



Dark Of The Moon

P.J. Parrish

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A man born to a black mother and white father returns home to Black Pool, Mississippi, to be with his dying mother. Taking a temporary job with the sheriff's department, he investigates a murder and lynching that is tearing the town apart. In the process, he must confront racial prejudices. A promising debut.--Publishers Weekly.

Dark Of The Moon Details

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From Reader Review Dark Of The Moon for online ebook

Chenise says

First line: "The naked trees snaked upward, black capillaries against a bleached, predawn sky.

Louis Kincaid and I go way, way back. I discovered this series after I found the second book of the series (*Dead of Winter*) in a big box full of other mass market paperbacks that my grandpa had amassed. I'm pretty sure that this was at the beginning of what would become a long phase of me only reading detective fiction novels (other binged authors besides P.J. Parrish included Kathy Reichs, James Patterson, and Lisa Gardner to name a few). I was immediately hooked and went on to retrieve and read all the sequels from the library. I had never actually read, *Dark of the Moon*, the first book in the series, so when I saw that it, and all its sequels, were available on Amazon through thrift shops, I immediately bought them in order to have an epic binge/rebinge.

Detective Louis Kincaid has always been one of my favourite characters. He's a young, biracial cop, born in Mississippi, who had an absent, alcoholic black mother and a white father who took off soon after he was born. Shortly after, he was placed in a foster home with white parents up north, in Michigan. He's a very good cop, tenacious in his quests to find justice for the victims of his cases. He's always been a character you want to root for and one you trust to do his very best.

In *Dark of the Moon*, Louis returns back to his hometown of Black Pool, Mississippi, to work an investigation that delves heavily into the racism that still dominated the southern US. A unique feature of this series is that it starts in 1983, so the racial tension still seems very much like a legitimate threat.

The story is very compelling, with plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader glued to the story. The mystery is intriguing, and the topics explored through that scope will no doubt be cause for introspection and thinking about how racism is still persistent in the 2010s. I only wish that the ending had been a little tighter. Justice is mostly met but there are several characters who go unpunished. There are so many despicable, racist assholes in this story that I wanted Louis to nail every single one them.

Susan says

This is the first of the, so far, two mysteries staring Louis Kincaid. Louis has come back to Black Pool, Mississippi because his mother is dying. His law enforcement education and experience gets him the job as the first inspector in Black Pool's sheriff's office. But, he got the job over the phone and the sheriff didn't know he was black because he didn't 'sound' black. His first case is a discovery of bones with the lynching rope still attached. Both this book and the second one are just excellently written, finely crafted stories. I understand that Parrish's third is due out this Fall and I'm eagerly looking forward to it.

Jennifer says

I'm having a hard time deciding between two and three stars. I had a very hard time with the language but enjoyed the flow of the story and most of the characters. I won't be reading any more of this series because of

the language, such a bummer.

Linda says

I HAD READ SEVERAL IN THIS SERIES AND WHAT HAPPENED IN FIRST BOOK WAS ALWAYS MENTIONED. NOT AVAILABLE FOR KINDLE SO I FOUND A PAPERBACK AND ORDERED. IT WAS WORTH IT. VERY GOOD BOOK.

Gina says

Incredible!

It's 1983, and Louis Kincaid has returned to Black Pool, Mississippi, by request, as his mother is dying. Hired as the county detective might have been a step up for him, but Kincaid is half-black, half-white, and had they known that, he most definitely wouldn't have been hired.

As a skeleton is exposed, Kincaid is on the hunt: he wants to know who it was so that his/her remains can be put to rest. But as Kincaid digs, his investigation goes beyond that: and 30-year-old case of a missing fifteen-year-old black boy is a clue in the right direction, but is it prudent to continue investigating?

The more he digs, the more complicated the case gets, and soon Kincaid is unsure of who he can trust and what he should do. Should he leave it alone and let the past remain where it is, or should he seek justice while everyone is pushing Kincaid to keep his mouth shut.

The book had me intrigued right from the beginning. I mean, you read history books and watch movies and documentaries, but unless you've lived it, you don't really understand why everything was like that back then. I thought the authors did an awesome job bring the past to life, what it was like back then, how people held things against you simply because of the colour of your skin. I'd love to say I'm glad times have changed, but sometimes I don't know if they've changed all that much, or for the better either.

I thought the mystery intriguing and had a very hard time putting the book down. I simply wanted to know why. The why of it all. And while there is one left pretty much unpunished, I felt very much like Kincaid. I'm glad he got to the bottom of it, and I felt bad for everything he'd been put through.

The characters are believable, even if you don't want them to be; even if you don't want to imagine that people can be that cruel. And I believe Kincaid was right - had it been any other time, I think he and Abby could have had something. Great mystery, great characters, great action and sequence of events. You could feel the pain the characters live/have lived, and I adore it when an author/authors can do that to a reader. Can't wait to get my hands on the second in this series!

Alan says

A good mystery and kept me wanting to keep reading. Twists and turns to keep your interest and make you want to find out how it will end.

Ayny says

I read the Kincaid books later in the series already. Wasn't sure if I should read the series in reverse or not. Decided to start at the beginning and discover how character developed over the years.

Story reminded me of James Lee Burke's books, as it took place in the US south.

After reading the blurbs for the next few, Except for Dead of Winter, I have decided to skip those that take place in Florida. I like the setting in Michigan especially. Good thriller.

Scott Rhee says

The American South has probably been ruined for me by the (more than likely false) stereotypes of Southern culture in movies, TV shows, and books. When I think "the South", I will probably always envision unbearable heat and humidity, sweaty overweight men in white suits hand-fanning themselves and drinking lemonade on a porch, incomprehensible English dialects, and slavery. I know, it's wrong, but what are prejudices for if not to be challenged or disproven?

The only time I have ever been to the South was a two-day visit to Savannah, Georgia. It was a beautiful city, from what I saw, and it certainly didn't exhibit any of the afore-mentioned preconceptions, with the exception of the heat and humidity. It was a bit of a cognitive dissonance for me, and an eye-opening experience. I do not honestly believe that all Southerners are lazy, unintelligent, and racist. No more than Northerners, I suppose. The truth is, of course, that stereotypes have some basis in truth, and the stereotypes of Southern institutionalized racism, while slightly unfair, exist for a reason.

The issue of racism among Southerners in the 21st century has, sadly, been raised due to a few unfortunate and embarrassing current events that managed to make national and international news. One was the discovery that the state of Mississippi only recently (within the past year), apparently, abolished statutes allowing slavery from their state charter. (The excuse? Oh, they forgot to do years ago...) Another was news of some Southern high school students protesting their own senior proms for having segregated proms---in 2013. (School boards and administrators were actually defending and justifying their racist policies.) And, finally, of course, the biggest news was poor ol' Paula Dean, who lost her TV show, contracts with the Food network, and good standing because she said the word "nigger". I'll be honest, I felt for Paula Dean. I don't believe that she is a horrible person, and I don't believe that she deserved the treatment that she received, but I also think her statements that there are "appropriate" and "inappropriate" times to use the word "nigger" indicate a slightly weird (Southern) cultural, um, (for lack of a better word) stupidity. That Dean (and other Southerners) honestly believe that it's occasionally okay to say "nigger" is, well, fucked up. IT IS NEVER OKAY TO SAY THE WORD "NIGGER". Unless, of course, you are Mark Twain.

Granted, words have power, and sometimes we give words (like "nigger") too much power. Comedian Lenny Bruce believed that derogatory terms were derogatory because they were associated with hatred and feelings of racist superiority. Eliminate the hatred and racism behind the derogatory words and they just became harmless words. Bruce had a good point. But how do you eliminate racism from an inherently racist word? Better yet: how do you eliminate racism?

It's ridiculous to believe that racism no longer exists today. All you have to do is watch the evening news,

local and national, to see that race is still a major issue. Still, for many, there is a belief that ours is somehow a more enlightened time. After all, we elected a black President. Twice. But most of us know that there is a lot of denial involved. Just ask Paula Dean.

All of this is just a rambling intro to my review of P.J. Parrish's excellent 1999 debut novel "Dark of the Moon", the first to feature private detective Louis Kincaid. In this book, we are introduced to a young, idealistic police detective who has just been hired by a small Mississippi town as a deputy. Kincaid is also black, a fact that was apparently overlooked or ignored by Sheriff Dodie when he hired Kincaid sight unseen.

Within his first couple months on the job, a body is discovered of a young black man who was apparently murdered thirty years ago. An obvious lynching, Kincaid is told to back off the case and file it "unsolved". Not good enough for Kincaid. Going against Sheriff Dodie's orders, Kincaid decides to investigate, re-opening many old wounds and creating new ones by angering many townspeople who don't want to be reminded of an embarrassing "dark" period in their town's (and the South's, in general) history.

Parrish (the pseudonym of a writing team of sisters) knows how to tell an exciting murder mystery while painting an atmospheric picture of the present-day South. I'm sure some readers (especially some Southerners) may find Parrish's depiction of the South unfair and full of stereotypes. Not being a Southerner myself, I can't say if it's fair or not, and while there may be some stereotypes employed, Parrish tends to use them for the purposes of ultimately shattering them and getting to the truth.

Jaime says

I was sucked into this book almost immediately! The story is somewhat slow paced, but the author(s) manage to give you enough to keep you intrigued. It's set in 1983, which gives the racial situations an authenticity that I don't think would be there if it was set in the late '90s, when it was written. At the end of the book you're left with a mystery that's not quite completely solved, so it leaves you with something to think about. Will what happens in Black Pool come back to haunt or help Louis at some point in the future? I guess I'll have to read more books to find out!

Jill says

Louis Kincaid is definitely a man on a mission! I read the last book in this series first and was immediately hooked so I had to go back and start at the beginning with this one. Thought they were all set in Michigan, but evidently not since this was in Mississippi. The mystery was engaging despite being a sensitive subject from the past and really kept me guessing until the end. Can't wait to read the next one in the series!

Rebecca McNutt says

Dark of the Moon I think could've used a little more work but this is a great start for an author to have and it was a very emotional and gripping story.

Barbara ★ says

If you enjoy books about the KKK, lynching mobs and good ole Southern white boys who hate blacks, this just might be the book for you.

This is not an enjoyable book. It's rather depressing and racially tense. Had the premise indicated what this book was truly about, I never would have picked it up.

Mommy says

I'm rereading the series since a new book came out. Love this series. Reminds me of the Karen Burkhader series by Linda Castillo. Highly recommended .

Deb says

This is another story about Southern racism, 60s hate crimes, and a cop that's willing to bend or even break some rules if it helps him to solve a murder case that haunts him. Having grown up in the deep Southern U.S., I can testify that while things have gotten much better down there, there's still plenty of bigotry to go around, and I didn't find this story the least bit unbelievable.

I was sucked in and enjoyed it quite a bit. I found myself incensed at the injustice and flippancy expressed about this long ago murder among the local cops, and how shame of their history made them want to leave things buried and hidden. Regardless of race, only an outsider would have the determination and gall to stand up and push the boundaries of the force to give our long dead victim any hope of justice.

I found it had a very reminiscent feel to the movie and tv series The Heat of the Night.

Christa says

Dark of the Moon is the first book in a series about a young biracial detective named Louis Kincaid. This book kept my attention and was difficult to put down. I liked the character of Louis and look forward to reading the other books in the series.

Louis Kincaid, a young Michigan police officer, returns to the small Mississippi town of his birth when he finds out that his mother is dying. Louis is hired by phone as an investigator for the local sheriff's office, and upon his arrival is greeted with subdued dismay due to his race. Louis was separated from his alcoholic mother as a child and was adopted by a loving family. He was raised in the north, so has not experienced the racial tension that he finds in his southern hometown. Shortly after his arrival, a body is found that appears to have been the black victim of a lynching years earlier. As Louis investigates, he is confronted with resistance. The people of the town are not interested in solving the old murder, but the discovery of the body sets a series of dangerous events in motion. As new murders take place, Louis knows that they are connected to the lynching victim. As he works to solve the old and new cases, he finds himself in danger and then under

arrest for murder. Louis must uncover what prominent citizens have been keeping secret for years in order to remove himself from danger and clear his name.

This was a fast paced book with plenty of action. I found it interesting that the authors set this book fifteen years or so in the past. I will definitely be reading more in this series.
