

Taken by Monty Marsden

5 stars

Multiple personalities? Guaranteed to cause complications when trying to track a killer.

“He’d always been one step ahead of us. Always, right up until that last damn day.” Commissioner Sensi complains bitterly to the director of the Forensic Anthropology and Dentistry Laboratory. He’s talking about Giacomo Riondino who had escaped from his “supposedly” secure psychiatric facility. He had left behind two corpses – one being Greta Alfieri. Her brutal death had left Dr Claps a criminologist who had helped capture Riondino after his first killing spree, unable to continue working – that is until he receives a phone call from FBI agent Joseph Munro, in charge of the National Centre for the Analysis of Violent Crime – asking for his help. A young American woman has disappeared while on holiday in Guayaquil, Ecuador. and the crime has all the traits of Riondino’s modus operandi.

Munro has organised for him to be met on his arrival in Ecuador, by Henrique Zambrano, an officer in the Policia Nacional. Zambrano wants this killer caught as quickly as possible as fear is spreading through the town after several women have disappeared.

A brilliant storyline with what (felt like) real people trying to catch Riondino, who resembles a chameleon, different colours to suit his different personalities, Jack, the Fox, Julia, Hannibal, the Little Boy, who seem to be able to change him from one person to the other instantly.

I found it fascinating how Monty Marsden has been able to capture each of the personalities with so much knowledge as to how they would behave. How two or three of them could be arguing simultaneously with each other or how two could hate each other, to the extent where one would try to destroy the other.

It’s a truly complex book which needed my full concentration. I knew absolutely nothing about multiple personality disorder before reading this book. I’m not an expert now, but I certainly have a better understanding of just how complex it must be to try to help people suffering from this, especially when some of the personalities are like Hannibal and out to commit horrendous crimes.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.