



A Secondhand Life

Pamela Crane

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"A Secondhand Life" is a standalone novel featuring characters also found in the companion novella, "A Secondhand Lie."

In a freak collision when she was twelve, Mia Germaine faced death and the loss of her father. A heart transplant from a young murder victim saved her life, but not without a price. Twenty years later, chilling nightmares about an unresolved homicide begin to plague Mia. Compelled by these lost memories, she forms a complicated connection to the victim—the girl killed the night of Mia’s accident—due to a scientific phenomenon called “organ memory.”

Now suffocating beneath the weight of avenging a dead girl and catching a serial killer on the loose dubbed the “Triangle Terror,” Mia must dodge her own demons while unimaginable truths torment her—along with a killer set on making her his next victim.

As Mia tries to determine if her dreams are clues or disturbing phantasms, uninvited specters lead her further into danger’s path, costing her the one person who can save her from herself. More than a page-turning thriller, "A Secondhand Life" weaves a tale of second chances and reclaimed dreams as this taut, refreshing tale ensnares and penetrates you.

A Secondhand Life Details

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Author : Pamela Crane

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From Reader Review A Secondhand Life for online ebook

Sue says

"A Secondhand Life" (The Killer Thriller Series Book 2) by Pamela Crane is a standalone novel with characters from her short story, "A Secondhand Lie." I would recommend that you read book 1 first, "A Secondhand Lie", to acquaint yourself with the characters.

This well written who-dun-it mystery book novel has a unique plot, memorable characters and a book you will not be able to put down. I started this book last night and was totally captivated until I finished it early this morning. What an amazing read!

In this book, the author takes on a controversy topic ...one of Organ Donation and "Organ Memory", where the transplant recipient can experience the donor's thoughts and see the past through their eyes. What a thought-provoking and intriguing concept! I was totally hooked on the story right from the beginning, and I feel the author did it great justice.

Twelve year-old, Mia Germaine was involved in an accident that left her father dead and her in need of a heart transplant. Mia receives a heart transplant from a young murder victim, Alexis, murdered by the Triangle Terror, on the same day... but at a cost! Twenty years later Mia has nightmares about the unsolved murder of her young donor. She forms a link with the murdered girl- the girl killed the night of Mia's accident due to a scientific phenomenon called "organ memory.

Now Mia and the victim's brother, Langdon, hunt down the serial killer responsible for the death of her heart donor. Mia feels a need to find the truth and bring the young donor's killer to justice.

A Secondhand Life is a great read that will have you staying up late into the night to discover who-dun-it! A captivating read that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Many thanks to the author and Booklover Catlady Publicity who provided a digital copy.

Ivy Logan says

What happens when two souls are entwined?

The life of a young woman Mia changes overnight when the horrible fate of the Savior, from her past, overwhelms Mia's present.

There is a killer on the loose and Mia is a threat to him because she has seen things and knows things that no one else has seen or knows.

A Secondhand life- is a well fleshed out nail-biting thriller, with all the requisite twists and turns. As Mia takes her fate into her own hands and sets off hunting a serial killer, she finds herself entangles in a web of deceit, lies, and betrayals. Everyone she knows is hiding something, and there is no one she can trust. I didn't agree with certain sections of the conclusion, but all in all the book was so engaging that I didn't mind. Besides a difference of opinion between writer and reader, do crop up.

Pamela Crane has flair for fleshing out details and scenarios in a way that will leave you wanting more. A second-hand Life is an engrossing, page turner that you need to pick up if you haven't already.

Shervin Jamali says

Organ memory. I can't claim to know much about the subject matter. The first thought that jumped to mind was a 90s film in which the protagonist loses an arm and has it replaced with a limb that belonged to a serial killer (I believe it was called Body Parts); which in turn stirred up a concern that this story would be somewhat formulaic. I am happy to report that Ms. Crane has put her own fresh spin on it and avoided tropes and cliches during the process. The writing is engaging and the pacing is taut. The choice of using first person narrative for both the protagonist and the killer also worked quite well. The reader is left wondering as to the identity of the killer throughout. I enjoyed it.

Linda Strong says

Mia Germaine received a heart transplant when she was 12 years old after being in a horrific auto accident that also took her father's life. Twenty years later, she begins having nightmares about a young girl she doesn't know. Following the clues, she picks up during these visions, she finds the young girl was a murder victim. The murderer has never been found. Are these dreams/visions in reality organ memory? Memories of a girl who has been dead for more than 20 years?

Thus begins a journey full of mystery and suspense as Mia and the victim's brother, Langdon, hunt down the serial killer responsible for the death of her heart donor.

The story is extremely well-written, with an original plot, and characters you won't readily forget anytime soon. The suspense builds from the first page and doesn't stop until the explosive ending. There are several twists and turns that will have you questioning what you've been thinking.

This is an excellent psychological thriller and I highly recommend it!

"A Secondhand Life" is a standalone psychological thriller featuring characters also found in the companion novella, "A Secondhand Lie."

Many thanks to the author / Booklover Catlady Publicity who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Joseph - Relax And Read Reviews says

4.5*

Had I known how much I would enjoy it, I wouldn't have left this book unread in my kindle for over a year. Now I'm just so glad to have finally decided to pick it up and read it.

1992. Durham, North Carolina. Twelve-year-old Mia Germaine survives a fatal car accident in which her father is killed. When she gains consciousness she's told she now has a new heart beating inside her chest. She has undergone a heart transplant.

Twenty-two years go by and now Mia is a healthy woman with a good job and in a relationship with a man

who adores her. A young girl is found murdered, and after watching the horrible news, Mia begins to experience vivid terrifying nightmares, in which she's being attacked and murdered. What's happening to her? What do these nightmares mean? How come have they started now? Soon she realises that her borrowed heart is trying to tell her something. She suddenly feels the urge to find out who her heart belonged to. To her horror she discovers that it was the heart of a murdered girl called Alexis... murdered in very similar circumstances to the one she saw on the news... and in her dreams.

Guided by her heart, nightmares and hunches, Mia becomes obsessed to try the impossible... find the killer (now dubbed The Triangle Terror) and stop him from killing any more innocent girls. She wants to finally give Alexis and the other murdered girls justice. But this is no joke. Mia will have to piece together a complicated puzzle and risk everything she has... including her own life to do so. How can she do what the police force has failed to do in over two decades?

I was pleasantly surprised to how much I enjoyed this book. Thanks to the author's fresh, pacey and articulate prose, I found myself flying through the pages on a suspenseful journey alongside Mia as she tries to catch this elusive psychopath killer who has vowed to clean the world from its filth and to save young girls from the impurities of the world.

Does 'organ memory' really exist? Or is it just science fiction? Well, there seem to be recorded cases of people from around the world who have changed their tastes, ideas and even began to talk in foreign languages following an organ transplant. This book is based on this phenomenon, and whether it's true or not, I absolutely loved the idea behind this plot.

All characters are realistic and brought to life in vivid colour. I liked Mia and her determined spirit and I found myself suffering with her and feeling her anguish and fear. Though Alexis was murdered in the first chapter, her heart still beating inside Mia ensured that she was present throughout the whole book as if she were still alive.

Though I wasn't 100% sure, I guessed the killer's identity before it was revealed but this didn't make the story any less enjoyable, and when it was finally confirmed at the end, the reality of what was actually at play and the reason behind the murders just blew me away. The truth was much more deep and complex than I could've imagined.

From the terrifying blood-curdling prologue in which the killer claims his first innocent young victim to the heart-pounding finale, this book kept me hooked and intrigued all the time. The numerous twists and turns, frightening murder scenes, multiple suspects and the odd chilling chapter from the pov of the killer made sure I was kept entertained and on my toes. Great read! Well done!

This was my first Pamela Crane book but it certainly won't be my last and I highly recommend it.

With thanks to the author for a review copy of this book that I voluntarily accepted to read and review.

Laura Turner says

Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!!!!

Pamela Crane, this novel is phenomenal!

It had me 'hooked, line and sinker' from the beginning. If it hadn't been for having to nip out and do some

shopping I would have had this fully read in one sitting! Incredible!

This novel has me sitting staring into space. I actually thought the idea of 'organ memory' was fictional and a made up notion for the novel, but no ... it's actually real which is mind blowing for me (a BSc Psychology student). I need to have a read up on this.

Overall, the characterisation was well set out, however there was one or two points that was just a tad unreal - hence the 4 stars - but not enough 'unreal' for me to put this novel down in any negative way(s). It was fast paced, heart pumping and a really great psychological thriller.

I chose to read this ARC and all opinions in this review are my own and completely unbiased.

PattyMacDotComma says

3.5★

The author says at the end:

“And for those of you who want to leave a legacy after you depart this world, consider becoming an organ donor. You never know how you’ll impact another person’s life and live on in a powerful way ...”

There are anecdotes where people say their new heart (or other organ) has possibly given them not just new life, but new memories as well. Whether it’s true or not is pretty much beside the point. Does it make an interesting premise for a mystery? Sure, why not?

Mia’s story is introduced in the first person by a particularly warped killer who decides the only way to keep girls innocent is to end their lives before they hit their teens. He makes his position clear.

“Girls dressed like whores—acted like them too. Younger and younger they were deflowered, and so many were to blame for the trend. Negligent parents, ego-based media, Facebook, selfies, retailer targeting, schools teaching it in the classroom. Children were trapped at birth to one day succumb to this inflated sense of ego. I had hoped my message would change all that. Slowly but surely the masses would understand their plight. But at each purging, my intent was covered up—by the media, of course. The newspapers called it ‘murder,’ ‘horrendous,’ and ‘sick.’ They girls were ‘victims.’ All lies! The girls were set free, and I was their hero! How could my point be mistaken? Either the media was blind to the truth, or they were in on the scam to corrupt the lost. My bet was on the latter.”

Mia, now in her 20s with a boyfriend and good job, was the recipient of Alexis’s heart years before. Both girls were pre-teens—Mia, critically injured in a car crash that killed her dad, and Alexis, murdered by the Triangle Terror (as we later learn) on the same day.

Lately Mia’s started having odd dreams. She’s also been having some strong reactions to certain objects—a stray beer can, a smell—and it occurs to her that these feel more like memories than the usual stuff of dreams, and she feels compelled to investigate at any cost.

She tells most of the story, with occasional chapters narrated by the killer.

We get some background of the families and other characters, including red herrings, but mostly it’s a whodunnit, and we watch and worry about Mia as she tries to piece her flashbacks together with whatever research she can find in social media and old news reports.

There is some peculiar (to me) phrasing, such as when Mia wakes thirsty after her operation and is given a drink: *“Water-an oasis to my throat.”*

There's also a fair bit of preaching about organ donation, which is understandable.

Thanks to Booklover Catlady Publicity and the author for a copy for review. It's certainly an intriguing medical topic, and if it can help prompt more organ donation, great!

Another good one based on organ memory is The Recipient, by Aussie author Dean Mayes. He's a paediatric nurse in Adelaide.

(I did review that also. <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>)

Gary says

This is my first taste of a Pamela Crane book and I found it an excellent read.

This is a book that grabs your attention early on and makes you want to pick it up and continue the read at every opportunity.

The story centres on Mia Germaine who was involved in an accident when she was twelve resulting in her Father's death and the need for a heart transplant. A heart transplant from a young murder victim saves Mia's life but with an unexpected side effect. Twenty years later Mia has nightmares about the unsolved murder of her young doner. She experiences a connection with the murdered girl and recalls chilling memories that start to unravel the actual murder. Mia encounters a phenomenon called 'organ memory' where she can experience the doners thoughts and see the past through her eyes. Mia feels compounded to try and find the truth and bring the young doners killer to justice.

A fascinating read that I thoroughly enjoyed. After recently reading a couple of relatively slow books it was a satisfying change to read this fast paced novel that is different from the average Mystery Thriller novel.

A new author to me but I plan to reads a lot more of Pamela Crane's books.

Nicki Southwell says

At the age of 12, Mia is involved in a serious road accident that kills her father. She is so seriously injured herself, that she needs a heart transplant. But the victim is the result of a tragedy, namely murder.

Some twenty years later, Mia starts to have terrifying nightmares which don't make any sense, until she works out who her heart belonged to and the circumstances. The donor was also a 12 years old but not a random victim. It appears that she was one of the Triangle Terror's victims and the culprit still, hasn't been caught.

She is driven to find answers as her nightmares become more and more frightening. She is seeing scenes of Alexis's murder and slowly puts the pieces together. When the night terrors start, her boyfriend is unable to understand or help. but she gets close to Alexis's brother and they share their tortured thoughts, mainly in the night, when neither can sleep.

The policeman who was the first on the scene at Alexis's murder has information that only the killer and Alexis knew, and certainly not Mia. There is no documented proof of this, but she finds out that Alexis's brother has a criminal record for involuntary manslaughter - the accident that killed Mia's father. When she confronts him she finally gets the truth. He took responsibility for the accident as he was shielding Evan, who had a great deal to lose - his job amongst other things. They follow up 2 other leads, thinking they may have found the killer, but this doesn't work out.

This story's intriguing and the plot is fast-paced. Organ memory has received a great deal of media interest and Ms. Crane really does do it justice. As Alexis's murder is one of at least 4, and the killer needs to be found, and fast. She realises that she is fighting for her life and she will be the next victim.

I was surprised to learn that Mia is in her 30's and not a teenager. She obviously needs to grow up a bit. I thought that I had worked out who the Terror was, but I was wrong ...

With thanks to Booklover Catlady for an ARC in exchange for an unbiased review.

Lynn Mccarthy says

Superb

Mia Germaine was a recipient of a heart donor she was in an accident that killed her father.

Twenty years later Mia starts to have nightmares and flashbacks about Alexis Worthington who was killed very much like similar other girls and they dubbed the killer as the triangle terror.

Mia feels compelled to find out what happened and who killed Alexis so she enlists the help of Alexis brother, Mia also seeks medical help because she feels like she is going mad trying to track down what happened to Alexis it is also effecting her relationship with her boyfriend, there she fins out about Organ Memory the preservation of personality traits.

The book was so great and I really enjoyed it the story is recounted from Mia and the Killers perspective it is a wonderful book a must read.

Thank you to the Author, Publisher and Book Lover Catlady Publicity for a copy of this book.

Tamara says

Great read!

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

A Secondhand Life has such a unique plot angle that I was hooked very early on. Pamela Crane has done her research into something called "organ memory" which is essentially where there is proof that after a person has received a body organ donated from a deceased person such as a heart or lung that certain things can happen. These things can be like changes in food preferences, TV shows, colour preferences, things that used to be liked now are not, vivid dreams and a sense of having memories of another life that is not one's own. **Absolutely fascinating! And a great basis for a plot for a novel.**

This is book two in a series and honestly? I would not have noticed, you can absolutely read this one as a

stand alone no problem at all. A serial killer has been killing young girls over a long period of years and is still getting away with it. His victims, as young as 12 years old are killed in the same way and a calling card is left to tease the police with. So far, the police are no closer to connecting any dots to get even close to a suspect.

A young victim is murdered, another young woman receives her heart and is never the same again.

Our main character begins to experience things relating to organ memory and quite naturally is overwhelmed by it all. As pieces begin to fit together she feels an overwhelming need and desire to do her bit to stop this killer in his/her tracks. Civilian becomes private detective. You would be forgiven for thinking it all sounds a bit far-fetched but honestly the author does a good job of making this an intriguing and fascinating story being told.

There are mixed elements in this book including flashbacks to the murder victim's life and last

moments alive that are brilliantly done in my opinion. There is certainly a crime element of course, there is a romantic relationship that doesn't do so well under the pressure of the new hunt for a serial killer (kind of understandably!) and plenty of character who come under the radar of "potential suspect". **Our civilian sleuth is a risk-taker and really starts to dig deep, perhaps deeper than she should. What she is going to uncover will change everything - forever.**

There are some good twists in this novel as it move along and the pace is really good right from the

beginning. This was nearly a 5 star read for me as I truly enjoyed reading it and was eager to know where it was going. It's well written and this is certainly an author I am keen to read more of. My actual rating is a 4.0-4.5 because of a few minor plot holes, and the fact that for some reason I kept picturing the main character as not as a woman in her mid-30's but as a teenager aged about 19. I kept trying to pinpoint why I could not see her in adult form but have not put my finger on it yet. I had to keep reminding myself of her age. At first I thought it was an YA book interestingly.

I guessed the ending and was right but that made the book no less enjoyable and once I was past the halfway point I was not putting the book down until I got to the last word in the book. I would definitely recommend this one to those that like a thriller with a bit of a different in the plot and storyline. The whole concept of organ memory is fascinating and how it plays out in the novel is really something else. A great read!

Many thanks to Pamela Crane for a copy of this novel to read in exchange for a fair, honest and professional book review.

Note: I have review copies of this great book available at the moment for reviews, readers and bloggers. If keen email me at booklovercatlady@gmail.com to express interest.

Thanks for reading my review! For more of my book reviews, plenty of awesome books to win, author interviews and features come over to join me for book fun at: <https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

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To enquire about joining my reviewers team: <http://goo.gl/forms/GWMOvlofZg>

Finally to enquire about my book publicity services: <http://goo.gl/forms/eVwa2HFKnK>

Sarah Joint says

This would be a good beach book. Despite some violent subject matter, it's an easy read. I was really intrigued by the idea of "organ memory". Apparently there are many cases where a recipient of an organ donation feels like they get memories or preferences of the donor. Tastes in food or television may change dramatically, or they may even have some memories that don't belong to them. It's really interesting and a very unique idea to use in a novel.

Mia received a donor heart after a car accident that claimed the life of her father when she was twelve. She's always been curious where it came from, but since hospital policy insists on privacy, she never followed up on it much. Until now. After hearing news about a vicious murder of a twelve year old girl who seems to be the work of a serial killer that's been operating for years, her heart reacts painfully in a way it never has before. Could it be trying to tell her something? The dreams start soon after, memories seen through someone else's eyes that leave her needing answers. After figuring out who died and gave her the gift of life, she starts her own investigation. She's determined to find the killer before more young girls die.

It was hard for me to picture Mia as a 34 year old woman. She acts and speaks more like a headstrong teenager and her decision making skills aren't exactly solid. Thanks to the trauma in her early life, she still has a lot of growing up to do. She's very judgemental (including judging someone without a job when she cares very little about her own or judging solely based on appearance) and flawed, but it's kind of nice to follow along with a character that is nowhere near perfect. I did see the ending (or most of it) coming but I still enjoyed the ride enough to recommend this book. 3.5-4 out of 5 stars.

I received a copy of this book from the author and Booklover Catlady Publicity in exchange for an honest review, thank you!

Yvonne (It's All About Books) says

[

I like the way **Pamela Crane** writes, and I admit I was sold as soon as I hit that blurb. A serial killer AND the promise of 'organ memory' as one of the key elements in solving the case? How can I say n

Mandy White says

i received an audible copy of this book from the author Pamela Crane. wow... loved it! such a great book, fast paced and great characters. will definitely be reading more.
