



Fatal Impact

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When forensic pathologist Dr Anya Crichton finds a dead child in a toy box and a room covered in blood the answer is like nothing she has come across before. The post mortem reveals that the girl died from a deadly bacterial infection brought on by food poisoning. But does that mean there isn't a murderer?

Anya was only meant to be in Tasmania for a conference and to visit her mother, but when more people fall sick, including her father's cousin, Anya becomes intimately involved in the case. At the same time, her mother – with whom Anya has always had a difficult relationship ever since her little sister Miriam went missing thirty years ago - is acting strangely, talking about conspiracies and exhibiting classic signs of dementia.

As Anya deals with her increasingly paranoid, intractable mother, she is also racing to discover the source of the fatal bacterial infection before more people die. But Anya's investigations into the close-knit Tasmanian agricultural community where the contaminated food originated soon put her in grave danger as someone tries to kill her.

As the deaths pile up, Anya's search leads her to an old murder case, and soon it becomes clear that her own family is closer to danger than ever before. But will Anya be able to discover the truth behind the poisoning and unmask the killer in time to save them, and herself?

Fatal Impact Details

Date : Published February 28th 2014 by Hodder (first published February 27th 2014)

ISBN : 9780340919149

Author : Kathryn Fox

Format : Paperback 400 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Audiobook, Thriller, Cultural, Tasmania

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From Reader Review Fatal Impact for online ebook

Mirren Hogan says

Kathryn Fox writes a reasonably good story, although like so many authors, they get less good as they go along. The story in Fatal Impact is ok but I didn't really care all that much about the characters or the resolution. There were a few too many strings that it became a bit of a knot.

My biggest problem with this book was the editing. Either Fox needs a better editor or she needs to listen to the one she has. The whole book was littered with minor, but annoying, editing issues. At times it's hard to know who is speaking, because Fox uses the pronoun 'she' when two women are having a conversation. She repeats herself and are we really supposed to believe that a remote cabin in Tasmania has wifi? The reader knows the book is set in Australia but the fact is shoved a bit down our throats at times.

Yes, it's minor stuff, but she's been around for a few books now, so I'd expect a lot more polish.

David says

A complicated plotline based around genetically modified foods and animals being pumped full of growth hormone, that meanders along without reaching the heights of some of Kathryn Fox's earlier books. It is obvious Fox feels strongly about (against) GM modified foods and I felt at times a line was crossed away from crime fiction and tending towards a political science lecture.

I also found there were a lot of characters (and real estate transactions) to keep track of in this book, and I found myself constantly reversing to check who was who. Maybe I was just distracted, but I am hoping the future direction of this series is back towards the forensic science style crime thriller that was the foundation of the earlier Anya Crichton books I came to know and love.

Michelle says

My first book I have read by Kathryn Fox. Anya is in forensic pathologist who is asked to look into the death of a child. This leads her into organic farming, corruption and becoming sick due to what they have eaten. The book covers a lot about farming practices, organics and GM foods. I found this rather interesting and enjoyed learning about it. Great characters especially in a small town.

Phryynne says

A teeny bit disappointed with this one! Anya is still on top of her game and there are sufficient dead bodies and nasty people around, but I could not get along with the main story line about genetically modified foods. Fox seems to have quite strong feelings herself about the issue and a lot of time was spent on long political conversations. I am always uncomfortable when a fiction book tries to educate the reader in this way especially when some things are presented in quite a naive way. So I enjoyed the body of the book and

skimmed the silly stuff!

Michael says

more good pulp
with added organics

Jenn says

I had forgotten how much I enjoy Dr. Anya Chrichton. To me, she's like an Australian version of Bones. I read a few reviews where readers didn't like the organic food/genetically modified portion but I found it fascinating. And somewhat scary. Do we really know what we are eating? Does it truly explain the surge in food allergies? Food for thought (pun intended lol).

Paula Clark says

Although this storyline didn't seem as forensically based as her previous novels, the storyline was one, I feel, everyone should be educated on. Personally I hold a real fear of the way the world is heading with regards to GMO's and the company portrayed in this novel screamed Monsanto to me.

The potential that consumers could be eating genetically modified foods without knowing it, really scares me! Ultimately this is a work of "fiction", however this is a real issue!

Apart from the GMO's I missed the follow-on from Cold Grave with regards to Martin & Anya's relationship, but enjoyed getting more of an insight into Anya's mother's character and how the loss of child affects all family members in different ways.

Another great read from Kathryn Fox, which continued to cement her as one of my favourites.

Kathryn says

This was quite a different Anya Crichton to the rest of the series. It didn't involve much domestic violence or sexual abuse, and it was based around political/environmental issues such as GM food and foreign multi-billion dollar corporations buying up large tracts of Australian land. It is obvious that these are issues that Kathryn Fox feels passionately about - if what she has written about increases in medical conditions when GM food was introduced to the food supply is true, it is scary. I'd like to hope she has taken some artistic licence and made connections for the point of the story that aren't true...

I liked that this was set in Tasmania, as I haven't read many books set down there.

It was more difficult to keep track of what was happening in this one than the others in the series. Despite that, I am still keen to read more - this is the last book in the series at this point, but Anya's story doesn't feel

finished, so I hope Kathryn Fox will continue with the series.

3.5★

S.J. Hartland says

Fatal Impact is an excellent crime story featuring the interesting character forensic physician and pathologist Anya Crichton.

On another level, it deals with vital issues about genetic modification of food and foreign ownership of Australian land.

Returning to her home state of Tasmania, Anya is approached at a conference by a grandmother concerned about the safety of her daughter's children. When Anya investigates she finds one of the girls dead in a toy box. Tests show the girl died from a virulent strain of food poisoning.

When others begin to die, Anya is drawn into the investigation and into a tight-knit farming community in Tasmania where her mother Dr Jocelyn Reynolds. Anya finds her mother's behaviour increasingly erratic; Jocelyn mutters about conspiracies and murder, warning the "walls have ears".

Anya's investigation leads her to an old murder of a scientist and a shady multi-national corporation with links to the Chinese government. When someone tries to kill her, she turns to internal affairs officer Oliver Parke to help unravel a sinister mystery.

Fatal Impact is well plotted, beginning with a girl's death and leading somewhere even darker.

It raises serious questions about genetically modified foods and about the wisdom of allowing companies connected to the Chinese government to buy up large parcels of Australian agricultural land. Not only are governments being seduced, Australia is being conned and the consumer isn't aware of what they're being fed and how it's making them sick.

For crime fans, this is good stuff.

For those who want their eyes opened, Fatal Impact is a must-read.

?

Carianne Carleo-Evangelist says

A really interesting book about nutrition meets crime and how the worlds intersect. I'm sad I'm finished with the Anya Crichton series, but really enjoyed getting to "know" her. I do find that I preferred the ones where she was with Kate, Peter Latham and others in Sydney vs. on location elsewhere.

Nice to see her mom wasn't a total villain, but I found the latter focus on her and the Dengates left a lot unresolved, including her forensic physician role as well as that of Evie. I'm not one who is interested so much in the crusade of GMOs, so I didn't enjoy this as much as others might have. Still, was a good plot with well developed characters.

PJ says

First, I think, get past the awful title. If I hadn't had the basics of the plot described to me before picking this story up, I would never have started it. No, it doesn't resemble an 80s action movie that should have Arnie or Bruce Willis in it. In fact, the title seems to have nothing to do at all with the plot, which is something I am very grateful for.

Where Fatal Impact and Kathryn Fox shine is the story. The subject matter—organic agriculture and industrial farming—is something I'm very involved in, and to see it as the setting for a political mystery / thriller is exciting. And it's handled well; many of the key elements of corruption and corporate monopoly are included and stitched together into a believable story.

The down side? The writing is there. It never flies, remains functional to the story. But it never (quite) descends into Dan Brown territory and there's very little to complain about. Servicable is probably the perfect word for it. You're never bored or horrified, but at the same time, you're never quite pulled entirely into the book's universe.

The ending, also, leaves a bit to be desired. Although most of the loose ends are tied up, I felt a bit cheated. It didn't really feel finished, we didn't really see the consequences for the villains and conspirators. What they were doing, in the story, had enormous real-world consequences, but Fatal Impact ended as if only the consequences to Anya and her family mattered, and once the threads were all tied up we can put the book down and wait patiently for the next Anya Crichton mystery.

I think Kathryn Fox has done us a service by bringing the subject matter and issues with the industrial, corporate food industry to a wide audience. But with that pat ending, I sense that Ms Fox has gotten more out of the issue than the issue will get from having its story told.

Ruth Caukwell says

Such an exciting book that I could not put it down.... a must read if you want to find out more about what it being put into our food! Starts off with a death of a child and then moves on..... (no spoilers though you will just have to read for yourself)

regards

Ruth Anne Caukwell

Writer Author and Public Speaker

My first inspirational book - 'Musings of a Blogger - Inspirational Thoughts for Your Life's Journey', (Published in 2016) is available through Balboa Press:-

<http://bookstore.balboapress.com/Prod...>

and Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Ruth-Anne-Cauk...>

I also write an inspirational blog – RuAnCa <http://ruanca.blogspot.co.nz>

My webpage – <http://ruanca.caukwell.com/>

Please note that soon my inspirational blog and website will be under my new website – www.ruthannecaukwell.com

Julie says

I found this one a bit hard going as there were so many characters to keep straight and it wasn't the usual sexual assault plot, more government and business orientated. Still a great read but it required constant

concentration.

Deb Bodinnar says

I usually read Kathryn's books very quickly because I can't put them down, but I feel like I maybe missed something with this one. The story line of the organic farm and the genetically modified foods just didn't grab me. As bad as it sounds I was finally happy when someone was actually murdered in the book, it was like "Yes! We've got a body to work with!" Sorry Kathryn.... I still love you and Anya. But no more E-Coli or spinach please. :)

Ann says

Wow! So much happening in a sleepy little Tasmanian town. Some parts of this story really stretched my imagination: important documents hidden in the chicken coop, houses bugged, cars and people incinerated etc, etc.

Although this was a good yarn, the impact is lost when we all know the protagonist has to survive. Surely more people would have been affected by the infected spinach? And I have difficulty imagining a mother placing her dead child in a toy box.

Too many issues were touched on in this story: anti vaccination, alternative medicine, sexual assault, contaminated food, GM food, dishonest politicians, compromised environmentalists, Chinese purchase of Australian land and more.

I sincerely hope Kathryn Fox used artistic licence with regard to GM foods and their possible effects; if that aspect of the story was based on research, we are all doomed.
