



The Wife of a Lesser Man

Sandy Appleyard

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Mark Tame is Chief of Police for the Los Angeles police department. His return to work after a heart attack is eventful as his team hunts down a serial killer. Mark is used to unexpected situations at work, but when he finds himself amidst a shocking mystery at home, his hands are seemingly tied. Being pulled in all directions, Mark thinks the situation could not be worse...until he learns the next bullet has his wife's name on it

The Wife of a Lesser Man Details

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From Reader Review The Wife of a Lesser Man for online ebook

Robert Cannell says

Fine story

Very good read best I have read this year can't wait for the next instalment hope it will be as good as the first book

Clare O'Beara says

This is a solid story of police procedure with a mid-life change to a marriage. While it is well put together, some aspects of the writing were not ideal for me but the story may well appeal more to others.

THE WIFE OF A LESSER MAN is initially narrated by Shelly Tame, happily married to a loving, sexy, diligent police chief. Mark suffers a major heart attack. Fortunately, with surgery and good care, he recovers. Changing his diet is a sensible step, and luckily he never smoked or drank, while medications are necessary. However their love life suffers as a result of his condition.

By this point we have lost the first-person POV and are in third-person. The narration by Shelly does help to bring home the shock and fear felt by a wife in her situation, making it intensely personal. The POV shift may come across as a little confusing for some.

With all-round support from family and the department Mark returns to work, handling routine cases and visiting murder scenes. A woman named Karen Reed is found shot dead in her home, and it looks as though she knew the killer. This is how the police chief spends his Thanksgiving. A bracelet is missing from the victim's effects, which is visible in a photo of her. A jewellery store assesses the image as 'run of the mill Swarovski' which is no help... unless the killer has taken it as a trophy. When a similar shooting occurs, the possibility of a serial killer draws intense media coverage, keeping Mark on his feet. Meanwhile, Shelly gets asked out for a drink by the well-built new yoga instructor, and she can't deny she fancies him. She thanks him, saying she's married, but for how long can this lonely wife resist temptation?

I was disappointed that I was unable to find a location. Possibly the author Sandy Appleyard is so familiar with her setting that she doesn't realise that readers would like details; even a state would be a good start. Descriptions are bland: a street block, a station house, no fine construction points such as adobe, gingerbread, stone, brick, steel and glass. The weather is cold in November but no plants or trees on the street are mentioned, no birds or evidence of any natural life. Food mainly consists of turkey and meat alternatives, no local dishes. Perhaps Americans could pick up more, but I live in Ireland.

The story is well thought-out and characters come across as very human, removing it from the typical crime story. I was not sure how good a friend someone is if she keeps taking a wife out for drinks to get her to talk about her sex life and encourages her to have an affair with a virtual stranger. I'd be dropping that friend. Crime scene details are plentiful, often unpleasant. Followers of procedural crime stories will be keen to read this and there are interesting dilemmas. I felt that with more descriptive writing this book could have been so much better, but that's my personal taste. I haven't read any others by this author, so the writing style may differ.

Trevor Pearson says

<https://bindblottyandcajole.com/2017/...>

Tamara Anderson says

I enjoyed this book, I think of it as an Opening of a Series, Sandy really lets you get to know the Characters in the book.

Ellen says

I received this as a First Reads win.

This story is basically about a police chief, his wife and a serial murder. While I enjoyed the romance of the main characters, at times it seemed to drag on with mundane daily details. I would have liked to see a little more story. The serial killer story line was done very well, and the ending was very exciting. It was an easy read, and I did enjoy it.

Ted Tayler says

"Police procedural with a twist"

This police procedural with a twist is more about the characters than the case minutiae, which sets it apart from many others in its genre. It's not too difficult to suss out the reasons for the 'female' interludes sandwiched between the hunt for the serial killer, Mark and Shelley's marriage is rock solid. Sarah and her yoga are just a side issue. I wondered why for about twenty pages, and then the penny dropped. Although the plot isn't terribly convincing, if you want an escapist read then it's OK.

Nicole says

This was a Goodreads win which was exciting. The book was a quick read. I would have liked to know and care about the characters more. Some of the banter seemed to not fit the situations and left me wondering why it was there. That being said, I have never written a book and give the author credit for doing so. And again, was thrilled to win a free book!

Brenda says

I liked this book - it was long enough to get to know the characters but not too long and drawn out. Actually

the whole serial killer storyline could have had a little bit more time in the book but I still knew who the killer was pretty quickly. I really liked the characters in this book and the story helped clear up some confusion I had from when I read the 3rd book in this series without realizing it was part of a series. For instance, the situation with Shelley and Matt was referred to in the 3rd book a few times and obviously I had no idea what they were talking about. It made me feel like I was missing parts of the book. Anyway, I will download the next book in this series and hope it is as good as this one (and the third one) was.

Brian O'Hare says

Wife of a Lesser Man by Sandy Appleyard is a well-told story, enjoyable to read and peopled with interesting characters. Sandy is comfortable with her craft and the pages slide easily by. Chief of Police Mark Tame, husband of the 'wife' in the title, is attempting to catch a serial killer. The pursuit of the perp is interlaced with character relationships, occasional humorous scenes, personal trials and even a tragic death. For many readers, this approach to the tale will add real-life dimensions to what might otherwise have been a run-of-the-mill crime story. If this was the author's intention (and I have no doubt that it was), she succeeds admirably. For myself, a true crime aficionado, I would have preferred rather less focus on the details of the private lives of the main characters and more attention given to the efforts made to unmask the killer. (This is a personal preference, of course, and the author can quite legitimately argue that that would be a different story.)

Within the parameters of the plot as Sandy has planned it, the characters are well-drawn and believable, the emotional stresses ring true, and the increasingly vulnerable state of 'the wife' (and where her vulnerability is seeming to lead her) does justify the time spent on character relationships as opposed the crime solving elements of the plot.

Rather than sudden brilliant deduction by the Chief, careful procedural work by his support team, some luck, and an accidental lead from the interference of the first victim's aggressive mother, lead to the apprehension of the killer. This is a perfectly acceptable technique. Many crimes in real life owe their solutions to luck and to public support. Thus the ending, a tense stand-off in the police-headquarters, is satisfactory.

I do have one or two little niggles, however. The formatting, at least on my kindle reader, is faulty. Lines are double spaced, treble-spaced and, between dialogue segments, quadrupled-spaced with the result that there are numerous pages that contain only five very spread-out lines. This can be an on-going irritant but not enough, of course, to spoil the story.

The other little regret I have is that the author did not offer a convincing explanation as to why the killer, close to being identified, would choose to present himself at the police station (with all the attendant risks that such an action must inevitably precipitate.) Clearly he was a Gruber copy-cat (I had forgotten about this guy and had to go back to the start to remind myself who he was) but he could have chosen a less dangerous place for his showdown with Mark.

These small criticisms aside, however, The Wife of A Lesser man is a compelling story and a worthwhile addition to any Kindle library.

Robyn says

I won a copy of this book in a Goodread giveaway and I am always excited to win a book, so thank you Sandy Appleyard and Goodreads! This book was okay for me. To be honest, I found the character of Shelley to be whiny and needy. I found it a bit hard to believe that a woman who claimed to love her husband so much would spend so much energy focused on the fact that he was not as able to satisfy her sexual needs in same way, rather than on the fact that he had survived a heart attack and seemed to be recovering well. I also found the serial killer portion of the story to be a bit rushed and underdeveloped, so it did not really build a lot of suspense for me.

John Dolan says

Sandy Appleyard weaves two threads together cleverly in her second novel, 'The Wife of a Lesser Man'.

Using multiple POVs (points of view, for the uninitiated), the author recounts the story of Mark and Shelley Tame, whose relationship is under stress following the heart attack that renders Mark impotent. Meanwhile, in his capacity as Chief of Police, Mark must focus his attention on catching a ruthless killer who is liable to strike again.

Blending romance and thriller elements, this emotional story is likely to appeal to a wide readership. Sometimes, 'lesser' really is more!

Highly recommended.
