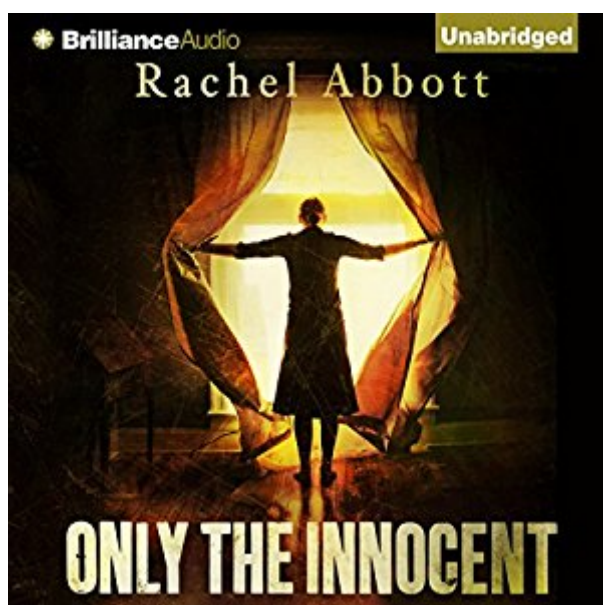


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Only The Innocent



Synopsis

When philanthropist Hugo Fletcher's dead body is discovered tied to a bed in his London home, Chief Inspector Tom Douglas determines right away that he's hunting a female killer. Though Fletcher made countless enemies through his work with Eastern European prostitutes, the crime scene reeks of sex and revenge. This murder was personal. Douglas knows Fletcher's unhappy wife, Laura, should be his prime suspect. She's definitely hiding something. Something big. But he isn't convinced it's murder. Besides, she's not the only woman with a motive to kill the manipulative billionaire. So he digs deeper, into a tangled web of secrets and lies, unraveling the sordid life Fletcher lived outside of the media spotlight. What he uncovers is shocking, forcing the veteran cop to ask himself: With a man like Fletcher, should the guilty be punished? Or should the innocent be protected?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book on my wife's Kindle - she downloaded it from after seeing an article about Rachel Abbott in a newspaper. Abbott has certainly done very well on the PR front and gained a lot of press coverage as an "Indy" author succeeding in the new world of self-publishing and e-books. But is "Only the Innocent" any good? First point to get out of the way - I thought I was a confirmed print book dinosaur. My wife's Kindle has converted me to this new technology. It was light, easy to hold, easy to see (indoors and out) and the control on the font size is fantastic. I have to admit defeat. On my next holiday I will be packing a Kindle and leaving the usual dozen books behind. Well done,

!Now, to the book: I am a fast reader and zipped through the book in one session. I suspect that Rachel Abbott grew up with Agatha Christie novels and decided to write a traditional "locked room murder" with more sex and more violence thrown in for good measure and modernisation. It starts off at a good pace, and keeps you turning the pages, or, if you are reading on a Kindle, pressing the button to see what happens. I was interested enough to keep reading, but in the end, it was more out of interest to see how this new author managed a finish to her work than to see what happened to the characters. I think she has the skeleton of a good crime story here, but it really, really could have done with the attention of a good editor. The characters were all thin and two-dimensional. The dialogue grates as wooden and unrealistic. The detective came over as more believable than the other protagonists, and if she writes another book, I think he is worth developing. I can't say that I really cared about what happened to the rest of the cast.

Rachel Abbott's *Only the Innocent* is not your average "who dunnit" murder mystery. The question that drives this thriller is not "who" did it, but "why". Abbott carefully constructed a world of mystery, depravity, sex, violence, manipulation and intrigue on so many different levels that I can honestly say you truly have to read until the last page to understand and appreciate the complexity of the story. Philanthropist Hugo Fletcher is known world wide for his charitable works rescuing Eastern-European prostitutes from their dark world and giving them a second chance with a new job and foster family. However, there is a darkness to him that the flashing bulbs of the cameras hide. When he is found dead in the middle of sexual act, it is up to Detective Chief Inspector Tom Douglas to uncover the truth behind Hugo's all too perfect public persona and unmask the vileness that was known to only those closest to him. It seems everyone who comes in contact with Hugo has a secret and it's Douglas' job to weave through the tangled web of deception and perversion to find the killer. I was most impressed with how Abbott carefully fed each morsel of evidence to her readers. We learn just enough as the story moves along but never enough to put all the pieces together. And without giving away any spoilers, I will say that even when Abbott made me believe I had all the information, she packed in one last punch at the end. She tied up loose ends that I wasn't even aware were there. As with all murder mysteries, the story before the death is always important and many authors struggle with what we call an "info dump". No one wants to read, "Well Johnny, it went like this..." then read an entire chapter recounting every single step that led to the incident.

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