



Soho Dead (The Soho, #1)

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Kenny Gabriel is three years away from turning sixty, has forty-three quid in the bank and is occasionally employed to find people who would rather not be found. Broke, clientless and depressed, he knows things can't get much worse. Then he's summoned to the office of London media magnate Frank Parr, whose daughter, Harry, is missing—and there's ten grand on the table to get her back.

It's a lot of money, and God knows Kenny needs the cash. But he and Frank have a history he'd rather not revisit. Kenny worked for him in the seventies, when Frank was the head of a Soho magazine empire and owner of an infamous nightclub. And Kenny might still be working for Frank now—if he hadn't witnessed his boss brutally torturing another employee.

Kenny suspects taking this job is a mistake, and he's probably right. Because while he may be done with the past, the past is far from done with him.

Soho Dead (The Soho, #1) Details

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Author : Greg Keen

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From Reader Review Soho Dead (The Soho, #1) for online ebook

Jo Jenner says

I absolutely LOVED this book.

It is gritty but Kenny, although a little dodgy, does have morals and wants to help. He is basically a lonely man who has a special lady in his life but no real purpose. he gets dragged back into the life he used to lead in the 80's in soho when he is asked by ex villain and now successful business man Frank Parr to find his missing daughter.

I was so wrapped up in the story I almost forgot we were looking for a killer and when the reveal came I really didn't see it coming.

The story is all written in the first person and it is a really Phillip Marlow moves to Soho.

This author is added to my list as one to look out for and I'll be down loading the second book in this series without a doubt.

Kathrin says

While I think that this was good entertainment, it strikes me as the usual formula for crime novels around a down on his luck investigator who is too stuck in his situation to ever change it, no matter what better options come along his way. Nevertheless it's a worthwhile whodunit with snappy inner dialogue.

Don Gorman says

(2 1/2). Kenny Gabriel make this work. I usually avoid foreign based mystery/thrillers but I had a freebie e book here and I was on the road. Kenny engages us from page one and is a very able protagonist on a reasonably paced, somewhat interesting voyage. A little violence here, sort of sex there and a fair amount of drinking all the time. Pretty good stuff, I may have to venture to round 2.

Joe Stamber says

Any regular reader of British crime/mystery fiction will have met Kenny Gabriel before. Middle-aged, down-at-heel, led a colourful life but never got anywhere, and a fully qualified geezer. These protagonists are usually fun to spend time with, and Kenny is no exception. With little money and plenty of time on his hands, he is roped into a bit of detective work for an old gangster who is now playing at being legit. Naturally, it turns out to be a giant size can of worms and leads Kenny from one scrape into another. It's a dark tale in places, but often tongue in cheek, and with all the action and plenty of wisecracks it's a fast paced and cracking read. All good stuff.

Linda says

This was a Kindle First (free!) read, and I was pleasantly surprised!

In traditional Private Investigator style, Kenny Gabriel is kind of a sad sack. He's a skip tracer, middle aged and just scraping by financially, and not the best at maintaining a good relationship with the woman he sees. But he's likable and non-violent. Those last two qualities can't be said about the company he kept in his youth, who have come back asking him to do some investigation.

I really enjoyed the colorful writing and dialog style. It transported me to some dark and seedy joints in Soho London.

Fun read, I'd read another by this author.

Kerry says

Didn't really enjoy this book was a very slow read I just didn't really care about the characters but I gave it chance after chance and couldn't bring myself to not finish the book so I did finish it eventually

Steve Holden says

The Kindle First series is meant to be a gamble. You receive a pick each month out of just a few, and most of the time, I know nothing of the authors or stories. I love books, and free books put right on my device seems awesome to me. I've had some good luck, and have been pleasantly surprised in discovering some great authors and new areas for me. Unfortunately, this one struck out for me. I don't like giving a bad review, but this one was a chore for me.

Plot line and synopsis sounded great. There were some intriguing parts that kept me moving forward, but in the end, a book shouldn't take this long for me. For my taste, this one just didn't get me invested enough. The story is enticing, but for me, there was no connection made to the main character and the excitement this genre is supposed to build upon to find out the mystery.

This will be the last Soho book I give a try, but I know as a reader, I'll be eagerly checking the options August 1 for more free selections!

Tracey says

Such great characters that you easily get swept into the story but the punch line was a bit lacking...

James says

This book lives and breathes.

I could hear the accents, see the scenery, and smell the stale beer and whisky stained floors of the pub. Suspenseful, solid ending, left me thinking about my own future.

I highly recommend!

Michael says

"Soho Dead" is a contemporary noir with a likable, if flawed, lead character named Kenny Gabriel. Kenny is in his late 50s and is scraping by working for a collection agent chasing down scofflaws. One day he gets a call from an old employer, Frank Parr, a shady character who has become a successful media mogul. Frank hires him to find his daughter who has gone missing. Kenny quickly discovers that he is in way over his head.

Written in the first person, "Soho Dead" takes the reader into some of the sordid back alleys of present day London. It is written in the witty, hard-boiled style of the masters, Chandler and Hammett. I found it an enjoyable read and a worthy addition to the genre.

I switched back and forth from ebook to audio book. The audio book was read by the wonderful Simon Vance one of my favorite readers in the Audible line-up. Cheers.

Therin Knite says

So this was my pick from June's Kindle First options...

And I thought it was *all right*.

The book had an intriguing murder mystery that wasn't easy to unravel and kept me guessing right up until the climax. The protagonist, Kenny, was a reasonably competent investigator, and all the moves he made throughout the book made sense and were generally intelligent decisions.

But I had a few issues that kept me from rating the book higher.

First and foremost, having Kenny as the protagonist makes for a fairly depressing story. He's a lonely man heading into retirement age with no meaningful relationships or retirement funds saved up, and his personal issues drag down what is already a sad story—one where literally nothing gets any happier at the end.

Secondly, I didn't like how, in the end, Kenny ended up being pretty ineffectual in the grand scheme of things. I don't like it when the main character ends up on the sidelines, when things merely happen to them instead of them actively engaging in the conflict.

Third, there were a few specific events that got glossed over during the wrap-up at the end instead of being addressed as they should have been, and on top of that, the ending actually felt pretty rushed to me. Once second, something really significant is happening to Kenny, and it feels like another story arc is about to start, and the next second, we're at the climax and that last twist is basically thrown in the trash.

So, overall, I thought this book was okay, but I probably won't be reading any other books in this series, simply because there are several mystery/crime series I would much prefer to read over this.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Great murder mystery

Soho Dead is a British murder mystery with lots of clues, suspects, little mini plots, and interesting characters. I haven't read any by this author before and was glad I picked this book up.

Susan R. Lundine says

Good story

I enjoyed this crime novel. The character development was good, the pacing was good. It did have quite a few British phrases and words I didn't understand and couldn't find on Google. But overall it was very enjoyable.

Dave Walsh says

Enjoyable, easy to breeze through and inoffensive when it comes to the genre.

I picked this up specifically because of the scattered bad reviews based upon sexual content and Americans complaining that they somehow couldn't understand it.

It's worth a read and those people are hilarious.

Patiscynical says

Intriguing

A twisted tale of murder and revenge, told by Kenny Gabriel, a very low-rent private detective. Kenny is approached by a former employer, Frank Parr, to find his missing daughter. This offer came out of the blue for Kenny, as he and Frank hadn't parted on the best of terms.

This is not a fast-paced thriller, it's more a thoughtful and slow building mystery.

Also, since it's based in Soho, it uses many unfamiliar British slang terms. I think it's amusing how many reviewers call that undesirable. I mean seriously, wouldn't it be ridiculous to use American slang?

Anyway, it was very well written, full of red herrings, (British slang?) and thoroughly enjoyable.

Results: a very good read, unless you object to a British author using British slang in a book based in Britain.
