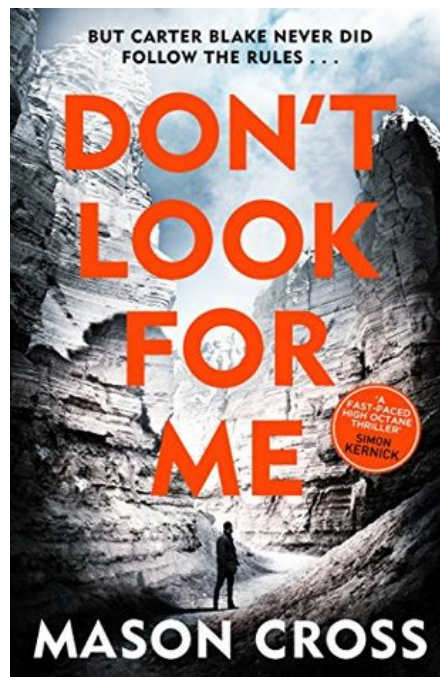




Don't Look For Me

Mason Cross

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Don't Look For Me

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Don't Look For Me Mason Cross

Don't look for me.

It was a simple instruction. And for six long years Carter Blake kept his word and didn't search for the woman he once loved. But now someone else is looking for her.

He'll come for you.

Trenton Gage is a hitman with a talent for finding people - dead or alive. His next job is to track down a woman who's on the run, who is harbouring a secret many will kill for.

Both men are hunting the same person. The question is, who will find her first?

Don't Look For Me Details

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From Reader Review Don't Look For Me for online ebook

Liz Mistry says

From the minute I read Mason Cross' first Carter Blake book, *The Killing Season*, I knew I was going to be in for the long haul. Now, with the fourth in the series, *Don't Look For Me*, read and placed neatly by the bed I feel quite bereft.

What really piqued my interest with *Don't Look For Me* is that we get to find out more about the mysterious Carol who has popped up more than once in previous books ... well that and the breakneck speed of the plot and the way Cross takes us to nooks and crannies of the states we don't normally see. Then, of course there's the fact that *Don't Look For Me* isn't only a fast paced thriller ... it's also a mystery or puzzle, and I just love puzzles. There's lots of why's and what if's and slotting clues together ... all the hallmarks of a good murder mystery ... albeit one on speed!

In a small suburb of LA, Sarah makes friends with her neighbour, Rebecca. When Rebecca and her husband disappear Sarah is convinced there's something strange about it. This feeling is intensified when some armed strangers break into their house in the middle of the night. Curious, ex-journalist Sarah, fobbed off by the police, sneaks into the house and finds a mysterious journal containing sketches and an email address ... Blake, having taken a long sabbatical on the coast of Mexico, is getting antsy when he receives a mysterious message via a very old email address. The contents of the email compel him to re-visit his past and he sets off to help Sarah find her friend.

And, have I mentioned the 'baddie'?... no?... well Trenton Gage is fantastic. Threatening, huge, immoral and really, really scary ... oh and I nearly forgot he's got an Achilles heel of his own!

From the title to the very last page, *Don't Look For Me* is chock-full of suspense and has all the ingredients to keep you hooked. Carter Blake is as enigmatic a character now as he was in book one. The intensity of the plot drives you forward at breathtaking speed, so hold onto your breeches. The action scenes are as convincing and well described as any of Simon Kernick's. Cross skillfully manages to imbue Blake with just enough emotion to keep us invested in his character without detracting from the action. I find Blake totally intriguing. His moral code, his skill set, his emotion to keep us invested in his character without detracting from the action. I find Blake totally intriguing. His moral code, his skill set, his understated humour and his solidity combined with his inability to share and his enforced secrets, make him deliciously appealing.

In a recent creative writing workshop I delivered I used the prologue to *Don't Look for Me* as an example of suspense ... I could have used almost any chapter from the book with the same effect. This series is still one of my favourites.

If you want to find out more about the enigmatic Carter Blake look out for my *Detectives In The Dock* series in a few days time where the man himself will reveal some of his many secrets!

Kevin says

While *DON'T LOOK FOR ME* is the fourth book in Mason Cross's high-octane thriller series featuring former black-ops manhunter Carter Blake, it's the perfect point to start for those who haven't read the earlier novels. This volume answers a lot of questions about Blake's history and, unlike the previous mysteries, this new case involves him personally.

In 2010, Blake tells his partner Carol Langford to disappear for her own safety after the assassination of her boss, a U.S. senator. She leaves him a note: "Don't look for me." Six years later, former news reporter Sarah Blackwell is intrigued by her new neighbors, Rebecca and Dominic Freel. She slowly befriends Rebecca, but before she can figure them out, they suddenly vanish. After witnessing some men sneaking into the Freel's home and leaving with a laptop, Blackwell investigates and finds a notebook containing Carter Blake's e-

mail address. When she contacts him, he agrees to help. A few cities away, three men hire trained killer Trenton Gage to track down Dominic Freel, who has something they want. Who will find the Freels first?

Cross ratchets up the tension with brief chapters and shifting POVs. Blake narrates his portions; the actions of Blackwell and Gage are in third-person. While Blake withholds information, readers can enjoy sorting through clues with Blackwell as she pieces things together. All three characters are smart and pleasingly complicated. DON'T LOOK FOR ME is enjoyable and action-packed, with violent twists and clever plotting.

Ed says

Carter Blake is a retired Spec Ops guy who specializes in finding people who don't want to be found. He is contacted by a woman in Las Vegas who found his phone number in her friend's home after she unceremoniously disappeared with her mysterious husband. Blake recognizes her from the picture and quickly heads to Vegas for an intricately plotted and executed investigation that leads to a small desert town in Arizona. Check out Carter Blake if you have not done so already. He's an original!

Mary Picken says

I don't really know why I have been so resistant to trying a Carter Blake book. I suspect that, deep down, I had a completely irrational view that these are what I would loosely term 'boys books'.

Which only goes to show what a complete doozy I am. Because I loved Carter Blake and the storyline was perfectly pitched for some adrenalin fuelled high action escapism with a side helping of emotional quotient thrown in.

This was a dream to read. Pitched headlong into the action, I soon knew all I need to about Carter Blake's backstory and from then on it was a huge adventure filled read with action packed sequences, characters you struggled to trust and brilliantly for me, two women at the forefront of the action with brains and ability who made a perfect accompaniment to the Carter Blake main dish.

Carter Blake has many reasons for staying off the grid. He's also the cause of his ex-girlfriend Carol Langford having to make a hasty exit out of town some six years ago and she hasn't been seen since. All that Carter knows is that she left him a note with four short words – 'don't look for me.'

So when, out of the blue, he gets an e-mail from journalist turned novelist Sarah Blackwell which puts him back on Carol's trail, there's a lot he needs to think about. Not least of which is whether he is prepared to ditch one of his cardinal rules -always work alone. What follows is a fast paced, rip-roaring story beautifully told and with a host of villains for Blake to deal with along the way as both he and hitman Trenton Gage race to find their quarry.

I really got into this book and it was a one day read for me; just perfect for enjoyment purposes. I especially liked the journalist Sarah – and I'd hope that we might meet her again one day...?

So I won't be making the same mistake again. Carter Blake books are now firmly on my agenda. Fortunately, there's another one coming soon...I can't wait.

Natalie Sutherland says

Got so immersed in this, I forgot who it was I was reading (sorry Gav) ;)

Fans of Lee Child would love this one!

Pat says

I'll give it 3.5 stars. This was a slight change of direction for our protagonist Carter Blake (formerly a Winterlong operative and latterly a finder of missing people).

He's having a prolonged sabbatical on a beach somewhere when he gets a surprising email. An unknown woman called Sarah contacts him expressing concern over her neighbors who disappeared suddenly in the dead of night a few weeks ago. Just a couple of nights ago three men with guns searched the house. Sarah, now an author but formerly a crime desk journalist, smells a rat and sneaks into the house the next day. She finds a notebook everyone else has overlooked. It's full of doodles and meaningless phrases but right at the end is a drawing of one of those signs that says "in case of emergency, break glass" and beneath that is an email address. Carter Blake's email address. Which is how he gets his sabbatical interrupted. Ah what the hell, he was getting bored anyway and that email was a very private one he'd given to an old lover six years ago. An old lover who had asked him not to look for her.

So off he goes to hook up with Sarah. They follow a trail of breadcrumbs and come up with a great big loaf. Rebecca/Linda appears to be in some trouble. An assassin seems to be on the trail of her and her husband. The police get involved and the action gets fast and furious as everyone is chasing the proceeds of a heist from years ago that never turned up.

Very entertaining but not Mason Cross's best work. I think I liked Carter Blake better when he was simply looking for missing people. Still, since his break is over I'm sure he'll get back to his regular job in the next book.

Charley Girl says

I have never heard of Mason Cross or of the Carter Blake series. I'm glad I have now. It was a twisty ride! Carter is awesome and Sara is a sweet bored and single woman. They come together to find Sara's missing friend and neighbor Rebecca. Buckle up and read carefully, it is fun ride.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Carter Blake gets an email from a concerned neighbor of a couple that has gone missing and the cops are not doing a thing to find them since they don't suspect a crime has been committed. In their opinion have they left of their own free will. All that is left is a notebook with an email address to write to in case of emergency. In the email is a photo of the couple that has gone missing and Blake sees that it's Carol, the

woman he loved and lost six years ago. The woman that left a note telling him "don't look for me." Something has scared away Carol and her husband and Blake, together with Susan, the neighbor, decides to find out what. Susan and Blake find a clue in the notebook that leads them to a ghost town. But, they are not the only ones looking for Carol and her husband...

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Dave says

Don't Look For Me is a thrilling ride through the desert involving a couple on the run, someone chasing them, and someone else good at finding people. After reading a few of these thrillers, you begin to wonder just how many people out there are on the run and hiding under mysterious aliases.

It's one of those books easy to dive into and hard to put down. Basically, it's a good story told by a good storyteller.

Although it's the fourth book in the series, I found it was just fine to dive right in and reading the first three books was not a prerequisite.

Many thanks to the publisher for providing a copy for review.

Steve says

I make no apologies - I am a big fan of Mason Cross. I have read all four of his book, and all have been excellent. He reminds me of Lee Child, one of the best thriller writers that I have run into. In this installment, we become more familiar with Carter Blake, our hero, and his backstory involving his girlfriend, Carol. In a previous book, Carter was forced to kill a politician and his wife. Then Carter had to evade the authorities. Unfortunately so did his girlfriend who was told never to return to New York, and to reinvent her self and start life over again.

A woman in Nevada has been spying on her new neighbor. One day two men enter the neighbor's house and the next day the neighbor disappears without a work. Carter gets word of this from the nosy neighbor. He then decides to follow up on the disappearance. Soon he discovers that the missing woman is his ex-girlfriend.

What happens from there is a wild, twisty, violent and involving story that makes Carter Blake a compelling hero who you will love to follow. I suggest that you read all of the Mason Cross Carter Blake novels. You will become a huge fan, just like me.

Susan says

This is the fourth in the Carter Blake series – following on from The Killing Season, The Samaritan and The Time to Kill. This novel reveals a little more of Blake's past, as we learn how he informed his girlfriend, Carol Langford, in 2010 (after the murder of Senator John Carlson and his wife, which has been the focus of a previous book) that she had to disappear. Carol walked away from her previous life, leaving only a terse

note for Blake – “Don’t Look for Me.”

Years have passed and Carter Blake is having something of a rest. However, relaxation is turning to boredom, and so he welcomes an unexpected email from Sarah Blackwell in Nevada. Sarah is concerned, as her neighbour has suddenly vanished. She befriended Rebecca, who lived quietly with husband Dom; even though she found her husband taciturn and unwelcoming. However, the couple suddenly disappear and Sarah sees two men break into their house. It turns out that Rebecca is Carol and, suddenly, a search has become personal for Blake.

This series just gets better and better. It is soon apparent that there is another person on Rebecca and Dom’s tail and he does not seem the kind of man who you want to find you... If Carol did not want Blake to find her, then why did she leave behind his email for her neighbour to find and how can Blake do his job with Sarah in tow, when he is used to working alone? Both the addition of Sarah, who is an excellent character, and the personal involvement of Blake in the chase, make this an interesting and exciting addition to the series. I look forward to reading more thrillers featuring Carter Blake and must thank the publisher, and NetGalley, for a review copy of this book.

Keith Nixon says

New York, 2010. Carol Langford receives a phone call. The line is terrible. Carter Blake, 7,000 miles away and injured, tells Carol these four fateful words: "You have to disappear."

Under Blake's instructions Carol heads to his apartment where she watches the news story unfold on the television. It's the assassination of her boss, a US senator. Four days for Carol to decide what to do next. Finally, her mind made up, she writes Blake a letter, also with four words in it. "Don't look for me." Then she leaves and never comes back.

Six years pass and now Carter Blake is taking a holiday on the Louisiana Gold Coast after the bloody conclusion of his previous adventure. His ex-employer, Winterlong, came after Blake. In the process Blake's friend and business partner was killed. Since then Blake, a man hunter now by trade, has been figuring out what to do with himself.

In Summerlin, Nevada, a couple move in next door to full-time author and ex-reporter Sarah Blackwell. The pair, Rebecca and Dominic Freel, don't keep normal hours, coming and going separately and at unusual times. Sarah is intrigued. After an argument Rebecca comes around to apologise and, over a few weeks, the two become friends. However, one day the Freels just up and disappear. Sarah is worried for her friend, even more so when, in the dead of night, some men enter the empty house and search it, leaving soon after with a laptop.

In Las Vegas three men hire Trenton Gage, a former Mountie from Canada, to find Dominic Freel. He has something the men want, something valuable. Gage, a brutal killer, starts at the Freel's house in Summerlin.

The next day, Sarah does the same and she finds a notebook which appears to have been dropped. Inside there are drawings, notes and the signatures of various women. There's also an email address. Sarah sends a note to the address, including her phone number. It reaches Carter Blake and within an hour he's on his way to Nevada. It looks like Blake's past is about to catch up with him...

This is the fourth Carter Blake novel and follows on soon after the events in *The Time To Kill* (published in the US as *Winterlong*). It's a fast-paced, page-turning, consummate thriller in which we learn much more about the mysterious Blake.

Besides the relentless action the key element of *Don't Look For Me* is the characters. We experience the world through Carter Blake's senses in the first person, but Gage and Rebecca's stories are told third person. What's so interesting and well done is seeing the story unfold through these three characters. Blake is secretive and keeps much from us, while ex-reporter Rebecca uses her investigative skills and we can follow her process. Side-by-side we get two views of the same scenes and two very different perspectives. And then another from the ruthless Gage, a man who at one time was on the right side of the law, until his methods crossed a line. Despite his brutal side there are shades of humanity in him, and he has a son and ex-partner he'd like to be with... if only he had the money.

Through the process of tracking down the Freel's and then learning what they have that's so valuable, Blake finally comes into contact with Carol. This leads us to another neat trick of the author's, because Carol isn't the person Blake knew, she's changed dramatically. But then so has Blake. Gage too isn't your average killer. He's tough and selfish, but he's more than that. Then there's Rebecca, she's believable too. Her past training and instincts help the narrative along.

Another gripping release from Mason Cross in what was already an excellent series.

Originally reviewed for Crime fiction Lover.

Michael says

As indicated by Goodreads, this is the 4th Carter Blake book. The 5th is being written and it's indicated that it will be released soon. I hope it's up to the very high standards as were 1 through 3 and an improvement over this novel.

You'll note that I've given this book 3 stars whereas I've given 4 or more for the previous works by Mr. Cross. A 3 star effort by Mr. Cross is better than some other 3 star ratings but I'm rating it in comparison with the first 3. (That sounds convoluted but it makes sense to me.)

Once again we go back in time with Carter Blake to a time when he thought he had found both freedom and love only to lose both. In this book you might say that Blake discovers the truism that you can't go home again. Or at least you can't find the same person you left some years previously.

Carol Langford is no longer Carol Langford. But then Blake is no longer the Blake of those long ago years, longer in the years of the heart than of the calendar.

This story has indifferent cops, dirty cops, ruthless, sociopaths, neighbors who care, the glitz of Las Vegas

and the emptiness of the desert. It lacks just a modicum of the quality story telling of the first 3 books but it's still not bad and it doesn't make me want to read #5 and less.

Liz Barnsley says

I love a good thriller, me, but they have to be actually thrilling with characters that are more than cardboard cut outs running around with guns and there has to be some heart and soul in there otherwise I get bored and grumpy.

Enter, a few years ago now, onto my reading list Mason Cross and the Carter Blake novels. Each one has been a pure joy to read and this one is no different in fact it is probably my favourite so far. The reading adrenalin rush of these knows no bounds and they are fast paced, incredibly addictive, super compelling and definitely chock full of heart and soul.

Don't Look For Me also has a beautifully twisted plot and a little emotional trauma for Carter Blake this time around plus it had Sarah who I really really engaged with (so let's hope we see her again sometime) – really there was absolutely nothing at all that I did not like about this book. There's not really a lot else to say, if you like thrillers you'll love these. Handily enough you can read any one as a standalone – and although I would recommend reading in order for full immersion (The Killing Season would be where to start) actually Don't Look For Me would be a great entry point into the series so what the heck, go for your life.

A hot book for the hot weather – fantastic. Highly Recommended.

Teri Pre says

Much better than the last couple!
