



The Promise

Alison Bruce

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Promise

Alison Bruce

The Promise Alison Bruce

In a single night, Kyle Davidson's life is derailed. His relationship is over, he is denied access to his young son and everything important to him is at risk. His thoughts stumble between fear and revenge. Kyle Davidson has a choice to make. Meanwhile, after the tragic end to a previous case, DC Gary Goodhew finds himself questioning his reasons for returning to work until the badly beaten body of a homeless man is found on Market Hill. Having known the homeless man for several years Goodhew feels compelled to be part of the investigation - but routine lines of enquiry soon take a dark and unexpected turn...Suddenly the Cambridge back streets hold deadly secrets for Goodhew and the only person who has the answers is planning one final, desperate act.

The Promise Details

Date : Published February 4th 2016 by Constable & Robinson (first published July 23rd 2015)

ISBN : 9781472112262

Author : Alison Bruce

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, European Literature, British Literature, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

 [Download The Promise ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Promise ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Promise Alison Bruce

From Reader Review The Promise for online ebook

Nigel says

This is actually the 6th book in this series about Gary Goodhew. I'd not read any of them previously so it took me a little while to get up to speed with the basic scenario of the series. I found the prologue intriguing and first thought it related to some previous case in the series I was actually wrong). Once the book proper started the writing was atmospheric however I found it a little hard to understand exactly what was going on. The actual case for this book, set in Cambridge - the death of a homeless man - felt well worked and the reading was easy from there on.

I'm finding this a hard book to review in some ways as the basic story seemed a very good one to me. Equally I found myself liking Gary Goodhew, the policeman the series is about, and realised that I would like to know some of the back story of these characters. It is a good enough book and one that I would not have stopped reading. That said I simply didn't find it as tense or as compelling as I would have liked this sort of police thriller to be. As I've said I found Gary Goodhew a good character and that would apply to Sue Gully to some degree. However most of the other characters lacked some depth for me. I would actually read one or two of the earlier ones sometime; I'd like to get more of a feel for this author but that will only be when I really do have the time. 3.5/5 probably

Note - I received an advance digital copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair review

Alexina Golding says

What an opening to a book, I wasn't sure what was going on, where it was all leading....actually that happened mostly through this read.

The long awaited 6th Gary Goodhew in the Cambridge series.

The whole plot was revealed in snippets as you read it, which made it a page turner. However after the long wait I was trying to savour the read... The story is well paced, and although the plot is given like a drip feed, it delivers at the same time.

Great to the end.

It was fun catching up with to Gary, and learning more about Sue.

Well worth the wait, but please don't leave the final so long.

I've enjoyed seeing Gary grow up through the series. If you have enjoyed the previous books, you won't be disappointed. I Promise.

Thanks to Netgalley for letting me review the book for an honest feedback review.

Sarah says

DC Gary Goodhew is still recovering from the events of a previous case but when the body of a homeless man is found Gary decides to return to work as "Ratty" is someone he knows. Soon there are other cases which appear to be linked and Goodhew needs to try and investigate these without going off track too much as he has a tendency to do.

I don't think this is the best book in the series but it was a pleasant read and good to learn more about the characters. I feel like the stage is set for the personal storyline for Gary in the next book which I look forward to reading.

I am grateful to netgalley for a free copy of this in exchange for an honest review.

Nick Davies says

Hmm. This had many of the positives of the previous book I'd read by Alison Bruce - realism, good characterisation, a focus on the procedure of 'police procedural', an appealing Cambridge setting and an intriguing plot - but also most of the possible negatives that I'd noticed during 'The Siren'. The slow pace was an interesting change from many of the fast and furious gritty thriller-type crime novels I have read, but something about this (combined with reading some of the book in distracting situations, such as on a crowded train) meant I didn't follow all of what happened, it felt a bit muddled in places - maybe the author was relying a little too much on readers having more familiarity with the central characters from preceding books in the series? In any case, though I felt the book had quality, I didn't enjoy reading it as much as I might've.

Maggie Wilson says

Found this very hard to read but persevered to the end. Unfortunately I just didn't gel with the characters and plot line.

Marina Sofia says

I am a little in love with Gary Goodhew and his house in Cambridge, so I was looking forward to this latest addition to the series. It's a pretty solid police procedural, with intriguing interactions within the police team (without overwhelming the story). We also find out more about Gary's back story and the day his grandfather died. The murderer's motivation was a little hazy though, not entirely believable to my mind.

Joanne Robertson says

I have really enjoyed this series over the years. I love the fact that it is set in and around Cambridge, somewhere I haven't been for many years but have very fond memories of. And I also like the character of Gary Goodhew and have enjoyed following his career and personal journey. This is the 6th instalment and Gary is still off work recovering from his previous case but decides to come return following the gruesome murder of "Ratty", a local homeless man that he knew. At the start of the book we also realise that there is something in Gary's past about to come out that has been buried deep in the

archives.

I found the start of the book quite confusing and most of the way through I also had to keep referring back to work out what was going on. This was the usual well written and presented story from Alison Bruce that was a bit of a slow burner but I just found it lacking....something! I think I just found it a bit too confusing. It certainly is my least favourite of the series so far. Saying that I thought the last few pages were brilliant-full of emotion as we find out something about Gary's past and his family. And I really am looking forward to seeing where Gary goes from here.

I received a copy of this book via netgalley in return for an honest review.

Stephen Clynes says

This is the latest and number six in the DC Gary Goodhew mysteries set in Cambridge. I have NOT read any of the earlier five books in the series but I used to travel through and stay overnight in Cambridge in the 1980's. Reading this book brought my memories of Cambridge flooding back to me. Parkside, with it's Police Station where DC Gary Goodhew is stationed and where National Express coaches stop. Tenison Road, close to the train station where I stayed overnight. Even Newmarket Road on the drive out to other destinations in Norfolk.

Alison does a good job at clearly describing Cambridge with lots of detail to put you on the spot. I like how she sets the scene as she moves around the city and even travels up to Ely.

Each book in the series is a standalone novel. The Promise is about a murder and the mysteries behind it. I found the plot of this novel POOR. I found the character development to be patchy with it's buzz of characters like on the successful television series called The Bill. There is not a strong lead character in this story and I did not develop an empathy for DC Gary Goodhew. I thought this book lacked attitude and sharpness, giving me a second rate reading experience. The story just mulled along and was about as exciting as a petty criminal breaking into garden sheds. There was no brightness to this story and no humour or witty dialogue. I thought this book rather dull and was surprised that it is the sixth DC Gary Goodhew novel. This story seemed so weak to me with nothing to excite or surprise me. Nothing was unusual or special and only at the end did you find out why this book was titled The Promise.

This book was a disappointment for me and as far as Police novels and mysteries go, I would suggest a MISS. Because Alison writes so well about the area, I will vote her book 2 stars rather than 1 star. I know Alison has a lot of fans but this story did NOT grip me in any way. I just felt so let down by this POOR read. I do enjoy reading British Police crime thriller series and the Jack Caffery books from Mo Hayder are in the top league and give me just what I want from a book.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher Little Brown Book for giving me a copy of this book on the understanding that I provide an honest review.

Richard says

Alison Bruce mentions the delays into publication of this 6th DC Gary Goodhew police procedural but having read and enjoyed the previous 5 books I was prepared to wait. My patience is rewarded as we have been given a wonderful novel that works so well between its main characters, we quickly feel right back home in Parkside, Cambridge.

Alot of this genre is flooded with wham, crash, bang narrative full of action and thrills; more like painting

words with a roller and tray. Alison takes a palate knife and later a fine brush to create layers of light and shade. Only after reading the book and in the later chapters as you gain a true perspective does the story make complete sense and the quality of the plot creation hits you fully.

It suits the junior detective, Goodhew who is a deep thinker and takes his time assessing any evidence and joins dots where others only see a blank page. His colleague Sue Gulley has been trying his methods while Gary has been off following an injury in the line of duty. In the process she finds out information about a cold case that impacts directly on the Goodhew family. So she approaches their boss DI Marks who is already aware of the issues and he reveals it has been a deliberate decision of his along with Gary's Grandmother, to refrain from disclosing the full facts.

Sue tries to encourage Gary back to work and monitors his fitness with growing pride. When Goodhew's homeless 'friend' Ratty is murdered in what initially seems a random attack Gary has no doubt it is time to return to work.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and the way Alison Bruce outlines her plot, taking time to flesh out characters and giving them meaningful relationships not just stereotype ciphers that are forgotten as you turn the next page. It is a complex plot that works at a cerebral level that allows only someone like Gary to make the connections. The author isn't ignorant of her readers and there is much to enjoy along the way; you do not need great personal intelligence to appreciate the story or the unfolding motives of the crime.

Cambridge is well used as a backdrop, yet another character in the stories, and without giving anything away I can only say that the planning of the crime and its execution is quite unique in my reading experience. For no other reason Bruce should be applauded for such an original twist to the usual crime mystery. However, there is far more to commend this book and its series to all crime fans. There is a sense of the beginning of the end throughout the book with disclosures made, retirements due and relationships cemented. I am encouraged to learn there is at least another book due and more excitingly Alison is planning other independent projects. Here is an author with lots to say and gives of herself fully in writing her books.

sue says

Although this is book 6 in the series, I was wondering how I would fair reading it as I may have missed out on such a lot.

I think I would have been better prepared if I had read the others in the series but it wasn't that bad actually.

I, of course, didn't know about this Gary Goodhew and his last case, it does infringe on several bits outlining it so that the reader is reminded, but seeing that I hadn't read prior to this, it didn't complete the bigger picture of course.

Did this matter at the end of the day?

Well, yes and no. Yes because **for me** I like to read books in order, but for story, really, I think you can get into it quite well and by the time you are halfway through, it really doesn't matter one iota. But, after saying this, it leaves you in a bit of an abyss. Because the story goes back and forth you tend to be wandering in a mist.

So would I honestly say read the others? Yes I would.

There is a past to Gary Goodhew that is about to come out which keeps you biting your nails.

Its hard for me to comment objectively as I REALLY do feel I have missed out on a great impact somewhere along the line.

I requested this from Net Galley via Little, Brown Book Group UK

Sue Corbett says

Bit darker this one, best yet. Would be good for tv which is what she said she'd been aiming for at her talks.

Clare says

With thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for this ARC in exchange for an open and honest review.

The Promise is Alison Bruce's 6th instalment in the DC Gary Goodhew series. I started listening to this series 3 months ago, so the history of Gary and his colleagues are fresh in my mind.

Throughout the books the reader has discovered very little about Gary's childhood or his parents. Gary was very close to his Grandfather until he died of a heart attack, shortly after Gary and his sister were sent to boarding school.

At the beginning of The Promise PC Sue Gully is going through some old files looking for information. She finds a file marked Goodhew, it turns out that Gary's Grandfather was murdered in his own home and the culprit was never found. The case was dealt with by Gary's boss DCI Marks, She is sure that Gary is not aware his Grandfather's was murdered but why did Marks and his Grandmother keep this from him.

Meanwhile Gary is still off sick after being seriously injured in his last investigation, he finally returns to work when his informant Ratty is found murdered with his eyes gorged out. Gary starts to investigate and finds homeless Ratty rented a lockup in Cambridge. Once inside, the lock up is empty apart from a square of carpet with a freezer on top. The freezer contained the body of a young woman who had gone missing years earlier.

I think The Promise was the best book in the series, it began to answer so many questions. The end of the book was especially thrilling when Gary finally remembered something from the day his Grandfather died, I think we will hear more about his Grandfathers murder in the next book.

I cannot wait for the next book in the series.

Paromjit says

The Promise by Alison Bruce is now part of an established Cambridge series with detective Gary Goodhew which I have read all of. It begins with Sue Gulley accidentally coming across reports about the murder of Gary's grandfather of which she is certain he knows nothing. Through the story it becomes clear DI Marks and Gary's grandmother have kept this hidden. The source of the title, The Promise, becomes clear at the end

of the book when Gary is informed about the murder.

The rest of this novel is about Gary returning to work after a lengthy recuperation to get involved with solving the murder of a homeless man he knew called Ratty. It is a particularly gruesome murder and the team investigating discover Ratty's true identity and that he has been renting a garage lock up for some time. There is a freezer with a young girl murdered in precisely the same manner as Ratty. There are fingerprints on the freezer identified as those of Kyle, a young man who has disappeared. Gary is certain that neither Kyle nor Ratty is a killer although that does not become so clear to the rest of the police team immediately. Then it becomes clear that the police have a serial killer keeping other bodies in lock up garages throughout Cambridge. They just have to find them. The killer also wants to locate Kyle and kill him. There are deep internal conflicts in the police team, largely between the ambitious and disgruntled Kincaide and Gary, which DI Marks tries to manage prior to his imminent retirement. Kyle's sister, Leah, is abducted. The identity of the killer comes as a complete surprise and results in a tense finale.

This is a well constructed story that never fails to grip and I love the location of Cambridge. It is well plotted, exciting, and a fast paced crime thriller. Alison Bruce has created a lead in Gary as a complex, gifted, and obsessive character that I want to know more about, along with others, such as Sue Gully, DI Marks, Sheen etc.. It is clear that there is more to follow with regard to the murder of Gary's grandfather. I look forward to reading the soundtrack to the novel at the end, and this one is particularly appropriate. Cannot wait for the next in the series. Many thanks to Little, Brown, the publishers, for a copy of the book via netgalley.

Lisa says

3.5 stars

I see this is 6th in a series but I haven't read any others and it was easily read as a stand alone.

It's a fast-paced murder mystery/ detective story that was very satisfying.

I liked most of the characters - not sure what I thought of the main character Gary Goodhew - he struck me as an 'odd' police detective but I would be willing to read more about him for sure.

4 out of 5 for the story.

3 out of 5 for the characters.

Maybe this would improve if/when I know the characters better??!!

Cleo Bannister says

What I want from a police procedural is a solid mystery and Alison Bruce came up with a plot for this, the sixth outing for Gary Goodhew in this mystery series based in Cambridge.

At the beginning of this book Gary Goodhew is still off sick after the events of the previous instalment and Susan Scully comes across something that she believes that Gary should be made aware of, but before she can decide how to break the news there is a murder! Ratty a well-known homeless man who Gary has used for information in the past has been murdered and now the team need to find out who he is and what the motive for his murder was.

I do like this series, the author has come up with a great cast of solid characters. The location is well-described and the secondary characters far more than cardboard cut-outs which all makes for a good background to the serious business of the investigation.

With Gary's backstory being fleshed out and a bit of uncertainty with Marks due to retire imminently the book has the potential to be slightly confusing for those of us who haven't read the entire series, but I found that despite only reading the first two books it worked well as a stand-alone even though I hadn't kept up to date with everyone. This book really brought the homeless community in Cambridge to life so that I felt that the victim of the murder was intentionally chosen both by the fictional killer but more especially the author for a purpose.

We are also introduced to Kyle Davidson, a fairly new father as his life is beginning to unravel following his return from Afghanistan. With his wife spending levels high and her inability to put their son Harry at the centre of her life, and Kyle not being the same man he was before his latest tour of duty, I could only speculate how big the fall-out was likely to be. Kyle's younger sister Leah was another great character, the author having realistically portrayed the life as a teenager without resorting to the tired clichés.

This was a solidly good read written at a good pace, not so fast that it is hard to keep up with all the action leaving no time to ponder on the clues left but neither were there plodding areas where you wonder when something is going to happen. Although nowhere near as brutal as some crime books, there were some descriptions that are best avoided if you are particularly squeamish but fortunately these weren't dwelt upon for any more than necessary!

I am sorry that I have missed some of the books in this series and with this one seemingly pivotal in revealing much of Gary's backstory, I'm not sure whether I will go back to read the missing episodes but I'm certainly well-motivated to read the future ones as I do enjoy the original yet not outlandishly so plots.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the publishers, Little Brown Book Group UK who allowed me to read this book for which I have returned the favour by writing this review.
