder is bad, in fact it's very bad indeed. Two murders are worse. But three murders, that means that there's a serial killer on the loose and that just isn't going to happen on DCI Warren's patch.

Middlesbury's no longer a safe place for young girls to be alone at night. There's a predator on the loose, methodical in his ways and savagely destroying people's lives and not just those of who they have killed. But what's linking these women? A prisoner has been released after committing almost exactly the same crime and using the same methods. This is all beginning to become a bit too close to home. Can DCI Warren stop this serial killer before he strikes again? You're just going to have to read to find out!

This was a brilliantly intriguing murder mystery, though I have to admit I had worked out who-dunnit about halfway through the book. Nevertheless there are plenty of red herrings to lead you astray and the plot just thickens. So much so that I struggled to put the book down at times!

Gitsham has a great writing style and you can tell that he has thoroughly researched the ins and outs of the legal system and policing involved. A really fun read what I can greatly recommend reading. This was an excellent holiday read and would be brilliant to read just for fun, particularly if you enjoy the genre!

Sharon Kennedy says

Another well written tale about DCI Warren Jones. The characters are engaging - and human - and the tension is ratcheted up as his team investigate the crimes. The way the back story and the interaction between the characters develops is also very well done - there are references to the first book but you don't have to have read it to follow this.

Sadia Nasib says

3.5

Sharon says

The book begins as Richard Cameron is released from prison following a lengthy sentence for sexual assault crimes committed in 1997. 12 months later, the body of a young woman is found - she has been sexually assaulted in a very similar way to Cameron's earlier victims. It's up to DCI Warren Jones and his team to find out whether Cameron has struck again, if there's a copycat on the loose, or as a second body turns up - if there's a serial killer at large.

I am not familiar with the writing of Paul Gitsham, but I liked his writing style a lot. Although the book seemed quite long, I read it in a day and a half, because the chapters are short and easy to read. There were a huge number of clues, red herrings, plot twists, suspects - but none of it was muddled or confusing. The ending played out well, and I would read more by this author in the future. I also liked that the main character had a happy relationship with his wife and wasn't an alcoholic or heavy smoker, as is sometimes the norm for books of this genre. I enjoyed this book a lot, except for one or two things which I'll cover in a spoiler tag. Thanks to the publisher & Netgalley for providing me with a digital copy in exchange for honest review.

(view spoiler)

Christine says

This is the second in a police procedural series featuring DCI Warren. In this instance, we get a serial killer on the loose attacking young women in the Middlesbury locality and Warren having to deal with sadness in his personal life. Most of the drama comes from the case as it progresses with every murder.

There was plenty to like in this read; escalating dramatic tension that kept me hooked, a serial killer with good forensic knowledge and a rather nice DCI with a happy home-life.

As a mystery though, I thought it was pretty obvious who the killer was early on. I was literally willing Warren to get to the conclusions I had drawn from the evidence. It is not often I am reading a book and

thinking 'Why don't you just question so and so?'

It was an entertaining and solid crime read. I do think the author shows a great deal of potential. I just would have preferred to have not solved the crime before DCI Warren did. I wonder if I deserve an honorary DCI to be awarded for my detective skills.

Thanks to Netgalley and UK Carina for my review copy.
