



Killer on the Fens

Joy Ellis

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DETECTIVE NIKKI GALENA'S DYING FATHER HAS ONE FINAL REQUEST: "FIND EVE."

DI Nikki Galena faces a personal challenge which will stretch her to the limit. She must fulfil her father's dying wish and discover who the mysterious Eve is. Meanwhile a dead drug dealer is found on an abandoned airfield that the locals say is haunted. The trail of both mysteries will lead to the most shocking discovery of Nikki's career and put her whole team in mortal danger.

Full of twists and turns, this is a crime thriller that will keep you turning the pages until the shocking ending.

THE DETECTIVE DI Nikki Galena: A police detective with nothing left to lose, she's seen a girl die in her arms and her own family destroyed. She's tough on the criminals who she thinks did this to her.

HER PARTNER DS Joseph Easter is the squeaky-clean new member of the team. But his nickname "Holy Joe" belies his former life as a soldier. He has an estranged daughter who blames him for everything that went wrong with their family.

THE SETTING The Lincolnshire Fens: great open skies brood over marshes, farmland, and nature reserves. It is not easy terrain for the Fenland Constabulary to police, due to the distances between some of the remote Fen villages, the dangerous and often misty lanes, and the poor telephone coverage. There are still villages where the oldest residents have never set foot outside their own farmland and a visit to the nearest town is a major event. But it has a strange airy beauty to it, and above it all are the biggest skies you've ever seen.

Killer on the Fens Details

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Author : Joy Ellis

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From Reader Review Killer on the Fens for online ebook

Joann says

AH! Another great story in the Nikki Galena mystery series - number four. And who says you can't learn anything new from fiction mysteries? Well, I learned a lot about the British RAF and pillboxes. No, you don't put pills in the boxes. This book wasn't quite up to par with her others, I thought but I still enjoyed the writing and the author's vivid description of the Lincolnshire Fens. I got and am still confused about the criminal element in this book. There are eight books to this series and I am on a roll and might just continue till I finish them all.

Pat says

Phew these books just get better and better. I think I said that after the last one. A body is found at the bottom of a shaft or well on an old abandoned airbase on the fens. Nothing suspicious, a simple accident. But the victim's friend and drug supplier is missing as is his grandmother. DI Nikki Galena finds it all very intriguing.

She speaks to the current owner of the base, a developer, who seems a little 'off' but before she can follow up he, too, dies. This time it's clearly murder. Nikki thinks there is something really fishy about the airbase and determines to have the whole place searched. Naturally it is built on the site of an old monastery, there are tunnels and so on.

Sergeant Joe Easter is on leave. His daughter, Tamsin, has come to stay and Joe is determined to get to know her better. Nikki's father, who has been ill for some time, finally dies after imploring her to "find Eve". With nothing else to go on Nikki enlists Joe and Tamsin to go through her father's old papers to try and find reference to the elusive Eve. It turns out she worked at the base years ago. This base, thinks Nikki, seems to be the epicentre of a massive mystery. Little does she know how true this is.

Soon the base is swarming with officers and CSIs as a crypt full of bodies is discovered underground. But the killer is still on the loose and very, very dangerous. Oh, this was a joy to read. It was very gripping. I am wondering how Ms Ellis could top this, I guess I'll find out soon.

Colin Mitchell says

Nikki Galena and Joseph Easter are concerned with a young man in a ventilation shaft on the perimeter of a ww2 airfield in the fen-land. This at the time when her father, Frank Reed dies at the care home with a dying wish that Nikki looks for the mysterious Eve.

Well written and has a fast pace with a main plot a sub plot and the additional conundrum of who is Eve? There are enough twists and turns to keep interest high and you not wanting to put it down in case some innuendo is missed. It does well portrait the closeness of the families in these sometimes bleak fens.

I additionally had an personal interest as having served in the RAF and been stationed in a control tower in the fens. Recommended.

Emma says

Where to start with this review given the summary gives nothing much away. Yes, a drug dealer turns up dead, yes there is the mysterious Eve to search for. But there are also dodgy land deals, criminal gangs and the little matter of a serial killer for Nikki and her team to deal with.

The serial killer was definitely not expected when I started this book and, once I realised that was where it was heading, I had a moment where I wasn't sure if I should have picked up a copy – mainly because serial killer novels often involve more blood, guts and gore than I like in my books nowadays. Thankfully this wasn't the case and my fears were put to rest.

What I got instead was a really well written book that kept me guessing throughout. It started going down one path only to double-back and leaving me somewhere else completely. I loved this about it and I really couldn't guess where it was heading (well, apart from one storyline which kind of seemed inevitable but I will leave you to guess which).

I loved the setting too. I don't think I've read any books in the Lincolnshire Fens before and it comes across as a beautiful but somewhat spooky place – the landscape sounds remote and mysterious. It definitely added to the oppressive atmosphere as the story developed.

I really liked Nikki and the rest of her team, including her partner Joe, too. They felt very real and didn't do what detectives in some novels do which is go off with no regard for their or anyone else's safety. Dare I say they acted the way I would expect police to act? That doesn't mean they were boring – they just worked together and helped each other out.

As characters they were well developed, which may not be surprising as this is the fourth book in a series. That said, this didn't impact my enjoyment of the book as can be the case when you come to a series late because there is too much to catch up on. They had back stories (ones I'm very interested in finding out about) but they didn't overshadow this storyline. It could – and did – work as a standalone book. So something else I liked.

In fact, I can't say there was anything I disliked about this book – the story was compelling, the characters interesting and the pace just right for it to be a page turner. It's the first Joy Ellis I've read but won't be my last. I loved this book – highly recommended.

Note: I received a copy of this book in return for a fair and honest review. All thoughts, feelings and opinions are my own.

Books n All Jill Burkinshaw says

Book 4

I am very pleased I finally found time to catch up with back lists from some of my favourite authors. I first found the Fens series with *Buried on the Fens* so I can confirm that the books do work perfectly as stand alone. However, there are back stories to the characters and it is these that I was eager to learn about.

Nikki Galena has more tragedy in her life as her Dad passes away. His last request was to find Eve. Who is Eve and why was her Dad so determined that she should find him is only one question of many that Nikki has to find the answers to.

Joseph is her partner and he is trying to rebuild a relationship with his daughter Tamsin. He has been making little progress but in this book she comes to stay and Joseph has taken leave to spend time with her. But is it Joseph she wants to spend time with or is she more interested in the handsome Niall?

Now to the story. Now I really have no idea where Joy gets the ideas for these stories. Each one is totally unique and this one is no different. It revolves around an area of the Fens that is a disused military base on an area that is dangerously marshy and affected by tides. Lights and noises have been seen and heard by several people and rumour is that these are ghosts of the fens but the realistic Nikki thinks differently.

When a small time crook falls down a shaft and another youth goes missing the team are on the case to try to find out what is going on. What they find is a lot of secrets that link back to Nikki's father's past. Having to rely on a self formed group of Historical people who have secrets of their own and the team are looking through an entangled mesh of lies and secrets but what they find is so unbelievably unexpected that they are all left reeling.

This is a fast paced journey through a tangled web of lies and secrets with a liberal helping of twists, turns and dead ends that had me turning page after page. Another fantastic addition to the bestselling Nikki Galena series.

5 golden stars from me

Jen says

Killer on the Fens by Joy Ellis. I've been speeding through this series as fast as NetGalley has offered them.

A WWII abandoned air field with plenty of superstition attached, a dying father's request, the hope of reconciliation between another father and daughter, and the discovery of a crypt that will keep the medical examiner busy.

Another entertaining installment from Joy Ellis!

NetGalley/Joffe Books

Police Procedural. Aug. 5, 2016. print length: 264 pages.

Jody McGrath says

*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review *

Killer on the Fens is the 4th DI Nikki Galena mystery. This book is a riveting police procedural and even though it is the fourth in the series it works fine as a stand alone novel, because I had not previously read the other three. I probably will now though! The setting of this novel is a very remote area of the Fens and this lends a very atmospheric touch to the suspense. DI Nikki Galena's father has Alzheimer's and with his last breath says the name Eve. Earlier in a lucid moment he had yelled at Nikki to find Eve because she was a detective. Who the heck is Eve?

While trying to decipher her father's last message, Nikki also is on the case of 2 missing people. At an old WWII airfield, a young man falls down through a ventilation shaft and seriously injures himself. He is found alive, but has a great amount of drugs on him and has been self medicating with the drugs for the intense pain he is in. His grandmother and best friend have gone missing and it all seems to link back to this abandoned airfield.

This novel has a fast pace that has the reader fully engaged to the last page. The characters all seem like real people, with histories and flaws, not cardboard cutouts, therefore making the reader even more invested in the story. Nikki is written as a real woman, with a job to do, but also a life and emotions. She is so real and relatable that you can so easily emphasize with her. I think this is a terrific novel and now I am going to go order the ones I missed!

Frances says

One missing drug dealer, a half-dead junkie found in a ventilation shaft, a granny who has disappeared, is just the start of a hectic week that DI Nikki Galena's faces with more puzzles about to arrive on her doorstep. Set in the Lincolnshire Fens with dangerous marshes and farmland, there is something very strange going on that Nikki is determined to discover once the junkie regains consciousness. She desperately wants details of the strange lights and sounds taking place at an abandoned airfield near the marshes but soon discovers more than anticipated. With a good cast of characters along with an exciting and thrilling plot, Joy Ellis has written an excellent crime thriller by creating an eerie ghostly atmosphere as Nikki and her team comb the marshes and underground tunnels. Killer on the Fens #4 in a series is a standalone novel, which will keep readers well entertained with every chapter. Recommended to all readers.

** Thank you to Publisher Joffe Books Mystery and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review. **

CL says

I have read most of the DI Nikki Galena stories and each one has its own direction and is just as good a story by itself. In the story DI Galena's father has just passed away and he has asked her to find "Eve". Nikki has never heard of this mysterious Eve but knows she will search for her as it was his dying wish. A young man is discovered injured down a shaft on the Lincolnshire Fen and it is soon discovered that the reason for being there may have been a drug deal gone wrong. Most think it is haunted but as more details come to light and more bodies are discovered it soon becomes apparent that there is more going on at the Lincolnshire Fen than a haunting. Great read. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

Rachel Hall says

Killer on the Fens is the fourth book in Joy Ellis's hugely popular police procedural series set in the Lincolnshire Fens and in truth I found it amateur and unconvincing. The plot is a patchwork of ludicrously unlikely happenings - a missing drug dealer, his high as a kite friend found at the bottom of a ventilation shaft on a deserted WWII airfield (RAF Flaxton Mere), a missing granny and lead detective DI Nicki Galena's Alzheimer's suffering father asking her to find someone called 'Eve' in the throes of death. As the plot moves from one thread to the next there is little continuity and the majority of the first half reads more like a history lesson and less like a police procedural. The detail surrounding the former airfield is far too dense in a novel of 250 pages and means the reader is left no further forward in the investigation forty percent of the way through the story. Very little is done to introduce any tension into proceedings and even the locals fear of the supposedly haunted marshland airbase isn't enough to generate a menacing atmosphere.

The granny strand leads straight up a blind alley that serves no function in the story and the ball is dropped on the Eve issue, only to be pulled out of the bag and revived in the final pages. Ellis paints a picture of a location steeped in folklore where many locals have never left their villages and this only serves to make the final far-fetched ultimate scenario feel all the more laughable.

Although each novel effectively works as a standalone there is a very well-established backstory and the detectives all feel a little too comfortable and relaxed as they go about their jobs together. The bland cast struggle to emerge from the page, play far too nicely together and even enjoy coming to work and I felt rather depressingly ambivalent towards them. Given a cast that failed to make a memorable impression, the disjointed plot threads and a wacky finale I doubt I will read more in the series. Thankfully short at just 250 print pages!

Laura says

Best read in a long time!

I think she is one of the best authors I have read in a long time. I think she is up there with JD Robb and Tess Gerritson. Her characters and plot are well thought out. I've grown very fond of Nikki and Joseph and her crew. I hate it when her books end. But at least I still have a couple to read. I would, and do, recommend this book to anyone who loves to read.

Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank Netgalley and Joffe Books for a review copy of Killer On The Fens, the fourth instalment in Ms Ellis's DI Nikki Galena and DS Joe Easter series.

Nikki's father who has Alzheimer's disease dies muttering the word "Eve". In one of his more lucid moments he previously told her to do some detecting and find Eve. She has no idea where to start but is derailed from any thought of it by the discovery of a seriously injured, unidentified young man with a large stash of drugs

at the former RAF base, Flaxton Mere. When the man is identified and it is discovered that both his granny and his best friend are missing all roads lead to Flaxton Mere and some strange goings-on.

I have loved this series but Ms Ellis outdoes herself with *Killer On The Fens* which is the best so far. I am blown away by the audacity and breadth of Ms Ellis's imagination - she develops a mighty oak of a plot from some small acorns. The plot is linear, so easy to follow and logical but the twists are unexpected and very surprising. I couldn't put it down and sat up very late to finish it.

The excellent plot is complemented by great characterisation. Nikki and Joe are now fully developed. They are best friends and very supportive of each other. The hint of something more is always there but never acted on. They are nice, normal people who are smart, resourceful and dedicated to doing a good job. The arrival of Joe's daughter, Tamsin, adds a new dimension to their dynamic, keeping it fresh and interesting. I can hardly wait to see how another twist pans out in the next book.

Killer On The Fens is a complete story with a hook at the end and can be read without reading the previous novels but, as with all series you get a better understanding of the characters' evolution if you read them in order. Either way this is a great read and I heartily recommend it.

Valerie Campbell Ackroyd says

Very interesting story

Another great Nikki Galena book. I enjoy the characters on the book, descriptions of fen country and, in this book in the series, the description of an old WW2 airfield and the mysteries contained therein.

Annette says

Another fast, suspenseful story from Joy Ellis. Time for me to take a break from this series, though. I need the surprise to stick, and that takes time in between readings. Ellis has a few tricks up her sleeve and they're consistently applied -- because I like the writerly aspect to her stories, I look for the tricks. This detracts from the story. All that said, if you like a good police procedural with an isolated setting in the UK, check out the Nikki Galena series. Smart women feature throughout these books and for that I am deeply grateful to Ellis.

Paromjit says

This is an intense, atmospheric and thrilling police procedural set in the rural and isolated parts of the Lincolnshire Fens. It is the fourth in the series but the first for me, and it works as a standalone. There is a strong sense of location and history of the Fens. There are people who have never been outside the area. The Fenland Constabulary find it difficult to police thanks to the poor communications and the sheer isolation of the place. DI Nikki Galena has a troubled past and has seen the worst a person can see. Her partner is DS 'Holy Joe' Joseph Easter, an ex-soldier with an estranged daughter, Tamsin, who comes to visit. The police team find themselves in a complex, twisted and dangerous case.

Nikki's dying father, who suffered from Alzheimer's, asks her to find 'Eve'. Nikki has no idea who this

woman is and starts to dig into his past. Down a ventilation shaft, a seriously injured and drug addled man is discovered. His grandmother and best friend have gone missing and all roads leads to the disused former Fenland RAF base, Flaxton Mere. The trail takes in catacombs, a crypt, dishonest business people, buried secrets and a serial killer. It all comes incredibly close to home as Tamsin is abducted and the police team find themselves in danger. Several threads are drawn together expertly by the author.

This is a well crafted story, that is beautifully plotted. It has a fast paced narrative that ensures the reader is engaged and committed to completing the book. The characters are well drawn and developed, I liked Rory, the medical examiner's pithy wit. Cannot recommend this novel enough. Brilliant read. Many thanks to Joffe Books for an ARC.
