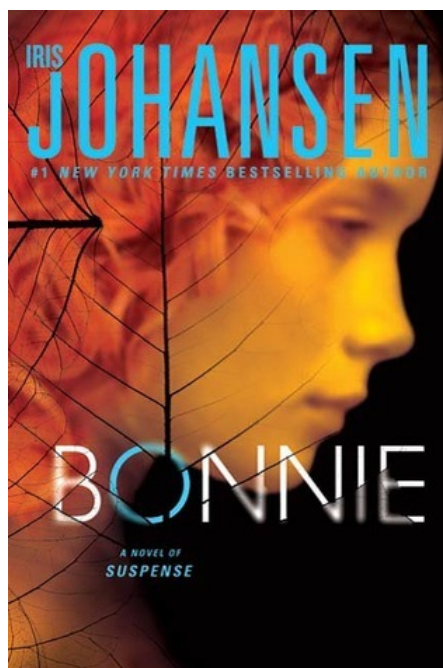




Bonnie

Iris Johansen

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When Eve Duncan gave birth to her daughter, she experienced a love she never knew existed. Nothing would stand in the way of giving Bonnie a wonderful life - until the unthinkable happened and the seven-year-old vanished into thin air. Eve found herself in the throes of a nightmare from which there was no escape. But a new Eve emerged: a woman who would use her remarkable talent as a forensic sculptor to help others find closure in the face of tragedy. Now with the help of her beloved Joe Quinn and CIA agent Catherine Ling, Eve has come closer than ever to the truth. But the deeper she digs, the more she realizes that Bonnie's father is a key player in solving this monstrous puzzle. And that Bonnie's disappearance was not as random as everyone had always believed...?Johansen's trilogy takes the reader on an action-packed journey.? Booklist

Bonnie Details

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Genre : Mystery, Suspense, Fiction

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From Reader Review Bonnie for online ebook

Michelle says

So, this is a review for the whole trilogy (Eve, Quinn, Bonnie), even though I'm just putting it here.

I really like the Eve Duncan books. When they're about the forensic sculpting. Or Jane (especially when Mark Treveor is involved. Woot!). HOWEVER, this whole "who killed Bonnie," thing has been stretched out to a ridiculous extent. For the love of...

It's not epic, it's boring.

If you already like these stories, I suggest reading these all together. Get it over with. If you're thinking about starting the series, start with this trilogy: it may save you some frustration, and it won't really ruin the other "who killed Bonnie," story lines.

(view spoiler)

One last thing, just a minor note about Eve: So annoying. She's right, and will never admit she's wrong. She can do everything better and has the right to make decisions for other people. Gah!

Elizabeth Noah Astle says

I was able to get the book from my public library so I could finally find out who killed Bonnie. This is the third book and last book in this trilogy about it. Eve daughter, Bonnie, went missing years and years ago. Eve has never known what happened to her and who killed her. She has been on the search for years and years to find the truth, and this book explains it all.

Overall the book was good, I thought. Lots of action, it had Catherine and Gallo in it but, no Jane. As usual, Joe was his typical self and not wanting help from others and a bit over protective of Eve but, his role was smaller than usual in my opinion and I was a bit annoyed at the end where he was saying that Eve was his and his to protect.

I ended up only giving 4 stars as I was a bit disappointed in the ending.--I mean really? that is Bonnie killer and how she died, I was let down. Part of me wanted her to be alive but, I knew that the story could not go that way since her 'ghost' was seen and heard from so she had to be dead. Even though reading about why/how she died was a disappointment and the killer--one would be hoping that it was someone else even though it I was able to figure it out way before the ending.

I am not sure what Iris Johansen will be writing about next but, I am sure I will be reading it. Maybe one last story where Eve and Joe are not on their former constant search to bring Bonnie home but, about being able to put it to rest and focus on them and their future?

Robin Priddy says

Having and keeping Bonnie was the best thing that Eve Duncan ever did. She is the reason Eve worked so hard at school, the reason that Eve's mother cleaned up her act. Seven years later the worst thing that could happen to a family did. Bonnie disappeared without a trace. One minute she was there and the next she was gone. Eve is now a world famous Forensic Sculptor. She manily works with the skulls of children so that she can bring them home to their families. The time she is not working she spends it trying to find out what happened to her daughter and who took her. She was told that Bonnie's father was killed while in the army but then she finds out that he wasn't. At first they think that he had something to do with it but come to find out his didn't. He joins in the hunt for his daughter's killer. Eve along with her love Detective Joe Quinn, her friend CIA agent Catherine Ling and Bonnies father John Gallo are about to get the answers Eve has been seeking for years. In the past every time they think that they are close to finding the trurh they hit another dead end.

This is the fourteenth installment in Ms Johansen's Eve Duncan series but it is also the third of the trilogy. After all these years of reading this series we finally find out what really happened to Bonnie. The twist and turns this story takes will make it hard to put this book down. You will be glad that Eve has finally found her daughter but sad to see Eve's story end. I have laughed and giggled out loud while reading some books but I can honesty say that this is the first one that I cried. It was hard to keep a dry eye while reading the last few pages. When a story is told in such a way that it draw you in that way, it is a story everyone need to read. I have this complete series and would not trade it for anything.

Candace Salima says

With 100 books under her belt, New York Times bestselling author, Iris Johansen, has delivered top notch suspense year after year, after finally leaving the romance which made her famous. I wasn't a big fan of her romance, but am a huge fan of her suspense, specifically her Eve Duncan series.

With this latest book, Ms. Johansen finally answers the question plaguing her readers since October of 1998. Who kidnapped and killed Eve Duncan's daughter, Bonnie.

From the backliner:

The truth has eluded her for years. . . . Now is she ready to face it?

When Eve Duncan gave birth to her daughter, she experienced a love she never knew existed. Nothing would stand in the way of giving Bonnie a wonderful life—until the unthinkable happened and the seven-year-old vanished into thin air. Eve found herself in the throes of a nightmare from which there was no escape. But a new Eve emerged: a woman who would use her remarkable talent as a forensic sculptor to help others find closure in the face of tragedy. Now with the help of her beloved Joe Quinn and CIA agent Catherine Ling, Eve has come closer than ever to the truth. But the deeper she digs, the more she realizes that Bonnie's father is a key player in solving this monstrous puzzle. And that Bonnie's disappearance was not as random as everyone had always believed.

In October of 1998 I read the first of the Eve Duncan series. I was completely drawn into Eve's tragedy and immense courage after marshaling herself and became the world's leading forensic sculptor. Focusing on missing children, worldwide, Eve identifies missing children while never finding her own. With 14 books in the series, I wondered if Iris Johansen would ever allow Eve, and the readers, to know what had happened to her daughter, Bonnie.

Bonnie brings us the long awaited answer with one unrelenting surprise after another in a well-written, well-crafted story of suspense, fear, and deep heart-wrenching emotion as Eve Duncan, Joe Quinn, and other characters added throughout the series, finally find the answer Eve has long sought, who ripped Bonnie from her life.

Bonnie is a satisfying conclusion to the Eve and Quinn trilogy and a must-buy. I've already added it to my home library where it will stay. In fact, it was so good that I am going to start with the very first Eve Duncan book and start reading again, beginning to finish. With my schedule, I should be done by, oh, 2013.

Cynthia says

Reading the other reviews here I see that many shared my same feelings. I was terribly disappointed in the ending of this series, and each book of the trilogy got more frustrating for me. Unfortunately, it would have been better off done as 1 final book, although I must say I did enjoy "Eve" and the back story that gave us more information on how Eve met Bonnie's father.

The biggest problem I saw with these ending books, as well as several of the books that were a prelude to the trilogy was all the rehashing over and over about why Eve has been obsessed with finding Bonnie. Not once a book, but time after time after time. Okay, we get it. She wanted to find Bonnie. I don't mind dialogue if it is snappy and fresh - I mind it when it is ad nauseum the same conversation 100 different times with only slightly different wording. Killing all this angst would have allowed the compression of the trilogy into one crisper book. It only says to me that Iris Johansen was really tired of writing the Eve Duncan series and was struggling for something to fill 500 pages. Unfortunately it only slowed them down and made them feel like 1,000 pages instead.

I liked the character of Bonnie's father, couldn't stand Catherine and her insistence on "helping" - and the fact that she and Bonnie's father were going to be attracted was more than predictable. She needed to go home and spend time with that son of hers - I mean who finds their kidnapped son after ten years or more then takes off again to help save another child without more time being spent with said child. Then she wonders why they're not reconnecting? Please.

Throughout the entire final book of the trilogy I kept wondering if maybe Bonnie might still be alive, although the fact that Eve was convinced she talked with Bonnie's ghost kept the probability pretty low. However, there could have been some clever way to work that I'm sure. I think the fact that Bonnie's killer was an uncle and it was an accident made some sense, but with so many bad guys in the past who were suspects it was really kind of a "really?" moment.

Overall the series was good, but unfortunately it probably should have been ended about four books earlier to earn an overall great rating.

Katie says

Let me start out by saying that if you read the synopsis on the cover of this book, it is very, very misleading. It is gripping and you settle down to read a good thriller/suspense/chase book, only to realize that you were the one being taken on a wild chase because the description of this book leads you to believe that a suspect of a kidnapping is truly innocent & that instead the father of the little girl gone missing has a role in her (Bonnie) disappearance.

This my friends, is false advertising, because that's not what this book is about at all. It is a slow moving story with no real climax and nothing to encourage the reader to find out what happens next. They involve too many characters that have nothing to do with the plot, and the author could have afforded to leave out the priest character. I believe that she truly had a unique idea of involving a psychiatrist turned catholic priest who was and is the confidant of the suspected kidnapper (Ted). However, his role was really just "fluff" and most of his involvement could have been omitted from the story. I mean - c'mon - what kind of a truly devoted Catholic Priest decides to follow the police agents on the move for the kidnapper through the mountainous terrain.... in the meantime, he won't share any pertinent information to helping them find the suspect because he has a "duty to keep things shared confidential"? It was a little too far-fetched for me and his whole hiking-through-the-wilderness seemed that the author was running out of material to keep the story compelling.

I was also a little 'weirded' out by the (SPOILERS) kidnapped daughter (Bonnie) making visits from 'the other side'. She communicated with her mother & father often, yet wouldn't give them any information on what truly happened to her. All the while, once the Mother discovers what has happened to her daughter - her character suddenly shifts from a revenge seeking mother to one who gives off the appearance that she is 'at peace'. It feels as if the mother lost her whole drive & being & purpose of searching for her daughter the last half-a-dozen-or-so years. She just gives up, and therefore the reader wants to give up. Instead I felt like this book wasn't clearly composed & didn't intertwine feelings, stories, and characters very well.

Let me conclude by saying, it truly was a disappointment and the only gripping part of the whole book was how the author wrote up the synopsis to describe her book 'Bonnie.'

Debbie says

Bonnie is the culmination of the trilogy dedicated to the disappearance of Eve Duncan's daughter Bonnie. It will answer many of the questions that fans of this incredible series have been asking for years and yet we will be left with some unanswered as well.

Years ago a struggling single mother Eve Duncan had one shining light in her life, that was her daughter Bonnie and in an instant that light was extinguished. Eve could have easily given into the darkness that followed and at times she was close, but instead she gave her life to the finding and bringing home of lost children by becoming the worlds best and most sought after forensic sculptor, hoping that one of those lost would be her Bonnie. In the previous two novels we've discovered the personal stories of Eve and Joe Quinn, they go back in time to the crime and bring forward the events happening now. In Bonnie the players involved , Eve, Joe, Catherine and John Gallo are closing in on the answers some have been asking for many years and some have just begun to ask. And as we get closer to those answers there are also more players introduced to us to fill in the puzzle pieces left so long ago by Bonnie's kidnapping. Will Eve finally get the closure she so desperately needs, will Joe be able to protect her like he needs to do, can Catherine fulfill her need to repay Eve for the rescuing of her son Luke and will John Gallo be the villain or is he a victim too. It's not an easy journey but believe me the it's worth the trip.

Iris Johansen has been writing about Eve Duncan for many years and in each of those novels we're given glimpses into the whys and wherefores of what made Eve what she is today, the one thing that never changes is her deep need to find Bonnie and bring her home. Bonnie is one of Ms. Johansen's brightest lights, it's a tale for all readers and will not leave a dry eye in the house. Her plot right out of the worst nightmare of any parent is interweaved with covert operators and shadowy figures that makes the thriller fan tingle and her hardboiled narrative fit these characters and this novel like a glove. Her characters are so pragmatic that even the more unlikely are believable, old fans and new alike will relish the intimacy she gives to them and in turn gives to us. Eve, Joe, Catherine and Gallo share equal amounts of stardom in this novel and what it will leave you with is the desire to hurry the clock forward to read what she has in store for them next time. Because if

my guess is correct this is not the end but a new beginning.

So if you're looking for an edge of your seat, action packed, danger filled thriller, look here. If you want great characters and a plot not easily forgotten choose Bonnie.

This does okay as a stand alone but is meant to be the third of a trilogy and that's the best way to read them.

Thank you Ms. Johansen for one of the best trilogies I've ever read, I can't wait to see what's next.

Peni Renner says

I don't know why I kept reading Johansen's books. Despite how silly some of her stories are, I kept reading them just to find out what happened next to the characters, but I don't think I ever really cared for Johansen's writing style.

Phyllis says

I was disappointed in this book. It was a little slow and seemed to drag on for no other reason than to make it into a whole book for a three book series. I have read every book in this series. I liked them mostly, but I don't like the way she writes dialogue. Everyone, no matter who they are and where they are from, speaks English perfectly. I was unhappy that a lot of this book was repetitive from previous books. I hate when you are reading a series and the author tries to explain every thing that has happened in the previous 10 books in this one book so that those who just pick up this book can try to know what's going on. Ah, well, I am really glad this series is over and will probably not read any Iris Johanssen books for quite a while. I need to finish JD Robb In Death series and then find a new series that I haven't read yet. I enjoy book series.

Jennifer says

By the third chapter I was completely fed up with the writing and the character development. Unfortunately, this culmination of the "Eve" series was bogged down with implausible situations, villains, and of course a very educated ghost of a seven year old. With so many directions to go for deciding on a killer, the author chose one that made the least sense..but not in a good suspenseful "you got me" way. There were so many laughable twists and turns that, when I was finally completely frustrated, I skipped 200 pages to the end.

Kathy says

While I'm very happy to know (FINALLY) what happened to Bonnie, I feel somewhat disappointed by this book. There was so much rehash of info so anybody could pick up the book and have it seem like a stand alone story but it didn't work. The last three books (Eve, Quinn and Bonnie) could have been one book and it felt like the publisher was milking the story for more sales before the series ended.

SPOILER ALERT:::

On top of that the ending seemed too tied up in a perfect little bow to make sure that Bonnie wasn't scared and didn't suffer at the end and oops it was just an accident. Come on, how realistic is that? Yes, I'm glad even an imaginary little girl didn't suffer but please...how likely is that? All that heartache for all those years and Eve can suddenly forgive the schizophrenic uncle because the poor man was so tormented and gosh he was only trying to help. I expected more. I gave it 3 stars just because I was glad to have an ending at last but really as a book it was just ok.

Bonnie says

1.5 stars

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This is the one series that I have read longer than any series, at least a decade. I read all 11 of her Eve Duncan series and when the author announced that she'd be making a final trilogy to fully resolve everything, well, I was ecstatic. The Eve Duncan series chronicles a mother losing her child and never having the closure she needed, never knowing what happened to her, her daughter Bonnie simply disappeared off the face of the Earth. This kick started her career in forensic sculpting and she began helping other families who had lost children bring them home finally. So, this is essentially the conclusion to a 14 book series that I've read from the very beginning and loved. I had a lot riding on Iris Johansen being able to pull this off in making it feel the series came full circle and I wasn't left with any nagging questions. I'm thinking I set the bar too high.

The writing seemed a bit too literal, especially since it's such a long term series it seemed as if she was writing so that someone could jump into the series at any point and completely understand what was going on. I think people need to just read from the beginning so the author isn't making statements like this:

"You've been trained in police sketching as part of your training, Eve."

No shit? Trained as part of her training? Redundant much?

Bottom line, the constant repeating of everything that was gone over millions of times already was irritating. And I swear, the last 50 pages from the previous book were pasted at the beginning of this one. I appreciate the refresher but seriously?

The Ending

This is going to be one ginormous spoiler but I HAVE to say it.
(view spoiler)

I have nothing more to say, but even if I did I don't feel like wasting my time on this series anymore. It's over, the big finale has been read after so many years of waiting, and I'm one seriously disappointed reader.

Hilary says

I have to admit, I only read the last couple of books out of a somewhat perverse need to close the loop. I've

just found too much repetition: the characters are all the same, they behave in the same patterns, Bonnie has increased appearances to all and sundry, and the absence of anything other than the seemingly impossible search for Bonnie's body just meant there was nothing more to flesh it out. Even the writing style was starting to annoy me, as each character seemed to speak and behave the same way, leading to pages looking more like a test script rather than a novel, where you could just change the names on a line to make it read by another character.

I wish there had been some actual character development over the later books, because there really doesn't seem to have been much change from the first half of the series. They must all be insane, using Franklin's definition of the word, because you get 4 strong, very independent and strong-willed people who are apparently able to work together for a common aim of just one person (and they'll do everything for Eve, despite her narrow focus and tendency to brush everyone else aside in favor of her long-dead daughter) despite having other jobs and responsibilities. The CIA obviously assist in this, probably by now just to make them go away. In the meantime Eve does what she wants, Quinn tries to stop her but ultimately fails, Eve gets into trouble but he doesn't say "I told you so", Ling and Gallo act as heroic backup for either Eve and/or Quinn, and they all work together to move towards the happily ever after. And so it goes on in the next book.

(view spoiler)

In short, I just wanted to see whodunnit. I did, and I'm glad to have mental closure, but I think this series was drawn out too much. I can't see myself re-reading these. They'd probably make a good TV series though.

Shelley says

Rating 2.5

Genre Romance/Mystery/Thriller/Last book in 3 part trilogy

Review

Series Synopsis

World Renowned forensic sculptor Eve Duncan was a single mother who studied hard to put herself through school in order to give her seven-year-old daughter Bonnie a life she herself never had.

Then the unspeakable happened when Bonnie disappeared without a trace and her body has never been found. Eve painstakingly made her way through numerous possible leads and serial killers to get to the bottom of what really happened on that fateful day and to bring her daughter back home where she belongs.

Eve and Former FBI Special Agent now Atlanta PD Detective Joe Quinn, have worked together since the beginning to find Bonnie often times from the other side of the equation. With the release of this trilogy, Catherine Ling and Bonnie's biological father John Gallo join in the search as well.

With the release of Bonnie, Johansen finally exposes the truth about what happened to Bonnie and who the actual killer was. Now, it's up to the readers to decide whether or not Johansen was faithful to her series main character Eve Duncan by finally allowing her a moment of finality and peace for once in her life.

Thoughts

1. As soon as Johansen mentioned Gallo's uncle, I had an Ah Hah! Moment of clarity! Of course it had to be

someone that Eve knew right? Of course he also had to be a veteran with serious mental health problems who well...let's not spoil it for others.

2. Joe Quinn should receive a medal for everything that he has been put through not only by Eve, but when things were bleak and there was no hope for any sort of a Bonnie resolution and their relationship suffered because of it. How many times over the course of this series has Eve run into danger after NOT listening to Joe's warning about staying together?

3. I think one of the most interesting characters in this book was Ben Hudson a gifted 20 year ol who it appears if this series continues, will be a main character, or tertiary character like Jane MacGuire who has all but been forgotten about. Had it not been for Ben and Bonnie's relationship, Joe would be in deep kimchee yet again.

4. So, where does this leave the relationship between John Gallo and Catherine Ling? Obviously Gallo has alot on his plate right now and Ling has the CIA nipping at her heels.

5. Where does this series go from here? Will it actually continue? I can't see this series continuing for long if it does, but then again look at the Anita Blake series that should have ended after book 11. One never knows when the wind of change and idiocy comes along.

Mirkat says

I am not a long-time reader of Johansen's who has read all of the "Eve" books. On the contrary, I bumped into the first book in the series--*Eve*--when I did one of my periodic keyword searches for "Playaway" books in my library's online catalog. I love these preloaded audio books that are compact enough that they are handy to take on my long runs (or counter the boredom of a treadmill run of any length!). So I listened to the "Eve" narrative without realizing until near the very end that I was only on part one of a trilogy. I was a bit miffed because I was intrigued enough to want to know how the mystery would unravel but not especially impressed with the writing. The characters are not especially well-rounded and sometimes it is hard to distinguish one character's personality from another's. On top of that, Johansen has certain words and phrases she repeats ad nauseum. Characters constantly stiffen. Or they tighten various parts of their bodies--usually their lips, but sometimes their hands on a steering wheel or neck, or their arms around someone's body. Somewhat less often, they moisten their lips, mutter a curse, or twist their lips.

In any event, I was curious to read the resolution of series, so I ordered the next two books in the series from my library (and actually read them in print form). I actually thought that *Quinn* and *Bonnie* were somewhat better than *Eve* and would give them each 2.5 stars if possible. But I don't think they deserve to be rounded up to three.

If you are a long-time reader of the series and would like to find out what happened to Bonnie, I suggest skipping over the first two books in the trilogy and going right into *Bonnie*. Anything you need to know from the earlier two installments is either summarized or--believe it or not--copied and pasted. Yes, there are a couple of entire scenes that are simply repeated to fill in readers who have not read the first two books.

Some long-time readers of the "Eve" books have complained about the supernatural turn this trilogy has introduced. As noted above, I have not read the earlier books, but it seems they were more grounded in reality. If you are one of these readers who are not pleased with that route, I would suggest maybe sitting out the trilogy altogether and reading up on spoilers instead, since the "supernatural" element is really cranked

up in *Bonnie*. I did have the impression that Johansen was laying the groundwork for future, post-Bonnie-investigation installments in her series.

I have some mixed feelings about the resolution. In case you are worried--yes, you will finally find out how and why Bonnie died. Without giving anything away, I will just say it might be just a little too neat and pretty. But in a way I can also appreciate the sentiment that Johansen was going for, and I imagine her fans might be highly curious about reading future novels with a non-tormented Eve.

And because I'm a little freaky, I kept a tally of some of Johansen's most overused word choices. You might be curious to know that tightening of body parts occurred 22 times; 13 of these tightenings were performed by lips. Stiffening happened 27 times, and on 13 occasions, a character moistened his or her lips (they need to carry lip balm!). Oh, and there was one sentence that I wrote down just because it was such a clunker. On page 47, Catherine says this to Eve: "You've been trained in police sketching as part of your training." Let's see everything that's wrong with that: (1) redundancy (trained as part of your training?); (2) unnatural dialogue; and (3) Eve knows her own background and doesn't need to be told. Why not "Weren't you trained in police sketching?"
