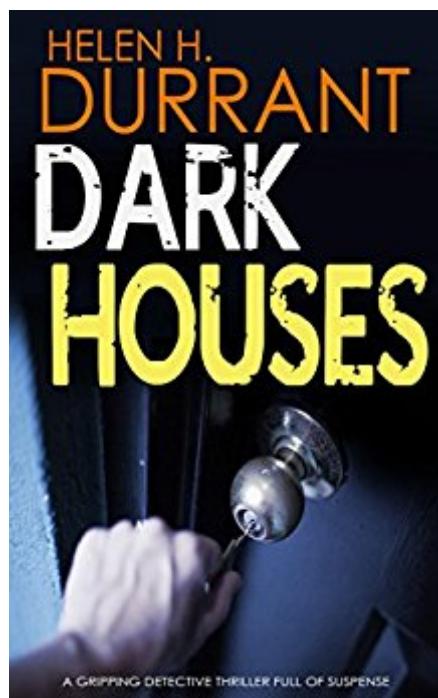


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DARK HOUSES A Gripping Detective Thriller Full Of Suspense



Synopsis

THE STUNNING NEW CRIME MYSTERY FEATURING D.I. GRECO BY BEST-SELLING AUTHOR HELEN H. DURRANT A young woman is found brutally murdered in an empty house Detective Stephen Greco and his team must piece together her life as quickly as possible. Within twenty-four hours there is another horrific murder using the same method. The detectives realise that the victims are random but the locations are not. The killer is more concerned with finding the right house — somewhere he won't be disturbed as he pursues his evil plan. When a man walks into the station and confesses, it looks like the case is closed. But Greco is not convinced and soon he'll be fighting to save the woman who is most important to him in a stunningly tense and emotional conclusion. Can Greco keep himself and his team under control as the criminal gets personal? If you like Angela Marsons, Rachel Abbott, Mel Sherratt, Ruth Rendell, or Mark Billingham you will be gripped by this exciting new crime fiction writer. DARK HOUSES is the second book in a new series of detective thrillers featuring D.I. Greco. Stephen Greco has moved to Oldston after his wife divorced him. He doesn't like the place much but he wants to stay close to their daughter, Matilda. He is a meticulous policeman with a touch of O.C.D. Easy to admire, but difficult to like. The series is set in the fictional industrial northern English town of Oldston. AVAILABLE NOW: DARK MURDER, book one featuring D.I. Greco A woman is found dead by a canal . . . why have her eyes have been viciously poked out? Detective Stephen Greco has just started a new job at Oldston CID and now he faces a series of murders with seemingly no connection but the brutal disfigurement of the victims. AND DISCOVER THE MASSIVE BEST-SELLING CALLADINE & BAYLISS MYSTERY SERIES . . . 100,000 books sold! THE GRECO BOOKS Book 1: DARK MURDER Book 2: DARK HOUSES Book 3: DARK TRADE THE CALLADINE & BAYLISS MYSTERY SERIES Book 1: DEAD WRONG Book 2: DEAD SILENT Book 3: DEAD LIST Book 4: DEAD LOST Book 5: DEAD & BURIED Book 6: DEAD NASTY

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Customer Reviews

The four Durrant books were all good I thought, although some might find them too violent. I focus more on the case solving aspects and the basic character descriptions. It's important to me to like the repeated characters and find them interesting.

I couldn't put this book down, it kept me up late to get it done. Can't wait for the next book

I like reading English author.

It was a delightful book with many unexpected turns. The dress could tell the story in its entirety which is impossible. Women will love this story.

Love this author!

Having read and enjoyed the Calladine & Bayliss series as well as the previous book in this new series, it was a no brainer that I was going to read this book. Like the first in series, the crime was interesting and original. Young women are being brutally murdered in empty houses; the previous owners having gone into rest homes. Victims appear to be random and soon the killings become a little too personal for one of the team of police investigating. The storyline follows through nicely with a few twists and red herrings along the way, culminating in a perfectly satisfying reveal. The characters created in book one are developing nicely in this book. There is plenty of good

interaction especially between police and media and also some brilliant banter between colleagues. I usually find this type of interaction works well in a Police Procedural type book. As with other books from this author, I did find this book to be a little on the formulaic side. Often with small twists - the lead Detective has OCD rather than the usual alcoholism but is flawed nonetheless! But then again, if you want your bulk standard police procedural with interesting (often gruesome) crimes solved by flawed heroes then this, and the other series are not bad books to read. There is no wasted prose, the story gets on with itself with enough description to assist flow and not distract and plenty of room for more character development as the series goes on. Looking forward to the next in series. I received an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

In all honesty I am absolutely kicking myself. The reason for my self flagellation is that I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I *didn't* read it sooner. This is a good, solid police procedural which drew me in from start to finish. I *haven't* read a novel by Helen H Durrant before but I can guarantee I will be more from this author in the future. I loved Detective Stephen Greco. He *is* my sort of protagonist. He suffers from OCD and although this didn't play a particularly big part in the story-line, it did make me like him even more (I like my detectives to be grumpy and damaged, in other words I like them to be human). I also enjoyed the relationship between Greco and DC Grace Harper. DC Harper is rather taken with our hero but he only has eyes for his very recent ex-wife. The other characters in the novel were all interesting, particularly DS Jed Quickenden known to friends and colleagues as *Speedy*. His growing despair towards the job really pulled me into the story. Now I like my murder scenes to be a little on the gory side and Helen H Durrant has done me proud in *Dark Houses*. This is the first book in a while where I *haven't* *even* winced at the description of the scene. And as there are several victims, there are several gory descriptions which, of course, I loved. The plot really pulls you in and before long you *haven't* *even* read half of the book without realising it. There is one particularly big twist which I *didn't* see coming and had to re-read several times to make sure it had sunk in. I loved the way it completely changed how I felt about the characters. Brilliant, suspenseful writing. Would I recommend this book? I would. I think it can be read as a standalone but I would have preferred to read the first in the series (this is book two) before *Dark Houses*. That *is* how I always feel though, always best to start at the beginning. I loved the characters in this book and I hope to catch up with them again soon. A great police procedural which kept me coming back for more. Four out of five stars. I chose to read and review an

ARC of Dark Houses. The above review is my own unbiased opinion.

My review of Dark Houses by Helen Durrant. I'd been meaning to read one of Helen Durrant's book for some time and am kicking myself for not doing so earlier. I bought Dark Houses only a few days ago and was surprised how speedily I reached the end. From the start, it was easy to rattle through the chapters, due to the flowing, fast-paced action and the author's uncomplicated style of writing. This involving story takes place roughly where I live, making the book feel particularly relevant. I'm not a fan of reviews that disclose too many spoilers, so I won't lay out story details here. The murders are gruesome yet poignant, making me eager for the police to quickly catch and deal with the sadist who committed such toe-curling atrocities. I'm glad I failed to work out who was behind the grizzly crimes before the culprit was cleverly revealed. The book is an enjoyable ride that I recommend, with just the right amount of tension, character detail, police procedure and fresh ideas to keep the reader wriggling on the hook. Dark Houses was my first experience of a Helen Durrant book. I sensed I was in a safe pair of knowledgeable hands throughout, so it won't be the last time I enjoy one of her books.

I'm confident the author will not disappoint whichever book I next choose to read. There was no disadvantage in me not having read the first book in the series; it works perfectly as a stand-alone. I'm tempted to read book one to fill in any gaps before eventually reading the rest of the series. The characters are interesting enough for me to want to discover what will happen to Greco and Grace throughout the series. Who is Grace? Read the book and find out. I'm particularly concerned over Stephen Greco difficult challenges. The author cleverly led me into wanting to read the next chapters in her main characters' lives, whilst still managing to expertly wrap up this particular story.

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