



The Sinner

By Tess Gerritsen

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Surgeon* and *The Apprentice* comes a chilling new novel of suspense featuring Boston medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles, on the deadly trail of an anonymous madman who's committed an unholy crime. . . .

THE SINNER

Not even the icy temperatures of a typical New England winter can match the bone-chilling scene of carnage discovered in the early morning hours at the chapel of Our Lady of Divine Light. Within the sanctuary walls of the cloistered convent, now stained with blood, lie two nuns—one dead, one critically injured—victims of an unspeakably savage attacker.

The brutal crime appears to be without motive, and the elderly nuns in residence can offer little help in the police investigation. But medical examiner Maura Isles's autopsy of the dead woman yields a shocking surprise: Twenty-year-old Sister Camille, the order's sole novice, gave birth before she was murdered. Then the disturbing case takes a stunning new turn when another woman is found murdered in an abandoned building, her body mutilated beyond recognition.

Together, Isles and homicide detective Jane Rizzoli uncover an ancient horror that connects these terrible slaughters. As long-buried secrets come to light, Maura Isles finds herself drawn inexorably toward the heart of an investigation that strikes closer and closer to home—and toward a dawning revelation about the killer's identity too shattering to consider.

As spine-tingling as it is mind-jolting, *The Sinner* showcases Tess Gerritsen in peak form—bringing her intimate knowledge of the dark depths of criminal investigation brilliantly to bear. Beneath its layers of startling insight into the souls of its characters, and the richly wrought depiction of the everyday war between good and evil, beats the unstoppable heart of an irresistible thriller.

Tess Gerritsen left a successful practice as an internist to raise her children and concentrate on her writing. She gained nationwide acclaim for her first novel of

medical suspense, the *New York Times* bestseller *Harvest*. She is also the author of the bestsellers *Life Support*, *Bloodstream*, *Gravity*, and *The Surgeon* and *The Apprentice*. Tess Gerritsen lives in Maine.

PRAISE FOR TESS GERRITSEN

The Surgeon

“A briskly paced, terrifically suspenseful work that steadily builds toward a tense and terrifying climax.”

—*People* (Page-Turner of the week)

“Creepy . . . [*The Surgeon*] will exert a powerful grip on readers.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Grabbed me by the throat and didn’t let go.”

—TAMI HOAG

The Apprentice

“Skillful and scary.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“An adrenaline rush from start to finish.”

—IRIS JOHANSEN

“Masterful . . . Gerritsen moves into the Thomas Harris class, though with a style all her own.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

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The Sinner By Tess Gerritsen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A grisly murder at a convent baffles Medical Examiner Maura Isles and Det. Jane Rizzoli at the start of this assured, richly shaded seventh novel from bestseller Gerritsen (*The Apprentice*; *The Surgeon*, etc.). The popular duo are called to Boston's Graystones Abbey when two nuns are discovered in an abandoned chapel, one dead and the other near death, both brutally bludgeoned. Red herrings are everywhere: Isles's discovery that one of the murdered nuns had recently given birth (followed shortly by the discovery of the baby's body in a pond near the convent); the murder of a homeless derelict with her face and extremities removed by her killer; and the lurking menace of a multinational chemical company. Complicating matters further is the sudden arrival of Isles's ex-husband, Victor, a celebrity humanitarian with his own suspicious connection to the case, and Rizzoli's old flame, FBI agent Gabriel Dean, who's responsible for the baby now growing in Rizzoli's belly. The investigation is rather low-key, but Gerritsen gives atmospheric depth to her tale with descriptions of snowbound Boston and an exotic past tragedy. Isles's pleasantly bitchy coldness ("Go ahead and pass me, idiots. I've met too many drivers like you on my slab") gives a welcome edge to the proceedings, and the struggles of both Isles and Rizzoli to balance their tough professional acts with romantic drama are satisfyingly gritty.

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From [Booklist](#)

When two Boston nuns are found brutally beaten--one fatally and one with a scintilla of life left in her--it's up to homicide detective Jane Rizzoli to find the perpetrator. Medical examiner Dr. Maura Isles, nicknamed the Queen of the Dead, has the unlucky fortune to discover that the murdered nun, a young woman about to make her final vows, hid untold secrets from the rest of the aging convent. Both fallen Catholics, Rizzoli and Isles seek to reconcile the viciousness of the crimes with the seeming blind faith of the victims. Another dead body turns up, and the investigators must rely on their clinical analysis, lest they be sucked in to the drama unfolding before them. Each woman immerses herself in her work rather than face the outside world; Rizzoli refuses to face the truth of what her future holds, and Isles denies her own loneliness. Woven within the horror of this gruesome story is the old allegory of good versus evil, but by relating it through these two fascinating individuals, Gerritsen avoids cliches. Another captivating, horrific thriller in her extremely popular canon. *Mary Frances Wilkens*

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Review

"A RICHLY TEXTURED THRILLER WITH A DARK CORE OF MASS MURDER AND AFFAIRS OF THE HEART."

—*St. Petersburg Times*

"[Gerritsen] has an imagination that allows her to conjure up depths of human behavior so dark and frightening that she makes Edgar Allan Poe and H. P. Lovecraft seem like goody-two-shoes."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"Satisfying . . . *The Sinner* is as busy and bumpy as a storm-filled sky."

—*Entertainment Weekly* (Editor's Choice)

"MAY JUST BE THE THRILLER OF THE YEAR . . .
THIS IS ONE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS."

–*Herald Journal* (NC)

“A suspenseful, white-knuckle tale all the way to the end . . . Gerritsen is not only talented with words, she has unusual medical and scientific expertise, which gives all her books a precious credibility. . . . It’s not only a terrific story, it provokes thought about a lot of other issues of international import. And it’s real, without special effects, a story that emanates from the real life around us.”

–*Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, UT)

“Gerritsen’s weaving of unusual crime scenes, complicated investigations, lurid medical details, and moments of visceral fear is truly unique. . . . [*The Sinner*] will keep the reader quickly turning pages. . . . Into these terrors forges Maura Isles, *Queen of the Dead*, and riveted, we readers follow her.”

–*Sun Journal* (Lewiston, ME)

“Dark emotions and dangerous secrets permeate this unusually chilling novel. . . . Another gut-wrenching tale from a true master.”

–*Romantic Times* (Top Pick)

“Gerritsen just keeps getting better with each book. . . . [*The Sinner*] moves at a heart pounding pace without a word wasted.”

–*The Droid Review of Mystery*

“Assured, richly shaded.”

–*Publishers Weekly*

“Another captivating, horrific thriller in her extremely popular canon.”

–*Booklist*

“Well-executed and entertaining.”

–*News Tribune* (Tacoma, WA)

From the Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Lara:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They should answer that question mainly because just their can do this. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular *The Sinner* to read.

Jennifer Mitchell:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Sinner, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Gerald Sosa:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this The Sinner book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still doubt The Sinner as good book not only by the cover but also by content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Amanda Garcia:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is The Sinner this publication consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented how does the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That is why this book acceptable all of you.

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