



Deviant Way

Richard Montanari

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Shocking and erotically charged, "Deviant Way" delves into Cleveland's upscale singles bars, where a pair of serial killers--a man and a woman--are about to pull a cop into an all-too-human game of voyeurism, kidnapping and murder.

Deviant Way Details

Date : Published June 1st 1997 by Pocket Books (first published July 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780671511098

Author : Richard Montanari

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From Reader Review Deviant Way for online ebook

laura m says

I am absolutely sure I read this years before and it faintly stayed in my memory, not the most important bits but enough to remember it. It's not an usual work of this author, missing his main protagonists but it's much better than most I've read from him many years ago.

I now know that I have to re-read this as near the end, he threw in such a twist that everything you know you understood just wasn't so and you just can't be sure if there were hints and what happened and what did not, I am not really sure this twist was necessary at all but for some it will probably be a great thing while for others like me, it was kinda meh.

without that last part of book which was different than the rest, I liked the novel, the world of swingers and fetishists, nightlife, happenings after dark etc etc

including the detective's family life was totally boring and unnecessary too, waste of pages. could have been much better off without it.

Greg Fisher says

I've read this book twice. The last time was in 2006 but the first time was sometime in the early 1990s. I was still new to being a part of the library staff and everyone was buzzing about a brand new local author named Richard Montanari who wrote a very graphic serial killer crime novel set in our hometown. The general consensus was that they all loved it. Even staff who normally didn't like serial killer stories or stories that violent and graphic had to admit they loved it. And the ending . . . The ending made for much discussion, although no one wanted to ruin the book for those who hadn't read it yet, they still all wanted to talk about it.

So, of course I had to read it.

And I loved it. It was the first book I'd ever read set in Cleveland and surrounding environs. I recognized some of the places he mentioned. I used to pass by the street where Det. Paris is caught in a house about to explode. There is something exhilarating about reading a story based on your hometown. I recommend to all serious readers that they search out and try stories set in their town, city or state.

James A says

I won't add more to the storyline - well described by other reviewers. This is the first Richard Montanari book I've read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. A gripping page-turner and I didn't see the end coming. I don't read that many thrillers, but would certainly read more books by Mr Montanari.

Ken Kaufman says

very solid first book. a page-turner.

John Toffee says

I am big fan of Richard Montanari's Byrne & Balzano series and thought I'd give his first ever character, Jack Paris, a go in the author's first novel, *Don't Look Now* (aka *Deviant Ways*). The book is the first of a two part series.

There is the same Montanari action and fast pace with plenty of brutal murders carried out by dark and seedy characters. I enjoyed the book which involves voyeurism that, it can be said, goes too far as well as paedophilia.

As with his later work Montanari is not afraid to cover the real taboos of life in his novels, which I can be sure puts some people off, making the uncomfortable, but I think that this bold approach makes the author stand out from the crowd in much the way Karin Slaughter does.

Back to this book... Paris is a divorced detective (aren't they all) who's still in love with his ex and devoted to his young daughter (I'll say it again, aren't they all) and he struggles to get the balance right between his family and work which always seems to pull him away at the worst possible moments and, again as always, ends up with his family deeply involved in the case.

There are plenty of twists and turns and the reader is kept guessing right to the end. I must admit I guessed half of the solution but not the other half. There are a lot of characters and in some instances this can be a bit confusing and is probably the main reason this is a four star rather than a five star from me. Certainly a book I would recommend to any cop/thriller lover who doesn't mind their murder mysteries graphic in detail. Look forward to reading the second, and unfortunately final instalment, in the series soon.

Plum-crazy says

An okay read but nowhere near as good as others by this author. In a nutshell, three women have been brutally murdered & Homicide Detective Jack Paris is on hand to track the killer...or is it killers?...down.

As ever there are plenty of red herrings, but maybe it's just that I'm so used to this author's style now but many seemed too obvious & could be seen for the misdirections they were. I found that parts of the book didn't flow well & other parts were muddling. As it was first published under a different title in 1995 I wondered if it had been edited again - a thought I had due to the comment of Justin Bieber posters being on a girls bedroom wall...I know he started young but wouldn't he have been about 1 in '95?!

I was losing interest by the end if I'm honest & the revealing of Saila & Pharaoh seemed rushed & unconvincing, never mind that there was no satisfactory explanation for their actions.

I didn't care for the characters, the sexually promiscuous Andrea Heller & her voyeur husband held little appeal for me & I didn't really care about their fate. Even "hero" Jack Paris didn't have the charm as Byrne & Balzano.

A reasonable read but not the gory, gripping edge-of-the-seat-thriller that I expected from one of my favourite authors.

Jay Jessmer says

I picked this one up at the library after getting hooked on Montanari's Byrne/Balzano series, and I have to say, it was a serious page-turner! Montanari gets it, even in his first offering here. He understands the fan base for this type of thriller, and has a talent for deliverring.

Always enjoy a book with separate story-lines developing. There are 2 couples at the heart of this. The first is a male/female team who are viciously murdering young women whom the man lures from various nightclubs. The second is a young married couple who the voyeuristic husband has enticed his wife into fulfilling his fantasy by letting other men hit on her in bars while he gets to observe. Detective Jack Paris is assigned to head up the task force to try to stop the serial killings.

This is a serious twists-and-turns read. Many times the "red-herring" thing seems overdone and silly, but this is the rare occassion when it is handled perfectly. You can just feel Montanari baiting you with obvious clues, and getting a kick out of making you try to figure it out every step of the way. The epilogue totally caught me off-guard, and had me saying "nice one".

I highly recommend Mr. Montanari to any and all fans of the murder/mystery genre. If you are a fan of John Sandford or James Patterson, do not neglect this author. He will not dissapoint!

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Julie Carson says

On the whole, the book is very good. It has twists and turns, and kept you guessing right until the very last page. However, it is not quite deserving of 5 stars as I found 1 or 2 bits difficult to follow, and Jack irritated me at times, as I found some of his actions foolhardy to say the least, which took the enjoyment away a little bit. Normally, I suspend disbelief when reading, but the rest of the story was so well written I couldn't ignore it! I couldn't put it down, and suddenly realised it was 2am in the morning (!) which is the sign of a good book to me.

Lainy says

Blurb From Goodreads

Andrea Heller has been married for seven years, but likes to pretend she's single. She enjoys sitting on her own in bars but there's another couple watching. They call themselves Saila and Pharaoh, but only after sundown. And it is after sundown that some terrible things are happening in the singles clubs in Cleveland. In six months, three women in their twenties have been brutally murdered. And each step that Homicide Detective Jack Paris takes to find their killer draws him closer to the heart of his own forbidden impulses. As the stakes become increasingly personal, Jack knows only one thing for certain. To enter the minds of Saila and Pharaoh is to enter a world from which no one ever fully returns...

My Review

A serial killer is on the loose, and an unusual combination at that. The target, beautiful young business women who all have something in common and all end up brutally murdered with a thin strip of skin removed along with other mutilation. Jack Paris is on the case and half way through gets an unlikely lead that sees the case closed, or is there more to it?

I usually really enjoy Richard Montanari but I was really disappointed with this one. The characters I couldn't seem to connect with or have any feelings for at all other than puzzlement or annoyance. There was a lot of contradictions (I felt), for example Jack seems clueless all along then at the end a small clue tips him off that leads to the finale (sorry to be vague but I hate spoiler reviews). The killer seems to be motivated and does the killings and rituals for a reason but your left wondering and really with a lot more questions than answers at the end and that really annoys me. Even if I had liked the book this would have pulled it's rating down anyway but I wasn't moved or enthralled with this at all.

There is a lot of sex and swearing in the book but if your a Montanari fan this won't be new for you, if your looking to start with this author try one of the other books first as this doesn't show any of his talent or have a patch on any of his other books I have read and enjoyed, 2/5 this time.

Sanaa Iona says

Gripping. Fast paced but ending not clear. Meaning I don't know for sure who 'Pharaoh' really was. Was it Tommy or not? And a Woman who kills other woman for what sick motive? It was never really explained so I am just like 'Uh?!'. Also there was soo many characters in the book it was kinda had for me to keep up with who was who and what significance they had.

Frances says

This is the author's first book; a series in Cleveland that precedes the current Philadelphia series that I like so much. If this had been the first book of his that I read, I probably would not have read any others. Like the others, this is a serial killer mystery; but, unlike the others, these killing have a markedly sexual

nature. In fact every aspect of the book, from the crimes to the police officers to the general attitudes of all involved, has a sexual nature. And the nature of the sex is usually diverse, perverse and violent. I found it exhausting and annoying.

Jim says

In Cleveland, Ohio Detective Jack Paris working out of homicide is called on to head the task force for investigating the very macabre murders by the Rose of Jericho killer. Author Richard Montanari once again spins an incredibly dark thriller with "Deviant Way". Paris is partnered up with Tommy Raposo. Raposo new to Cleveland PD from Akron doesn't have a lot of homicide experience. When Eleanor Burchfield is brutally murdered, she becomes the killer's fourth victim. The TV news and the Cleveland Plain-Dealer newspaper begin putting on an immense amount of pressure towards the cops on case, and looking for answers. Paris and the other detectives in the squad are making zero headway. The only clue they have has something to do with Pharaoh. Paris who is divorced with a young daughter Melissa is under intense pressure from ex-wife Beth to spend time with his child. Jack does manage to make progress in a romantic relationship with ADA Diana Bennet. He Also has a relationship with another cop, Cyndy Taggert. Rita the bartender, has eyes on Jack as well. Working relentlessly with little rest or food, Jack keeps pressing on. His newest clue is "Saila". Jack however is totally stumped. Is it possible the murders are being committed by a male and female pair ? But almost all serial killers are male. In a heart stopping wild ride of a plot this book is pure suspense from beginning to end. The tension hovers in the air like a thick blanket. Author Richard Montanari is a master thriller story teller. His amazing and incredible characters make the book a scary enjoyment to read. Putting this book down is extremely difficult to say the least. I have to admit it was a real blast to read. Then again, all of author Richard Montanari's books are top notch thrillers. 5 stars out of a possible 5 stars for "Deviant Way", by Richard Montanari. If you haven't read any of Montanari's books you're missing something special. He's a master thriller writer/ story teller. Do not miss this one !

Rick says

A gripping start to a new series from a new-to-me-author. It says everything that I can't wait to read more, maybe even the rest, of his work.

Randee says

I'd guessed about half-way through who one of the villians was. Then I missed where they said who the second one was. I blame the flu.
