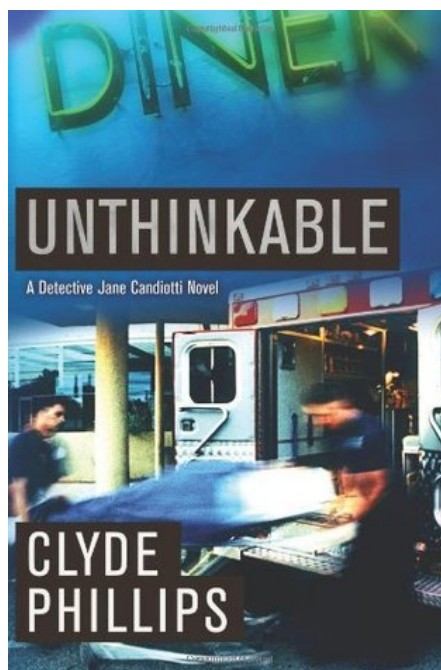




Unthinkable

Clyde Phillips

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For homicide lieutenant Jane Candiotti, stress is part of the job. But now that she and her husband are expecting their first child, Jane is under strict instructions to take it easy. A tall order on an average day, yet never more so than when a mass shooting at a local restaurant claims six victims—including her teenaged nephew. Jane's always been professional. But this time, it's personal.

Before she can bring a baby into this world, Jane vows to hunt down the monster who didn't think twice about shooting an innocent kid. But every thread of evidence leads her deeper into a tangled web of deception, violence, and murder. Her only hope of navigating the twisting turns of this case is to enlist the help of a dangerous ex-con, one who could shed light on the connection between the death of her nephew and a decades-old murder case—eventually leading her to the most shocking discovery of her career.

Unthinkable Details

Date : Published August 13th 2013 by Thomas & Mercer

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Author : Clyde Phillips

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Genre : Mystery

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From Reader Review Unthinkable for online ebook

Leslie says

This book starts off by showing you information about 6 seemingly unrelated people with the information about where they will be shot. So when the cashier and 5 customers of the fast food restaurant are found dead, you; the reader, aren't surprised.

The police are stumped, there is little evidence, and no obvious suspects. One of the victims is related to a police officer; another to a gang leader. It will end up taking the cooperation of the police and the former gang leader to bring the perp to justice. Through this Lt. Jane Candiotti is trying to balance the demands of her job and her first pregnancy.

This is a mystery that will keep you guessing until the very end.

Cheryl says

"Unthinkable" that I haven't read author Phillips before...

I haven't read any of author Phillips' other books including the first three in the Jane Candiotti series but that is something I mean to remedy very soon.

This is one great detective story. Twists and unexpected turns abound in the book and it kept me guessing up to the final page.

Lieutenant Jane Candiotti is pregnant and trying to fit that in with being an excellent cop. Her husband, Homicide Inspector Kenny Marks is trying to be a good cop yet protect his wife at the same time. All of this becomes more difficult when a mass murder takes place and one of the victims is their nephew.

Superb characterization, wonderful background on all the characters, snapshot views of San Francisco (a city I love), and I especially appreciated the way the author tied up all the loose ends for the reader at the end of the story.

This is a tale definitely worth reading.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Suspense Magazine says

This is the long-awaited fourth in the Jane Candiotti/Kenny Marks police procedural series. Jane has been told to take it easy on the job, since she's pregnant with the couple's first child, but you know how that will go for a hard-charging officer.

As the story opens, people are lining up to die, one after another—our clue that this story will involve a lot of bodies. Each person is seen in connection with Stella's, a San Francisco deli, either entering the restaurant or working there. There don't seem to be connections between most of them, which makes the case a real puzzler, as they are all murdered there at the same time. One victim, however, is the nephew of Jane's

husband, and that makes this case personal for Jane.

Jane is not only pregnant but she's forty years old, which puts her at even more risk. She can't back down on this case, though. Tenuous connections between the dead are explored and lead to dead ends, time after time, until the break comes and leads to the thrilling conclusion.

The mystery is a worthy addition to this series by the former executive producer of the television series, Dexter.

Reviewed by Kaye George, author of "Death in the Time of Ice," for Suspense Magazine ■

Dale says

Print edition to be released in August 2013 by Thomas and Mercer

This is my 1,000th review on my blog. I have several good books that are already read and just waiting to be reviewed, but only one could be my 1,000th review. This is the best of that small bunch of books and it is really quite good.

This is the fourth book in a series of books about married San Francisco homicide detectives Jane Candiotti and Kenny Marks. I had not read any books in the series until this one and the reader does not have to read them in order to join in.

Cadndiotti and Marks are called in to a nasty murder scene in a fast food restaurant. Six strangers are massacred in the basement storage area right after the lunch rush. They have nothing in common except for the way they died. To make everything much, much worse, one of the victims is Marks' nephew.

The San Francisco Police Department...

Read more at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2013/...>

Suzanne Borchers says

Excellent read

Excellent characters with depth, even the secondary characters are well developed. Twists and turns in the story keeps the story compelling. I would definitely recommend this book.

Heidi says

3.5 stars

Unthinkable is the fourth book in a series featuring married San Francisco homicide detectives Jane Candiotti and Kenny Marks.

Jane and Kenny are excited about expecting their first child when a tragedy shatters their peace. A mass shooting in a local fast-food restaurant has claimed the life of Kenny's nephew Bobby amongst five other

victims, with no obvious connections to one another. Only one staff member has survived the massacre by locking herself in a freezer, but she cannot give any clues as to the killer's identity other than having heard his voice yell a single command. With little information to go on, Jane begins looking into the victims' pasts in the hope of finding a motive for the killings, whilst Kenny tries to comfort his sister and come to terms with their loss. Jane finds an unexpected ally in the ex-con brother of one of the victims, who also has connections to San Francisco's underworld. Their investigations unearth a startling link nobody had expected, and put Jane in the line of fire of a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to fulfil his mission.

Unthinkable is a solid police procedural with an unexpected twist at the end which left me satisfied overall - even if not totally wowed - by its storyline. There is enough action to keep the pace going, and the police investigation unravels in a realistic and timely fashion. As the investigation comes closer to unveiling the identity of the killer, the pace picks up a notch, racing towards an unexpected finale.

The theme running through the novel, that of an unthinkable crime and its effects on the police officers working the scene, intrigued me and gave food for thought. Tragedies like the mass shooting explored in the novel leave their marks on all first responders of the various emergency services called to the scene (from police to paramedics to crime technicians) and may result in more casualties other than the shooting's actual victims. This is an aspect we often ignore when hearing about tragedies on the news, and one which is definitely worthy of being further explored to raise awareness of the great job our emergency services do, often at great cost to their own lives. Unthinkable touches on the after-effects of the shootings on many levels, from the devastating effects on the victims' families as well as the personal demons some emergency personnel have to face afterwards. I was surprised that Kenny was allowed to remain part of the investigation, when he had such a deep personal connection to the case! The theme of the after-effects of trauma and loss (and its resulting anger) played a large role in the story until the very end of the novel and formed an integral part in the final resolution of the plot.

Throughout reading Unthinkable I thought that the story would make a great TV series, and was not surprised to find out later that the author Clyde Phillips is in fact a prominent writer for television and film, and was Executive Producer for popular TV shows such as Dexter and Nurse Jackie. Perhaps it is the different writing style which allowed the story to play out vividly in my mind, yet always held me at an arm's length from feeling truly connected to its characters. Jane, intelligent, dedicated and professional, always remained a bit of an enigma to me, which made me a spectator rather than a participant in the story. Whilst this did not impair my enjoyment of the story, it never totally held me in its grip. Since I have not read any of the previous books in the series, I cannot comment whether this is due to jumping in at number four rather than getting to know the characters through Phillips' earlier novels.

Unthinkable is a well-constructed police procedural which should appeal to lovers of the genre.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for providing me with a free preview copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review. Please note that the final version of this novel may differ from the version I have previewed.

Emma Kerry says

I loved this book. I was unsurprised to find that Phillips is prominent in the world of TV, having written for and produced many tv shows, (including being executive producer on one of my favourite shows Dexter) as this would make an excellent TV series. As I read, I couldn't help but imagine it playing out on TV.

It is the fourth book in the series focusing on homicide lieutenant Jane Candiotti. I haven't read the others

(though I intend to) and don't feel it held me back in enjoying this book.

This book kept me guessing to the end and even though I had half-guessed the ending, it still managed to surprise me. The characters are all perfectly drawn and the setting of San Francisco, perfect. The plot deals with the aftermath of a shooting in a fast food restaurant and I found it fascinating. We all see the stories on the news, and with some sort of morbid fascination, I was intrigued by this storyline.

Robert says

Clyde Phillips is a sonofabitch. This smug bastard had the audacity to write a novel filled with wonderful characters and poignant prose and peppered it with San Francisco details and scenery, and detectives and lieutenants actually working through the case in a methodical, reasonable manner where dead bodies piled up in Stella's restaurant faster than grilled cheese sandwiches. And Amazon, those flamboyant bastards, the Wal-Mart of bookstores if you will, with marketing techniques and promotions that'll knock you flat on your ass and have you clicking the buy now button faster than your remote control, have entered the publishing arena, with one of my favorite new imprints being Thomas & Mercer, and offered up the first three novels in the Jane Candiotti and Kenny Marks series for \$3.99 each. And then Dennis Lehane (who is one of my favorite writers) called the first novel in the series "*a deftly plotted first novel with the pace of a hurricane and the impact of an earthquake.*" And then Publisher's Weekly compared the plot of FALL FROM GRACE to Alfred Hitchcock, and I started feeling like a smug bastard myself, since I received the fourth novel for free, and I preordered the first novel for less than the cost of a Happy Meal. And I feel like one lucky sonofabitch, even though I just spent \$3.99 and now I have a stupid grin on my face that won't go away even if I try to wipe it off.

The beginning of UNTHINKABLE reminded me of a movie with scenes and characters introduced before cutting to the next segment, similar to what Quentin Tarantino might do. Like Tarantino, the reader was left with where this particular individual would be shot, while the actual violence took place offstage (not Tarantinoesque). The violence and gore weren't needed to portray the horrific outcome (half a dozen bodies littered the Stella's restaurant floor like dropped watermelons), and in fact, it certainly allowed my active imagination to enter hyperactivity mode and depict an infinite number of appalling possibilities, any number of which could have had me sitting in a corner with my knees pulled up to my chin rocking myself back and forth while I stared at a spot on the opposite wall. Prescription medication could have been one way I cured my ailment, but instead, I kept on reading and was sucked in on each and every page by the characters, as the plot moved along at a brisk pace and the twists and turns started piling up faster than cars on an Atlanta freeway.

At the core of this fourth novel, though, were Lieutenant Jane Candiotti and Inspector Kenny Marks. No matter what happened outside their world, and for a while it certainly didn't look good, they still had each other, and a baby on the way made three. Certainly likeable enough on their own, there was a cast of characters to include Edgar Silva and Carmen and Rick Weymouth who proved likeable as well. As for the unlikeable ones, there were plenty of those, too, both inside and outside the department.

This novel kept me guessing. Even when I thought I had it all figured out, another kink would be thrown into the mix, and I was back at square one all over again. It happened often enough that I began to lose track, but I certainly never lost interest.

If you're looking for a new series, and even if you're not, you may just want to give Clyde Phillips a spin.

Just make sure you keep both hands on the wheel while you do.

I received this book for free through NetGalley.

Guillermo says

I'm luckily on a roll. I just finished *On These Courts* by Wayne Drash, a book that deserved five stars and went on to read *Unthinkable* by Clyde Phillips next. Another five stars book. Two in a row, baby! Not a lot of these I've reviewed so far, as it is actually only the fifth review in this site that I give five stars to, including *How Life Imitates Chess* and *Cannibal Serial Killers*.

I have to admit though, it kinda feels like I cheated, since by knowing about the author I could certainly expect a good outcome; after all, Clyde Phillips is not only a great writer, but he was also the EP and Showrunner of *Dexter's* first four seasons, the EP of *Nurse Jackie* and the creator of *Parker Lewis Can't Lose*. I mean, freakin' *Parker Lewis*! That was my favorite show when I left kids shows for teens shows in the early nineties.

[Read Full Review](#)

Celeste says

Five stars

Outstanding story, well written and plotted, with realistic dialog. The characters are believable and are placed in unthinkable situations. You won't be disappointed if you read this book. Enjoy.

Elaine says

Don't know whether this is going to be the last in the Candiotti series but they're worth reading. This is another one where the reader is caught unawares at the discovery of who the perp is.

I can't say I agree with the extremes Lieutenant Candiotti and Inspector Marks go to in trying to nail the perpetrator of the killing of innocent people in a local diner. I won't say what those extremes are lest I spoil it for future readers.

As proven in his other books, unlike other authors, Phillips doesn't balk at knocking off beloved characters. If you've been reading others by him, you might find yourself saddened once again but definitely taken by surprise. It certainly gives life-likeness to his books when they don't mysteriously survive. But fortunately not all is tears; some smiles as well.

Susan says

I won't go into the plot, etc. as that has all been covered well by the synopsis and other reviewers. Just adding my "well done" for the series that at first I did not think I would like.

Do read from book one, the relationships will make more sense and you will enjoy the character

developement

Heather Breslin says

The book reads like a plot outline; the authors voice is like a reading a police blotter. Yes the plot is good-ish but I figured out who the killer was early on. When I read the author bio at the end I realized why I felt that way about the book - he is used to writing for TV and having actors develop his characters for him. Very meh feeling about this.

Mihir says

Before I start this review, I would like to list why I was excited to read this book:

1] I had read the first three books more than a decade ago when I first came across them and the 2nd one (Blindsided) made me a fan of the series as well as the author.

2] Clyde Phillips for those who don't know him is a writer/producer for shows like Dexter, Suddenly Susan and a others. His involvement with Dexter coincided with some of the series best seasons and coincidentally his exit led to some weaker ones (5th and 6th).

Unthinkable stars Jane Candiotti and her husband Kenny Marks, both of whom are members of SFPD. After the events of the past 2 books which have lead to some drastic personal and professional changes in Jane's life, this book shows us the vibrant aftermath and it is soon shattered when a fatal restaurant shooting occurs. With a personal connection to one of the murdered victims. Jane and Kenny strive to solve this case but things are never black and white as they come to witness.

Clyde Phillips is simply a masterful plotter and with this book, he again shows how twisted his plots can be. With a streamlined plot and plot twists that will trip readers, Unthinkable is a fine return by one of the most under-rated thriller writers. Be sure to grab this book and the previous ones if you love Jeffrey Deaver, Owen Laukkanen, James Patterson (earlier thrillers) or Harlan Coben!

Amber King says

Good blend of drama and plot

This is the best of the Candiotti series yet. Plan to read rest of the series as soon as possible.
