



## Her Last Move

*John Marrs*

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# Her Last Move

John Marrs

**Her Last Move** John Marrs

**“Whatever you do, don’t read this in the dark...” —Cara Hunter, author of *Close to Home***

He hides in the shadows, waiting for the perfect moment. Each kill is calculated, planned and executed like clockwork.

Struggling to balance her personal and professional life, young DS Becca Vincent has landed the biggest case of her career – and she knows that it will make or break her. But how can she identify one face in a sea of thousands? With the help of Police Super Recogniser Joe Russell, she strives to catch a glimpse of the elusive murderer, but he’s watching her every move.

Time is not on their side. The body count is rising, and the attacks are striking closer and closer to home. Can Becca and Joe uncover the connection between the murders before the killer strikes the last name from his list?

From the bestselling author of *When You Disappeared* and *The Good Samaritan* comes his most thrilling novel yet.

## Her Last Move Details

Date : Published November 8th 2018 by Thomas & Mercer

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Author : John Marrs

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# From Reader Review Her Last Move for online ebook

## Krystin Rachel says

Book Blog | Bookstagram

**Opening Hook:** A subway nightmare, and I'm not talking about Jared.

**Main Character:** Trying to do it all, failing.

**Plot Twisty-ness:** Twisty, but in a depressing way

I don't know why I thought this was going to be a serial killer "thriller"... I mean, in some ways it is. There is a serial killer. And cops. And stuff is happening.

But, holy shit, this might be the most depressing crime fiction novel I've ever read. This just hit me right in all my sad feels like a British episode of *This Is Us* or some shit.

I don't want to give up any spoilers, but I will say this: one of the main reasons I love crime fiction so much – besides the psychologically fascinating elements – is that the good guys win and the bad guys lose.

The world is shitty enough and bad guys seem to win a lot, especially lately. So, it's nice to be able to immerse yourself in a world where the bad guy is going to get his just desserts. That's why these stories work for so many people. We want to know, despite the evidence around us, that good will triumph over evil.

And for that to not necessarily happen in a way that feels satisfying like it usually does with novels of this kind, it's a little bit of a punch in the gut.

Kudos to John Marrs for bringing everyone down, I guess.

In *Her Last Move*, DS Becca Vincent and Joe Russell are on the task force look for a serial killer with ever-changing methods and an elusive motive, while dealing with their own personal issues. Her: an adopted daughter she has no time for and can't connect to. And him: a missing sister whose ghost is coming between his marriage.

It took a while for me to get into this one because I found the writing protracted and a bit heavy-handed when it came to trying to explain the characters. Perhaps that's because it's a standalone novel. Perhaps it was to up the emotional reactions to the ending. I don't know. But the flow just wasn't as smooth or engaging as I usually gravitate towards.

This criticism only applies to the personal side of the story, because the crimes and darker aspects of the novel seemed to take place off-page, almost like an afterthought - the reader was only told about them later. It didn't feel as though these big, dramatic murders were given the right amount of attention or emotional relevance.

Typically, I'd like to see some kind of balance between the two aspects of crime fiction. Pull back on the personal descriptions and dial-up the crime aspects so that we're getting the best of both worlds, and are

brought in fully to the investigation and the people doing the investigation.

This book focussed pretty heavily on the characters and their home lives, and so there was a feeling of imbalance to the story. By the 50% mark, things started to pick up in terms of speed and interesting events, but I still found the chapters too wordy and the POV of Dominic to be a little too self-indulgent, which became boring.

Overall, though there was a very dark and emotionally heavy theme running through this book. Whether it was the personal circumstances of having a dead sister and raising her Downs Syndrome daughter, or how that sister died. An unstoppable degenerative disease, or the motive for the murders, which once revealed, had me feeling sorry for the killer in a way. Or at least sorry for the way life works out and the pain of losing someone you love.

And then there was the ending. Sure, it was a shocker, but it was also depressing AF. I mean, seriously. I had to go back read it again. It was a '*that couldn't actually be what happened*' double-take.

I did not leave this reading experience with any kind of satisfaction even though there were no loose threads in the end. Rather, I had a feeling of being down and mopey. Was there an ending and the killer was no longer killing? Yes. But it came with a side of that real life "the bad guys always win" bullshit and I think it was just a little too real for me.

This was less of an escapist exercise, which we tend to use books for in general, and more of a baseball bat to the face of bad shit that makes the world suck most of the time. And I don't think I liked that.

I get it. But I don't like it.

A bad book? No. The killer was interesting, albeit occasionally annoying, and his motivation for his evil deeds was believable, both in the psychotic aspect, but also in a real-world way. It was tangible and true. But I found the important points that brought the whole story together so sad and depressing that any suspense or thrills were totally lost for me.

I've heard good things about John Marrs so I'll try another one of his books. But if it's going to be this fucking depressing again then I'm out.

### **3.5 stars rounded down.**

*book source: Thomas & Mercer via NetGalley in exchange for a review.*

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### **Louise Wilson says**

She's chasing a killer. He's watching her every move. Each kill is calculated, planned and executed like clockwork. DS Becca Vincent has landed the biggest case of her career. With a list of people he wants to kill, he knows everyone will understand why they had to die. It's personal, but what connections are there between the victims?

This story is told alternately between DS Becca Vincent, super recogniser, Joe and the villain. There are twists galore in this action packed book from the start. Some of the killings are quite violent and graphic so this won't suit every reader. Becca is not a very likeable character, she's a bit self centred and jumps to conclusions. The killers identity is revealed quite early on in this story which I don't really like as it can spoil the read and I do prefer to guess who it is. This is quite a dark read. With its fast pace this is a gripping read.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Thomas & Mercer and the author John Marrs for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jayme says**

3.5 stars (rounded up)

“HE” has a list of people that he plans to kill. And, he just knows that everyone will understand WHY each victim had to die, once he explains his reasons....

Yes, it's personal.

BUT what is the connection between the victims?

Tasked with solving this mystery are DS Becca Vincent and Joe Russell, a member of the Super Recognizer task force (yes, I googled it, and there IS such a department! ?)

Each of them has lost a sibling, and neither has fully recovered from their loss.

And, each is also battling a “personal demon”, which will affect their judgment at times.

But will these things, become twists in the story?

Are they just “red herrings” the author used to try to throw his readers off track?

Perhaps it's just his way of developing characters that we can relate to, imperfect people just trying to do their best in an imperfect world??

These are the things that John Marrs excels at doing, and I will never tell! ?

Although I did not enjoy this book as much as his previous books, “The One” or “The Good Samaritan”, I would still recommend it for readers who enjoy police procedurals, and I will always eagerly await his next book!

Also of interest are the articles (links provided) about the real life facial recognition experts being used in the field today...

I would like to thank Netgalley, John Marrs, and Amazon Publishing, UK for the ARC provided in exchange for a candid review. This title will be available on Nov 8, 2018 so you don't have to wait long to receive your copy!!

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### **Kylie D says**

What an absolute corker of a book! It starts with a bang and never lets up until the final page. A serial killer is at work in London, with several bodies turning up in a matter of days, each death more vicious and depraved than the last. But what has sent the killer on his spree? And what links the victims? Luckily DS Becca Vincent and DS Joe Russell are on the case, each with their own points to prove. Becca is a young detective out to make a name for herself and Joe is a facial recognition expert that's been assigned to the taskforce. But how do they hunt for a killer who is as meticulous as he is cunning? This book is a real nail biter, you find yourself racing through it long into the night, while you absorb the twists and turns as the story slowly reveals itself. This is the first John Marrs book I've read, but it definitely won't be my last. I recommend this book 100%.

My thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Alex ? says**

I managed to reach 35% and after the author unexpectedly cut off every possible romantic involvement between MCs, I paused and went to read the epilogue.

Sorry, but not sorry - when they kill a main character, in this case the heroine, who raised her niece with down syndrome, it's not a story I would enjoy. Reality is cruel, no doubt, but there is still a bit of hope in books...

And who kills the main character, especially with such life situation as a sick child??!!

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### **Danielle (The Blonde Likes Books) says**

John Marrs is an auto-buy author for me, meaning I'll read anything he writes. When I found out he had a new book, *Her Last Move*, coming out, I couldn't wait to request it on Netgalley! Regular readers of my blog and reviews know by now that I love books that involve some element of stalking, and this one did, and I loved it.

The book alternates between three POVs - our protagonist Becca, who is a detective hoping to have her big career break on this case, Joe, a "super-recognizer" that works for the police, and our unnamed killer. I really enjoyed the killer's chapters and getting that creepy insight into his twisted mind. I was constantly trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together, and while I was able to figure out part of the mystery, there were other pieces that I didn't see coming, so I really enjoyed the twists and turns throughout the story.

I feel like Marrs did an excellent job of developing all three of our POV characters. I felt like I could feel Becca's internal struggle as she fails to balance a career that she loves with her home life. I loved Joe's character - he was one of my favorites. His knack for remembering faces can be both a blessing and a curse. Lastly, the killer. He was dark, and twisted, and it was clear that he had a motive, but unclear what that motive was until later in the book.

All in all, I loved the book, and I loved the ending. It started off with a bang, and kept up its momentum throughout the book. If you're a fan of Marrs' other books, or if you enjoy reading police procedurals, I think this will be a winner for you! I'd like to thank Netgalley and Thomas & Mercer for an advanced copy of the book. It was my pleasure to provide an honest review. Her Last Move is out November 8, so be sure to pick up your copy!

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### **Michelle says**

DNF - no rating

I loved The Good Samaritan by this author and was eager and excited to receive an arc of his latest work, Her Last Move. Sadly, this book wasn't nearly as compelling as The Good Samaritan.

Overwritten, drawn out, and never held my interest.

*Thank you to NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for providing me with a digital ARC in exchange for my honest review.*

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### **Mark says**

So, with much excitement I started John Marrs 5th book having loved the previous 4 and 'The One' being one of my favourite books EVER!....one of the things I love about this author is his ability to surprise and the different writing styles he adopts and with that the range of stories he tells, never predictable and this book is completely different to any of his others...

The story is set around ( and I don't want to give too much away) a man on a killing spree to 'right a set of perceived wrongs' and the characters who are tasked to find him....the killer is no ordinary killer ( if there is such a thing!!! ) but has gone to great lengths to make 'the punishment fit the crime' and what a set of punishments he has decided on!!!! The killer has zero remorse and his only focus is the job in hand, he is chilling, ruthless, scary and fascinating!

The Police who have the unenviable task to catch him include Joe a 'super recogniser', a little known dept of the Met who work with facial recognition and Becca a young DS trying to make her mark in the Met, both come with their problems and 'pasts' and both back stories are well integrated into the main story, I loved them both and their quirkiness and zeal! ( great word )

I enjoyed the London setting and especially the fact London was going through a heatwave in the book!!! As with all John Marrs' books their is a wide range of people woven into the story, and they all have revelations to make about their lives, no one is quite as they seem!!!

The story is fast paced and generous in its twists, turns and OOOOOOOO moments and the ending, well in this books case, various endings were tense, sad and touching

So I guess you can tell although this was a very different read as I started by saying its a great read and is hard to define as it could come under thriller, mystery, psychological, suspense, action, drama and police procedural but take all that, shake it up and start to read and it all comes out as one fantastic read that had me from page one

Lovers of John's previous books will again love this and I think a whole new set of readers will come to appreciate one of our finest story tellers

10/10 5 Stars

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### **Joey R. says**

2.5 Stars—I have made no secret that John Marrs is one of my favorite authors. He always writes in a fast paced style and keeps you guessing with surprises throughout his books. Therefore, the first book I decided to read when I rejoined Kindle Unlimited was “Her Last Move”, the only Marrs’ book I hadn’t read. “Her Last Move” was different from Marrs’ other books in that it took some time for the plot to grab me. After thinking back, I believe this was because Marrs doesn’t give you any information about the killer or his motive before random acts of violence start occurring throughout Britain. When the killer is slowly introduced, he is not named and is so shrouded in mystery that it is hard to get a grip on the entire plot until two thirds of the way through the book. The book does go on to explain the killer’s motives and how all of the murders are tied together but it was almost like Marrs couldn’t decide whether to make him totally psychotic or just a normal guy pushed over the edge by the actions of others. Because of the inconsistencies, the book is just never as enjoyable as his other novels. I did enjoy following the main detective, Becca, throughout her investigation but her actions towards the end were not consistent with her career first philosophy and didn’t ring true when she ultimately confronted the killer. I’m hoping Marrs rebounds with a better plot and more interesting characters in his next novel and maybe I have seen the last book with a plot based on police super-recognizers who walk through the community looking for suspects based on memorized facial features ... boring.

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### **Li'l Owl says**

Twisty and terrifying! This is not your standard detective vs killer story!

Prologue:

We are in the shoes of an unknown individual (I will use 'he' for simplicity). He's weaving through the packed crowds of the tube station, following a large man named Demitru. He has been stalking Demitru for some time and he knows his daily movements, which is what he's counting on. He closes in, closer and closer, using the crowd to remain unnoticed. Standing directly behind Demitru he stabs him with a syringe. What happens next is the beginning of his quest to eliminate the people on his list, one by one.

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Detective Becca Vincent has put nearly everything into her career, now she's landed a place on a high profile murder case and she wants nothing more than to solve it. But what price will she pay at home?

The description sounds like the standard detective storyline, I know. But hold on....

It's not! Her Last Move by John Marrs is loaded with unusual twists throughout the entire storyline, with all three elements, the characters, the killer, and the victims.

I've never read a book like it. So is that a good thing?

For me it's a very good thing! I loved it!

I was completely unprepared all the shocking events that occur throughout the entire story, Highly

This is my first book by John Marrs but it won't be my last!

Thanks to NetGalley, Amazon Publishing UK, and author, John Marrs, for my uncorrected advanced digital copy in return for my honest review.

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### **Susanne Strong says**

3.5 Stars\* (rounded up).

The body count keeps rising and neither DS Becca Vincent or the rest of her team are able to work fast enough to track the killer. Knowing that time is of the essence, Becca calls in the help of super facial recognition expert Joe Russell. If Joe can't find this guy, well then, all bets are off. One by one, the murders get more gruesome and more personal with Becca and Joe racing to try and figure out what their connection is.

As the tension mounted in this crazy mystery / suspense, so did my anxiety. "Her Last Move" is one John Marrs novel that improves as it goes on. Recommended for fans of police procedurals.

This was another great buddy read with Kaceey!

Thank you to NetGalley, Amazon Publishing UK and John Marrs for an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley and Goodreads on 10.22.18.

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### **Pauline says**

I really enjoy John Marrs books and was delighted to receive an ARC of his latest book *Her Last Move*. I really enjoyed this thriller and was hooked from the first page to the last. The characters were very well written and each one had an interesting story.

There is a serial killer working in London and the detective working on the case is Becca who is trying to find him before he strikes again. She is helped by Joe a super recogniser of faces who is assigned to her department temporarily.

I think that this author just gets better and better and I can't wait for his next book.

I would like to thank NetGalley and Amazon Publishing for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Amy says**

Holy cannoli this was one hell of a read you guys! I was a huge fan of Marrs last book, *The Good Samaritan* and couldn't wait to get my hands on this one. The wait was well worth it and one of the many things that made this a standout for me was that it was SO vastly different from his previous work but still outstanding, it's so impressive when an author pushes the boundaries and shakes things up with each new book release.

This follows Becca, a police officer working on the case, Joe, another cop, but in a different department and then you hear from the elusive killer as well. All three were fascinating in their own way, Becca is trying to balance her work and home life, but her issues aren't typical and were a new set of circumstances from the

norm in a police procedural. Joe is what's called a super recognizer, something I didn't even realize I existed but I read several articles and was blown away. (Look it up, so cool!) The chapters from the killer were chilling, insight into a murderer's motivations and thought processes always interests me and his were at once original and scary. All three were so very well developed, they were complex, deep and had interesting secrets.

While the tension throughout was great, a steady buildup for the most part, by the end my heart was in my throat and then something HUGE happened and let's just say I was stunned. Not the direction I expected at all, but I respect the author so much for so many ballsy moves, I love nothing more than a bold story with risks and Marrs proves with this book that he is a force to be reckoned with. Highly recommended for thriller lovers but especially those who like a good police procedural as well.

Her Last Move in three words: Shocking, Intricate and Intense.

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### **Kaceey - Traveling Sister says**

**3.5\***

Two murders within hours of each other. Both victims have identical tattoos on their hands. Both live at the same address. And...both died a horrific death, but in very different ways. Soon after, reports begin flooding in of yet more gruesome deaths. Sure gives the appearance of being related...unless you don't believe in coincidences. So, are they all related? Is there a serial killer on the loose? Is there a reason they're being targeted?

*"Everyone has their secrets"*

Detective sergeant Becca Vincent. Single mother driven to prove herself by immersing herself into this investigation.

Detective sergeant Joe Russell a "*super-recognizer*." (Yes...that term actually exists!)

Described as someone who has a photographic memory for faces. Quite a handy talent for police work. Working out of a special division, Joe has been brought in to assist Becca with this very difficult case.

Let me start by saying how excited I was to see a new release by John Marrs! I adored his previous book *The One*. In fact it's sitting on my favorites shelf right now! Unfortunately, this book lacked the magic of his previous release. I'm in the minority on this as there are some fantastic four and five star reviews. But somehow I lacked a connection with the characters. Just not the best fit for me.

A buddy read with Susanne!

Thank you to NetGalley, Amazon UK Publishing for an ARC to read in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Chandra Claypool (wherethereadergrows) says**

This is my third Marrs book and ding ding ding, it's another winner!! I love how intricately different each

book was - The Good Samaritan, The One and now Her Last Move. I will say that this one took me a little longer to connect with but when it did... BAM - I was hooked and that was IT - goodbye productivity!

Told in three different POVs, we get the views of Joe, Becca and Dominic. Becca and Joe are working together to catch the serial killer that is Dominic who has been methodical and elusive. Not only do we get to go on this journey with them but we also get a glimpse into their lives. Each one having their own personal problems and demons to fight. Now... there was one part that surprised me. John, you WENT THERE... and I loved it! I don't want to delve into it as to not spoil anything for anyone but I do love it when a book surprises me...

I did feel for each of these characters. I can't imagine how hard being in their line of work is and how it can deeply affect their personal lives. Balance is hard when you're basically married to your job. Add a side of even more background and uff.. these poor guys. I even felt for Dominic and his psychotic ways - there's always a reason.

Fun fact - Oscar made a cameo - that's the name of the author's dog!

Marrs has become an autobuy author for me and I look forward to everything he has coming our way. I highly recommend any of the three books I've read of his so far and one day I'll get to the others that have already published.

Thanks so much to the author for this copy <3

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