



Bad Blood

Casey Kelleher

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Blood makes you related. Loyalty makes you family.

In the underbelly of Soho's organised crime ring, everyone knows that retired boxer Harry Woods is not one to mess with. And that goes double for his family.

Harry has it all: the big house, the flashy cars, and an abundance of wealth. As much as money talks in his world, Harry knows deep down the only thing that really counts is family. Haunted by the sudden death of his wife, he'll do anything to protect his children, but truth is a heavy burden and hidden secrets can unravel even the strongest of bonds...

Without loyalty, family are bound together only by blood. Bad blood.

Bad Blood Details

Date : Published December 16th 2014 by Thomas and Mercer (first published September 3rd 2011)

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Author : Casey Kelleher

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From Reader Review Bad Blood for online ebook

Darcy says

I really wanted to like this one, but it didn't work for me. The start seemed filled with petty thugs, each one thought they beat the system, but you could see how pathetic they were. Even the police finding the bodies couldn't keep my interest. In the end this one just wasn't for me.

Denise says

This is the second Casey Kelleher book I've read and she just gets better and better. I was so pleased to be given the chance to read an early copy of this book, I loved it from start to finish, couldn't put it down. Bad Blood is very well-written, you can't help but become intrigued with the characters lives; they are so believable and detailed. It's an original story and I honestly never knew what the outcome was going to be. I really hope Casey writes more about the Woods family.

I would recommend Casey Kelleher's books to anyone, this was such a gripping, gritty novel, readers who enjoy Martina Cole & Kimberley Chambers books will especially also love it.

Lisa *-* GiViNg It To YoU * LoCk StOcK & TwO SmOkiNg BaRrELs says

5 StArS

As my name suggests....I'm Giving It To YOU..LOCK...STOCK..TWO SMOKING BARRELS!!!

Bad Blood is the BOLLOCKS!!

I really enjoyed this gritty London underworld story about Harry Woods

Harry Woods - Former Boxing Champ

G/R's Elaine got it so right with her casting for this one...non other than Ray Winston *with his sexy gravelly voice and domineering presence...LuV It!!*

Harry has it all: the big flash house, the flashy cars, and an abundance of wealth. *But what really counts in Harry's world is FAMILY.*

He'll do anything to protect his family...even keep secrets.

But even the best kept secrets have a way of surfacing.

The characters were great, lots of twists and turns, loved the banter and excellent plot.

This is my 1st read from author Casey Kelleher and it certainly won't be my last.

ARC provided by Netgalley in return for an honest review

BestChickLit.com says

Holy hell, what a read!

Opening with an instant attention grabbing prologue, I then read on and revelled in getting to grips with the large cast, trying to figure out who the main players were going to be. Most of the characters end up with a fair amount of page time each and the story is mostly told from inside the Woods family fold. The reader is given a brutal yet sometimes touching look into Harry's family life, along with the benefits and consequences of his choices, and absolutely no apologies made for his criminality. Harry is a family man through and through but he is also a hardened gangster and those around him - whether fully informed or supposedly ignorant on this fact - are all somehow dragged into this seedy world.

The many characters effectively weave in and out of each others life to form a neat tapestry of a story that keeps you riveted until the very end. I was blown away with the bold, powerful plot that never waivers or weakens, and the fact that the menacing presence of one of the characters actually felt palpable at various points in the book is a real testament to the author's writing talent.

I finished Bad Blood practically in one sitting and found it utterly gripping. But be warned: just like the loan sharks she portrays, once Casey Kelleher sucks you in, she simply doesn't let go until the final word.

Elaine says

This book was flipping UNPUTDOWNABLE and is probably going to be one of my favourite reads of the year. It is a gangland story set in London with Harry Woods, ex boxer and family man, running his crime ring with the help of sons Nathan and Christopher and his long time best friend Raymond. Christopher is a chip off the old block, a boxer like his father but with far more of the killer instinct than his father ever had. Nathan on the other hand has a dream of going straight, especially as he is in love with his girlfriend Cassie. Daughter Evie has just arrived home from boarding school but has her own problems to deal with although Harry dotes on her, she is his baby. But, he has an older daughter Kelly, who he is estranged from and hasn't seen for seven years. When she comes back into his life, trouble isn't far behind.

It is a story of gangland revenge and rivalry, cocaine running and prostitution rings. The characters are gritty,

violence is in their blood – they are most definitely rough diamonds. The story has several threads to it that twist and turn into a climax that really had me on the edge of my seat. At about 80% of the way I thought this was going to be a solid 4* read but then, as all the separate threads of the story came together in a climax full of tension, drama and danger, it went to a definite 5*. I was gripped and couldn't put the kindle down. I loved the ending which was extremely satisfying, tied up all the loose ends in a great way and which left me with just a "hint" that there could be more to the Woods' story. I really hope so, as I would love to know what happens in their lives next. Many thanks to the publisher for the review copy.

Vicki - I Love Reading says

WOW

Wow and wow again... Another book to go into my top ten Favorites of 2014.

I have to say I was absolutely Buzzing when I received an early release copy of this book. I couldn't wait to start it.

I have recently read (Listened to) Caseys Rise and Fall and Heartless on Audible. And listening to them was just as good if not better as reading them.

This author really knows how to write a bloody good book.

From the very beginning of this book I was gripped.

Bad Blood is based around Harry Woods. A well known face and ex boxer, his family and his main man Raymond. He has 2 daughters and 2 sons and I think everyone of his kids are different in their own way. Some likeable and some not so. And I always find if I start really disliking or liking one of the characters then it just goes to show how good the author has done dragging you into their lives.

Harry's children are his life, we have one at boarding school, one totally out of control, one who wants back into the family after walking away from them, and one who wants out of the family to go legit. What a family combination that is.

I'm not going into the story line as I don't think I could do it without giving too much away and I wouldn't want to spoil it for anyone.

This book was so well written it's frightening where some of these ideas must come from. And Casey is well up there with other authors in this genre. The book just came together so bloody well. I was left speechless at the end of this book.. This really is a must read.

Sarah says

OMG I can't believe I haven't read anything by this author before and after reading Bad Blood I will certainly be reading more.

An edge of your seat read that had me gripped throughout. Lots of unsavoury characters as well as a few nice ones. Can't wait to read more.

Karen says

Quite a few crime fiction books use the life and crimes of a Gangster type as their central premise, with a sideline of the impact that has on family and friends. BAD BLOOD looks at this scenario with the affected firmly at the centre of the action.

Starting out with a series of chapters that introduce a central character or scenario, readers will need to pay attention. As they will to the prologue which looks at the past of central character Harry Woods and his young, pregnant wife. In the present time, Harry's much loved wife is dead, his children grown and the family ties weakened. Once those introductions and the set-up are out of the way, the action moves forward rapidly bringing the family back together after estrangement, stretching their relationships in new directions, with new tensions.

Each of the characters in this book - Harry, his four children, their partners, his best mate, get equal billing at some point. The story revolves around damage, past decisions, power and control. It's somehow less about the long-time criminality of Harry, and more about the impacts that a life spent on the edge has had on all of them. It's also about decisions - the choice that Kelly makes to come back to the family fold, the choice that Nathan makes to try to live a different life. It contrasts those choices with the lack of conscious choice that Christopher and Evie seem to have in who they are or what they will become. There's a series of questions posed throughout the action about the ramifications of choice (or lack thereof), although that's based in a solid shell of action, tension, threat and violence.

After reading somewhere that author Casey Kelleher was strongly influenced by a well-known author of these sorts of Gangster centric novels, I was particularly intrigued to find how engaging BAD BLOOD was. I've struggled with the influencing authors work in the past, but I think the humour, the strong characterisations, and the less than black and white resolution here made this a strong, believable story. Whilst there's no holding back from the brutality of this life, it was balanced with some basic human decency and care. Whilst Harry might have a questionable moral compass when it comes to drugs, and criminal activities, he's a man who loves his kids, and struggles to this day with the fate of his wife. As clichéd as it might seem - it works in BAD BLOOD. There's something very realistic about the portrayal and the way that it does not make any attempt to explain, justify or excuse what is basically human nature.

<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/review/bad-blood-casey-kelleher>...

Anne Vaughan says

really enjoyed this book took me back to the early Martina Cole . would recommend it

Best Crime Books & More says

Well, well Ms Kelleher, it seems somebody is well and truly stepping up to the plate so to speak:-) Casey

Kelleher started off by self-publishing her first three books which if you haven't read I would highly recommend. I was chuffed when I heard she had signed a book deal with Amazon's Thomas and Mercer Imprint. I was even more chuffed when the lady herself let me get my hands on an early edition. I have to be honest though, I was nervous. What if her new publishers had suggested changes in writing style or something and I didn't like it? As a lot of authors know, getting an early edition doesn't sway my opinion. If I don't like it, I don't like it and will say so. However, Casey has stuck two fingers up at me by writing a blinding book that I couldn't put down. Clearly now she is a published author she feels she has to up her game, and up her game she did.

I have to admit when I started the book I wasn't that engaged and it took 3 or 4 chapters to get into it. However, once past that point it just got better and better. Harry Woods is a bit of a face along with his right hand man Raymond. Harry's children are his life and as adults now they all feature heavily in this book. Sadly, this review is very hard to write as if I put too much content in, it will spoil the storyline. Part of the attraction of this book was that there were characters I wasn't sure about. Why were they in the book, and what part did they play. Thankfully all is revealed as the story progresses. Each time I thought I'd heard it all, another secret is revealed. One particular character Casey managed to write about got right under my skin and that was Christopher. Without revealing too much, she managed to create a one man monster and the writing conveyed that pretty well. I also liked that in addition to the main storyline, there was a less obvious thread that's revealed even more toward the end.

I've read all of Casey's books and always thought they were brilliant, albeit one has never grabbed me enough to give it full marks. This one certainly did that and it seems Casey is firmly embedding herself in the list of 'must read' female British Crime Authors. Many of her readers follow her on Facebook, and Twitter and in a weird way we are all rooting for the likes of Casey to get herself on the platform of recognised authors. It's great to see British female authors finally get the book deals they deserve, and (without sounding ridiculous) I feel very proud of you Ms Kelleher! CAN'T WAIT for the next book! Your fans will be very pleased?

P.S Thomas and Mercer, you would be VERY silly to let this lady go!

Kirsty says

I have never read a book centered around a gangster theme before. I certainly didn't expect to enjoy it half as much as I did. Bad Blood is about a family who are, at times, dysfunctional to say the least. There is no obvious main character, instead the book spends relatively equal time in each of the Woods family members' lives. Harry Woods is a retired boxer and a formidable character that you wouldn't want to cross. He has four children, who you will spend time with and learn about throughout the novel. This book covers not only the gangster scene of London, but also family issues and the effects that secrets and lies can have on a family. The Woods family have more secrets than you could ever imagine!

Considering the amount of key characters in this book to keep track of, I found that it was easy to follow everyone, who they were in relation to who and also what was happening in their lives. You change perspective in every chapter, and some people may find this confusing if they struggle to keep track of people. I do believe the author does a wonderful job of making it easy to follow - that is so long as you don't zone out for a couple of pages. You cannot afford to miss anything, not only because it may leave you lost among the mass of characters, but also because so much happens in the story. I can honestly say there is no part of this book that I found to drag, everything in there felt necessary to the plot.

I would say my favourite character in the book would be Nathan Woods, Harry's son. He seems the most determined to do well for himself and also the most determined to be a genuinely good person. His relationship with Cassie is truly heartwarming. Evie was also a character I warmed to. She is Nathan's youngest sister and you really see her grow as the story develops. Kelly, their other sister, isn't always very easy to like, she makes a lot of bad decisions and it is easy to judge her for them. That said, she definitely changes as the book goes on, and her transformation at the end of the book is incredible, yet believable. Their other sibling, Christopher, is nothing short of a horrible person. Yet I found his story to be possibly the most interesting of the lot. All of the characters have real depth to them and feel believable.

I wanted to give this book 5 stars, but one thing really grated on me throughout the book. I lost track of the amount of times 'quite' was written as 'quiet'. I read a review copy via Netgalley, so I'm hoping that this is something that will be fixed upon release to the public. I am definitely going to try and read more books by this author in the future as she held my attention wonderfully. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone who can handle reading some disturbing scenes. This book does cover heavy drug usage, rape and murder, and so if you cannot handle reading this subject matter then you may struggle to finish the book. That said, all the violence in this book fits with the story, it all has a purpose. Therefore, this book is a must read.

Angela says

Another blinding read by Casey Kelleher. Hope there is a follow up book .

Vivian Monye says

I did not like the fact that Nigerians were potrayed as big bullies whose only preoccupation is mugging!
Thumbsdown

Book Addict Shaun says

I'm starting this review still a little bit speechless, after not long finishing the book. I've read close to 200 books this year, and this is easily one of the best. Looking back at 2014, I've given a lot of books five stars, which is something I'm trying to change as when I compare some of them with this book, Bad Blood is in another league so there's no hesitation in adding it to my Hall of Fame. Casey Kelleher is an author who has been on my radar for a while, my go to crime website Best Crime Books is a big fan of her previous books, I've just never got round to reading them myself. This is a mistake I will soon be rectifying because even though I have a scary looking review TBR, I really want to read Casey's books right now.

Bad Blood opens and introduces us to a lot of characters, yet it never felt confusing with who everybody was. The main family are the Woods, our introduction to Harry being when he was a world famous boxer with the world at his feet, and a pregnant wife who he adored. Fast forward to the present day and his wife is dead, his children all grown up, and Harry one of London's most famous and feared gangsters. His estranged daughter Kelly comes back into his life with her waster husband Terry. His son Christopher is totally out of control whilst Christopher's brother Nathan is looking to take himself out of the family business and go legit, settling down with his girlfriend. Harry's youngest daughter also returns home from boarding school. Along the way we are introduced to more characters, all connected to the Woods family in one way or another.

Throughout the book plans are made, secrets come out, and it isn't long before the lives of the characters start to unravel in brilliantly dramatic fashion.

The book does have an intriguing mix of characters. Christopher was especially evil, and is a character I think readers will despise. He doesn't show remorse for his actions, even taking pleasure out of taunting his own family. There is a reason for his behaviour though, and when it is all revealed I was left reeling. I'm a reader that likes to spot twists before they come, yet here I couldn't. Casey holds everything back until exactly the right moment. Kelly was a favourite character of mine, I found her transformation from how she was in the beginning to how she was at the end to be a bit quick, but she was a very likeable character I had no trouble rooting for. She was a realistic and believable character. Likewise for the rest of the cast. One minute you will hate a character, the next you will wonder whether it's wrong to like them. On the surface they are villains, making their money through crime but even the hardest of villains love their family, and that's the case here. There are some heartwarming and touching moments in the book, which you might not expect from a villain but which are still believable.

This is one of those books where there's so much I could talk about but it's difficult to do so without ruining it for people. The ending of the book was another jaw dropping moment, I just don't know how I didn't see the little twist coming, it was brilliant. The story at the end felt very final and was wrapped up nicely, which is a shame because, in this genre especially, I'm a big fan of series, following the characters over two or three books and seeing how their lives develop over a few decades. It would be a shame if this is the last we see of the Woods but either way I am massively excited to see what Casey comes up with next. I only hope she is a fast writer!

What I loved about this book is Casey's writing. It's extremely dark in places given the subject matter, but the book was infused with humour and sarcasm throughout, but never in a silly or unbelievable way. Certain parts actually made me laugh out loud, Casey has such a way with words and it really brings her characters to life, giving them real personality and adding lighter moments to what is otherwise a pretty graphic and brutal read, yet absolutely brilliant with it as that is exactly what I'm after when I pick a book like this up. Some scenes will make you want to look away, but the book is simply too addictive for that to happen. What I also look for is originality, the characters and the world they inhabit in books like this are invariably the same, it's what the author does with them that makes the book stand out from the crowd, and the story here is original and really good. I reached the end of the book and was a little gutted, I wasn't ready for the story to end and could have read on and on.

It wasn't all that long ago that this genre was owned by one author, its creator. The competition now though is so fierce with the likes of Kimberley Chambers and Jessie Keane that authors have to constantly up their game, and 2014 has been one of the most exciting years this genre has seen so next year is going to be even better I imagine. Reading this book at times reminded me of when I first read a Kimberley Chambers book, it brought back all the excitement I felt at having discovered a new (to me) author, one who is incredibly talented and who knows how to tell one hell of a story, and totally hook the reader in. I was gripped to the last half of this book, reading so fast I'm surprised my Kindle didn't break. Once you get started with this book it's really hard to stop reading. Kimberley Chambers is now a number one best selling author and if the same isn't true of Casey in a few years, I'll be very surprised. The move to a proper publisher appears to have worked wonders, and I predict other publishers will be chasing after her before long.

Overall then this book comes highly recommended by me. I recently compiled my Top 10 Books of 2014 ready to share in December, but that list will definitely be getting revised and I now have the difficult choice of choosing a book to kick out to make room for this one. To describe it in one word I would say 'outstanding' and you would be an absolute fool not to pick it up."

Thanks to Casey for arranging a review copy.

Elaine says

Its now live

UK <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Bad-Blood-Cas...>

US <http://www.amazon.com/Bad-Blood-Casey...>

5 Crown Jewels Stars

Meet *Harry Woods*

Retired ex champion boxer and celebrity, a huge respected face in Soho, London.
After the death of his beloved wife, Harry knows....

Nathan the oldest of the brothers and the most level headed, he wants to branch out leave the family business, go straight...

Kelly, married at seventeen and estranged from the family after marrying a man as old as her father.
Evie, beautiful, quiet, shy, sent off to boarding school after the sudden death of her mother.
And then we have **Christopher**, terrifyingly out of control.

Together they are Harry's precious gems, his crown jewels.....his everything

My Thoughts...

This story is based around the family, Harry's family.
I don't want to give away too much regarding the plot.

I really loved the story and all the characters, even the supporting ones like **Raymond, Terry and Cassie** who all had an important part to play.

Seeing how each of these characters lives finally come together in a brilliant climax that is full of twists and turns.

Casey Kelleher is finding her own style in writing this type of genre and I think she is definitely a crime author that is on her way to the top.

ARC provided by Netgalley in return for an honest review

