



Damaged

Martina Cole

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A serial killer is in town and the race is on for DCI Kate Burrows. Stop the killer before more innocent girls die...

***Damaged* is the explosive new novel from *Sunday Times* No.1 bestseller, Martina Cole, and sees the return of her iconic heroine DCI Kate Burrows. The 'undisputed queen of crime writing' (*Guardian*) and the biggest selling female crime writer in the UK, Martina's unique, powerful storytelling includes *Dangerous Lady*, *The Ladykiller*, *Betrayal* and many more .**

When the bodies of missing schoolgirls start turning up, former DCI Kate Burrows is dragged out of retirement.

A new Grantley serial killer is in town and DCI Annie Carr turns to Kate for help. She welcomes the distraction from her home life with former gangster, Patrick Kelly, whose long lost son has turned up out of the blue, bringing trouble with him.

It soon becomes clear the killer is on their doorstep and as the body count grows, Kate and Annie face a race against the clock.

But they have no real leads ... and there's more to these murders than meets the eye. Can Kate take the killer down before another schoolgirl dies?

Damaged Details

Date : Published September 19th 2017 by Headline

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Author : Martina Cole

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Damaged for online ebook

SallyM says

I am not feeling this book. I have read Martina Cole before and I loved it. I had high hopes for this one. I guess I set myself up for disappointment. I did not connect with the characters at all. Bella was too villainous with absolutely no redeeming qualities. The mistress Christine was completely blinded by love to the point of naivety. It was at odds with her supposed go-getter personality. The killer was obvious from the get go. C'mon Annie, noone is that perfect! And the need to constantly validate Kate and Patrick Kelly is driving me insane! Yes, we get it. Kate is a legend. Patrick is still a badass. Using nearly every character to drum that point in makes me start to wonder if it is all a conspiracy. End of rant.

Heidi says

I started by liking this book. I thought it had potential. A good little investigation. Oh! I was wrong. There isn't any investigation (The crime is solved by someone spilling the beans) . Just side stories that are repetitive. The glorification of a gangster. A predictive plot. Too much drinking and lots of swearing. I ended up hating the book.

Louise Wilson says

I love Martina Cole and I have read all of her books. This is the fourth book in the DCI Kate Burrows series. Although Kate has retired now and so her is partner, former gangster, Patrick Kelly.

There is a lot going on in this book. Patrick discovers he has a son and two grandchildren he did not know about. Kate's former colleague and friend DCI Annie Carter has asked Kate to cast her eye over a file she has compiled on a serial killer that she is desperately trying to catch. I loved the book from beginning to end. Especially the part near the end where....., well I can't tell you or I would spoil the ending. You will just have to read it for yourself. The book can be read as a standalone. I do recommend this book.

Andy says

Literally the worst book I have ever read.

Repeatedly reading the back of a bus ticket (the 'same' bus ticket) would be a superior way of spending 10 hours of my life...and to quote in the vernacular of M. Cole: 'I wouldn't have to swallow my knob' or 'be tied', to do it either...seriously, if I sat and read the alphabet spaghetti my dog had just gorged itself on, and than randomly threw up, it would be a better read.

Wow. I live in a world where people read this, and then give it 5 stars. We're all doomed I tell you. Doomed !

My dog's vomit foretells it...and in a much more lucid way...I'm also telling you now folks, there's better out there. Honest. This 'bestseller' lark is utter mind pap, smoke and plastic mirrors....emperor's new clothes...brainless, lowest common denominator, terribly edited, purely profit seeking drivell...like several of the characters: 'I have done my nut in', by being a bit of a 'c@*!ish Face'. Hilarious.

Gail says

I have been a fan of Martina Cole's since her very first book. Unfortunately, I feel that her last two books have been seriously missing something. I don't feel that this particular book was gritty or thrilling, nor did it hold my attention. The serial killer was obvious and I worked out their identity long before the professionals. I wish Martina would go back and take a look at some of her earlier work to remind herself that she has written some absolutely fantastic books. The way that she wrote these books was a recipe for success and if used again would hopefully put her back in the top 5 UK crime writers.

Noelle says

Woohoo! I am a MASSIVE Martina Cole fan, so I was really looking forward to this book when it came out! Kate Burrows is back! ??

The reader is taken back to Kate Burrows' stomping ground of Grantley and faced with the past; consequences; feelings of entitlement; the implications of the internet and how it can be used; lost innocence; greed; jealousy and a search for the truth to name a few of the themes throughout this novel.

Immediately the author delivered one blazing #BOOM after another and I was HOOKED! Short, sharp chapters packed with information had me flying through this book in no time. I found the storyline intriguing and full of suspense. I loved seeing characters from past novels and where they were at in the present time.

Now a former DCI, I was so excited to meet up with Kate Burrows again! LOVE her! Intelligent, fiesty and determined to always find the answers – Kate is pulled back into her old job/world of policing when DCI Annie Carter is stumped on a case. She is certainly a woman not to be messed with!

Thrilled to see Patrick Kelly again too! Kate's real-life partner in crime, this couple just work! Patrick tries to stay on the right side of the law these days, but his blood is rich with badness, so he always has one hand in the dark side! We see a vulnerable side to Patrick as he is still grieving the death of his daughter, but life has thrown him a surprise and it may just be exactly what he needs...or is it?! *no spoilers* ?

The job is taking its toll on DCI Annie Carter with a disturbing case she feels unable to get a break in! Annie is hardened by the job but also extremely frustrated with the lack of resources. When Kate returns to the team to help, a bit of the green-eyed monster shows. Will she be able to let go of those feelings and let Kate help solve the case? Read the book to find out!

Joseph/Bella and Christina – I am not going to say too much about these except I found Joseph to be a bit weak in his inability to be a man and make a choice. Bella is one crazy b*tch! Loved how that storyline panned out! ? and poor Christine – right place, wrong time in life....that is all I am going to say about that!

Wow! The killer is one messed up mofo! Nothing will sway the killer's view that what they do is for all the right reasons- everyone else's fault – the victim's are "asking for it" SCARY!!

Would I recommend this book? Ab-so-friggin-lutely I would! Hard-hitting, edgy, intense and riveting – you will find it hard to put down once you start!!

tracy bailey says

Very disappointing

The worst Martina Cole book I have ever read . The story was to predictable. Two to three pages in each chapter is ridiculous. Very repetitive. Really disappointed.

Lainy says

Time taken to read - 1 day

Pages - 357

Publisher - Headline

Source - Borrowed from a friend

Blurb from Goodreads

A serial killer is in town and the race is on for DCI Kate Burrows. Stop the killer before more innocent girls die...

Damaged is the explosive new novel from Sunday Times No.1 bestseller, Martina Cole, and sees the return of her iconic heroine DCI Kate Burrows. The 'undisputed queen of crime writing' (Guardian) and the biggest selling female crime writer in the UK, Martina's unique, powerful storytelling includes Dangerous Lady, The Ladykiller, Betrayal and many more.

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My Review

DCI Kate Burrows is back! Well she is retired but agrees to come in and help with a serial killer who is targeting school girls, torturing them horrifically before murdering them. Kate is happy to have a distraction

as things at home have been royally shaken up when Patrick gets a blast from the past that shakes up his and Kate's happy wee home.

I loved Cole's earlier books, particularly Burrows and the whole taboo of a copper hooking up with a criminal. Now Burrows is out of the police business and Pat is mostly retired things are going well when Pat has a chap claiming to be his son. Pat is shrewd and suspicious of course but the idea of a family brings it's own happiness and problems.

The book is really split into three, the investigation such as it is, the dilemma of the new family showing up and the nightmare wife who comes with it and of course wee bits from the killer. I did enjoy catching up with Kate and Patrick and seeing how they are now after so many years. The whole dynamics of their lives changing and how they cope with it, particularly Kate. There are a few surprises along the way and I have always found Cole's writing easy to slide into. I did notice Kate used darling a lot, I think four times in the space of a handful of sentences but that is just a wee gripe. I would have liked two aspects of the story to have a lot more exploration but I cannot go into them without potential spoilers and I never do spoiler reviews.

Overall I did enjoy it, I have read plenty of her books before and will read her again. I still find her older books to be much stronger than the newer ones seem to have a little something missing from. However I do enjoy her writing, 3.5 for me this time. If you enjoy Cole's writing I think you will enjoy this and for hardcore fans you will enjoy catching up with Kate and Patrick!

Nicola says

This has to be the worst book I have read this year. I loved all the other Kate and Patrick books, and Martina Cole as a whole, but this was really bad. Despite a good storyline, the writing in this one was awful, the characters didn't come across very well and every other sentence that came out of Kate's mouth ended in "darling"! After having re-read books 1-3 you can see a huge difference in the style of writing and it all seemed rushed and not very well put together.

Mario says

Terrible book. It is a long and boring debate on the problems of the connected youth, while a serial killer attacks young girls. Each chapter is a long and repetitive dialog between the new detective and the retired detective and they never get anywhere closer to the killer. In parallel to this, there is the story about a new found son and his family, which starts nicely but ends up being a drama just to fill 50% of the book with nonsense.

The dialogues are terrible (they sound like the writer talking to herself). The characters all sound the same, even the teenagers. It's not realistic at all.

The end is awful... It did not create any suspense, it just ended.

Walk away from this book.

Book Addict Shaun says

Martina Cole brings back Kate Burrows here in Damaged but unfortunately that isn't enough for me to say that this is a return to form for Martina. I so wish she would take a few years off and write that doorstep book we are all waiting for, something in the vein of Goodnight Lady which spans multiple decades rather than writing books that contain so much white space because of the short chapters and which ultimately feel rushed and lacking in depth.

The story itself is dark and twisted, dealing with a serial killer that is targeting young girls. Unfortunately it doesn't read like your typical crime novel because the actual detective work is shockingly bad. If Annie was a real life detective I would be terrified to be living in the city that she had some control over. Also the fact that she calls in Kate Burrows to help with the case and Kate manages to be this knight in shining armour didn't wash with me either. The story could have worked without Kate, but then the book wouldn't have had that nostalgic factor at meeting Kate and Patrick again but even reading about them two was pretty boring and just felt repetitive, the story itself moves along really slowly.

I'm not entirely sure Kate's role was even needed (and when this book was first announced many months ago I'm not even sure the blurb matched what the final book turned out to be, but I might be wrong). The storyline with Patrick I just felt was unnecessary with us finding out he had a secret family he knew nothing about. Whilst there's plenty of drama surrounding this revelation it just didn't seem necessary and never really seemed to go anywhere, it felt like it was just added in again for the nostalgic factor and just to fill the white space that would otherwise have been left. I also worked out who the killer was from basically the minute we met them, not enough is done to throw the reader off the scent and there are virtually no red herrings that ever made me consider another suspect. Martina does best when she writes from the criminal point of view as the policing here was virtually non-existent. Which, taking everything else away and judging this solely as a detective novel and comparing it with other books out there at the minute, this is terrible as the crime genre the last few years has grown with so many new and exciting authors.

It seems to be a recurring theme to be saying year after year that it's another disappointing read from Martina and hopefully next year will be different but I am going to keep saying that until it is. Martina is one of my all time favourite authors, her earlier books amongst the best this genre has ever seen and surely there's still a book in her that can rival that earlier work. I'll be very surprised if the hardcore fans enjoy reading this book.

John Da conceição says

This is just on the verge of being unreadable. While the start was promising, it all just devolves into a repetitive and predictable tract. Who the killer is hardly a mystery...they are the only suspect.

The side plot is as uninspired as it is meaningless. It's obvious who the author wants you to feel sorry for in the affair...but, I'm not buying it. It just comes across like misandry dressed up as drama.

As I understand it, Cole wrote great crime fiction. Not in this outing, I'm afraid.

Zoe Hall says

I hate to say this but I didn't love this book like normal. I'm gutted to not enjoy it as much because I **love** Martina, but *something* just didn't work for me here. I liked the characters and I thought the plot was interesting but in my opinion, there was a spark missing.

In all, for me, it is an *okay* read. I still love Martina. I look forward to more work from her.

Shira says

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~ Cariad ~ says

What can I say...?
It was... **BRILLIANT!!**

Or I could say...
STUNNING!!

Or perhaps just...
TOTALLY FUCKING AWESOME!!

sighs more than happily
Still the Queen, Martina, still the Queen...

@officialmartinacole - I want the next one, as soon as humanly possible please!! ...And don't even think about changing narrators!!!

**ANNIE 'The Dog's Bollocks of Narration' ALDINGTON
is ABSOLUTELY VITAL**
