



Witness

Caroline Mitchell

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To Rebecca it was a brave decision that led to her freedom from domestic abuse. To Solomon it was the ultimate betrayal.

It's been ten years since Rebecca's testimony saw Solomon locked away. Enough time for the nightmares to recede, the nerves to relax; enough time to rebuild her life and put the past behind her.

Then one day a phone rings in her bedroom—but it's not her phone. Solomon has been in her home, and has a very simple message for her: for each of the ten years he has spent in jail, Rebecca must witness a crime. And, to make matters worse, she has to choose the victims.

Fail to respond and you get hurt. Talk to police and you die. Ready to play? You have sixty seconds to decide...

As the crimes grow more severe, the victims closer to home, Rebecca is forced to confront a past she had hoped was gone forever.

Witness Details

Date : Published December 20th 2016 by Thomas & Mercer

ISBN :

Author : Caroline Mitchell

Format : Kindle Edition 338 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Mystery

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From Reader Review Witness for online ebook

Linda says

I received a copy of Witness through NetGalley for an honest review. My thanks to Thomas & Mercer and to Caroline Mitchell for the opportunity.

You just can't un-do, un-see, un-live your past.

Rebecca's story is told in a "then" to "now" concept. We open the door on a bloodied male body on the floor with life oozing out of him rapidly. Rebecca hovers over him. Within moments, it's over for Jake, but it is just the beginning for Rebecca.

It's 2016 and Rebecca has moved to Pontyferry and is living the life of a vet's wife and being the mother to four year old Lottie. Her days are filled with long hours in the vet's office and leave not much time to breathe. But something will leave Rebecca even far more breathless. Her former fiance, Solomon, has been released from prison after ten years. He was found guilty in that brutal death of Jake. That was left long ago in the past. But Rebecca knows better.

Solomon will serve Rebecca a revenge sandwich and heavy on the terror sauce. He's salivating at the chance to make her pay for his ten years of confinement. Oh, and he has a sinister plan. His dearest Rebecca will have to "witness" crimes inflicted upon her friends. And Rebecca has only seconds to respond to the text.

Caroline Mitchell depicts Solomon as one of the most dastardly creepers on record. I still can't listen to one of my favorite songs by Leonard Cohen, "Hallelujah", without conjuring images of this nutjob. (Oh, Caroline, if only you would have chosen a tune from the bottom of the charts!) He is relentless and a walking nightmare.

However, I had problems with Rebecca. A marching band wouldn't even have been enough to veer her away from the voltage produced by Solomon. It's like sitting in a movie theater and you keep shouting at the screen: "Don't go into the basement!!!" And there she goes.....

With that aside, Caroline Mitchell still produces a chill-filled storyline. This is my first experience with this author. She has an uncanny finesse for sliding characters in at just the right moment. They certainly fulfill their sharp-ended obligations to carry out this creepy plot. I know one thing for sure. I'll be back for more!

Adrian Dooley says

This is my third Caroline Mitchell novel. Loved the first one and gave it five stars. Wasnt gone at all on the second and gave it three stars, so I went into this one with hope but not sure what to expect. I really neednt have worried.

Rebecca is in a very abusive relationship with Solomon. We start with a murder and Solomon going to prison as Rebecca ups and moves herself to Wales to start a new life. Married now with a child her horrible and secret past is behind her, or so she thinks. Solomon is released from prison after ten years and he has one thing on his mind - revenge.

What an absolutely fantastic read. Chapters told from Rebeccas perspective, from her past through her

journal and in the third person from Solomons perspective in the present, we have a beautifully told story that will keep un-nerved right up until the final page.

Rebeccas is a fantastic central character who, despite having her flaws and having to make some impossible decisions, you have total empathy with.

Solomon as well is a fantastically written abuser. A scary character, possibly a sociopath, he isnt a two dimensional villain as we find in so many stories, but a genuinely scary and believable character.

I loved the pacing of the book as well. Fleshed out little by little, it never dips as you turn the next page in anticipation. The tension throughout is palpable. Yes its a real page turner, one more chapter...one more chapter...

The ending as well was fantastic. I wont go into any detail but I loved it. An easy five star review for me. I just loved it from start to finish.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Thomas And Mercer and Caroline Mitchell for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Gary says

Another excellent novel by author Caroline Mitchell and I feel a little mean not giving it the top rating of 5 stars. I did really enjoy this book and it certainly had me gripped right from the very beginning and this author is quickly proving to be one of my very favourite writers.

Ten years after testifying against her abusive boyfriend Solomon, Rebecca tries to rebuild her life and finally put her past behind her. But when she receives a phone call from a phone left in her bedroom she quickly realises that Solomon has been in her home and is once again a threat to her. His message is that for each of the ten years he has spent in jail, Rebecca must witness a crime. And, to make matters worse, she has to choose the victims and each subsequent crime gets increasingly more severe.

Great novel by an exceptional author.

I would like to thank Net Galley and the author Caroline Mitchell for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for a honest review.

Angela Marsons says

My review - It is no secret that I love anything this lady writes. I find that her style carries me along beautifully. From the very first moment I felt Rebecca's tension and did not breathe properly until I read the very last word. So engrossed in this book I found myself shouting warnings to the main character at my kindle. Just when I thought the tension could get no worse the story found another gear as we entered into a sick and twisted game. I finished this book at 1am and found thoughts of Solomon were still running around my head. As ever I was entranced by the sharp characterisations that convinced me I knew these people personally. This book was thrilling, tense, exciting, dark and twisted in the best possible way. It is only now, the following day, that I am able to breath normally again.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

Caroline Mitchell is a fantastic writer. She has written this book on a difficult subject matter, domestic abuse. This is a tough book. She has spent several years of her career safeguarding high risk victims and their families. She has portrayed the strength it takes to escape an abusive relationship in this book. I usually don't like books about domestic abuse but this book was so different and clever. Rebecca made me so mad several times, but I don't know what I would do if I was in the same shoes as hers. I really enjoyed this book and it was so scary. It was one hell of a thrill ride.

Ten years later, Rebecca has finally got her life back in order. She is married and has a daughter and feels safe and happy. Until the day she receives a phone call. It is Solomon her abusive ex husband. He has called to seek revenge because she testified as a witness which put him in jail. He wants to make her life hell.

Rebecca is forced to confront a past that she hoped was gone forever. She receives a phone call from him to play a game. Then she receives messages from him threatening her that she has to be a silent witness in ten crimes. One for each year he was in prison.

This was an intense read for me and I hated Solomon so much. This is a chilling psychological thriller that will take you turning the pages throughout the night.

Thank You Netgalley, Thomas & Mercer and Caroline Mitchell for a copy of this book in exchange for a honest review.

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novलगossip.

When I found out Caroline Mitchell was publishing her first psychological thriller with Thomas and Mercer I just knew I had to read it as soon as possible. She's firmly cemented herself on my list of auto buy authors and fans of her work will be totally floored by Witness.

The premise of this book simultaneously creeped me out and intrigued me. Imagine having a psychopathic creep from your past come back only to force you to play a sick game. That's what happens to Rebecca, it's been ten years since she played a huge role in sending Solomon to prison but now he's back, and he's out for blood. He wants revenge in the worst way possible and toying with Rebecca is one of his favorite games to play. She must pick someone she knows to be the victim of a crime, ten different people, one for each year he was locked up.

This is told from both Rebecca's and Solomon's point of view and there are also entries from Rebecca's diary that she kept back when her and Solomon were engaged. The details of their twisted and frightening past are told in brief snippets which had me hanging on every word. I was desperate to know what had really happened back then and could feel Rebecca's fear and hopelessness leaping from the pages. Solomon is such a creepy and menacing character, the part that scared me the most was that he was able to blend in when it suited him and most people had no idea how sick and depraved he really was.

Mitchell has a tricky writing style that is alluring as she ends almost every single chapter with a mini cliffhanger making it a quick read as you can't bear to put it down. I found myself holding my breath plenty of times while reading as I contemplated just how Rebecca would get herself out of this terrifying situation? The poor thing had already escaped Solomon once and now she has to do it again? Except this time it's worse as she has a husband and a daughter to worry about and every decision she makes has the power to not

only affect the ones she loves the most, but it also makes her question herself. She struggles with her morality and sense of what's right and wrong and is constantly faced with impossible tasks. I'm shivering just thinking about it again!

Fans of psychological thrillers will enjoy this one, and fans of standard mystery/thrillers will also love this as there are twists and secrets hidden along the way. The tension was constantly mounting right up until the end and I just now finally feel like I can breathe normally again after that suspenseful ride!

Maureen says

Thank you to Netgalley, Thomas & Mercer, & Caroline Mitchell for my ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review*

Would you be frozen with fear whenever you received a text? Probably not, but then you're not Rebecca and it's not Solomon texting you.

It's 2007 and Rebecca is taking part in a marathon in aid of cancer. Her mum is in hospital with terminal cancer and she feels as if she's doing something positive, even if it can't save her mum. She's finding the race really difficult but then a young guy called Solomon appears by her side, and encourages her to carry on each time she's ready to give up. He helps her get to the finishing line and then disappears into the crowd. She thinks of him constantly in the following days but fears she'll never see him again. While on a hospital visit to her mum, she's shocked to see Solomon, but he tells her that he too has had cancer and is there for a check up. She asks if he'll accompany her to see her mum and pretend to be her boyfriend, because mum's wish is to see her daughter happy and settled, and Rebecca just wants her mum to die happy. He agrees and charms her mum without any problem, even nipping out to buy her favourite flowers. As we'll find out, Solomon is very good at turning on the charm, but he's one very dangerous individual.

I won't give too much away, but Rebecca suffers domestic abuse at his hands and when he takes his temper too far involving another crime, she testifies against him and he's jailed for 10 years.

It's now 2016 and Rebecca has started a new life in another part of the country, but Solomon has been released from prison and he's ready to play games. He's determined to make her pay for betraying him. He discovers where Rebecca is living and tells her that a crime will be committed for each of the ten years he's spent in jail, and not only must she witness these crimes, but she must choose the victims.

OMG! This is one heck of a nail biting, nerve jangling journey that Caroline Mitchell has plotted here. Having previously had a career as a Police Detective, Caroline sure knows her stuff! The storyline is superb, the characters are perfectly real, the writing is excellent, and if you haven't read any of this author's books before, then trust me, you're in for a treat!

Elaine says

How far would you go to escape an abusive relationship?

Rebecca thought she had found the perfect boyfriend meeting **Solomon**

It was at a time in Rebecca's life where she was feeling vulnerable and alone, so when Solomon appears, Rebecca is really happy.

Supportive, loving but assertive he can do no wrong, even Rebecca's mother approves.

Little did she know that Solomon may not quite be her knight in shining armour.

Now she is free of him, with a new identity and a family... life is good.... but after 10 Years Solomon is back and he wants revenge....

Because revenge was what he lived for...

Ah, little Lottie. He tapped the screen, his cracked lips broadening in a smile. I'm coming for you.

My thoughts...

I'm a huge fan of **Caroline Mitchell's** writing, from her first book **Don't Turn Around** it was going to be very clear that this author can write a book that slips out of the normal thriller box and **Witness** is no exception.

Set in the past and present, it was a clever thriller. Tense and chilling.

I love it when I can feel a character because at times Rebecca drove me sometimes to scream out loud at some of her decisions, maybe she was doing what she thought was the right thing to protect those she loved.

Rebecca

(view spoiler)

Now **SOLOMON** controlling manipulative and dangerous as he took control of Rebecca.
He fascinated me and he was a fantastic character, I do love a villain.
Terrifying, edge of a seat plot which keep me in suspense till the end.

I would not be a victim anymore

Complimentary Copy provided by **Caroline Mitchell** in exchange for an honest review

Crumb says

I was biting my nails through out this entire book. In the beginning I have to admit.. I was a little weary. I thought, "where is this going?" Is this going to be just another ordinary psychological thriller (side note: my favorite genre used to be psychological thrillers, but one can only read so many before they start to sound like one in the same)? However, I quickly jumped on board and my cynicism melted away. You see, this wasn't just another psychological thriller. This was clever, authentic, and original. Caroline Mitchell clearly has her own unique voice. She wasn't merely echoing the words of another..Caroline Mitchell has successfully created her own space in the big, wide, world of psychological thrillers. I will be anxiously awaiting her next novel. Bravo!

Arah-Lynda says

No question about it. I am most decidedly in the minority here. Although this book has yet to be published it has earned a 4.6 average rating from 55 advance readers. 5 star reviews abound.

And yet.....

But first let me give you a short overview of the premise.

Ten years ago Rebecca was a witness in a murder trial. The man against whom she bore witness was also her boyfriend Solomon, and theirs had been an extremely abusive relationship.

Once Solomon is found guilty and sent to prison, Rebecca sells her house and escapes to a remote village in Wales. Over time she meets a wonderful local man. Becky, as she is now known and Sean get married, have a beautiful little girl and live a quiet, happy life.

But now Solomon has been released from prison. He blames Rebecca for all the time he has spent incarcerated and immediately begins to plot his revenge. Apparently she likes to be a witness and he plans to put this to the test.

Mitchell's portrayal of Solomon as a devious and manipulative psychopath is brilliant. He is one scary dude. His behaviours, obsessiveness and cruel, controlling persona leaves no doubt in the reader's mind just how far he would go if pushed..

No the real problem I had here, mostly, was with Rebecca. With the choices she made, her inner justifications and her response to Solomon both from their first meeting and most especially ten years later. For me there was always something off about this woman.

And before you start typing furiously, explaining battered women syndrome to me and how that can readily explain Rebecca's behaviour, I have to tell you that I know. But this.....well it just doesn't play. I do not want to say too much for fear of spoiling this for would be readers so I will put my more specific thoughts under a spoiler tag.

(view spoiler)

As for the final denouement, I can't say that I was overly surprised. (view spoiler) What did surprise me was that after all was said and done.....(view spoiler)

Like I said I am clearly in the minority here, so don't let me dissuade you. Could be it's just me..

My thanks to Thomas & Mercer, NetGalley and Caroline Mitchell for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

3 sadly fractured stars.

Malia says

This is my second book by Caroline Mitchell and though i am not so keen to start a new series, I am hooked on her writing style and will have to give one of her series a try soon. "Witness" like the book I read before it "The Silent Victim" are standalones and real page turners. I was immediately engaged by the story and remained so until the end of the book. The writing was good, the atmosphere taut and the characters well developed. Yes, there were a few clichés and I guessed a few of the reveals beforehand, but overall, I found this to be a really satisfying psychological thriller. Recommended!

Find more reviews and bookish fun at <http://www.princessandpen.com>

Danielle (The Blonde Likes Books) says

For more of my reviews visit my blog at <https://theblondelikesbooks.wordpress...>

Witness is a thriller about a woman named Rebecca who found herself in an abusive relationship, but was able to escape and send her abusive controlling fiancé to prison. Ten years later, he's released from prison and is contacting her again. Angry about her testimony against him, he forces her to watch him commit crimes against people she knows and loves, and threatens to kill her if she goes to the police.

Rebecca, living now as Becky is now married and living in a new city has tried to put her ex Solomon in the past, and move forward with her husband and daughter. When she finds a phone in her house that wasn't hers, she realizes Solomon has not only found out where she lives, but has been inside of her house. When she starts receiving texts on the phone, she realizes he's playing with her. Each text lists a crime that will be committed against someone she knows unless she nominates someone else to be attacked. As the crimes grow increasingly more severe, Rebecca has to find a way out of this before he comes after her, and on top of that, she doesn't tell her husband what's going on, so their relationship becomes strained as she starts acting strange.

The book is told in alternating timelines, flipping back and forth between present time and the past, as told through diary entries, when she first meets Solomon, up through the point where she gets him arrested. I loved reading the flashback chapters and understanding how her relationship with Solomon starts and how he ropes her in before the abuse starts.

I think most people who have known me for a while know that I'm obsessed with books about stalkers/someone being stalked (I don't know what it is about them, but I love them!!) so I was so excited to get approved for Witness on Netgalley.

I adored this book, and when I wasn't reading it, I sure was thinking about it! I found myself checking the locks on my doors, and pulling my curtains closed because it was such a creepy book (in the best possible way!) It had me terrified for Rebecca, and on the edge of my seat the entire book, dying to find out how she'd manage to get away. There was one part of the book that I definitely saw coming early on, but overall I was dying to find out how everything would end!

I definitely recommend this book for all thriller lovers! Fans of Elizabeth Haynes Into the Darkest Corner will love Witness. It's five huge stars from me, and I'd give it more if I could!

A huge thank you to Netgalley, Caroline Mitchell, and Thomas and Mercer for the opportunity to read and review this novel. Witness comes out on December 20th, so be sure to add it to your reading lists - you won't want to miss this one!

Chelsea Humphrey says

What a fantastic premise to build a story on! We all know Caroline Mitchell is extremely talented, but boy did she out-do herself on this one. I'm a fan of her Detective Jennifer Knight series and have yet to read the first in her new Detective Ruby Preston series, but this was completely different than anything I've read from her. It was a leap of faith on her part and it paid off, because this is one crazy intense book! I'm thankful for two things: first that we had lots of time on the road this past weekend for holiday travels (yay reading!) and second that I can read in the car without getting car sick (yay reading!). I literally devoured this in one sitting and my only regret is that I didn't make it last long enough.

The pacing, suspense, and intrigue were all of the highest, most gripping quality. My kids at times were going bonkers in the backseat, or so I'm told, but I didn't notice because DUH! Solomon and Rebecca had me completely wrapped up in their depraved little games. This story is warped, disturbing, and twisty; go into this as blind as possible to reap the full experience of the book. I want to add that this is the second book I've recently read involving a woman in an abusive relationship that has explored the avenue of standing up to her abuser and pushing past the situation, rather than just staying in the relationship until one member dies. I'm not saying the book made it seem easy or simple; it was far from it. You can tell just from the description that this scenario is worst case, yet there is always that fiery fight that never quite dulls. I really like this new trend of strong women who don't have it all together.

I won't go into detail but wow! What a perfect ending. This book is a must read for fans of tense psychological thrillers. I simply can't recommend it highly enough! Bookouture clearly has a track record of publishing winning reads and this is no different. I'm pleased as punch to see what a versatile writer Mitchell is; not everyone can tackle various forms of sub genre and excel so highly at it. Clearly this is the perfect time of year to read this as it can easily be tackled in a day off. Add this to Mount To-Be Read; you won't regret it!

Many thanks to the publisher for providing my copy via NetGalley; it was a pleasure to provide an honest review!

Linda Strong says

Ten years ago Rebecca testified against her then-boyfriend, Solomon. He had killed a co-worker of hers when he assumed they were having an affair. He spent those ten years in prison.

But now he's out ... looking for revenge.

Even though she is now married and the mother to a young child, he has tracked her down. Let the games begin!

He breaks into her home and leaves a phone just for her. He sends her a message ... for each of the 10 years he spent in prison, she must witness a crime. To make matters even worse ..she has to choose the victims. If she goes to the police, he will kill her husband and child.

Interesting take on a psychological thriller. Solomon is very, very smart and he's had 10 years to plan his retaliation. He's willing to go all the way ... is she? The chapters are told in turn by a young Rebecca about her time spent with Solomon, the Rebecca of today, and of course, Solomon himself.

The characters are finely drawn. I liked the Rebecca that made a new life for herself after all the abuse she suffered at the hands of Solomon. There is a twist close to the end that sent my mind in a totally different direction.

I recommend this one for anyone who enjoys psychological thrillers.

Many thanks to the author / Thomas & Mercer / Netgalley. Opinions expressed are unbiased and entirely my own.

Christine says

Caroline Mitchell returns with a chilling new psychological thriller Witness. This is a gripping story of revenge, of a sad twisted relationship and a victim being played with.

We follow Rebecca, who ten years ago testified against her boyfriend Solomon and put him behind bars. She has moved on and now lives in Wales, happily married with a child. Through her diaries, we start to unpick Rebecca's troubled past. We get to understand the controlling and abusive relationship of Rebecca and Solomon. It is hardly a surprise that Solomon, now released from prison has big plans for Rebecca. He is back and he wants revenge.

Mitchell brings her police experience of working with victims of domestic violence to her writing in Witness. This is a tough story, that was hard to read at times. It had a feeling of authenticity, as we see the terrible controlling and abusive relationship unfold.

Rebecca slowly comes under the influence and manipulation of Solomon and his unique brand of control. Their relationship develops, to the point where they are engaged to be married. It involves control and subtle manipulation. Slowly he is taking over and ensuring she abides by his will. This has effected her long term. She cannot even tell her husband, what she went through with Solomon and how much it hurt. Solomon comes into her life again, ten years later. He wants to make her witness ten crimes and to control her from a distance. He wants to make her suffer. Now Rebecca does not involve anyone or let anyone into the trauma

she is going through. She lets Solomon dictate things again. Why does she not go to the police or to his probation officer, at the start or as things intensify? Why does she act irrationally and reply to his text messages? She knows him. She is aware of what he is capable of. Rebecca baffled me, with her inaction and her lack of intelligence. Why is she engaging with this psycho and letting him play his game? Solomon is a great though. Truly evil, in thought and deed.

Witness is a fabulous premise, that for me missed the mark. I found Rebecca too unbelievable and incredibly frustrating, in her reactions to her dangerous ex-partner and her willingness to go along with his game. Caroline Mitchell is at her best, when getting into the head of a chilling killer.
