

The Slaughter Man by Tony Parsons

5 perfect stars!

This is the best book by far this year.

New Year's Day starts off with DC Max Wolfe and his colleagues on a call-out because a man has decided to wipe out his family. A young police officer is also shot before an armed response group can take the perpetrator down. The day gets worse when a family living in a gated community in Highgate London, are found massacred, except for the little boy (Bradley) who has been kidnapped. This isn't just any family; the wife Mary Wood was part of the 1994 Winter Olympics held in Norway. It was while taking part there that she met her husband, Brad Wood, now a sports agent. Mary's father had made his money in property. The team are perplexed by the method used by the killer; a stun gun customarily used on cattle before slaughter.

The murder inquiry takes some bizarre twists and turns, especially when another four-year-old goes missing, and the team are made aware of a house used by a ring of paedophiles. Bradley is not among the children they rescue.

This is the second book featuring DC Max Wolfe. The first book was outstanding, but this is even better. Tony Parsons has a way with words that is electrifying. There were sentences that made me gasp out loud because of the impact they made. I was with Max and the team as they waded through evidence trying to solve the murder. They find a suspect early on, but you know just from Max's reaction that something just doesn't make sense. I put my life "on hold" while I was reading because I couldn't tear myself away for too long until I reached the final page. This is my favourite book for 2015, and I'm waiting with bated breath for the next in the series. Congratulations Tony Parsons!

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.