



## **Beautiful Death**

*Fiona McIntosh*

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## **Beautiful Death** Fiona McIntosh

A calculating killer, who 'trophies' the faces of his victims, is targeting Londoners.

Under enormous pressure from politicians and the public, DCI Jack Hawksworth and his team begin their investigation, which takes them into the murky world of human organ trading.

But when the murderer strikes closer to home than Jack could ever have imagined possible, the case becomes a personal crusade - and a race against time. Can the killer be brought to justice before Jack is removed from the operation?

From London's backstreets to the dangerous frontiers of medicine, BEAUTIFUL DEATH will keep you reading late into the night.

## **Beautiful Death Details**

Date : Published April 2009 by Harper Collins

ISBN :

Author : Fiona McIntosh

Format : Hardcover 417 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Beautiful Death for online ebook

### Jacqui says

Fiona McIntosh's main character is a male copper but acts and talks like a woman. No male copper I've ever known (and I worked with police for 10 years) sounds like him. He's a woman in drag. The main female character is meant to be a brilliant detective but spends her time mooning about the male characters. If she's brilliant, I've yet to see signs of it. I just want to slap her. The plot is off the wall and not believable. Her first 'Bye Bye Baby' (written as Lauren Crow) was okay but this one needs a strong editorial eye.

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### Brenda says

When DCI Jack Hawksworth and his team learned of the discovery of mutilated bodies where their faces had been removed, Jack was immediately put in charge of Panther, the operational group that was set with finding the psychopathic killer. The best of the best were tasked for this case; but the horrific shock Jack received on sitting in on an autopsy of the latest victim would cause much grief, heartache and anger. It was now personal – Jack would put this barbaric killer behind bars if it was the last thing he did.

As the investigation deepened and grew, those involved seemed to multiply – was it human organ trafficking which was at the bottom of these killings? Or was it something much more sinister? Jack was running against the clock – the danger was intensifying; the bodies were mounting. Would Jack and his dedicated team catch this killer before it was too late?

*Beautiful Death* by Aussie author Fiona McIntosh is a wonderfully, intense and gripping thriller! I hadn't picked it up sooner because of its length, but I'm so glad I bit the bullet and read it. And though this is #2 in the DCI Jack Hawksworth series, and I haven't read the first, it quite easily stands alone. I thoroughly enjoyed getting my teeth into this gritty crime thriller and I recommend it highly.

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### Diana Hockley says

Detective Jack Hawksworth of New Scotland Yard has been the main feature in a previous novel, *Bye Bye Baby*, remnants of which are referred to in this excellently written and exciting second appearance of the character.

Someone has been taking the faces of corpses - and kidneys as well - and dumping the bodies at the side of the canal. The inevitable nosy dog turns up and uncovers the first of the deaths, but then a catastrophe.

Jack is having an affair with the beautiful Lily whose traditional Chinese family is pushing her to marry an eminent surgeon who just happens to be a "plastic" specialist...

Hawksworth's team is well depicted, the characters finely drawn and believable. The tension mounts as the crooks decide to jump ship, and Jack is presented with an interesting surprise at the end, one which neither he nor I saw coming.

No spoilers!

This book is well worth reading and is a credit to its author, whom I sincerely hope is spinning the next "Jack" saga!

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### **Margaret says**

I love it when I find a new author and a new character.

The character is DCI Jack Hawksworth of New Scotland Yard.

"Beautiful Death" is the second book in the series, but doesn't leave you out of your depth as the author refers back to the previous book just enough to let you know what is going on, but not so much as to be annoying.

The plot revolves around corpses found with organs missing and their faces removed. Is this to stop identification... or is it much more sinister than that?

When someone near to Jack becomes a victim, the clock is ticking on which comes first - the capture of the culprit or Jack being removed from the case.

Fast paced, well plotted, well written and packed with witty repartee, "Beautiful Death" is damn near all I could want in a crime novel.

Highly recommended.

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### **Kate Bolton says**

I have been waiting to read this since I finished the first book in this series and I was not disappointed!

This was a story full of suspense, interesting characters and mystery (although I am not known for being able to pick 'whodunit'!). I enjoyed the fact that I got to know some of the main characters a bit better in this story and enjoyed the fact that their personal lives were intertwined with the murder mystery.

Some of the characters were still resolving issues that arose in the first book, although reading it first would not be a prerequisite for reading this one, but I will be interested to see if they have got past some of these in the next installment of 'Jack Hawksworth' to grow further as likeable characters.

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### **Olwen says**

Dead bodies are being found in London with their kidneys removed as well the skin on their faces. DCI Jack Hawksworth and his team race to catch the serial killer the Press have dubbed "The Face Thief."

Having read one of Fiona McIntosh's fantasy books and one of her historical romances, I don't think this genre is her strongest, and it doesn't surprise me that she hasn't continued this series in close on 10 years. Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading both *Beautiful Death* and its predecessor, *Bye Bye Baby*.

**Elise says**

Not quite as gripping as the first, but still enough twists and turns to make me appreciate the exceptional talent it takes to keep a reader captivated right until the last page. Hopefully this isn't the last we hear from DCI Jack Hawksworth

## **Tsvetelina Stambolova-Vasileva says**

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**Robyn says**

## **Beautiful Death by Fiona McIntosh**

Different to other books I have read by this author, *Beautiful Death*, captured me with its intriguing plot from the first page and continued to excite me until the end.

## **Sandy Vaile says**

It took me a while to get into the story, possibly because its parts didn't come together for a while, but once charming Jack came on the scene, I was hooked. There was lots of police investigation, with a kidnapping and exciting race to save Kate's life. The ending has a hook which links it to the first in the Jack Hawksworth series 'Bye Bye Baby' (a 5 star read!) and leads onto the next book.

The editing in this eBook left a lot to be desired, but don't let it put you off one of my favourite authors.

**Karen says**

Now a little housekeeping before we go too far. Beautiful Death is the second DCI Jack Hawksworth book,

published under the author's real name of Fiona McIntosh. The first, *Bye Bye Baby*, was published under the pseudonym Lauren Crow. Fiona is a well known Fantasy writer in Australia, and these two books are her first foray into crime fiction.

DCI Jack Hawksworth has a good working relationship with his team - they are a close group who have worked together on dreadful cases before. The team, and his superiors are more than used to Jack getting the personal and the professional deeply entwined, as happens again in **BEAUTIFUL DEATH**.

There's a strange serial killer in London. He seems to be selecting a wide range of victims, with no obvious connections between them. The strangest thing of all is the way that the victims have had organs removed, and their faces trophied. Human organ trading seems the only possible conclusion as the removal appears to have been done with considerable skill, but the face mutilation is still very strange - particularly as two of his victims are newly arrived illegal immigrants. Why would you want to obscure their identities? Public and political pressure increases with every new victim, but the personal intrudes even more dramatically for Jack when he sees something about one of the victim's that shocks him to his core.

There are a lot of elements that are similar in both Hawksworth books - romantic tension, unrequited love, Jack's personal life being hopelessly (and dangerously) entangled in the current investigation and another one of those open ended "see our next instalment" type endings. The crimes themselves are somewhat unique, although this is a serial killer with a substantially different motive to most - ultimately, it's a slightly mad person with an obsession. I'm sorry to say it's not hard to pick the perpetrator, despite a pretty carefully laid out trail of alternatives and red herrings, and the motive is flagged pretty early on. Combine that with the level of personal involvement yet again of Jack and I was really disappointed in this book, which just seemed more of the same old same old from the first book. Definitely the level of knowledge of the author of the central subject matter - cranio-facial surgery shone through, and there were small sprinklings of that throughout the book that proved quite interesting. Unfortunately there was just too much personal angst, personal involvement, loves lost and love lies bleeding for this reader. Perhaps this book will appeal more to people who like that level of romance and personal angst in their crime fiction, perhaps it might work really well for anybody who hasn't read the first book and isn't seeing the same themes emerge. Notwithstanding, if there's a third book, I'd give it a try as the first one appealed, if not simply because it was good storytelling.

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### **Sandie says**

Bodies are turning up in London. Their condition is particularly repellent; the faces have been completely removed along with their kidneys. Is this a psychopath? Someone selling organs on the black market?

DCI Jack Hawksworth is called upon to head up the team investigating the case. He pulls together members such as Kate, who have worked with him before, and a translator since several of the bodies appear to have been those of illegal immigrants. But Jack is blindsided the moment he takes over the case. The latest victim is his lover, Lily. Their romance has been brief and fated to end soon as Lily is about to marry the man her Chinese family has selected for her. But Jack and Lily's affair blazed hotly, and he is heartstruck when he recognizes her body on the coroner's table.

The murders continue to pile up and the pressure on the team to produce results increases accordingly. Can they find out who is committing these murders in time to save more victims?

This is the second in the Jack Hawksworth series. The pace is brisk but the police procedures are well researched and documented. There is a twist at the end that most won't see coming. This is the first mystery I've read by McIntosh, although I've read and loved some of her fantasy before. This book is recommended for mystery readers.

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### **Sue says**

Really liked it. Yep there were a few holes and annoyances but it was a good storyline. I worked it out early but that didn't detract from the build of trying to solve the murders where faces and skin were disappearing at an alarming rate. Our head Detective can be annoying as he always falls for the dangerous girl and ends up in hot water bc of it. The set up for the next book melded in very nicely. Enjoyable holiday read, enough to want to read the next one.

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### **Sonja says**

Didn't realize that when I read this, that it wasn't a stand alone book. It turned out to be better than I thought....I struggled at the beginning...pretty slow and mild compared to other thriller type books. Still enjoyable though.

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### **Louise Payne says**

#### **Couldn't put it down!**

Another great book by Fiona McIntosh, kept me on the edge of my seat, leading me a dance full of intrigue, twisting & turning from page to page. I love the way she develops each character alongside the plot. Can't wait to read the sequel....please, please!

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