



The Last Place: A Tess Monaghan Novel

By Laura Lippman

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When *New York Times* bestselling author Laura Lippman's Tess Monaghan investigates five cold case murders, she doesn't expect the investigation to become personal...

Tess Monaghan agrees to look into a series of unsolved homicides that date back over the past six years despite the fact that the assignment originates from a troubling source: wealthy Baltimore benefactor Luisa O'Neal, who was both instrumental in launching Tess's present career and intimately connected with the murder of Tess's former boyfriend.

Apart from the suspicion that each death was the result of domestic violence, nothing else seems to connect them. Five lives—four women, one man—ended in various ways. The only thing the five cases seem to have is that they are now ice cold. Tess' search for the connecting threads takes her beyond the Charm City limits and into dangerously unfamiliar territory. With the help of a police officer obsessed with bringing a murderer down, she follows scant leads into the remotest corners of Maryland, where a psychopath can hide as easily in the fabric of a tiny, rough-hewn fishing community as in the alleys and shadows of bustling Baltimore.

As she strays far from everything that's familiar and safe in her life, Tess is suddenly cast into a terrifying cat-and-mouse game with an ingenious slayer who changes identities as often and effortlessly as clothing. But at last, a single link to the murders emerges. Unfortunately, it's Tess.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Baltimore PI Tess Monaghan knows what to do with a jerk who prowls the Internet looking for love in all the wrong places: pretend to be smitten, slip one of his own date-rape drugs into his drink, cover him with depilatory cream, and leave him in a public place so he'll be too ashamed to do it again. It's hard to follow an opening chapter like that, but Lippman manages it nicely, putting her smart-mouth series sleuth in court-ordered anger-management counseling. The sessions with her shrink spur a most uncharacteristic—for Tess—reflection on five cold-case homicides she's investigating for a foundation lobbying for increased funding for domestic abuse programs. They don't seem to be connected, but with the help of the retired Toll Facilities cop who discovered the head of one of the victims in the middle of his bridge, Tess discovers a serial killer no one even knew existed--until he made Tess his next target. This is the seventh outing in a lively, original series that keeps getting better and better. --*Jane Adams*

From Publishers Weekly

Favors for friends don't always turn out as expected, Tess Monaghan learns in this harrowing encounter with obsession involving her own past. At the urging of best friend Whitney Talbot, Tess agrees to research how police inexperienced with murder cases handle domestic-violence-related investigations. Delving into the specifics of the five deaths she's been assigned, Tess begins to sense that a simple review of the facts won't suffice and that these aren't isolated incidents. Toll-facility cop Carl Dewitt, who found one victim's head on the roadway of a bridge and has become obsessed with that case, convinces her that his detailed knowledge and tenacity can help. The pair cover a lot of ground, from northern Maryland to Virginia, from Baltimore to the Eastern Shore to a remote island where simple beauty can't sustain young people and the aging population keeps its secrets. In the process, Tess confronts some old demons, including a figure who has watched for years as she rows alone in Baltimore Harbor. He knows all about her and is biding his time. Lippman narrows her circle, drawing predator and victim closer. She contrasts the methods of the privileged with the ways ordinary folk must cope and how disastrous the results can be when the monstrous invades their lives.

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From Library Journal

In the seventh entry in Lippman's award-winning mystery series (and the third in hardcover after *In a Strange City*), someone is stalking feisty Baltimore P.I. Tess Monaghan. Tess is working for the foundation of moneyed college chum Whitney (who just got Tess involved in an escapade that has her in court-ordered therapy), investigating five seemingly unrelated open murder cases throughout Maryland to see whether there is a domestic homicide angle. Off the job, despite being happy with her younger boyfriend, Crow, Tess is having nightmares about seeing a former lover killed in front of her two years earlier. A Toll Authority cop who is obsessed with one of the murders (after finding the victim's decapitated head) becomes Tess's sidekick, and they follow a trail that eventually ties up all threads of the plot and leaves Tess with new nightmares. Lippman deftly juggles a sense of foreboding with quotidian details as she spins an engrossing tale, and she captures the essence of other Maryland venues as acutely as she does that of Baltimore. Tess is a standout among female protagonists in mysteries, and this is absolutely first-rate.

Michele Leber, Fairfax Cty. P.L., VA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Dabney:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this particular The Last Place: A Tess Monaghan Novel book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Jesse Valles:

This book untitled The Last Place: A Tess Monaghan Novel to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you to past this guide from your list.

Alma Bulger:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both daily life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is actually The Last Place: A Tess Monaghan Novel.

Jill White:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Last Place: A Tess Monaghan Novel can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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