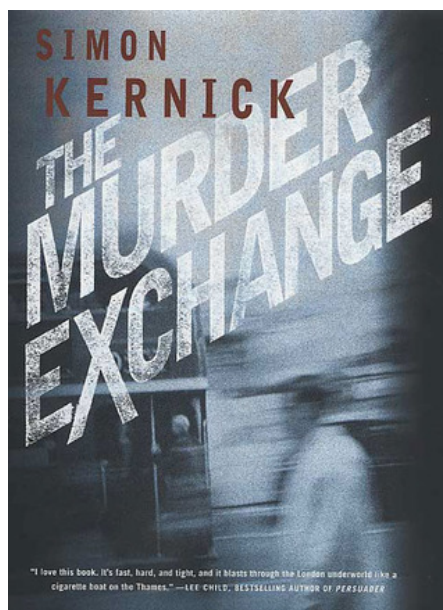




The Murder Exchange

Simon Kernick

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When ex-mercenary Max Iversson accompanies a nightclub owner to an ill-fated rendezvous in a deserted north London industrial estate, it turns out to be not so much a set-up as a bloodbath. Three men have been shot, the briefcase Iversson has been guarding is empty--and he wants to know why.

So begins a hunt for answers that will take him into direct conflict with Detective Sergeant John Gallan--and take both men into very dangerous territory.

The Murder Exchange Details

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Author : Simon Kernick

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From Reader Review The Murder Exchange for online ebook

Madeleine Ellison says

I enjoy thrillers and could not put this book down until I had completed the read it definitely held my imagination however I did feel that the chapter about Krys Holtz was too graphic.

Jodie says

Brilliant

Great book, keeps you reading and guessing. Great twist the end to! Highly recommend it, so sit back and enjoy it ?

Best Crime Books & More says

I am slowly working my way through Simon Kernick's books and this is the second book he released. Simon Kernick has a very certain type of writing style. His books are usually very fast paced and normally it takes only a matter of a chapter or two before you are thrown in at the deep end of a story.

This book followed the same format and we dive straight into Max Iversson's bad decision and when it all goes wrong. However, although you are thrown in at the deep end very quickly, the suspense level is not as high as I am used to with a Kernick book. I think this is a sure sign of the amount of time he has been writing. The fact that I read his newer stuff first and have gone back to his older work has the disadvantage of showing his weaker points at the beginning of his career.

Although slightly weaker than usual the story itself was a good one. Max Iversson was a great character, and although he usually stays within the law, he finds himself inadvertently being drawn over to the other side in his fight for the truth.

John Gallan was also a pretty good character and although the typical 'copper' we see in books, there was no glossing over his very mundane personal life which actually brought more realism to the book in my eyes. We flit between characters by chapter and as the story progresses you see more and more of each one and they eventually overlap.

Other characters making a brief appearance is Tina Boyd (who appears in later Kernick books) as well as the Holtz family who are a central part of the plot. As ever there is no holding back on the levels of violence and gore, although it's all done in keeping with the story.

As usual towards the end we pick up even more pace before getting to the climax and pretty good ending. Overall I really did enjoy the book, but for some reason there seemed to be something lacking. I have thought about it and really do think this is a case of reading his newer books first. This is certainly not a bad book by any means, but think that it certainly isn't a good example of the first class work that he has gone on to produce.

Another solid read, but slightly lacking that magic something!

Mindysue says

Started interesting, drug along through the middle and then went on a high speed roller coaster ride at the very very end. The end was almost too fast/action-packed/frenetic. Had potential but could benefit from an editor encouraging better pacing.

David Wilding says

After the previous Simon Kernick book I read, and after positive reviews of this one, I was expecting great things of this book. But sadly not. Yes, the storyline is a good one, and starts off with much promise of great things. But it is all about guns and shooting and who killed who. Yes, I like crime thrillers, but this is NOT one of those. Characters are just not well developed for me. Many of them rather one dimensional. Such a letdown after the previous Tina Boyd one I read. I was going to give this two stars, but I suppose the ending was reasonable. So despite what you may read elsewhere, this is not one of his best. Go to the Tina Boyd series instead and start with "The Last Ten Seconds". WAY better!

Sean Peters says

Hi,

another book read by Simon Kernick, a little slower to start with but builds to a fast pace in the second half, and you follow the story with the two main characters.

As usual lots of characters, and following it from two very different personalities, lots of guessing?

The last few chapters were very exciting.

Enjoy

regards

Sean

Audrey says

I liked the way we got the 2 sides of the story alternating to the final conclusion.

Douglas Osler says

This is a fast moving, well intertwined story. Crude in parts but that fits the people in it. The lead detective is good too. It takes readers through the London underworld in a way that is probably not too far from the truth. It would make a good television series.

Wolfie says

Violent and difficult at times, interesting story though

Emma says

I really like the style of Simon Kernicks writing, and I like the main characters, because they are always very well developed and interesting, not 2D, you can really imagine them living.

There are however some similarities to his other books that I have read, mainly the main character Iversson. I felt he was very similar to Dennis Milne, maybe its the way Simon Kernick writes, but I had to remind myself this was Iversson and not Milne. Also the involvement of the female character - I think its Elaine....but I could be wrong. In one of the two Dennis Milne books, Milne slept with them and in the second book - Good Day to Die - the girl was a part of the plot, the bad side, and this was repeated in this book. Don't get me wrong I thought the book was really enjoyable, I am definitely a fan and will forever be, but I see similarities which make it not as exciting sometimes or a surprise, but hey maybe I am being picky.

I also love John Gallan as a character, very believable and likeable even for a police officer.

I really like Iversson's character, and the general plot with betrayal of friends and the fast pace violence etc, but the one bit that made me dislike the main character was the murder of his best friends wife. Granted she played around, but to lie to us and his friend throughout the book protesting his innocence to find out that he actually killed her and blamed a bout of temporary insanity made me despise him. Very controversial characters once again and brilliant!

The Crime Trade next, excitement is sure to ensue!

Plum-crazy says

I find this author a bit hit & miss but this was definitely one of his (much) better books (IMHO anyhow) A good story that moves at a fast pace & I like the story was told by both Gallan & Iversson - sort of good versus bad!

Chantelle says

If the middle of the book was as fast paced as the final 100 odd pages - then it would have easily scored

higher than 3 stars. Some characters were not ingrained in my mind either.

Maddy says

RATING: 4.5

Max Iversson is an ex-mercenary who has partnered with an old buddy, Joe Riggs, to form a security firm called Tiger Solutions. When Max is offered \$5,000 for a slam dunk security assignment by the owner of the Arcadia Nightclub, Ray Fowler, he can't turn it down. Max and a few of his operatives bring Fowler to a meet with some businessmen who are supposed to be buying his club, when things go horribly awry.

The Arcadia Club seems to be in the center of the criminal universe. First of all, its doorman is murdered; and that brings the cops under the leadership of Detective Sergeant John Gallan into launching an investigation. There are indications that the club is really run by a mob group under the leadership of Stefan Holtz and his son, Krys, and that there are lots of drug deals going on under the shining lights. The club manager, Elaine Toms, is a tough woman who gives the cops a believable story but no meat. She and Iversson hook up together when he's at the height of desperation, and she lets him stay at her place to avoid being seen by the police.

Kernick employs a very effective writing technique in which he tells the story from the first person point of view of Gallan alternated with the view of Iversson. Each is completely unaware of what the other is doing, and it's interesting to see the same information from two different perspectives. Obviously, at some point, their stories are going to intersect, and that is very well done.

THE MURDER EXCHANGE was an excellent book, one that I thoroughly enjoyed. Iversson's life is supposed to be an uneventful one, but he progresses through ever more difficult and dangerous situations. In spite of his increasingly lawless behavior, he does have some redeeming character traits, such as loyalty to his friends and a compulsion to avenge dirty deeds. Meanwhile, Gallan is methodically putting the pieces together. He is a thoughtful and intelligent investigator, and Kernick does a great job of presenting the police approach with its wins and misses.

There was only one part of the book that didn't work for me, and that was a chapter that was told from the point of view of Krys Holtz. Firstly, it interrupted the established pattern of alternating between the Gallan and Iversson viewpoints. Secondly, it was extremely graphic. While showing the extreme brutality of Holtz's nature, I felt that the information could have been presented more subtly instead of rubbing the reader's face in some very gross events.

That being said, THE MURDER EXCHANGE is one of the best books that I've read recently. The delivery of the narration through two points of view leads to an interesting contrast and juxtaposition of the two lead characters and the events of the story, as well as a very suspenseful conclusion to the book. Fast paced, laced with dry humor – THE MURDER EXCHANGE is a book that I highly recommend.

Susan says

I did enjoy this book, although did guess the end twist early on

Joe says

I quite enjoyed this 2nd Simon Kernick novel, I was pleasantly surprised as wasn't expecting too much if I'm an honest. I like the use & reference of characters in Kenricks Debut novel - similar to an other UK other Michael Robotham.

The novel has plenty of violence pretty much what you would expect from a gritty London Underworld novel.
