



Breaking Dead

Corrie Jackson

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For fans of Kimberley Chambers and *The Cuckoo's Calling*, this compelling crime novel uncovers the dark side of high fashion.

Sophie Kent is hanging on by a thread. Her tenacity and talent have seen her rise through the ranks of a tough newspaper industry. But her brother's suicide has thrown her career and personal life into chaos.

Whilst out on the job interviewing witnesses of a brutal child murder, Sophie befriends a beautiful but traumatised Russian model. When the girl's mutilated body turns up in an upmarket hotel on the eve of London Fashion Week, Sophie knows she could have saved her. Eaten away by guilt, she throws herself headfirst into the edgy, fast-paced world of fashion with one goal in mind: to catch the killer. Only then can she piece her grief-stricken self back together. As she chips away at the industry's glittery surface, she uncovers a toxic underworld rife with drugs, secrets, prostitution and blackmail.

The investigation propels Sophie from the glamour of the catwalk to London's darkest corners, towards a sinister past and a twenty-year-old murder case that could hold the key. Battling her demons and her wealthy, dysfunctional family along the way, Sophie pushes her personal problems to one side as she goes head to head with a crazed killer; a killer who is only just getting started...

Breaking Dead Details

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From Reader Review *Breaking Dead* for online ebook

Liz Barnsley says

First of all big thumbs up to Sophie Kent. Deliciously well drawn, intriguing, drags you along with her in her wake as she enters the murky world hiding under the seemingly glamorous fashion industry and she has an emotive and engaging back story. So right there with *Breaking Dead* you are already onto a winner...

Then on top of that you get a pacy, intelligent and bang on thriller, darkly observant and grimly realistic that has the added benefit of being a real page turner – I barely drew breath through this one, a rocking read first page to last. I probably inhaled some caffeine at some point but one afternoon and this was done. No messing. You won't put it down unless someone forces you to do something useful. I'm not usually terribly useful anyway but any hope that my loved ones had that I might make some dinner or something soon faded when they took a look at me. "Mums got her reading face on" was the comment from my 8 year old.

I loved the layers Corrie Jackson put in, the little descriptive things that built such a gutsy picture, sometimes heart wrenching, walking the line between keeping it real and keeping it entertaining really well. This is one of those books you put down and go YAY another author to add to the must read list. Or in my case, Oh God really? whilst glaring at the randomly strewn book piles everywhere. Still, roll on book two. After all there is no such thing as too many (brilliant) books. As an aside Twenty7 seems to be finding an awful lot of them. Not had a bad read from them yet.

A big tick in ye olde recommendation box from me.

Asia says

3,5/5

Nie by?o tragedii! Ba, nawet ?le nie by?o!

Dziennikarka Sophie Kent jest na tropie afery w brytyjskim ?wiecie mody. Ginie jedna z modelek, podejrzanych jest mnóstwo, do tego dostajemy jeszcze wzmianki o ?yciu prywatnym i rodzinie Sophie (tutaj te? kryje si? kilka tajemnic i mam wra?enie, ?e wiele si? wyja?ni w drugiej ksi??ce z tej serii). Nie ukrywam, ?e pierwsze kilkadziesiat stron sp?dzi?am na zastanawianiu si?, czy na obiad nast?pnego dnia zrobi? mielo?czaki, czy schaboszczaki, albo duma?am nad tym, kiedy ?mieciarze wywo?? frakcj? such?. No zupe?nie nie potrafi?am si? wci?gn??! Ale potem nagle co? zrobi?o KLIK, akcja nabra?a tempa i reszt? powie?ci po?kn??am w jeden dzie?. Nie jestem specjaln? mi?o?niczk? krymina?ów, w których zagadki rozwi?zuj? ?ledczy/dziennikarze i inni Rutkowsky, ale posta? Sophie przypad?a mi do gustu i jestem ciekawa jej dalszych losów, wi?c licz?, ?e Wydawnictwo Wab wprowadzi na nasz rynek równie? drug? cz??? (blurb z wersji angloj?yzycznej zdecydowanie zach?ca!).

Mairead Hearne (swirlandthread.com) says

Breaking Dead is the debut novel from Corrie Jackson. Published by Twenty7, an imprint of Bonnier Zaffre Publishing, *Breaking Dead* was released in Kindle Edition before the Summer. It is now due to be released in paperback format early in September.

I received my copy from NetGalley and Bonnier Zaffre in exchange for my honest review. I do hope you enjoy!!

The Blurb:

'Breaking Dead is the first book in a compelling crime series starring investigative journalist, Sophie Kent.

Sophie's tenacity and talent have seen her rise through the ranks of a tough newspaper industry, but her brother's suicide has thrown her career and personal life into chaos.

Whilst interviewing witnesses of a brutal child murder, Sophie befriends a traumatised Russian model. When the girl's mutilated body turns up in an upmarket hotel on the eve of London Fashion Week, Sophie knows she could have saved her.

Eaten away by guilt, she throws herself headfirst into the edgy, fast-paced world of fashion with one goal in mind: to catch the killer. Only then can she piece her grief-stricken self back together.

As Sophie chips away at the industry's glittery surface, she uncovers a toxic underworld rife with drugs, secrets, prostitution and blackmail. The investigation propels Sophie from the glamour of the catwalk to London's darkest corners, towards a sinister past and a twenty-year-old murder case that could hold the key.

Battling her demons and her wealthy, dysfunctional family along the way, Sophie pushes her personal problems to one side as she goes head to head with a crazed killer.

A killer who is only just getting started...

'Liquorice was my Daddy's favourite. He always gave me a twist of liquorice when he finished touching me'

A creepy opening to a brilliantly executed but deeply disturbing read.

Breaking Dead is a book that took me quite by surprise. The writing is unbelievably that of a debut author. Corrie Jackson has written an exciting heart-racing read about investigative journalist, Sophie Kent. Sophie works for The London Herald. Sophie was reared in an affluent home but was deprived of the love and affection of her parents,

'Ours was always a fractured relationship. Affection had been in short supply in Antony Kent's childhood. His own father had steel running through his veins, so he grew up equating emotion with weakness.'

As a result, Sophie has always strived to be the best she can, forever proving herself in a world dominated by men. Recently returned to work, following the apparent suicide of her younger brother Tommy, Sophie seems intent on messing up her career, barreling into crime scenes with no agenda in her head.

One day everything changes. A chance encounter with a Russian model, Natalia Kotov, leads Sophie down into the underworld of the modelling industry. After befriendng Natalia and hoping to scoop a big story about the seedy side of modelling, Sophie gets more than she bargained for. Natalia's body is discovered degraded and mutilated in a hotel bedroom and Sophie is set on a very dangerous course of investigation.

'The memory made me light-headed and I sank onto the bed. Being surrounded by Natalia's things, the

minutiae of her life, weighed me down with sadness.'

Sophie begins an almost personal crusade to get to the core of what happened to Natalia. She exposes herself to many dangers and discovers a darker world she never knew existed.

Her actions put her life in serious danger. She seems to be capable of getting in the door of anywhere, with her forthright attitude and disregard for her own personal safety.

But will Sophie take it one step too far?

Corrie Jackson has written a brilliantly detailed story about damaged and very twisted individuals. Her insider knowledge of the forensics and post mortem details are excellent, almost to the point where you can feel the strong emotions and get the smell of fear and death off the pages.

I read this book with my heart thumping as I flipped to each page. The book is fast paced and an absolute thrill to read. I look forward to the next book in this series and am quite excited to see where Corrie Jackson will take us next.

Most recently I have read thrillers told from the police perspective, this time we get the view from the journalist, giving a very different angle to a crime thriller. I highly recommend *Breaking Dead* if you are looking for great crime read that will set your blood pumping and your heart racing!!.

Please do pick up a copy and let me know what you think!!

Who is Corrie Jackson?

Corrie Jackson has been a journalist for thirteen years. She has worked at Harpers Bazaar, The Daily Mail, Grazia and Glamour and has also written for The Times and Sunday Times Style.

In 2013 Corrie left her role as Assistant Editor at Glamour to move to Los Angeles with her husband's job, where she took time out to write her debut novel.

She recently returned to the UK and now lives in Surrey, where she has just had her second child and is working on her second book.

Paromjit says

This is an engaging and absorbing read by a debut author where we encounter the not so glamorous world of modelling. The side very few talk about. Sophie is a complex, tortured and guilt ridden journalist with fraught relations with her well off family. Her brother has committed suicide which is tearing her apart. To top it all, she is having an affair with her very married editor at the London Herald. Not a good idea.

Sophie encounters a Russian model, Natalia, on a estate who later informs her that she was raped but not by whom. When Natalia is murdered in a hotel room, Sophie investigates, determined to discover what happened. This plunges her into the murky and dark underworld of modelling that includes prostitution, drugs, debt and the invidious pressures to lose weight and get ever thinner. On this twisted and increasingly dangerous trail, Sophie comes across further murders.

Grief and loss haunt this story and its main character. In a well constructed novel, the author keeps us gripped right up until the end. I understand that this is the first of a series, I look forward to reading the next one. Many thanks to Bonnier for an ARC via netgalley.

Christine says

I cannot say that I am in any way interested in the glamorous life of fashion and models. London fashion week doesn't even register on my horizon. Yet Corrie Jackson cunningly made me fall into the world of Sophie Kent and want to know more. This is a place where hidden beneath a veneer of glamour, there is pain, suffering and a whole lot of devilish goings on. Breaking Dead is one that you should definitely be looking out for in bookshops!

The story follows journalist Sophie Kent as she starts to delve in the life of a model. It is London Fashion week and there is a killer, in their midst. Sophie is grieving for the loss of her brother. She is hurting emotionally, full of a sense of guilt and emptiness. This does not stop her trying to seek answers and justice for the murdered girl, she knew briefly.

Corrie Jackson's Breaking Dead totally delighted me. I felt like I was reading something different, something intelligent with a terrible dark side that captivated me. This is a world where underage girls are sexualized, addicted to substances and exploited by an entire industry. It is the perfect setting for crime and evil. I absolutely loved Sophie, her undiluted pain and the way she doggedly follows the clues. She deserves another outing or two. There was great insight into journalism and door stepping members of the public. I could feel the realism of the newsroom. Plus Sophie's teasing relationship with the Police amused me.

Action packed and poignant, Breaking Dead puts grit into the glamorous world of fashion. Definitely one to pick up if you want your crime with a touch of glam, on these cold winter nights! Recommended.

Clare O'Beara says

First in a series about a journalist, Sophie Kent, in England. The protagonist investigates a death connected to fashion models and the high-pressure gossipy twittering world they inhabit. Her personal life is something of a mess, which does deepen her as a character but doesn't necessarily make us like her. She's certainly resourceful and her handbag contains everything but the kitchen sink.

I couldn't get over how much everyone talked to this journalist they didn't know, about people they did know, including their bosses and their model clients, in the midst of trouble. I was also very surprised that a crime journalist is shown as not knowing what the deep web is; really? The detail is well layered and we see perhaps more exploitation in the fashion world than we'd wish. Sometimes it's better not to know how the magic is made. Let's find out where Sophie casts her eye in the next book.

I read an ARC from Net Galley. This is an unbiased review.

Linda Strong says

Sophie Kent is a journalist in the middle of a crisis. Her beloved brother committed suicide and she's still trying to have some kind of closure. She's having an affair with a married man .. her boss, no less. And she's smart enough to know this is not doing her job any good. She doesn't sleep, even when she's drinking to excess.

When the tortured body of a model is found the night before London Fashion Week begins, Sophie recognizes her as someone she interviewed shortly before her death. Now she's feeling guilty and swears she's going to find who did this.

What she finds in her investigation is the gritty, sordid world of modeling. The industry is drowning in drugs, both legal and illegal, prostitution, blackmail, lies and secrets. When a second model, and then a third, are viciously slaughtered, Sophie pushes her personal issues away and finds herself in more danger than she thought possible.

Sophie, as a character, is multi-layered. Coming from a rich family who don't understand her need to be out on the streets, they are always butting heads. Her father is emotionally distant, more so after the death of his son. Sophie carries her anger ..and her feeling of guilt ... as a cloak.

Her boss has bent over backwards trying to keep Sophie from crossing that invisible line that journalists must be aware of. Sophie does it her way .. which jeopardizes the very thing that keeps her somewhat grounded.

The lead investigator and Sophie are working sort of in tandem they have shared information and of course, Sophie can go places and do things that law enforcement cannot. They don't come to blows, but there are choice words thrown at each other when things really get out of hand.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of Sophie Kent ... I'd like to follow her trail to see how she fares.

My thanks to the author / Bonnier Publishing / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Joanne Robertson says

So Kindle is now charged (honestly who doesn't take their Kindle charger to bed with them?!) and I'm now able to bring you my full review of *Breaking Dead* which, you may have seen earlier, I thought was absolutely brilliant! I have to firstly thank Mairead, who blogs at Swirls and Threads, for pointing me in the direction of this book as I had previously thought it possibly wasn't for me but how wrong was I? I don't know what I was expecting but it certainly wasn't this strongly plotted, brilliantly character driven crime thriller with a difference. The difference being that Sophie Kent, who takes a personal interest in a horrific murder investigation, is not a police officer but a journalist. And a journalist with a difference who will do whatever it takes to get her story but does it while maintaining the trust of all she connects with. She isn't perfect, far from it, as she is dealing with a personal loss that is constantly with her and she has the most messed up love life I've come across recently!

This is a very hard hitting book, quite graphic in places and has some quite upsetting scenes at times. The setting of the modelling world isn't the glamorous world we see in the fashion magazines but a very dark

and disturbing behind-the-scenes look at a world where very young women are thrown in at the sleazy end where money, sex and drugs rule. And heaven forbid they eat! When Sophie meets Natalia while investigating a murder on the estate she lives on, she realises straight away that she is hiding something from her. The more she digs, the more terrified the young Russian model gets. Then a series of murders lead Sophie to follow the trail of a sadistic and cunning killer but is she putting others at risk with her diligent detection or even herself?

For me what made this book rise head and shoulders above others was Sophie herself. I just loved her attitude and her honesty which combined to make her one of the most endearing heroines I have ever met. She was flawed and impulsive but she never gave up in her request for the truth. That doesn't mean that she always played by the rules and the line between her personal and private life was constantly crossed but this is, essentially, a journalist with a heart. I just loved her and now I can't wait to meet her again as the ending of *Breaking Dead* leads me to believe that we may not have heard the last of the London Herald's rogue reporter! And if the plot is going to be the one I'm expecting then I just can't wait!!

Corrie Jackson has done a whole heap of in-depth investigating herself here and this storyline is packed full of interesting and detailed descriptions to show that she's researched the hell out of this! Having read her bio, I can see that she's probably used a lot of her background in fashion journalism to create an intensely competitive fictional environment for Sophie to prowl around and it has worked perfectly.

A well deserved 5 star review for this debut novel and highly recommended by me.

I received a copy of this book via netgalley in return for an unbiased review.

Susan says

This is the first novel in a new crime series, featuring investigative reporter Sophie Kent. Sophie works for The London Herald and, from the beginning, we are thrust into the very underbelly of London life, with her being called to the murder of a young boy on an estate. While looking for witnesses, Sophie meets a young, Russian model called Natalia. It is obvious that Natalia has been hurt by someone and Sophie, unable to get her to talk, arranges to meet her later. Eventually, Natalia admits that she has been raped, but refuses to name her accuser.

It is London Fashion Week and, when a model is found murdered in a hotel room, it turns out to be Natalia. Already grief stricken over the death of her brother a few months previously, Sophie sets out to find out who killed the young woman she tried to help. What evolves is a trek through the less than glamorous fashion world, with the pressure of staying thin and getting thinner, getting jobs and climbing out of debt and the constant spectre of drugs.

This is a debut novel and it is obvious that the author is finding her feet and that of her character. Sophie is a determined, but damaged character. From a wealthy family, she has rejected the world of her parents and struggles to the death of her brother to the point of despair. At times, this constant, visceral grief made for uncomfortable reading; although it made better sense near the end of the novel. Also, sometimes the author is in danger of adding more when a little less would work better. So, the sun is 'buttery,' the air, 'fizzes with promise,' and Sophie takes a, 'long, golden breath.' That said, the story and setting is good enough that you can forgive the author wanting to throw everything at a first book and I feel sure that I will continue reading this series. Lastly, I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, for review.

Emma Mitchell says

Wow!

Sophie Kent is one of the best characters I have had the pleasure of reading in a long time and knowing that this is the first book about her is just brilliant!

While investigating the murder of a teenage boy in a London estate, Sophie meets Natalia, a young girl who's in a bit of a bad way. Sophie's journalistic senses prick up and she knows there is something going on with this young model so she tries to befriend her. A few days later, Sophie receives a text message, follows the instructions and finds Natalie's dead body in a posh hotel room, leading Sophie to make a promise to herself not to rest until her killer is caught.

This is not your typical crime thriller, it is fresh, bold and brazenly original. Every police procedural fan in the world knows what a hindrance those pesky journalists are to the investigations of our favourite coppers but not now. Now I have a whole lot of respect for them. Jackson has shown us a whole new world and my gosh, what a world it is!

From the first page to the last, *Breaking Dead* is gritty, nerve-tingling and completely relentless. The pace does not give up at all; it is truly breath-taking! As the story unfolds, we are shown the murky world of modelling, Jackson literally scratches the surface to uncover a world of sex, drugs and murder and discovers that there is literally no one she can trust. Everyone has a secret and there is no second guessing in this book at all!

I love the relationship Sophie has with the police. It's a really refreshing angle to see the police actually working with a journalist and the journalist actually helping the police too. It has always seemed to me that the two should "work" together but, reading crime books they always seem to clash, most often with negative outcomes for both sides.

Jackson's writing is easy to follow, the plots are thick and twisted, intelligent and imaginative and *Breaking Dead* is a perfect example of how to write a debut novel. I cannot wait to see what else she has in store for us!

I'd like to thank the publishers and Net Galley for providing me with a copy in exchange for my honest review.

Linda Boa says

A great character in *Sophie Kent*, a journalist investigating the abuse of models by powerful industry figures. I read the last 1/3 at top speed, desperate to find out who "the baddies" were. If you enjoy reading about the fashion industry, and heart-stopping crime fiction, this is the novel for you. Despite the sordid - in some places - subject matter, it's a fast, entertaining novel of our times. Sophie is a heroine to root for (even though she's got the luck of the devil!) Very much looking forward to the next novel!

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

„Fashion Victim” to niby typowy, klasycznie napisany thriller, ale widać, że Corrie Jackson dzięki swojemu wrażliwemu doświadczeniu w modowej branży dobrze wie, o czym pisze i dzięki temu zgrabnie połączyła dziennikarsko-modową rzeczywistość z brutalną, przerysowaną fikcją literacką. Światła reflektorów, bezlitosne, wymuszone uśmiechy, błyski fleszy i... zbrodnia! To świetna, odprężająca lektura dla miłośników gatunku, a zwiastowaniem czegoś jest fakt, że to dopiero początek kryminalnej serii z dreszczykiem o Sophie Kent.

Ludka says

Thriller jak dla mnie to to nie byle, ale całkiem fajne, zwłaszcza rozwijanie.

Anna says

Szukasz kryminału, który wciągnie Cię od pierwszych stron, zachwyci i przerazi Cię jednocześnie, a to wszystko opowiedziane z punktu widzenia amerykańcej stereotypy głównej bohaterki? Dobrze, że tu jesteście. Bo *Breaking Dead* (w polskim tłum. *Fashion Victim*) jest właśnie tak? Książka?

Wszystko zaczyna się z wysokiego "c" - brutalne morderstwo w nieciekawej dzielnicy. Dziennikarka śledcza o nieciekawej, trudnej przeszłości, Sophie Kent próbuje znaleźć świadków zbrodni w pobliskim hotelu. Tam trafia na ładną pikną Natalię - rosyjską, początkującą modelkę, która w Londynie chce rozwijać karierę, a w domu le zostawiła za sobą biedę i brak perspektyw. Dziewczyna jest wyraźnie zaniepokojona, na jej ciele Sophie dostrzega ślady świadczące o przemocy lub gwałcie. Jej dziennikarski nos jest wyczulony na takie sygnały. Spotyka się z dziewczyną, by poznać jej historię, ale gdy modelka zostaje zamordowana, Kent rozpoczyna poszukiwania mordercy.

Breaking Dead to jedna z tych książek, które błyskawicznie się rozkręcają, a później gnają na pełnej szybie i wcale nie zwalniają tempa. Byłam pewna, że w końcu akcja się załame, poziom spadnie, ale nic z tego. Gnaliśmy dalej i dalej, nowi świadkowie i podejrzani, kolejne przesłuchania i poszlaki. W między czasie poznajemy historię Sophie, pochodzącą z dość bogatej rodziny, mającą za sobą wiele traumatycznych przeżyć. Sophie jest piękna, nerwowa, ale jednocześnie twarda i bezwzględna. To jedna z tych kobiet, które nigdy nie odpuszczają, podnoszą się za każdym razem, gdy upadają, jeszcze silniejsze, jeszcze mądrzejsze. To bohaterka amerykańca wszelkie stereotypy - w swojej twardości nie jest "męska", nie zbliża się do typowych bohaterów kryminałów, policjantów, detektywów czy dziennikarzy, zazwyczaj pełni męskiej, którzy po trupach idą do rozwiązania zagadki. Ma momenty słabości, sięga do problemów, które można zakwalifikować jako typowo kobiece, ale to tylko sprawia, że jest bardziej żywa i realistyczna. Samo zakończenie robi z człowiekiem coś, co tylko najlepsi są w stanie zrobić - pytanie o drugi tom nasuwa się samoistnie. Ja nie mogłam się doczekać. A do tego czasu mogłam Was tylko namawiać do sięgnięcia po tę pozycję.

Thebooktrail says

Booktrail the locations here

I can't claim to know a lot about the fashion world But I've never thought it was all glam and glitz. Well, this just proves it. Blimey I've just never read a crime novel like this set in the fashion world.

This was just a really unique read and gave a really fresh addition to gripping crime fiction. Some very dark dark scenes and themes in this book but never to the extent that they're there just for the shock value. Everything in this novel fits well together and adds something to the overall story.

Sophie Kent is a great character and I already feel as if I want to see and read her about her again. There's a lot more to come from her and it's a cracking plot she's involved with this time - very grimly and grisly realistic. There was a lot to this novel and I will definitely be putting Corrie on the crime radar and on the TBR pile future reads.
