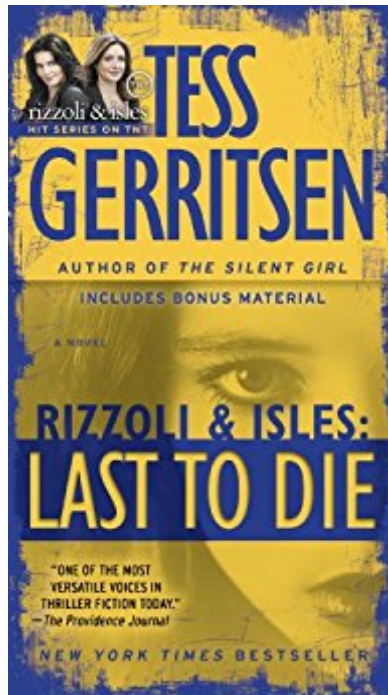


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Last To Die (with Bonus Short Story John Doe): A Rizzoli & Isles Novel



Synopsis

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER • For the second time in his short life, fourteen-year-old Teddy Clock has survived a massacre. Orphaned once more when his foster family is murdered, the traumatized teenager has nowhere to turn until the Boston PD puts Detective Jane Rizzoli on the case. Jane spirits Teddy to the exclusive Evensong boarding school, a sanctuary where young victims of violent crime learn vital skills of survival. But even behind locked gates, Jane fears that Evensong's benefactors aren't the only ones watching. And when she learns of two other students whose pasts bear a shocking resemblance to Teddy's, it becomes chillingly clear that a circling predator has more than one victim in mind. Joining forces with medical examiner Maura Isles, Jane races to stop an obsessed killer's twisted quest before an unspeakable secret dooms the children's fate. • Don't miss Tess Gerritsen's short story "John Doe," and a sneak peek of her novel, *Girl Missing*, in the back of the book. • "One of the most versatile voices in thriller fiction today." *The Providence Journal* • "[Tess] Gerritsen has a knack for creating great characters and mysterious plots that seem straightforward but also dazzle with complexity and twists." *Associated Press* • "An exciting and puzzling mystery . . . [Last to Die] is a key book in a series that keeps getting better and better." *Bookreporter* • "Gerritsen skillfully heightens the tension right up to the suspenseful ending." *Booklist*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tess Gerritsen's tenth Rizzoli and Isles book, *Last To Die*, is a taut, highly enjoyable thriller. In this book, we follow homicide detective Rizzoli and medical examiner Isles as they team up to save three orphans. These orphans have one major thing in common: they are each survivors of not one, but two family massacres that killed both their birth families and their foster families. The three orphans are placed in Evensong Boarding School in Maine, which is run by the mysterious Mephisto Society. Evensong is a place where young people who are victims of violent crime are taught survival skills. I'll hold off on any spoilers here, but suffice it to say that the tragedies in these three orphans' lives appear to be interconnected, as the story twists and turns towards a violent and tense conclusion. The secret behind the three orphans' stories goes way back in time and space, even into a different country. Gerritsen mixes personal details of her main characters (Rizzoli and Isles) into the story, allowing us to learn more about them, even ten books in. Overall, this one is a solid, fun read. Fans of the TNT television show will really enjoy it. There are two things I like about Gerritsen and this series. First, I enjoy being able to just jump into a book, already knowing and liking the main characters. Now, with the television series, there are even real faces attached to the names, albeit actors. Second, as a physician, I enjoy reading books by other doctors. Gerritsen is perhaps the most successful physician fiction writer since the late Michael Crichton. If you enjoy Gerritsen's books and books with a medical bent, then I highly recommend the following: Dr.

Last to Die is a disappointing addition to the Rizzoli and Isles series, much like *Silent Girl*. The premise of the book was promising to begin with but I was expecting a little more action and suspense and I was hoping for a return to the quality of *The Surgeon* and *The Apprentice*. In a *Silent Girl*, the twist at the end was not surprising in the least and in *Last to Die* the twist fell flat. I would have been far more satisfied with the murders being an act of vengeance by Icarus. Instead the twist felt contrived and rushed and appeared to be a blatant attempt to surprise the reader when in fact it only serves to exasperate the reader. The only positive thing I could see in the twist is that it explained why the three children always managed to escape unharmed while the remainder of their families were slaughtered. Additionally, it was very unbelievable that the main characters often failed (or took overly long) to come to very obvious conclusions, such as the significance of the genders of the three figures hanging in the tree. I even found some conclusions to be laughable such as Jane worrying that the intruder had followed her to the home of a foster family. If the intruder had known

she was in the house, why would he break into the house when there was an armed police officer inside? Of course, this could also be explained as the intruder wanting the police to believe the child was in danger but this is only clear once the twist is revealed and therefore I cannot believe that the character of Jane as she has been portrayed in past books would even consider such a possibility.

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