

Open Your Eyes by Paula Daly

5 stars

A fantastic book, plot-line and ending, I couldn't put it down!

Leon and Jane Campbell are a happily married couple with two young daughters. Leon is a successful author of crime fiction whereas Jane has always wanted to be a writer but has had nothing but rejections. She teaches Creative Writing always hoping that one day her break will come.

Suddenly her world is turned upside down when her husband is attacked outside their house while her two young daughters are in the car. Jane had gone inside to get a drink and also to avoid an altercation between her husband and the elderly neighbour opposite. While she was inside someone had picked up a nail gun from the garage and shot Leon twice in the head. He is rushed to the hospital and after a long time in an induced coma regains consciousness but remains brain damaged.

Jane becomes a prime suspect when her fingerprints are found on the nail gun but Leon has no memory of his attacker, and the children were oblivious as they were listening to their music. Jane then discovers that Leon has not finished his latest book, has borrowed money that he cannot repay and has been accused of plagiarism by another local author. Jane is offered a job teaching Creative Writing in the local jail. In her first lesson, a local inmate threatens her and tells her not to investigate the attempted murder of her husband.

This book is full of twists and turns, and I did not suspect the attacker until the very end of the book. To my mind that is how a crime thriller should be. However this was not the only reason to read this book. The author describes the terrible symptoms that can affect a brain-damaged person, the memory losses and gains, the violent episodes and frustration so well. It also highlights the fact that Jane is more or less on her own not only trying to discover the identity of the would-be murderer but also trying to keep her family together.

I really enjoyed this book, and I was delighted to find that Ms Daly has written other books. I have now got to try and find time to read some of them! Read this book if you can, you won't regret it!

Dexter

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review