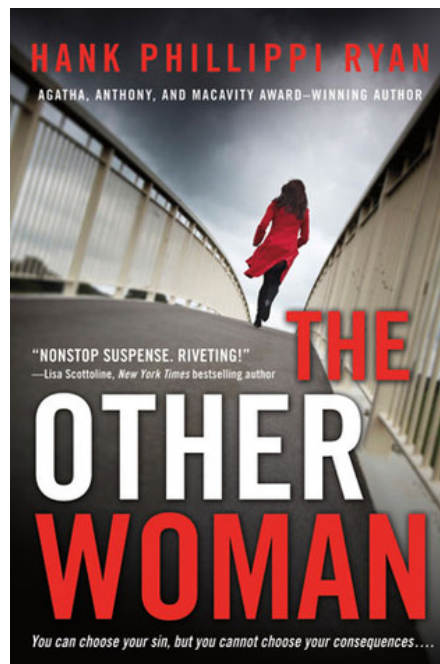




The Other Woman

Hank Phillippi Ryan

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Jane Ryland was a rising star in television news...until she refused to reveal a source and lost everything. Now a disgraced newspaper reporter, Jane isn't content to work on her assigned puff pieces, and finds herself tracking down a candidate's secret mistress just days before a pivotal Senate election.

Detective Jake Brogan is investigating a possible serial killer. Twice, bodies of unidentified women have been found by a bridge, and Jake is plagued by a media swarm beginning to buzz about a "bridge killer" hunting the young women of Boston.

As the body count rises and election looms closer, it becomes clear to Jane and Jake that their cases are connected...and that they may be facing a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to silence a scandal.

Dirty politics, dirty tricks, and a barrage of final twists, *The Other Woman* is the first in an explosive new series by Hank Phillippi Ryan. Seduction, betrayal, and murder—it'll take a lot more than votes to win this election.

The Other Woman Details

Date : Published September 4th 2012 by Forge

ISBN : 9780765332578

Author : Hank Phillippi Ryan

Format : Hardcover 416 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Suspense, Crime, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review The Other Woman for online ebook

Shaun says

2.5 stars bumped up.

Reminiscent of an '80s style detective show, *The Other Woman* is a fast-paced thriller/mystery that could easily be turned into a *Lifetime* special.

It was okay.

What I liked

The writing is crisp, clean, and full of sensory detail. Ryan's experience as an investigative reporter certainly comes through. Furthermore, the plot and subplots are revealed slowly and woven together nicely.

What I didn't like

Cliché one-dimensional characters. This is a rather formulaic genre, so I guess I shouldn't have been surprised by the stereotypical caricatures here, but as a reader who judges a story by its characters, this one just missed the mark. The bad guys were bad...and the good guys were good, in other words they were predictable and boring. Add to that a forbidden love story that one would expect to add tension but that just came off as corny (sorry Jakey and Janey, but I just wasn't feeling it), and there's not much to capture the interest of a reader like me.

Finally, I did not buy the story...which started off fine but then became so contrived at times, it made me wince.

Conclusion

This is an award winning writer, and I think the issues I had are more a reflection of personal taste than the novel's merits. I suspect this was written with a particular audience in mind and succeeds at being what it is intended to be (albeit not what I may have wanted). Had I read something like this twenty years ago on the beach, it might have appealed more to me. Not so much at this point in my reading life. It wasn't horrible. I didn't hate it and it had some redeeming qualities. I might even read another one...because who knows...

Connie says

Doubtful that I'll read anymore of this author. Very disappointing, poorly written. I kept reading till the end hoping it would get better. Thankfully, it was a library book.

Tom says

As a Bostonian I probably expected too much so when the book did not meet my expectations I was disappointed. I did not like the many quick and choppy plot jumps, the unclear characters, the puerile dialog, and the completely unbelievable premise. My biggest desire was for the story to end so I could go on to

another book by someone else. (One month later) The Other Woman won the Agatha reward so I went back and reread it. It helped that I read it before so now I would not confuse the characters. Unfortunately, I did not experience what others did so my rating only improves marginally by half a star. 2.5 stars from me and it appears a lot more from everyone else.

Carmen says

RE-READ 09/17/2015

The first in a series. Jane Ryland is a reporter. She gets fired from her TV job and gets a newspaper job. She is in love (or at least, has the potential to be) with Jake – a cop, but they can never be together because of their jobs.

I actually like that Jake and Jane don't do anything sexual in the book. For one thing, I feel like they really are getting to know and love(?) each other as people instead of just lusting after each other.

This book is about a political campaign and all the back-stabbing and scandal that goes along with it. This book is well-written. I liked how smart this book was.

However, the book is a bit confusing. This is the third time I've read it and even though I know very well who all the characters are and what the end result will be, it's a tangled mess. Is that a good thing for a mystery? Perhaps so - Ryan sure has created a well-thought-out and mysterious plot with tons of twists and turns, but I think the book could benefit from being a bit more straightforward.

The writing doesn't help. Ryan switches POVs (well, third-person POVs) multiple times in a chapter, and most definitely ever chapter. Ryan is also inordinately fond of a kind of "stream of consciousness" writing which involves a lot of broken sentences, sentence fragments, and rather jumbled prose - much as if you are reading someone's thoughts. It makes the book a bit hard to follow and is frustrating at times. Here's an example of what I'm dealing with:

She had a nice spot here, by the harbor. Boats and stuff. Seagulls. He'd driven all the way to Springfield, finally gotten to the hotel, bullshit bullshit, then had to drive all the way back. Tailing her, keeping a couple of cars between them. Once he'd even passed her. Luckily it was dark. Luckily she hadn't seemed to notice. Now, she was inside. All he had to do was wait.

If he didn't die of starvation first. Last thing he'd eaten were two bites of that apple at the hotel. And maybe he could take a piss in the bushes or something.

He'd kill for a -

And there she was.

She had her hair stuffed under some sort of stretchy cap, and some black tracksuit with red stripes down the legs. Running shoes. A pair of iPod buds in her ears, the white wires trailing into a pocket in her jacket. A brown mailing envelope or something under her arm.

The whole book is like this, and I'm not a fan of this writing style. Your mileage may vary.

I found it very frustrating that constantly throughout the book Jane was getting an important phone call while also talking to someone about an important matter. She was always missing calls she really needed to get and

the phone was constantly interrupting her very important interviews with suspects and witnesses. This was very realistic, but also very frustrating as a reader as you feel that she is always missing some key point of the plot. (Seriously. Even reading it a second third time, my stomach was in knots. And not in a good way. In a reading-this-book-is-stressful way. Just thinking about Jane's job - running around constantly, never eating right or getting enough sleep, getting phone calls literally every hour of every day and night. Never being able to answer her phone because she's already talking to suspects/witnesses/leads? This is super-stressful. Just reading about it makes me freak out. I guess this means I'll never be an investigative reporter.)

I was also upset that Jake and Jane were so right for each other but could never be together because of their job. That's sad. I wanted her to join the police force – or him to become a reporter, something to make it okay for them to date. Ryan attempts to set up a love triangle (if you could even call it that) with Jane's boss, Alex. However, I never felt Alex was much competition for Jake – after all, Jane does nothing more than call Alex “hot” a few times and wonder idly about his marital status. I felt like Jake and Jane had a real connection. They obviously care about each other and worry about each other - this is deeper than just "you're-hot."

(view spoiler)

Tl;dr - This isn't a bad mystery - Ryan obviously has a great imagination and is wonderful at having many different threads of plot which all tie together at the end. And she's got the will-they-or-won't-they sexual/romantic tension between Jane and Jake spot-on. (This ISN'T a romance book by any stretch of the imagination, the characters (view spoiler)) You want to read the next book partly to find out if these two ever will have a shot together. However, the choppy writing and the very intricate mystery plots are drawbacks to me, personally. You might feel differently.

And it's very Boston. If you enjoy reading about the city of Boston, this book encapsulates the vibe and locations of that city. Perhaps not as well as something like Parker's Spenser novels, but well enough.

Ryan's own past as an investigative reporter serves her well in writing this series. She knows her stuff.

P.S. The cover is gorgeous!

Luanne Ollivier says

Hank Phillippi Ryan is an award winning investigative reporter for a television station for Boston, Massachusetts. She has also turned her talents to fiction writing and has won numerous accolades for her four books. After all, she's writing what she know - reporting and investigation. So I eagerly picked up my first book by this author - her latest - The Other Woman.

Jane Ryland was a television reporter, fired when she refused to reveal a source and cost the station a million dollars. Now she works for a newspaper. But the drive is still there to uncover the 'big' stories. And she thinks she's found it in the final days of the senate race. A mysterious woman is appearing at every rally for the governor. At the same time her cop friend Jake (or as she refers to him - Jakey) is investigating the deaths of a number of young woman. Is it a serial killer? Could there be a connection between the two 'cases'?

I never read other reviews until I've written my own. And I've discovered I'm in the minority on this one. It was an okay listen, but never really engaged me fully. I listen back and forth while driving to work and honestly found my attention wandering during the last few discs. Much of the story seemed to be repeated - there were multiple phone calls and texts that I found interminable, discussions rehashed and more. I truly

think Ryan dragged out the story - it could have been two discs shorter for me.

The reader was Ilyana Kadushin. Kadushin has an excellent voice - rich and resonant. She also read the Twilight series. And that was the character I associated her voice with - a teenager. Her breathless delivery didn't suit an investigative reporter character. She really didn't have a different voice for each of the characters and at times I was hard pressed to figure out who was talking. You really had to listen the the "Tuck said, Jake said" cues.

I never really bought into the Jane Ryland character. Her cutesy references (Jakey and Janey) and daydreaming about her married boss (Hot Alex) lessened her and I had trouble taking her seriously. I found Jane's dialogue amateurish given her profession and Jake as a detective was the same.

Given the number of 'big name' blurbs that promoted this book, I thought I would love it too. Sadly,I didn't.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

Jane Ryland, an investigative reporter in the Boston area is forced into a new journalistic career after a jury doesn't believe her 'source' and Jane refuses to reveal the person's name. Now, living as a Newspaper reporter, she is assigned a political fluff piece that turns into a parallel investigation into possible serial killings.

It is clear that there is an "Other Woman" but, what is not clear is exactly who or why she is....

This story was filled with intriguing characters, an exciting backdrop of a political election, the glorious but deadly beauty of Boston, Ma., and the thrill of a police chase. What more can a reader want in a novel?

Ms. Ryan has created another powerful and dramatic mystery novel. A novel that lends itself open to many possible future tales. I, for one, look forward to following the careers of Jane Ryland, and Police Detective Jake Brogan.

I would have liked to see more romance blossom between Ryland and Brogan, however in a professional situation, that is truly not always the way life turns out.

This ARC was a gift to me from the author and the review is my own with no input.

judy says

It had to happen sometime--I'd hate an author most people love. I've waited forever to get my hands on a Hank book. Other authors mention her in their books. The comments on the back include many of my favorite writers. Sadly,I closed it maybe 1/5 from the end. The book was completely unbelievable to me. (2 weeks to election and you're only just doing major interviews?) With all the attention Jane paid to attractive men in the very beginning, I was worried that we might head down a romance book road. It seemed to me that Jane desperately wanted to find an "other woman" no matter what. Did she consider other possibilities for the candidate's wife dropping out of sight before she met her? Didn't seem so to me. Of course that annoyed me because it made Jane just a scandal hound instead of a serious reporter. That was kind of the problem with the the book. It felt like a soap opera with cardboard characters.

Robin says

I should create a shelf titled "Kind of read but skimmed most of it" which is what I did with this book. The pace and uneven flow turned me off so I ended up quickly paging through to see what happened.

Kathy says

It's 2 a.m. Do you know where your daughter/mother/grandmother/husband/son is? If they are lucky, they're finishing *The Other Woman* by Hank Phillippi Ryan. To a bookaholic such as myself, staying up late to finish an awesome book is on the grand experiences level of reading. When I started reading last night, my goal was to read 200 pages in *The Other Woman* and finish it today. Ha. I laugh at my naivety. There would be no putting this book down until it was finished. Reading at its best.

Jane Ryland is starting over in her career of news reporting after her fall from grace as a television newscaster star. She now finds herself working as a reporter for a Boston newspaper and being assigned the less newsworthy issues. For Jane, being out of the loop is unbearable, and she quickly finds ways to connect to the bigger stories. Her assignment to cover the wife of a senate candidate leads to a search for the other woman, but the other woman proves to be an illusive term and person. As is often the case, present-day puzzles stem from past actions and events, both from Jane's life and the political scene in which she becomes involved. Jane's friendship with Detective Jake Brogan and his investigation into recent homicides of young women left near city bridges contributes more dots in Jane's search. With election day closing in, time is a constricting commodity. Not only are a senate race and the lives of young women at stake, Jane's redemption from her public career disgrace is on the line.

Hank Phillippi Ryan has created a mystery/crime thriller/political puzzle that will satisfy readers of all three interests. I lean more towards mystery and crime, but Ms. Ryan has shown me that political intrigue can be fascinating, too. Because, really, it's all about people and what makes them tick, motivates them, and sometimes leads them to paths of destruction for others and themselves. That's mystery indeed, and the combination of elements leads the reader on a delightfully suspenseful chase of first one twist, then another. Not to be ignored is the restrained but apparent chemistry between Jan and her detective, a fire that simmers waiting for the flame to rise. So, what's not to enjoy in reading *The Other Woman*? I suspect that Ms. Ryan will continue to titillate our reading pleasures in the next installment of this series.

Tim The Enchanter says

Plotting and Pacing Hurt a Good Character - 3 Stars

I enjoy mystery novels that revolve around journalists. Brad Parks and Bruce DeSilva are two personal favorites. I went into this novel with an expectation that there would be a similar style. By that I mean, the mystery and crimes are uncovered through investigative journalism and the crimes are substantive. In some ways this occurred in *The Other Woman* but overall the story lacked focus and leave the reader feeling a bit disoriented.

Plot Summary

Jane Ryland's career as a TV Journalist was on the rise but her journalistic ethics cost her that job. After breaking a big story on a well known figure, Jane is sued for libel and her source refuses to come forward. Jane stands behind her promise of confidentiality and the television station is on the hook for a million dollar judgment. After losing her job, she is quickly back on her feet with a job for a local newspaper. Her new job finds her in the middle of a tight Senate race and Jane is not content with the puff pieces her editor has saddled her with and questions about a candidate have her trying to dig up some damning information. At the same time, Jane's former lover, a Detective by the name of Jake Brogan, is investigating a series of murder that leaves the city speculating whether there is a mass killer on the loose.

My Take

The majority of the novel focuses on Jane, Jake and the possibility of a taboo relationship, i.e. a Journalist and a Police Officer or a potential source. On the balance, the story driving the novel was interesting. The problem was grasping what exactly was happening in the story. Many great mysteries and thrillers have parallel story lines that eventually converge. The problem in this case is that the multiple story lines (there are more than two) did not flow together in a smooth manner. The transition from storyline to storyline was often jarring and confusing. The issue was worsened by the large number of characters and the purposeful obfuscation of the identities of several of them. I felt as if I was sitting and watching three theatre productions happening at the same time. I never knew what I supposed to be watching. This severely limited my enjoyment of the novel.

Additionally, I found the character development to be below average. While on the whole I did like the characters of Jane and Jake, they were not well developed. While I felt I understood some of the motivation and actions of Jake, I often found myself confused with the behavior and motivation of Jane. On a personal note, I found some of Jane's legal statements to be questionable. Admittedly, my own legal experience is with Canadian law so I cannot be too judgmental on that point.

Having read other books in this subgenre, I have come to expect similarities in the way that the reporters deal with the paper, the editor, sources etc. This novel did not follow some of the conventions of other novels. This is not a bad thing by any means but the fact that conventions and similarities occurs, it lends itself to a belief that they are real conventions in the newspaper business. Maybe these conventions don't exist or it may be that the writer comes from a television background and not a newspaper background. Or maybe it that I have come to believe that television journalists are not real journalists. Just putting my prejudice out there :)

Final Thoughts

The series has some potential. While it doesn't have the same punch and novels that focus on more intensive investigative journalism, it does offer some lighter fare in the genre. At some point in the future, I will pick up book two and give it another chance. It is my hope that the author does a better job of juggling the perspectives and provides an experience with less confusion.

Content Advisories

It is difficult to find commentary on the sex/violence/language content of book if you are interested. I make an effort to give you the information so you can make an informed decision before reading.

Scale 1 - Lowest 5 - Highest

Sex - 2

One of the storylines deals with potential sexual affairs. There is never any explicit sexual content. There is some sexual tension between characters.

Language

F-Word - 0 instances Mild Profanity - Approx. 72 Religious Exclamations - 10

Violence - 2

There are a series of murders. The details of the actual murders are sparse. A character is attacked, but the details are also sparse.

Carol says

I was immediately intrigued by the plot line of this one. Jane Ryland's got it all, looks, smarts and a great job as the anchor of Channel 11 News. When she refuses to give up her source she finds herself facing a million dollar lawsuit and looking for a new job. I really thought I was going to love this. So how come it was just ok.

To be fair I'd have to rate The Other Woman somewhere between ok and like. As stated above I liked the premise but something fell flat for me. I didn't like the dialog and I thought the plot could have been neater with less confusion. I liked Jane Ryland but she was a tad too youngish for me. How to explain this? This professional woman was a bit too perky or giddy and her use of slang did not become the character's status. Consider this. While interviewing the Governor's wife "*Of course, Mrs. Lassister. I'm happy you decided to chat*" Chat! Would you consider an interview with the governor's wife a chat? And how about this. The man she'd like in her life, conflicted by the fact that he is a cop, is Jake. But sometimes he's Jackey and sometimes she's Janey and this just drove me >nutty. And then there's Alex, her new boss on her new newspaper and he's hot.

So it was ok. I'm certain this will be a series and I think it has potential. At least I feel the character has room to grow and more crimes to help Jake solve. I would give Hank Phillippi Ryan another shot. Remember OK is not bad, just well, ok.

Karen Hall says

I really like Ms. Ryan's writing style, but this book is a mess. The protagonist, Jane Ryland, while engaging and likeable, can't (and won't) follow her boss' directions, makes lots of unsupported claims about suspects, mistakes people for other people with serious consequences and, in the romance department, Janey can't decide between her cop buddy, Jakey, and her boss, Hot Alex. (See me roll my eyes.) But the kicker for me was the TSTL (too stupid to live) moves she makes -- going places alone, despite police warnings to wait, etc.

Finally, this book takes place during a U. S. Senate race in Massachusetts and, being a sometime politico, I was sure I'd love it. But when one of the candidates' pasts turns out to be considerably less than stellar, I found myself wanting to toss the book at the wall. Candidates in national races, particularly in high profile

states like Massachusetts, I believe, are vetted so thoroughly that they squeak with cleanliness. Either that or they're a Kennedy. :-) Even here in little old South Dakota the candidates rarely have drama in their past.

I hope to read more of Hank's books, but this one truly left me flat.

Nancy McFarlane says

The Other Woman is a thrilling roller coaster ride full of ups and downs and twists and turns. And is a totally believable look into the world of investigative reporting, political machines, police procedures and how they collide.

Investigative reporter Jane Ryland is trying to resurrect her career which was destroyed when she refused to reveal a source. She has no idea that her determination to find out who the 'other' woman is in random pictures of a senatorial campaign will turn out to be a convoluted story of seduction, betrayal and murder involving several 'other' women.

Terri Lynn says

I saw an ad for this book on the right side of my Goodreads page and ordered it from my library. I wasn't the only one with the same idea and had to wait for a long time to get it.

What do I think? I think the same things many of my favorite mystery and suspense writers think. Here is a sampling:

Lee Child> "The Other Woman does everything a great suspense novel should. Ryan raises the bar sky high."

Lisa Scottoline> "If you haven't read Hank Phillippi Ryan yet, you should, and The Other Woman is the perfect place to start. A killer plot, compelling characters, and nonstop suspense. Riveting!"

Sandra Brown> "Nonstop action from the rare perspective of one who knows the news business from the inside out. Ryan grabbed me on page one."

Lisa Gardner> "A rocket ride of a thriller."

Joseph Finder> "A thriller that twists so fast it'll leave you gasping."

There are more but this is just to whet your appetite for a book that even the masters of modern mystery/suspense/thrillers find riveting.

The star of the book is a refreshingly intelligent reporter Jane Ryland who has lost her job at Channel 11 News for protecting her source and losing an expensive court case over it. Her police detective friend Jake Brogan of the Boston Police Department gives her a lead on a reporter job at the Boston Register working for Alex Wyatt, the city editor. She gets the job- but with a 6 month trial period.

Meanwhile, women are being found dead in the water around various bridges in town and the public is

starting to worry about the Bridge Killer. Jake is certain there is no bridge killer but that each woman was killed by someone different for different reasons.

This is a very exciting book. The murders are tied in with the Congressional campaign of Governor Owen Lassiter who has some strange women in pursuit of him- and not for good reasons, and a secret family from the past. As the deaths pile up and a strange man enters the scene, Jane and Jake realize their cases are intertwined. Jane is attracted to Jake and once had a short affair with him but decided it could complicate their work. There is no sex or romance in the book but mercy, I could feel the hot undercurrents! I am hoping Hank Ryan is working on a sequel right now. She is a good author who knows how to tell an exciting story.

Jane is also somewhat attracted to her boss (don't go there, Jane!) who is getting divorced. The attractions do not interfere with the story at all.

Read this one! It is worth the time spent. When you get to the scene in the cemetery on Halloween where unarmed Jane is stalked by the mystery man with the gun, well, be sure the doors are all locked and the lights are all on before reading it! I like Jane a lot. She is a good character I can relate to.

Kathleen J says

I was so disappointed by the opening of this book I could go no further. Writers are told that the first scene of a novel should capture the reader, make them feel as though they are in the hands of a master who will take them on a wonderful journey.

The writing in the opening is amateurish, characterization and dialog poor. The author tries awkwardly to give us time, place, backstory. Do the following excerpts sound to YOU like what a realistic seasoned detective is thinking and saying at a murder scene? Or does it sound more like Jake, the new boy-detective, the master of cliches and dumb thoughts?

He recognized television. Radio. That kid from the paper. How did they get here that fast?

Too bad I can't call Jane. She'd love this.

What does Jane always say? It bleeds, it leads. At least her stories aren't like that.

The EMT's scrambling out of the doors. No need for them to hurry, Jake thought. She'd been dead for at least three hours. Just like the other woman.

And, REALLY, can you "hear" this exchange among crime reporters at a murder scene?

"One a couple a weeks ago, one today, that's two." "Is two murders serial?" "Both by water. Both by Bridges...That's serial. We're going with that. Maybe... The River Killer."

"We are, too. The Bridge Killer."

The description is pretty well written. But if I'm going to spend hours of my time listening to a novel, I expect good writing. I gave two stars for the story because I had to rate it. Actually I have no idea.

If you're thinking of buying this one, read a sample. My own fault, buying this loser. Should have done the sample. Got caught up in the reviews. When will I learn?
