



We Are The Hanged Man

Douglas Lindsay

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When the latest hit reality TV show, Britain's Got Justice, needs an expert police panellist, DCI Robert Jericho's boss thrusts him into the media spotlight, knowing full well that Jericho has been desperate to avoid the limelight since his wife's unexplained disappearance ten years ago.

With the press now hounding his every move, there's nowhere to hide.

Meanwhile, a killer, newly released from prison, resumes the bone-chilling handiwork for which he was locked away thirty years earlier.

Sinister tarot cards turn up on Jericho's desk, each one more grotesque than its predecessor. As he investigates a series of seemingly unrelated deaths, he becomes aware that a noose is gradually tightening around his throat.

Someone is setting him up for a neck-breaking fall.

We Are The Hanged Man Details

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From Reader Review We Are The Hanged Man for online ebook

Brenda says

When I got to 43% of this book, I'd already stopped twice to check reviews. They were positive, and so I persevered. For the next 20%, I mostly skimmed. I just wasn't getting into this book and wondered why Goodreads friends were rating it 4 or 5 stars. There must be something good coming eventually. Then the book grabbed me, held my attention, and I finished.

I am not a fan at all of reality shows, and that part of the storyline turned me off. I got the gist early on, then skipped almost all of that. The sex and nudity didn't bother me, but it was overused and felt gratuitous. Jericho and Haynes were the interesting aspect of this book, but I doubt I'll read any further in this series.

Cats of Ulthar March of Shoggoths says

Review: WE ARE THE HANGED MAN by Douglas Lindsay

A superbly plotted and deeply characterized mystery, WE ARE THE HANGED MAN is the first in a new series by Douglas Lindsay, a prolific and excellent author. Its protagonist, Detective Chief Inspector Robert Jericho, of Somerset and Avon Police, I venture to say, is in a class by himself. Nine years as a virtually unneeded DCI in the tiny low-crime community of Wells, Jericho had formerly been a hot-shot detective with London's Metropolitan Police. After the inexplicable and unsolved disappearance of his wife Amanda, he fell into a black hole of depression and transferred to Wells.

Jericho despises shallow "popular" culture and reality television shenanigans, yet he is tapped for consultant-judge on a new pilot called "Britain's Got Justice," and his taciturn--and high integrity--result in his being targeted: by a covert organization, by his own Superintendent, by a sociopathic killer he arrested 30 years earlier.

If you enjoy British crime fiction, or special protagonists, or just superb writing, do not miss WE ARE THE HANGED MAN or the continuing series.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

I sat up until 4am to finish this book because I could not sleep not knowing how this ended.

DCI Jericho suffers from severe depression, can be a right bastard, has been shunted sideways in his career to a backwater where nothing much ever happens and has lost his wife - literally. he has no idea what has happened to her. Did she leave him? Was she abducted? Has she been murdered? After ten years none of these questions have been answered. Now to top off his wonderful life, his boss thrusts him into the limelight as an expert police panellist on a TV reality show, Britain's Got Justice.

At the same time, a sadistic killer Jericho had incarcerated many years ago has been released, despite his sentencing stating that this was never to happen. And Jericho is receiving Tarot cards, all slightly different

variations on 'The Hanged Man', each one more sinister and grotesque than the last. As he investigates a series of seemingly unrelated deaths, he realises that someone has an agenda for him, and he needs to find out who.

The writing in this book is dynamic, the plotting brilliant. Yes there is violence and sex, some of it extreme, but it all fits. Nothing is done for shock value, it all dovetails into the story. Not all the questions are answered. Nothing is tidy. This is gritty, hard-hitting and I love it.

This is the first in a series. I am lining up for the second instalment. I will also be reading this authors other works. Five very bright stars from me.

Thank you to NetGalley and publishers Blasted Heath for a digital ARC of We Are The Hanged Man in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Randy says

DCI Robert Jericho is handed an assignment he loathes: working on a reality show. Britain's Got Justice. Not as a consultant, but a participant, a leader of the young people trying to win the prize. As usual on such, they are all young and beautiful with no more thought in their heads than winning the popular vote. They cry on cue.

Jericho had once been a top notch policeman that worked more than his share of unusual cases. Got a lot of press. Then ten years before, his wife had disappeared without trace and the life had gone out of him. He'd transferred away from London to a small village, intent on retiring there away from the limelight.

His boss didn't like him, which was why he'd gotten the assignment. She knew he'd hate it.

He was uncooperative. This was television. Despite the title of the show, they didn't want real police work. To dull. They wanted car chases, hard interrogations, guns drawn at the slightest excuse.

At the same time, Jericho began receiving tarot cards through the mail. All of the hanged man, each one more grotesque than the first. He took it as someone's sick idea of a joke until one was found on the pillow in his apartment bedroom. The cards were kept between him and his assistant.

Also, a serial killer he'd helped put away thirty years before is released from prison and resumed his killing activities. They spill over into the reality show when the man takes one of the contestants.

Was that an accident? Jericho didn't know about the serial killer's release. We do though as we watch him do his thing.

Is it tied in with the tarot cards? That we aren't sure of.

Jericho gets more and more in trouble as the TV show producer uses his influence to circumvent regular police procedure, all in the name of ratings of course, as he tries to figure what's going on and how it all involves him.

A pretty good combo police/thriller/serial killer/ mystery here that surprised me at the end.

I like that.

Bill says

DCI Jericho is yet another in a long line of brilliant but troubled policemen, struggling to find justice while looking down on all the other simpletons in the world. Reading Lindsay's book reminded me of Val McDermid's Tony Hill books or, dare I say it, Colin Dexter's Morse books. Unfortunately, Lindsay doesn't measure up to those masters. While I found the mystery captivating enough (who is sending the enigmatic notes and why), Jericho never came alive for me. I kept yelling at him in my mind to act like a normal person. And while I probably have the similar disdain for reality shows that Lindsay does and would enjoy a vicious satire, his take on the staff of Britain's Got Justice rubbed me all wrong. (I actually work for a crime reality show, and there is no way television people would treat policemen or crime the way these idiots do.) In fact, the blend of over the top satire and cringe inducing criminal acts was another off putting element of the story. And as for the ending, it seemed to me that too much was left unfinished or unexplained, which may mean there is a sequel coming, but as I never really warmed up to Inspector Jericho, I am unlikely to ever have those things explained.

Sarah says

5 stars

Huge thanks to Douglas Lindsay, Blasted Heath and NetGalley for this copy in exchange for an honest review.

I read a lot of crime thrillers as they really interest me and I love to read them, I don't, however, watch any reality TV as it does nothing for me and doesn't involve any murder.

This book mashes the two together and gives us a very damaged main character, DCI Jericho, who's forced to appear on a reality TV show by his boss (who is a bitch) despite the fact that he doesn't want to do it and isn't in the right mental state to be a part of it.

The show is called Britain's Got Justice, they're getting to the final 3 and the creator and producers want the 3 finalists to spend time with a proper policeman to see what the ins and outs of every day policing entails. How could it possibly go wrong!?

I really enjoyed this book, became very angry with a fair few of the characters and thought they all needed a good old fashioned chinning because they're bloody awful people, loved Jericho, despite the fact that he's a moody bleeder who does not like to communicate very much, and his assistant DS Haynes, who is the more easy going of the two.

There's violence, torture, rape and murder. Some things are tied up quite nicely and others are left for the second book, which I will be reading in the next few days or so (fingers crossed).

Highly recommended read.

Linda Strong says

DCI Jericho put the most brutal, psychopathic killer away 30 years ago. He should have been kept in prison for the rest of his life. Evidently, someone had other ideas.

Jericho receives a tarot card that shows the Hanged Man. People start disappearing and the cards keep coming.

There is a lot that goes on in this book. There is a new reality show that Jericho's supervisor volunteers him for. The contestants compete to see who would make the best police officer. A contestant disappears. Durrant seems to be paid to make Jericho's life more chaotic. And one of the officers disappears ... and she may not be who she claims to be.

Jericho is a singularly depressed man. Still grieving over the only case he has never solved ... the disappearance of his wife many years ago, he's a hard character to like. He talks as little as possible, and his moods go from bad to worse. He's quite a womanizer even though the women he chooses don't matter to him at all. As unappealing as he is, he did grow on me.

I am not a fan of reality TV, but there are plenty of twists and turns that kept me entertained. Some of the mysteries were solved with a bloody ending But there are still a few cliff hangers which hopefully be taken care of in the next book, WE ARE DEATH.

Many thanks to the author / Blasted Heath / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Danny says

Douglas Lindsay has an incredible talent for storytelling. His words are so vivid, narratives so strong that I feel like I'm in rainy England, hungover with DCI Jericho.

We Are The Hanged Man tells the story of the new TV sensation "Britain's Got Justice" a reality competition where prospective cops are put through their paces. The producers have the brilliant idea of adding legendary detective Robert Jericho join the show as a coach / judge. Jericho, who is as telegenic as he is friendly, has no interest in watching television, let alone being a part of a show.

Jericho's interests are occupied elsewhere: a chateau found on a tarot card he's received in the mail. More cards appear in the mail, and the grim face on the card becomes entirely too real.

Col says

I haven't read anything from Douglas Lindsay for a few years now, my last excursion being one of the 6 or 7 Barney Thomson barber-cum-serial killer books he penned. Whilst my memory of these has diminished somewhat over-time, I can recall black humour prevalent throughout the books cataloguing the absurd happenings that befall the hero/villain Barney.

Hanged Man features a morose, depressive detective – Jericho who is reluctantly catapulted onto prime-time TV and the latest reality show offering, Britain's Got Justice. Throw in a killer recently released - 30 years after Jericho put him away, some Tarot cards, a missing BGJ finalist, some sex – not all of it consensual, murder and a dose of tabloid trashing with the show's crazed executives and producers keep one eye on the ratings and their careers and the story speeds along to a decent conclusion.

Lindsay leaves the doors open for future tales with Jericho and his likeable sidekick, Haynes at the hub. Wisely in my opinion, because they are definitely a team I would read more about in the future. For some reason I'm reminded of Joe R Lansdale's Hap and Leonard series though neither Jericho or Haynes is black or gay or from Texas!

I've definitely been missing out during my Lindsay sabbatical. He had me roaring at the vision of the diminutive Noel Edmonds either commentating or participating in an act that typically wouldn't be seen on prime-time television. Would it even be possible on ice, Douglas? Have you done some research?

I'm off to the attic to try and dig out my old Barney Thomson books.

Read back in 2012

<http://col2910.blogspot.co.uk/2012/09...>

Andrew says

Interesting protagonist in Robert Jericho. Chronically depressed, a man of very few words, antisocial to the point of despising most people. There is a lot going on in this book. Jericho is receiving The Hanging Man tarot cards for an unknown reason. He has been tapped to be the fall guy on a reality television show. His wife went missing years before. A psychopathic serial killer has been released from prison and is being given instructions to start killing again. What appears to be a completely unrelated suicide leaves him with an inheritance from an unknown relative that plays the 6 degrees of separation.

Not all is resolved. Which is like real life. Not everything is tied off with a pretty ribbon.

Douglas Lindsay writes well. The lack of much conversation forces the reader to think throughout the book. What is happening is all you really know. No dialog to fill in gaps. Not typical for police procedurals, thrillers, or mysteries.

I am glad I have found a new author to read. Am looking forward to the next chapter in the Robert Jericho series.

NetGalley graciously allowed me to download my copy in exchange for an honest review.

Petra says

"Britain's Got Justice", the latest reality TV show, sees shallow contestants battling to see who would make the best police officer. DCI Jericho is forced by his boss to appear on the show. Jericho hates it. In fact, there isn't much Jericho likes these days. He used to be a hot-shot detective with the Metropolitan Police, but then, ten years ago, his wife disappeared. The one case he hasn't been able to solve. Now whiling away his time in the West Country where nothing ever happens, Jericho has become a depressed, taciturn bloke who isn't easy to like, but for reasons incomprehensible to me, still manages to be quite the ladies' man. When somebody sends him tarot cards depicting the hanged man and a contestant from the show goes missing, Jericho and his sidekick, DS Haynes, suddenly have plenty of work trying to solve several mysteries.

After a slow start, *We Are The Hanged Man* turned into quite a fast-paced page turner. There is a lot going on here and it includes a fair bit of graphic violence. Despite his philandering ways, I became quite fond of DCI Jericho. Personally, I could have done with less emphasis on the satirical passages regarding the reality TV show. It felt over the top although it provided a light distraction from what would have been a rather dark and gloomy story otherwise. This is the first book in the DCI Jericho series and the end left many questions unanswered, but I'm looking forward to reading *We Are Death* to find out how Jericho's story continues. I received a copy via NetGalley.

Rob Kitchin says

In *We are the Hanged Men* Lindsay mercilessly satirises reality television to great effect. At points the story appears to hang on a comic flight of fantasy, but as unlikely as parts of the premise seemed somewhat paradoxically they also felt wholly plausible given the pervasive and intrusive nature of reality television and how society is presently governed. Indeed, the story is very nicely plotted, thickly laced with dark humour, with a little bit of everything thrown in - drama, intrigue, humour, mystery, tension, romance. It has some wonderful observational touches, played out through some excellent dialogue and scenes. The characterisation is very well done, especially the reluctant and gloomy Jericho, his bitchy and resentful boss, the ambitious and morally bankrupt television producers, and the celebrity-seeking contestants of dubious character and abilities. There are a number of feints and twists and turns, and the story builds to a dramatic climax that has a satisfying resolution whilst also leaving the way open for a follow-on book. A sign of a great book is that the reader is always looking to create time to read a few more pages and as they near the end there's a palpable sense of disappointment that the story will soon end. *We are the Hanged Men* was one of those books and it's my read of the year so far.

Michelle (Michelle's Book Ends) Shealy says

"It was from a tarot pack. Number twelve. The Hanged Man. Jericho placed it in front of him. The figure on the card was of a skeleton, dressed in rags, hung by the neck, a grotesque grimace on its face. It was hung from a tree, a half moon in the background, its legs tied together at the ankles.".....

This series thriller begins in Wells, England with DCI (Detective Chief Inspector) Jericho. Thirty years ago he helped put away a killer, Durrant. He should have never seen the light of day again, but that was not to be. Jericho is also dealing with other events in his life. The only case he never solved involved his wife. Then there are his co-workers who are never really sure how to handle his fame, Having been in the spotlight over

the Durrant case and his wife's.

Jericho receives a "Hanged Man" tarot card in the mail. A joke or a threat? Soon he will know the answers to that question. Durrant, is now free to do what he knows best. Jericho is mixed up in something outside the police station that promises to make all of it worse, and probably deadly.

As more cards arrive and the threat becomes more intense can Jericho and his friend/fellow officer, Haynes, figure out what it means? Is it Durrant, or is there something more sinister than a serial killer at play here? Are they against each other in this, or are they pawns in someone else's game?

If you like cop and serial killer stories this promises to be a great series. It is not all dark, as you see some humor and friendship. There are some creepy descriptions as the story unfolds. The kind that will make you want to know more. The second book with DCI Jericho is set to release in June. "We Are Death" Jericho Book 2. I will be reviewing that soon!

Thank you Douglas Lindsay, Netgalley, and Blasted Heath Publishing.

Douglas Cook says

First paragraphs

Three men in a room, waiting for a fourth. A warm summer's morning. Windows open, the sounds of London drifting up to the ninth floor. Traffic and people and somewhere the ever-present wail of an emergency vehicle. Two of them were looking through paperwork at a desk, the other standing with his hands in his pockets, looking out the window. He saw nothing. They knew there was no point in talking until the fourth man arrived. He would be the one who conducted the orchestra, not to mention chose the venue and picked the tunes they would be playing. The door opened; the men at the table turned. One of them even half stood as the fourth man pulled a chair out at the table. 'You know why we're here?' he asked. He assumed they'd been talking before he arrived. Despite everything, he didn't really understand that they were all aware that nothing happened without him being there. The men at the table shrugged; the one from the window came and sat at the table. 'We've been working on other things,' he said. 'I thought it would be best to leave it to you to open the fridge door.'

Lindsay, Douglas (2012-08-19). *We Are The Hanged Man* (Kindle Locations 52-65). Blasted Heath. Kindle Edition.

Tania Godwin-evans says

This is a police procedural novel set in the West Country of the UK. Although it is well plotted and makes you want to continue reading it is written in a gloomy ploddy fashion, much like the protagonist of the novel.

DCI Jericho is rather an unlikeable gloomy, damaged (aren't they all?) do with only one real companion in the Somerset and Wells Police force. He is even disliked by his Chief Superintendent (the reason for which is divulged later in the novel). He does not suffer fools gladly and despises a lot of things especially cheap 'popular' television and yet he is assigned to be the Police representative for a reality TV show.

So whilst he is not participating in the reality show is also has to try and sole a crime or two. This character did not really come off the page for me. I think he was too much inside his own head.

I did not really get into this novel despite it being well written and with an intriguing plot. Don't get me wrong I love mystery thriller novels and the creepier and gorier the better but this one was so bland. There were humorous light touches thanks to the DCI's only 'friend' and partner DS Haynes; but other than that there was very little to bring this novel out of the doldrums.

Like the rest of the novel the ending felt flat too. Too little action rather too late with very little explanation and too many things were left open ended – a perfect set up for book 2 (which I was going to read next but needed something lighter before getting to it).

I am not really into satirical books and perhaps for this reason this novel didn't grab me. If this genre of book is your bag then this is probably the book for you
