



Career of Evil

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When a mysterious package is delivered to Robin Ellacott, she is horrified to discover that it contains a woman's severed leg.

Her boss, private detective Cormoran Strike, is less surprised but no less alarmed. There are four people from his past who he thinks could be responsible – and Strike knows that any one of them is capable of sustained and unspeakable brutality.

With the police focusing on the one suspect Strike is increasingly sure is not the perpetrator, he and Robin take matters into their own hands, and delve into the dark and twisted worlds of the other three men. But as more horrendous acts occur, time is running out for the two of them...

A fiendishly clever mystery with unexpected twists around every corner, *Career of Evil* is also a gripping story of a man and a woman at a crossroads in their personal and professional lives. You will not be able to put this book down.

Career of Evil Details

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From Reader Review Career of Evil for online ebook

Ashley says

June 2018: This review is mostly going to be me responding to some of my own thoughts from my first review, with some extras thrown in; for example, how I was considering raising this to five stars because I loved Robert Glenister's narration so much. I love the dead tree versions of this book, but the audio adds another level. Highly recommend if you are so inclined. (I'm leaving my rating at 4.5, rounding down, for now, because of the ending. See below.)

Spoilery discussion of several plot points below.

So firstly, having now re-read this, I can state with approximately 99% surety that (view spoiler).

I pretty much stand by the rest of my thoughts. I love Robin in this book. She and Strike make some significant errors with one another, and become terribly communicators by the end of the book. They also let their personal feelings for one another and what's going on in their lives affect all their decision making. It's just a big clusterfuck of emotions, basically. Robin doesn't want to become that useless, scared person again, and resents anyone trying to protect her, because of that. She never explains to any of them, not her mother or Matthew or Strike, just exactly why she's so adamant about remaining at work. Maybe it's too difficult for her to articulate. In addition, (view spoiler)

And Strike doesn't explain his reasons to Robin, for the most part. He's so worried about keeping her safe, he just tells her what to do and doesn't think about any of his requests will affect her. His heart is in the right place, but it's patronizing as hell. With the Zahara situation, (view spoiler)

And lastly, there's the ending. This is the reason I can't up this to five stars until I read *Lethal White*. What the heck is that ending even going for? It's very unclear. Is Robin going to leave Matthew at the altar? Was Strike just going to get his partner back or did he have something else in mind? (He's very clearly attracted to Robin, but knows he should keep it professional, at the same time his attraction to her definitely magnified his rage with the firing incident.) Will Robin stay married to Matthew until his thing with the message deletion and the rest of his asshattery is revealed? It's just, that smile at the end, it's so open-ended! It could just be a little happy ending tip of the hat, letting us know they will mend their relationship, or it could be more. I don't like the ambiguity. So, 4.5 stars it remains.

Lethal White is in the can, so here's hoping for a late 2018 release date. I need some answers.

October 2015: Oh, man, I have so many thoughts. And I'm also not entirely sure what I think about some of what happened in this book. On the one hand, I LOVED IT. The case and Robin and Strike's personal lives dovetailed beautifully. So much of this book was character shiz, which is my favorite kind of shiz. And I've been saying for the past two books that I wanted MORE ROBIN and MORE ROBIN is exactly what I got. Robin backstory. Robin frontstory. Robin Robin Robin.

And the mystery itself was good and different from the last two. In the first book, it was really procedural. Lots of interviews, pounding the pavement, and the central question of whether or not Lula Landry killed herself. It was also an examination of fame and the press. The second book started off as a simple missing persons case that turned into a murder mystery, but it was really a satirization of the publishing industry. But to really make it the trifecta of things JKR is obsessed with, likely because of her own fame in the publishing

industry as a woman, this book and its central mystery are all about misogyny and violence against women. The book opens with Robin being sent a woman's severed leg in the mail, and it doesn't let up from there.

This case is personal for both Strike and Robin. Strike, because the leg was sent to Robin, the killer is targeting Robin, to get at Strike. There are three men from Strike's past who would be violent and unhinged enough to do something like this. And Robin because of her own history. We finally learn why she dropped out of University. I know that some people have had (and will have) trouble with Robin's backstory, but I don't. Firstly, because it doesn't feel cheap. It feels earned. JKR has clearly been setting it up since day one. And secondly because of Robin herself. Beautiful, complicated, strong and vulnerable Robin. Certainly what happened to her was terrible and traumatizing, but it's not the event itself she has trouble with, but how her friends and family (and Strike) treat her and her ambitions afterwards that she has the most trouble with.

Which brings me to Matthew. Motherfucking Matthew. He's just terrible. But this book sheds light on why Robin is with him, despite his terribleness.

(view spoiler)

The stress of the case also works on Strike and Robin's relationship, and a large portion of the book is spent on (view spoiler), just as the killer intended (although I don't think he's smart enough to have foreseen the psychological nuances of the situation he created--he was going for the blunt force option, framing Strike for murder and taking something away from him, not knowing that the more subtle approach was almost as hurtful). The depth of their conflict and interpersonal relationships is what makes this book so great.

The two things I do feel conflicted about were:

1) The decision to have POV chapters from the killer. I'm not sure those were entirely successful. Maybe I'm just not bad enough, but they seemed overly evil to me? I don't know. They didn't work as well for me as I wanted them to. The villain himself when seen from Robin and Strike's POV was great, and I liked the way his POVs kept leading me in opposite directions. I was CONVINCED that one guy had done it, but then it turned out to be something totally unexpected, but obvious in retrospect. It's just, those POVs were so . . . blunt? They served their purpose, though.

and 2) (view spoiler)

I think I'm going to have to just wait for the next book, and hope for the best. For now, this gets 4.5 stars. And hopefully by this time next year we'll have book four.

[4.5 stars]

February 2015: A girl could get spoiled with a new JK Rowling book every year, I tell you what.

Ricky says

Seeing the blurb for this book made me have this reaction:

Reading this book made me have *this* reaction:

In some ways, this book was less intense than the impossibly disgusting, *Hannibal*-level grossness of *The Silkworm*. On the other hand, Galbraith's third benefits from taking a look into the dark personal histories of both Strike and Robin - specifically, the fact that they both have violent crime in their pasts - because it helps us, the readers, know a little more about why they're in this line of work. And, in between all that, we're treated to another warped, bizarre world, mostly linked to Strike, with the worst side of rock and roll fandom involved. I might just find myself listening to a lot of Blue Oyster Cult after reading this book, just to get a better idea what this killer likes. It might just be the best serial-killer soundtrack since "Orinoco Flow" appeared in the 2011 *Dragon Tattoo* movie. Also, I might just find myself attempting to perfect my Cumbrian accent now - which, as it stands at the moment, is the unholy love child of Cockney and Scottish. Is it one of those accents that's impossible to fake if you're not a local? Maybe it is, but now I gotta try, don't I?

Now to sit back and wait for the fourth Strike book...it's gonna be another great one, I'm sure. This author cannot fail, I don't think. :)

Mohammed Arabey says

It's **The One With All the Feelings..**

A tense,thrill mystery interwoven with complicated emotions, kind of love..even Nostalgia.

No matter how you imaged **Strike**,

Here you'll get more into him, into his **Feelings** specially toward his precious engaged partner, **Robin**..his friends,-*I bet you gonna Love Shanker*-..

?..into his past, During his..

..Career of Evil.

& No matter whether you read the previous ones or not, you'll adore the Remarkable, excellent written, relation of Strike & Robin..

This wonderful unique chemistry between them.. part admiration, part comfortable, exceptional partnership and a little bit of un-name-able kind of can-be love.

It has started 3 years ago -one year in the story timeline-,since she came to 12 Bar Cafe as an unwanted temp.

If you read the first book that what will make you really nostalgic when you read this one..with all the characters and events developments.

And this time their relation facing a really hard time, some maniac blood and body parts craving murderer is set to sabotage Strike's career and reputation, and then..finish him.
and this murderer made clear that he's targeting Robin as a main mean to do so.
And not to mention the approaching of Robin's Wedding date to her Strike's hater fiancée, Matthew..and a huge fight that may stop the wedding that will increase the complications.

Because hard times make people more vulnerable emotionally, and relations usually get deeper. And this case made Strike and Robin face the darkest, hardest time..all that made this book the one with all the mixed feelings and emotions that very great written , as Rowling's best story telling usual..

And it's not only the feelings of Strike and Robin, You'll get more into Robin's personal life in this one since she have bigger part, and not only her... it has larger scale of Feelings..

The feeling of the amputees , and a strange mental disorder that made some healthy wanna be so. -first time to hear about this community-

**The Feelings of women who unfortunately end up with the wrong guy, whether they still staying ,suffering, with them...or who from their past and left them broken and lonely..
Some of them may be just boyfriend, a stepfather, a husband, even a brother..or may be a fiancée that his girl not knowing how wrong her choice is...**

And most importantly in the main story, The feeling of women and even little girls who suffered sexual abuses, from strangers or even someone close... how that change their lives ,the feeling of unsecured and shuttered.how sometimes the police make it hard time for the women while taking their statements.

It's really big story this time, and told you, full of feelings..

The Story

A very perfect constructed Story , with faster than the first 'Cuckoo's Calling' and larger in the main characters' life and emotions..friends and family And adversaries..

Robin -instead of Wedding party cameras- received a served woman's leg addressed to her in Cormoran's office.

It's seem to be someone want to bring Cormoran Strike's businesses down and he made a satisfying success..

Strike could think of 4, or 3 main suspect capable of doing so, they're from his past..and one of them is his late 'stepfather' who Strike already suspect he has murdered his mother..

And that's not all..now this bloody murderer not only want vengeance of Strike, but also made it clear that he's targeting what seems to him Strike's weakness...Robin.

Why this murderer need vengeance will lead Strike to think more into his past, his **career** being in the Special Investigations Branch..

also will lead him into more thinking of Robin, who endanger her life keeping her work with him.. also thinking of her fast approaching Wedding to Matthew, who may take her off his life..

The life of a lone wolf..

The Lone Wolf

~~~~~

Yet he knew he had been left impaired, that he no longer had the capacity to feel in the way that he had once felt. Elin's distress of the previous evening had not touched him at his core in the way Charlotte's had once done. He felt as though his capacity for loving had been blunted, the nerve endings severed.

He had not intended to wound Elin; he did not enjoy seeing her cry; yet the ability to feel empathetic pain seemed to have closed down. A small part of him, in truth, had been mentally planning his route home as she sobbed.

**No doubt whoever well read the stories of Cormoran Strike will really feel how deep and interesting character he is..**

*I always imaged him as Hugh Jackman, but since that I had a big backlash comments about him I changed the main photo to -BASED ON FRIENDS and GOODREADS USERS COMMENTS that mentioned other actors both on my Silkworm and this novel's pre review, I choose the most accurate ones..*

*Also Thank you Steph for the mention in your blog, and the idea of the particular scene of X-Men I used for Strike portrait.*

It was great How Mr. Robert Galbraith described the deep feelings for a lone wolf, who had a broken heart before , not that social, haunted by his past and infamous life of his mother..and has this complicated relation with his businesses partner 'Robin'..

you can clearly see how he defend himself of admitting he truly loves her without writing direct lines, you will observe that through his actions with Robin.

Strike is really interesting character, and so is Robin..so is all the characters that been mentioned before but get bigger role this time..

And it's why I really don't care much about the not-related-to-the-case stuff that the books usually full with.

**And here you'll get into more of them, their past..family and friends..and even adversaries..**

## The Career of Evil

~~~~~

Tensed fast thrilled that full of emotions and feelings and many horrible bloody scenes.

This time full of real tense and some chapters ends in a real cliffhangers.

-I am writing this review by the last 15% of the novel, with a cliffhanger dangers the continuation of Robin in the next stories.-

The novel is obsessed with the many references **Blue Oyster Cult**, which is have a base in the core of the novel's mystery since the murderer seems obsessed with this band as well.

You can see the phrases of their songs' lyrics in every chapter..

And, as the rest of the series, it's like a detailed **Travel literature** into England..you visit many places, interesting ones..

such as -for example here-:

Barrow-in-Furness and it's gloomy streets and nuclear submarines bunkers.

The interesting Market Harborough

The Sweet entrance of Catford Shopping Centre

And many many more..

And also living the atmosphere of the time the novel taking place, here in the April-June 2011, the major thing in GB was the Royal Wedding..

And, this time, interweaving all these places and events with the main core of the story is more than marvellous.

-As the Royal Wedding and Robin Story for example-

~~J.K. Rowling~~ Robert Galbraith

~~~~~

I guess one of the advantages of using a man, an Ex-SIB officer and actually a man, is being free to do all these bloody scenes some of it Stephen King's bloody type.

Women were so petty, mean, dirty and small. Sulky bitches, the lot of them, expecting men to keep them happy. Only when they lay dead and empty in front of you did they become purified, mysterious and even wonderful. They were entirely yours then, unable to argue or struggle or leave, yours to do with whatever you liked.

As well the great description of the murderer mind, it was also super insight into the feelings of women who suffered rape or sexual abuses..it was very realistic and even the reaction of the ones near the sufferer or the toughness of some police officers is very well stated in the novel.

SO, it's still her, the Queen of Magic, master storytelling elements, getting deep into characters and their feeling, analysing body language and actions without waiting for explanations..

**Humorous moments and deep meaning ones, that's what you will fall in love with this series because of this unique storytelling style.**

“You could find beauty nearly anywhere if you stopped to look for it, but the battle to get through the days made it easy to forget that this totally cost-free luxury existed.”

**That's , of course, if you don't mind many, or much, digressions.**

Now I must go to read the last 75 pages to see what will happen to Robin...and who the bloody murderer will be...

*-The Review of 9 Nov. 2015 ends here*

**Let's Talk the Ending..**

~~~~~

AGAIN?, It's The One With All the Feelings...

The One with All the Emotions..

The One with All the Tense..

And all the tensed bloody thrill and slowly resolving the hard, very well constructed mystery in a

thrilling double climax..

Then came the very Bittersweet Ending..

Without giving much , as a dear friend has said "Bloody Hell" or as Robin says "Bugger"

An Ending that will leave you grinning, sad a bit, feeling you wanna know more, you wanna more pages ,you don't want to leave them..

The ending...so tense..more excited I was really on the edge of my seat ,literally holding my breath..

Oh God the Ending...

(view spoiler)

these 2 last points about the ending really pissed me off, but not with the novel of course...it is really one of my best reads

How to know you've been reading a real good,even brilliant literature..

well, I had the symptoms of loss by finishing the novel, after about 12 days of reading as slowly as possible to not end it.....

1-I was really deep thinking ,kinda haunted with the story and keeping the details in mind..,how long did it pass since we 'Strike,Robin and me' received the leg..and who will be the real murderer of the three suspects..

2- The waiter in the cafe I read at told me today "you've been in this book, for few days you've been tensed sometimes and widely grinning many times" , hell yeah I did :) ... I caught myself grinning a lot despite controlling so while I'm in public cafe, siting alone..

3- I Don't know what can I read next although I had a plan for 3 big horrors.I can't see myself committing with big novels now, may be even any novel for a day or two... **I just wanna read the next Strike's novel..**

So Please Mr.Galbraith.. do your best , I know you always do..:)

Mohammed Arabey

From 27 Oct. 2015

To 10 Nov. 2015

First pre- review in the (view spoiler)

This time Will be "Career of Evil"

Will be about the experience of returning soldiers..with story seems darker..and more complicated with Robin too..

BLOODY Chapter One

The Surprising Chapter Two

Can't wait again to meet Mr. Strike again,

And our sweetheart .. Robin

Oh Please if anyone can convince Mr. Hugh Jackman ,he'd be Perfect Cormoran Strike ,isn't he?

And for sorry it will be out by autumn..

And it will be more than 7 Books, I guess you already know that :)

AND PLZ STOP RATING, STOP HIGH AND LOW RATINGS.

Mohammed Arabey

11 Feb. 2015

(hide spoiler)]

Kai says

“You could find beauty nearly anywhere if you stopped to look for it”

I'm not entirely sure what to think now. On one hand, I am just so confused and taken by surprise. And on the other hand, I am overwhelmed and happy.

I can only say more than positive things about writing and character development. I don't need to talk about J. K. Rowling's skills as an author, we all know she is a genius. So let's talk about the characters. I like Strike more and more with every novel. And now that he's free of that horrible ex-girlfriend/fiancé, he can finally move on with his private life. He is still struggling with customers, even more since a dead woman's leg sent to his office is not exactly helping his business.

And now to Robin! Oh, how boring this series would be without her. I am so glad for our muggle-Hermione. I just want her to be happy and successful and alive, please. Anyway, her private life takes a few big turns, making *Career of Evil* even more exciting, seeing how her relationship with her fiancé Matthew, and her boss Strike develop.

Now to the suspects. They are all evil little bastards, one worse than the other and every one of them deserves to rot in the fictional hell. The changing POV made me feel uncomfortable, to say the least. I was disgusted at times, sickened. While Cormoran Strike #2 was totally weird, this was even worse. Gross on a new level.

I thought I had guessed the murderer, but I was wrong. Rowling/Galbraith spins and intricates a web of false trails, which lead to dead ends and confusion. I finished this novel and had to reread some parts straightaway, to actually grasp the outcome.

Sometimes I grew annoyed by how long it took Strike to figure out this case. I felt like there were too many suspects, with too similar pasts, who all had a motive for revenge. And I have to admit, that I enjoyed *The Cuckoo's Calling* and *The Silkworm* more than this third installment. The crime stories and their outcomes were more satisfying, in my opinion.

Nevertheless, that ending was incredible and I can't wait for the fourth book, and the BBC TV adaption! I hope we will get both in 2017.

(We got the adaption in 2017 and the fourth book will see its release at the end of 2018, so yay!)

Find more of my books on Instagram

Chelsea Humphrey says

Once again, left with post-novel depression as Robert Galbraith has published another well-written Strike/Ellacott novel. Boy was this a wild ride! I have felt each book in this series has grabbed my attention more than the previous one and leaves me craving another.

Set in 2011 (one year after Robin has begun working for Cormoran Strike and during the time of the royal wedding), the story opens with the ramblings of a serial killer who's identity is a mystery to the reader. Robin Ellacott has been sent a female severed leg in the mail and the dynamic duo decide to hunt down this killer while the police are heading in what Strike considers a dead end. Cormoran has 3 suspects in mind and they spend the entirety of the book bouncing back and forth all 3 while keeping us in suspense until the very last pages. Simultaneously, Robin and Strike's relationship takes a new turn as Robin and her fiancé take a break to decide if the wedding will take place at all.

I loved how the author really developed Strike and Robin's relationship deeper than both the previous novels together. I was just as engrossed in this aspect as I was in the suspense of the killer. There was a really nice twist at the end involving the identity of the killer which I did not see coming; honestly, she does a great job of keeping you from knowing who the killer is entirely until she wants it revealed. I really enjoyed how the chapters were structured by breaking up the story chapters with sections of the killer's private thoughts. This is by far one of my favorite books of the year and I am anxiously awaiting the fourth novel in the series!!!

Lindsey Rey says

Best one in the series yet!

Emily says

If the first two Cormoran Strike books can be summed up as "celebrity" and "publishing" respectively, then this book is "misogynistic violence," which is possibly my least favorite subject to read about.

This is a closed circle mystery in which Robin and Strike investigate a serial killer whose past is linked to Strike. Due to the fact that there are only four real suspects that are provided by Strike - and that the killer gets his own POV sections in which you see some of the murders happen - this mystery isn't particularly interesting or fun to solve. The Strike/Robin relationship is further developed in this book, which is good because otherwise this would have been 400 pages of stakeouts interspersed with scenes of horrific assaults. In short, it's boring. J.K. Rowling can still propel me through a story, but I'm amazed that this particular story took so many pages to tell.

As a disclaimer before I keep writing: I understand that sexual violence is an extremely important topic to continue discussing openly, both to remove stigmatization of victims and because it's so prevalent: 1 in 5 American women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes. But I personally do not enjoy reading graphic depictions of sexual violence. (I'd rather read the discovery of the body of Owen Quine several times than read some of the descriptions in this book again.) And it's always hard to tell if its inclusion is titillating or not. If I didn't already trust J.K. Rowling as a writer, I probably would have abandoned this book near the halfway point.

My least favorite part about this book was the use of rape as a backstory. When a female character needs a life-altering turning point in her past that explains her decisions and current trajectory, rape gets slotted in as the most traumatic event possible. (view spoiler)

There is exploration of victimhood here, and what it means to be a victim. It comes up again when (view spoiler). And when Strike goes to see Hazel Furley, he thinks to himself that it's natural that the cops should have questioned her boyfriend Ray so intensely: "most women's rapists and killers were not strangers in masks who reached out of the dark space under the stairs. They were the father, the husband, the mother's or the sister's boyfriend ..."

But I believe that exploration is undercut by the frequent and extremely graphic scenes of rape, dismemberment, and assault. It's one thing to recognize the horror that these acts recur too frequently in the world, and to explore how resilience can play a part in moving on and not letting that experience define you. It's another to have a mother (Rhona Laing's mother, to be exact) explain that one of the suspects (view spoiler) - and that's not even close to the first-person scenes from the murderer's perspective, where he talks about women as objects who are better to him dead before killing them.

Does every book that involves sexual assault have to have an underlying moral or point? No, of course not. But if I am expected as the reader to make my way through these various scenes, there should be some sort of payoff. Given that this mystery is not interesting, novel, or fun to read, this book completely failed for me.

Raeleen Lemay says

SOLID.

This series is definitely my favorite when it comes to the audiobooks... They're just so well done! The narrator perfectly does all of the different accents, and he sounds exactly how I would picture Cormoran Strike to sound. Audiobook comments aside, this book was pretty great! I really look forward to rereading these books in the future so I can see all of the foreshadowing I'm sure is sprinkled throughout the books, which is something Rowling is notorious for.

Paromjit says

This is an intense, atmospheric and compelling addition to the Cormoran Strike series. Where it really excels is in characterisation with in depth backstories of Cormoran and his history with the three main suspects in this story and his relationship with Shanker, his offbeat and eccentric friend. Robin's traumatic history is revealed, as is the reason why working as a PI is so heartbreakingly important to her. She comes across as emotionally fragile, compassionate, tenacious and highly skilled as an investigator. As for the three main suspects in the story, I think the author stood in front of the mirror, asking Who is the foulest of them all? I can see her having great fun creating the depraved, brutal, and ruthless monsters that are Whittaker, Laing and Brockbank. Those three are truly scraping the bottom of the barrel of human scum. In a well constructed story, we encounter the extreme mental health issues of people who would voluntarily amputate body parts, seek paralysis etc..

It all begins with Robin receiving a girl's leg in a parcel. This has significance for Cormoran and he identifies 4 suspects. The police focus on who Cormoran feels is the least likely suspect, so he and Robin investigate the others. There are references to Blue Oyster Cult songs and lyrics throughout which are connected to Strike's dead mother, Leda. The investigation takes Cormoran and Robin all round the country as more murders take place on what is a dangerous trail. It becomes abundantly clear that a clever and twisted killer wants to destroy Cormoran and killing Robin is a priority in his plan. Under the microscope is Cormoran and Robin's relationship as they get closer whilst Robin's wedding plans continue to gather pace. Her fiancé, Matthew, is clearly a ghastly secondary character just waiting to be written out. Cormoran's relationship with the Police remains a minefield that he has to negotiate delicately whilst taking out insurance.

There is much mileage left in this ever improving and engaging series. It is tightly plotted to build the maximum level of tension and suspense with a fast paced narrative. I found it an entertaining, gripping and absorbing read. Cannot recommend it enough. Robert Galbraith is an assured and accomplished writer. I understand the BBC are going to film the series, I look forward to seeing what they make of this series!

Alejandro says

Sadly, I felt it as a recoil in the book series.

BACKGROUND

I was quite excited to read this third novel in the *Cormoran Strike* book series, since I had enjoyed plenty enough, however I think that this third novel was like a retrogression in what the book series was able to accomplish and to develop so far.

The Cuckoo's Calling was slow pacing, drifting to irrelevant sub-plots, over detailed filling scenes and repetitive situations, along with having more pages than necessary, **BUT** I was adamant to any reader of my review that they should keep at it since the climax was superb and making worthy all the effort to read the novel, also the use of the fashion/modeling industry was a real plus.

The Silkworm became a fresh air to the rising book series, since it was like magic (yep, pun intended!) due that all those negative elements in the first book were gone. The second novel was intense, focused on the case, each scene was different, even the book was thinner, adding the use of the book publishing industry,

easily this book turned to be the best in the series (clearly having in mind that there were only two in the series, so far) but also a “must-read” to any J.K. Rowling fan (yes, it’s her, just in case you are the last one to know that “Robert Galbraith” is just a pseudonym), since I felt it as a very personal book by her, showing light to many feelings from her about the craziness and intrigue involved in the industry of publishing books. Moreover, since there weren’t any spoilers about the first case, you could easily engage this second novel (without having read the first book) and you wouldn’t be any lost in the reading.

LIKE A CRAB

Career of Evil fell in all the mistakes found the first book and even worse, since this time you don’t have a specific industry involved in the story (I thought earlier that it would be about the music industry that it could be real cool, but no), also it’s not a case per se, since there isn’t anybody who hired Cormoran, but it’s a personal vendetta by some mysterious person but clearly someone from Cormoran’s past, which made quite dumb that he needed so much time to deduce the culprit since he knew quite well all the suspects, and where Cormoran looked as a brilliant detective in how he cracked the previous two cases and how the climaxes were developed, however here (I won’t make any spoilers, don’t worry), let’s just say that his key evidence is something so trivial, so small, along with a non-climatic resolve, that after reading almost 500 pages I felt cheated.

Realizing that it’s a book by J.K. Rowling, which is the alive female writer that I respected the most, it just made more disappointing the whole reading experience of this third book in the series.

THE GOOD SIDE

Commenting about the good side in the book... mmh... well, there is... mmh... aah!... mmh... no... wait!... mmh... nope... Really, I can’t say anything good about the third book.

Still, I guess that some basic expected elements in the construction of a book, by such accomplished writer, helped to get at least two stars for my personal rating.

Adina says

Wow, I can’t believe it’s been 2 weeks since my last review. I had two hectic weeks at work and home and had no time to read and even less to review. I hope to be able to catch up with my challenge and reviews in the following days.

Career of Evil is the third volume in Cormoran Strike series and in case you did not know, written by

wonderful J.K. Rowling under the pen name of Robert Galbraith. If you haven't read the other two books do not start with this one. They are to be read in order as the personal life of the characters is mingled with the murder mystery.

I am not going to write anything about the story as the blurb is pretty well done. I am just going to make some comparisons with the other two and talk about what I liked and what I did not.

What I love about the series are the two characters, Robin and Cormoran, and the dynamic of their relationship. They are both complex and this volume is the one where we get to learn more about their past which was a part I was looking forward to explore. However, there was a bit too much drama between the two of them and it took a bit away from my satisfaction.

There is a big difference between Career of Evil and the first two books, namely, the duo is chasing a serial killer this time. I prefer mysteries where the killers have complex reasons for acting violently and serial murders are not fully my type. Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading the small chapters where we were given a glimpse inside the madman's mind. The pace was a bit slower than in the other novels and the focus was made on surveillance rather than on discussions with potential suspects which I found less interesting.

Although it was my least favorite of the Strike's adventures, I still enjoyed every page and I can't wait to read the next one. Hurry up, J.K, please.

Kaora says

DAT ENDING!

WHY?????

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Career of Evil (Cormoran Strike #3), Robert Galbraith (Pseudonym), J.K. Rowling

Career of Evil is the third novel in the Cormoran Strike series, written by J. K. Rowling and published under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. It is preceded by The Cuckoo's Calling and The Silkworm; it will be followed by Lethal White. The novel was released on 22 October 2015 in the United Kingdom.

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Andrew Smith says

A package delivered to a private investigator's office in London contains the severed leg of a woman. Who sent this, and why? A note contained in the package that appears to be an extract from the lyrics of a song by the rock band the Blue Oyster Cult might offer a clue. The investigator, Cormoran Strike, is upset that his female partner was exposed to such a brutal discovery – for it was she the package was addressed to – but he thinks he can boil the list of perpetrators down to one of four men. Strike's observation that the leg is 'not even my size' heralds the discovery (for me) that he is missing a leg of his own. Interesting.

I was quickly to discover that this was a very well crafted thriller indeed. After rejecting one of his four suspects as unlikely, Strike decides to leave that one to the police while he'll try to track down the three dark men from his past who he feels are most capable of and incentivised to carry out this atrocious act. And the three men are grim characters indeed. Each is brought to life via the telling a back story and each is more deliciously appalling than the last. If the story had one of these fellows haunting the background of the piece it would have been interesting, but three... well that's a feast!

This is the third book the author has penned in this series, but as I haven't read the first two I was somewhat concerned I'd suffer from that annoying tendency for there to be umpteen references I'd fail to grasp the significance of. I needn't have worried. Galbraith (AKA J.K. Rowling, as I discovered to my utter surprise about half way through) deftly dealt with any relevant pre-story events by skilfully weaving the facts into the narrative. This is definitely a book that can be read as a stand-alone.

I listened to the tale on audio, brilliantly read by British actor Robert Glenister. He brought each of the characters to life and skillfully delivered all the required accents. Even his Cornish accent sounded spot-on. Cormoran and his partner, Robin Ellacott, are interestingly complex and have plenty going on in their own lives to flesh out the action. There's good chemistry between them and I'm definitely keen to meet up with them again.

I found the pacing of the story to be just right and although the denouement didn't provide the bombshell moment I'd been hoping for the whole thing was competently resolved come the end. I really felt at home with this tale. The tension was ever present and the hunt for the three grotesquely villainous bad guys was brilliantly handled. Who knew that the author of the Harry Potter books could also churn out top quality adult crime fiction too.

Jayson says

(A-) 82% | Very Good

Notes: Wherein accents abound, people play pretend, men hurt women in many different ways, and Robin is really Batman.

Wilma says

Cormoran Strike...en zijn partner Robin Ellacott...weergaloze, satirisch getinte detective.

Het leest als een trein...vlot geschreven, vlot gelezen...hierin ligt ook de kracht van het verhaal.

Ik heb genoten!!

Maxwell says

Honestly, a bit perplexed by this one. The character development was spot on, even though I'm not necessarily a fan of where I think the relationship is going between Strike & Robin. And the mystery in the end left me kind of confused. But the writing is impeccable and diving into any of Rowling's books feels like going home. I just can't get enough of her stories. This is more like a 3.5 stars but I'll round it up to 4 because I still thoroughly enjoyed it.

Phrynne says

I always look forward to picking up a book by J.K. Rowling. From Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone through to this current novel she has never put a foot wrong and I firmly believe she could write successfully in any genre. A truly talented author.

Career of Evil is the third in a series which hopefully will be a long one! The two main characters, Stryke and Robin, are wonderful and the trials and tribulations of their relationship are handled beautifully, to the point where this reader at least continues to think about them long after the book is finished! Some new characters pop up too and the mystery is thrilling, well paced and cleverly written. An easy five stars and I am not at all surprised there is to be a TV show. Looking forward to that and also the next book.

Alex says

Jesus, what a rollercoaster! I have been looking forward to this book for such a long time with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation. What if this wasn't as good as the other two in the series? What if I had somehow built up the other two books in retrospect, leaving only disappointment in the third? Would I ever stop with the rhetorical questions and get on with the review?

Let me tell you: this was fucking good. Like REALLY GODDAMNED GOOD. Like I-stayed-up-way-past-my-bedtime-to-finish-this good. The book starts off at a sprint and just keeps going, and I think this is my favourite out of all three of Robert Galbraith's books. There's something about the murder mystery in this book that I really, REALLY enjoyed. It wasn't as heavy with exposition as *The Cuckoo's Calling* (anyone else remember the paragraphs of dialogue from that book?), nor as outlandish as *The Silkworm*. This serial killer was creepy, realistic, sadistic, and the question of who he actually turns out to be is set up so well that I couldn't figure it out until the last third or so.

Speaking of the last third - OH MY GOD. SHIT GOES DOWN. I realise this isn't my most coherent review but I'm currently coming down from my *Career of Evil*-induced high. I was alternately laughing like a maniac, screaming at a book and jumping up and down in excitement. People thought I was possessed. Note to self: don't scream with all the windows open or the neighbours will think you're weird.

In terms of characters, Cormoran is back being his usual awesome self, and there are some great new characters introduced in this book (hi, Shanker!), but the real badass is Robin. I love her. She is so fucking awesome that I can hardly form coherent sentences. What a badass. What. A. Bad. Ass. She is the heart, soul, and central nervous system of these books, which took me a while to figure out, but now that I realise this I

love and admire her as a character even more. She goes from strength to strength and I cannot wait to see how she develops in future books. I'm officially crushing majorly on her. WHAT A BADASS.

(view spoiler)

If you liked the other Cormoran Strike books, you will like this, or at least I assume you will. I loved it. I haven't had a book keep me up all night in a while, and this did that and more. It had my heart racing. It made my neighbours think I am some sort of super excitable psychopath who screams at poor inanimate books. And it reaffirmed my love for Robin, who is as great a female character in any book I've ever read.

*** UPDATE ***

Ok so I've had a few more days to think about this book, and there is one thing in particular that I really need to get off my chest. My family hasn't read this book yet, so I'm forced to unleash my feelings upon my fellow Goodreaders.

(view spoiler)

Ah I had to get that off my chest. It's all I've been thinking about since I finished the book.

Helene Jeppesen says

This book was amazing, and despite its size of 500 pages I read it in merely two days. Robert Galbraith, aka J. K. Rowling, seems to be the only author that can make me truly interested in crime stories, because normally they bore me as well as frustrate me (I can never seem to guess who the murderer is). Reading this third book in the Cormoran Strike series felt like coming home. I felt safe among some of my favourite characters, Robin and Strike, and because of them I read most of this book with a smile on my face. Galbraith is truly amazing at writing characters, and I definitely think that the characters are what drives this story forward and makes me love it so much.

The murder case in itself interested me, but as is the case with the other two books as well, it was the relationship between Robin and Strike that kept me glued to the pages. I was able to follow the crime case and not be too bored, because Galbraith is really good at mingling it with the everyday lives of the characters. I'm a huge fan of this series, and I can't wait to get back to Robin and Strike in the fourth book - I already miss them!
