



Get Even

Martina Cole

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The twenty-second novel from *Sunday Times* No.1 bestseller, Martina Cole, author of DANGEROUS LADY, THE TAKE, THE GOOD LIFE and many more...

Playing grown-ups, the future is theirs for the taking.

Sharon Conway and Lenny Scott are childhood sweethearts. Everyone says they are too young, but nothing can keep them apart. Sharon doesn't question Lenny's business dealings and it isn't long before his reputation as a hard man destined for the top means they are living the good life with their sons.

It leaves a stain on her heart for ever.

But one night Lenny doesn't come home. It isn't the first time he has gone AWOL. But it is his last. He is found murdered - beaten to death in an act of brutality that shocks even the police. And Sharon never knows why.

Old wounds will surface.

Now, twenty years later, Sharon has found out the truth. Such a crime cannot go unpunished. Revenge is long overdue. The time has come to...

GET EVEN

Get Even Details

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Author : Martina Cole

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From Reader Review Get Even for online ebook

~ Cariad ~ says

I'm seriously bowing equally to Martina Cole for writing another perfect book and to Annie Aldington for narration that's so perfect, it's ridiculous!!

I was gripped from start to finish - more, more, more from this outstanding team please.

Doreen Dooley says

Well I have to say that Martina Cole is definitely the Queen of gangster and crime books.

Upon starting this book I thought that it was going to be another run of the mill story that has been continuously told about gangsters and crime. We start with two young people Sharon and Lenny and what seems like young love, we have Lenny a young man striving to get a name in old school gang and as he makes his way up with help of his mentor Jack Johnson . This is the first part of the book , which then takes a closer look at Lenny's growth but where we also found out all is not as it seems.

The second chapter of the book looks into Sharon's growth after her husband is brutally murdered and her second marriage to the man who she believes has brought love back into her life Ray Donovan, with the lifestyle that the gangland world brings secrets and lies will out. As I read this book within 4 days that's how captivated I became with "Get Even". One to read.

The Book Review Café says

I have always been a big fan of Martina Cole, but I'm the first to admit her last couple of books have left me feeling disappointed, with the same type of characters, similar plots, and dialogue that was neither new or particularly engaging! Every time I pick up Martina's latest book I hope she has gone back to her earlier style of writing, they were amazing and very often I would read the whole book in one sitting! they were that engaging. So it was with great trepidation I picked up Get Even.

Get Even is delivered in very short chapters, which at times became a little irritating, some chapters were half a page long, which I thought was unnecessary and distracting, I'm still trying to figure out the benefits of writing such short chapters. The characters seem to have been rehashed from previous books I'm sorry to say. Young boy destined to make it big in the crime world, a wife who doesn't question her husband's business dealing and appears to be a "door mat", and the "big" crime boss who is getting to old for the job, you get the picture. I found it really difficult to relate to any of the characters as they were just your average Gangland stereo types.

As anyone who has ever read a Martina Cole book will know, there is always a lot of swearing and Get Even is no exception, but in Martina's defence it is in keeping with her characters and the plot, but after a while it becomes very repetitive. The plot follows the usual formula family, loyalty, treachery and secrets, while I'm sure this formula works for Martina, and continues to help her sell books, I feel I am re-reading one of her

older books. Whilst this may suit loyal fans, personally I would like to see Martina up her game and provide her readers with something new and fresh.

If you are looking for a read that doesn't tax the brain, with a half decent plot line you may enjoy Get Even, but personally I think there are much better authors out there in this genre, Kimberley Chambers is one who springs to mind.

First published on my blog <http://thebookreviewcafe.com>

Val Penny says

I went into the library and the most recent Martina Cole book, Get Even, had just come in. As I was at the desk at the right time, I got to borrow the book without waiting. What a lucky break! I have enjoyed most of the books by Martina Cole that I have read and when I had a chance to read this book ahead of the crowd, I was pleased. I met Martina Cole a few months previously at the Bloody Scotland Crime Writers' Festival. She is a very down to earth, real person. Get Even had not been published then, so it was interesting to have a chance to read the book.

Martina Cole is a British crime writer and businesswoman who was born in Essex, England on March 30, 1959. As of 2015 she has released twenty two novels about crime, most of which examine London's gangster underworld. Get Even is no exception.

Sharon Conway and Lenny Scott are childhood sweethearts. Everyone says they are too young, but nothing can keep them apart. Lenny Scott is a handsome man, big strong and an up and coming face in the underworld. Sharon is everything Lenny could ever want, after meeting at school they are inseparable and when Sharon finds out she is having a baby, they can bring their plans forward to be a real family. Sharon does not question Lenny's business dealings and it is not long before his reputation as a hard man destined for the top means they are living the good life with their sons.

Jack Johnson is the main man and he takes Lenny into his business and under his watchful eye. As Lenny climbs up the ranks he is a force to be wary of. Lenny is also keeping a secret that could destroy his family and his status and that secret must never come out.

One night when Lenny does not come home. Sharon does not worry as it is not the first time he has done this, but it is his last. He is found murdered. He has been beaten to death in an act of brutality that shocks even the police, and not even Sharon knows why. Only twenty years later, Sharon finds out the truth. Such a crime cannot go unpunished. Revenge is long overdue.

Get Even is set over a time span of 30 years it is a page turner. I enjoyed the story and the way it was told. Martina Cole remains an excellent story teller. If you enjoy a good thriller, I recommend Get Even.

Valerie Penny

Elaine says

3.5 Stars

Lenny Scott is a handsome man, big strong and an up and coming face in the underworld.

Sharon is everything Lenny could ever want, after meeting at school they are inseparable and when Sharon finds out she is having a baby, they can bring their plans forward to be a real family.

Jack Johnson is the main man and he takes Lenny into his business and under his watchful eye. As Lenny climbs up the ranks he is a force to be wary of.

But **Lenny** is also keeping a secret that could destroy his family and his status and that secret must **never** come out.

Of course as of all MC books there are some very unsavoury characters in it.

(view spoiler)

Set over a time span of 30 years it was a page turner and although I didn't love it I did still enjoy it.

When I first started reading gangster thrillers MC was the Queen of that Genre.

Her early books were fantastic, gritty and thrilling. Always waiting for October for her new release.

This was still an ok read for me. If your a fan of **Martina Cole** as I always will be you will enjoy this.

Martina Cole is very respected in this genre and of course I will continue to read whatever she writes and eagerly await next October...

Brendann Brown says

A brilliant novel. One off the best Martina Cole books in a long time. Liked the characters even the top faces came across as having a good side as well as a dangerous side. Jealousy played a major role as well. Would recommend this novel to others.

Book Addict Shaun says

Martina Cole is one of my favourite ever authors, yet most of her die hard fans will admit that her last few releases have been more than a little lacklustre. I used to buy her books on their hardback release date, but now I am more than happy to wait for the paperback release. Sadly, Get Even isn't anything near a return to form for Martina but it did have its good moments and I did enjoy it, despite there being numerous things about it that I didn't.

The villain this time around is Lenny Scott. Lenny isn't majorly different than many of the 'Faces' who live

'the life' (yes these words and phrases are used once again in abundance like every other recent Martina book) but he does have a couple of things about him that set him apart from previous faces. I actually found him to be a rather interesting character, and felt that it was a shame that the book opened (and the blurb gives away) with the reader finding out about his fate because it doesn't actually come until much later in the book and I felt that it would have worked better had the reader not known what was coming. I wanted Lenny's past to be explored more, and indeed for his personality to be expanded upon further than it was. Back in the day we had doorstep reads from Martina which felt like multiple books in one, now, with the short chapters, the books are over just as they are getting going.

Lenny is married to Sharon who I have to say was one of the duller characters I think I've ever read about. Martina used to create really strong female characters but what we have here is a woman who happily lives off Lenny seemingly oblivious to the kind of person that he is and then the revenge that the blurb would have us believe is dished out by her, is actually carried out by other people. It's really disappointing to read about such a weak character when strong female characters is something that Martina does (or did do) better than anybody else in the genre and the secondary characters who actually have a personality and some potential to add stuff to the story, aren't really fleshed out enough for them to be all that interesting.

Unfortunately the things I did enjoy about this story refer to some of the events that happen that the blurb doesn't give away and so I don't want to spoil things even further for those who are yet to pick up this book. If you are new to Martina's work then as always I would say go back and read her previous books but those who have read all of them and are waiting for that return to form, you sadly won't find it with Get Even. Rather than getting a new (or the same) book year after year, I would love for Martina to spend a little bit longer writing something akin to Goodnight Lady, a real doorstep read that spans decades as opposed to books like this that just essentially feel like rush jobs. But, when they still sell by the bucketload I guess that yearly release is needed.

Stephanie Quinn says

Martina had once been the undisputed queen of the underworld. I thoroughly enjoyed her earlier work. As of late what was once a riveting read is now just a formula being followed with an attempt to emulate previous successes. Characters developed, changed and contradicted themselves. In reality a certain level of growth is expected however a complete 360 is farcical.

My reasoning for 3 stars is purely a respect for Martina's earlier work and newcomers to the author will enjoy this tale.

Zoe Hall says

As far as crime/thriller novels go, this is not the best one I've read all year, but having said that, this book is actually very good. The characters are interesting, and the storyline had me wanting to read on. Interesting concept between two of the characters which I've not come across before in other crime stories, so kudos to Martina for that. Great book, great writing and well written characters. Good balance of violence too. I've certainly read more violent Martina Cole books that's for sure. It had all the elements I love about all of Martina's books in just one book. Am looking forward to the next book already!

Caroline Mitchell says

Another cracker by Martina Cole. Explosive action, gritty characters and a plot line that will leave you enthralled.

Melinda Elizabeth says

Get Even is one of those books with annoyingly short chapters. I found this construction of chapters to be confusing in this instance, as for the first few chapters it was difficult to determine if we were in the past or present, and also whose narrative we were reading. The teaser chapters about what's to come didn't quite hit the mark, instead starting the novel off to a shaky start.

I guess the purpose of Get Even is to be a sharp, witty novel following the life a mob wife, but whilst it's short and snappy, it's not particularly clever or interesting. With all the changing perspectives and short chapters, I found it difficult to really maintain a level of interest in any of the characters.

Luke says

it was a good book to read but not very exciting for me sorry Martina Cole

Sabrina Stobbs says

This is the first Martina Cole book I have ever read after wanting to read one of hers for years. Heard so much good stuff about her! As it was I was disappointed! Far from a page turner it took 3/4 through before I even got into it. I expected a lot more due to the rave reviews she gets from everyone. I did however after finishing the book like it enough to try one of her others. Personally though I thought Martin Arlidge writes better novels as you can't turn the pages quick enough in his!

Jo Sexton says

I used to be a huge Martina Cole fan and have devoured everything she has ever written. In recent years, her story-telling has become a little lacklustre, with a lot of repetition to bulk up her books. During the first few chapters of this book, I could see this happening again and my heart sank. However, it didn't take long for the real story to kick in, and it was a blinder! Really enjoyed it.

Chris Steeden says

‘As her old mum used to say, where women were concerned, they never got mad if they were clever – they went one better and they got even’.

Meet Sharon. Like a lot of Martina Cole’s female lead protagonists she is a strong woman and events have conspired such that ‘She would do what needed to be done – no matter the consequences’. This sets the scene perfectly and like other Cole books we go back to the beginning. In this instance it is 1984.

Just a sixth of the way through the book and bang. A twist, a surprise that hits you harder than a cosh over the head from an Essex wideboy. The plot zips along at a frenetic rate all with the typical Cole traits of torture and ultra-violence. That’s why we love her so. That’s not the last surprise either. This time it hits you like a bullet train where you are pinned to front and taken around the East London suburbs and Essex countryside. It’s time for revenge. Get Even.

I really liked this one. The last four I had read were average 3-star affairs. I felt this one was much much better. The tension that is built up makes it very exciting. You care about the characters that you should care about and you want the horrible ones to succumb to the meted-out torture. Granted, it is not Cole of old but still damn good.
