



Lifeline

Gerry Boyle

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Sometimes a man has to make a choice: A refrigerator full of beer and a peaceful spot to watch the birds, or a productive life shared with the woman he loves. This is the decision facing sometime reporter Jack McMorrow when his girlfriend, Roxanne, takes a job in Portland, Maine, leaving behind an ultimatum. McMorrow rises to the challenge and signs on as the court reporter for the Kennebec Observer. What he doesn't realize is that he is about to confront a much more serious life crisis. While taking notes on a series of routine cases, McMorrow encounters Donna Marchant, a young woman seeking protection from an abusive boyfriend. By revealing bruises on her chest and torso, Donna finally gets the judge's attention and a restraining order, and McMorrow has his lead story. But when is a reporter merely reporting the news, and when do his actions make him part of the story? Donna is reluctant to be interviewed but is persuaded by McMorrow, who feels more than a professional attraction toward her. Just writing about Donna's case stirs up a hornet's nest. Then, shortly after the article runs, Donna is found dead in her apartment, her young daughter the only witness to what happened. Now McMorrow has to face an angry sister, a dangerous boyfriend, and a corrupt D.A. to find out the truth about Donna's death - and what kind of man he really is.

Lifeline Details

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Susan Emmet says

I sure do like sardonic, smartass Jack McMorrow and his love of birds, a bit less his love of Ballantyne Ale. Chock full of neat characters, most shady and often sordid, McMorrow again becomes involved in a violent series of incidents in trying to find the truth about Donna Marchant's death.

Suffice it to say that there's lots of ick, lots of great dialog and scenery, and a touchy relationship with Roxanne, she who proves in many ways stronger than Jack.

This time we're in central Maine - Augusta, Albion, Jefferson, China, Palermo - and Boyle again captures hardscrabble life. Again recognized a lot of the places and buildings he uses as a backdrop for the story. Bloodlines do matter, for better and for worse.

Cottero says

This is the third book in the Jack McMorrow mystery series. Deadline was the first in the series and I found that story to have a terrific "who dun it" plot...Lifeline not so much. I found this book to be rather dull that just plodded along. Even the ending left me a bit disappointed. I have not read the second in the series, Bloodline, and will definitely read it sometime in the future.

Pat says

Roxanne moves to Portland.
Court reporter 2 days a week.
Abused woman is killed.

Victoria Haugen says

This was a great book! I love these types of action-packed suspenseful murder mysteries, and this one was a gem. Get crazy! The characters are well developed, the story is well written, and the narration was awesome. I was on the edge of my seat! This is the first book in the series I've read/listened to, and it certainly won't be my last. Love this! Try it, you know you want to :)

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

Scartowner says

My only problem with Gerry Boyle's books is the lack of likable lead characters. His stories are really good, enough action that you don't get bored but not too much that you can't visualize and enjoy the people and places. Having met alcoholic hero Jack McMorrow in other books, I really just can't spend more time with him. Just my humble opinion.

Nancy says

Loved the mystery, loved the common characters - and there was always a Maine setting for his books.

Tom says

This is the series of three novels with Jack McMorrow, reporter, as the main character. He's a wiseass that you can't help but like, who gets involved with the murder of a woman he was interviewing after she had been in court trying to get a restraining order against her abusing boy friend. The DA is not a nice woman at all! The small town newspaper Jack took a job with (after leaving the NY Times) is a joke, and, well it goes on from there. A good read. I should read the first two.

LJ says

LIFELINE - VG

Boyle, Gerry - 3rd in Jack McMorrow series

In his newest case, McMorrow senses a good story in Donna Marchant, an abused woman. But after the article is published and Donna is found murdered, he finds suspicion has fallen not only on her boyfriend but on himself as well.

I really like this series. Great character, great setting, well plotted.

Sandi says

Another fine entry in this series featuring a newspaper reporter formerly of the New York Times now working in small town Maine. I really like the main character and thought the plotting in this book was quite good.

Carol says

When I started this book I didn't realize I had read the first 2 books of the series before. The main character, Jack McMorrow, is reporter who used to work for the New York Times and got into problems and had to get away. He now lives in the wilds of Maine. I don't like his character too well except that he won't stop until he has the WHOLE story otherwise he's a basket case. His girl friend gets him to go to work for the local paper and his reporting of court cases starts a series of events that even Jack couldn't foresee. And the ending is a twist I didn't see coming and don't know if it was "solved" in the correct way or not.

