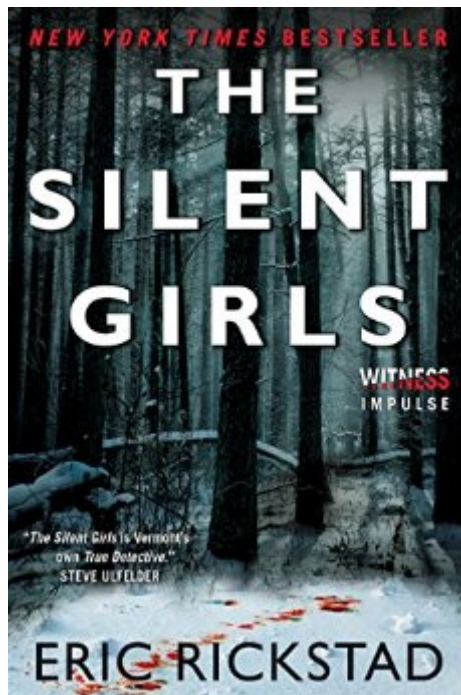


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The Silent Girls



Synopsis

New York Times and USA Today Bestseller
With the dead of a bitter Vermont winter closing in, evil is alive and well . . . Frank Rath thought he was done with murder when he turned in his detective's badge to become a private investigator and raise a daughter alone. Then the police in his remote rural community of Canaan find an '89 Monte Carlo abandoned by the side of the road, and the beautiful teenage girl who owned the car seems to have disappeared without a trace. Soon Rath's investigation brings him face-to-face with the darkest abominations of the human soul. With the consequences of his violent and painful past plaguing him, and young women with secrets vanishing one by one, he discovers once again that even in the smallest towns on the map, evil lurks everywhere—and no one is safe. Morally complex, seething with wickedness and mystery, and rich in gritty atmosphere and electrifying plot turns, *The Silent Girls* marks the return of critically acclaimed author Eric Rickstad. Readers of Ian Rankin, Jo Nesbø, and Greg Iles will love this book and find themselves breathless at the incendiary, ambitious, and unforgettable story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Silent Girls is a riveting dark psychological thriller that follows private investigator Frank Rath's investigation into a string of mysterious disappearances of teenage girls during the dead of winter in the rural town of Canaan, Vermont. Author Eric Rickstad weaves an intense tale of horror, mystery, and suspense, with intriguing twists and turns that easily captivates the reader's attention from the beginning to the story's dramatic conclusion. The story centers around private investigator Frank Rath who is called upon to assist the rural town of Canaan, Vermont's police department in the investigation of the mysterious disappearances of several teenage girls. The investigation hits home for Frank, as demons from his past come back to haunt him: when he was a police detective his sister and brother-in-law were murdered by a sadistic killer known as "The Preacher," leaving his niece Rachel an orphan. Frank turned in his detective badge and became a private investigator in order to raise Rachel as his daughter. Fast forward to the present, Rachel is in college and "The Preacher" is up for parole, leading Frank to have to deal with his darkest fears once again. Is there a connection between the disappearance of the teenage girls to "The Preacher?" Even in small friendly rural towns evil and danger lurk ...The Silent Girls is a gripping dark psychological thriller that kept me sitting on the edge of my seat guessing what would happen next as Frank is drawn into the investigation of the disappearances of the missing girls while dealing with his personal demons. The author does a great job of slowly building a suspenseful and complex tale that has surprising and dramatic twists and turns; a fascinating cast of characters; and a rich description of the setting that easily transports the reader to the small rural Vermont town during the heart of the dark winter season, it's enough to send chills down your back. The Silent Girls is a riveting and gritty storyline that delves into Frank's painful past; the connection between the mystery of the missing girls; the dynamics of a radical cult; and the touchy social issue of abortion. This is a story that takes the reader on a fascinating thrill ride while keeping them engaged and turning the pages. If you are a fan of dark crime mysteries, suspense, and psychological thrillers, then The Silent Girls is a must read! Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Wow. An ending I did not see coming! But let's not get ahead of ourselves. My initial thoughts immediately after finishing this book in one word? Pleased. Pleased I took a chance on this after seeing it on an review blog (thanks My Bookish Ways). Even after seeing there was only one review on and we all know chances are the first few reviews are friends and family of the author. Well, I'm neither. Never heard of this guy, had no knowledge of the book prior to seeing the review. I loved

how he ended the story! I freaking loved it! I loved how what seemed like a serial killer running amuck amongst young teenage girls turned out to be much richer and more complex. I believe our hero, Rath said it something like this, people are evil and evil is everywhere. Even in rural Vermont. And then the author drives it home. There were a couple of things that bit me while reading as "so stereotypical" of a mystery hero - he can't get a break, even his body is falling apart and he's in constant pain so bad you wonder how he gets out of bed. Don't know that it was necessary in the book. Also don't know that the amount of drinking was necessary, yet another one that's done to death. Just once I'd like to see a great detective that's also a vegan and a marathon runner. Not that I am either, but then maybe it's just not possible to see all the faults and lies in others when you are so focused on yourself. And our hero does have a gift for it. He can put the clues together, given enough time. I believe we will see this character again and that this author will only get better with time. This one was more than good enough for me and I look forward to its sequel. I hope Rath has a long career as a detective.

This is not the type of book I normally purchase but the ratings were good, the blurb sounded interesting and I needed a change of pace. It started out well, the author did a good job of bringing Vermont to life for those of us not there. Some of his characters were well written, some we get way too much information about for the small role they play in the story and others, not enough for their part. At times the book pulls you in and then it levels out and you're left thinking, was that supposed to go somewhere. Overall, I was kept interested enough to keep reading. What I did not like was the fact that although I am not a mystery/ crime novel enthusiast, I knew who the "bad" guy was within one or two meetings. There were twists and turns but some felt contrived, the best answers the author could come up with to the problem of how are we going to get where we need to go instead of the story leading into them. Spoiler Alert, for those who hate any specific info on a story.....I was not offended by his portrayal of the right of life movement. There are extremists in almost any group just as there are people who do unexplainable things under the guise of devotion to a cause. He answered the question of who but I was left with "oh" instead of an "ahhhhhh" or "ohhhhhhhhhhh" that one expects from a novel in this genre. What I hated was the ending, really, was there a need for this. Is this ending the door to a sequel, I hope this gentleman drinks a little less if he gets a second book. At first I thought it was a way to self-medicate due to the back pain but in the end it is habit and one that obviously holds him back. If it was a way to leave us hanging just cause, the author should have used his skills for creating drama during the main story.

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