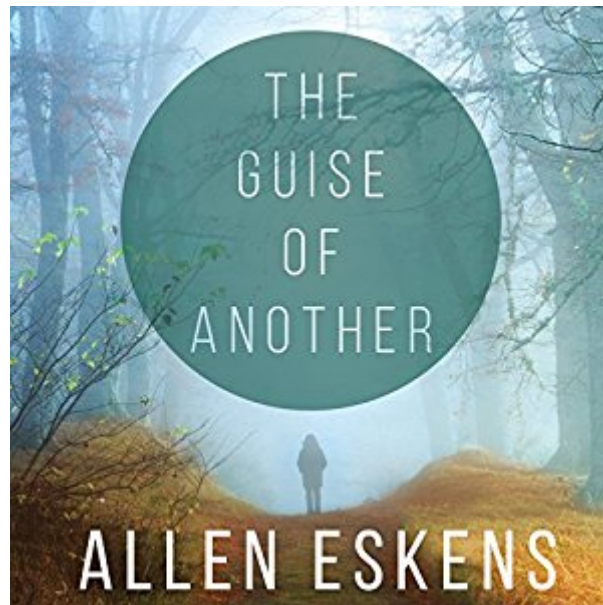


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The Guise Of Another



Synopsis

A former Medal of Valor winner, Minnesota detective Alexander Rupert is now under subpoena by a grand jury on suspicion of corruption. So when he's asked to look into the false identity of a car-accident victim named James Putnam, a man who in fact died 15 years earlier, Rupert sees a potentially big case and an opportunity to regain his respectability. But the investigation puts him in the path of "the Beast", the nom de guerre of Drago Basta, a cunning veteran of the Balkan wars and a sociopath assassin who has been searching for Putnam for years. Putnam had something that Basta still wants. If Rupert's life was in shambles before, it's now also in danger. Threatened by the Beast and suspecting his wife of cheating, Rupert falls for the seductions of the dead man's former girlfriend. As he feels his life spinning out of control, his steadfast brother and fellow police detective Max may be Rupert's last hope.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 21 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 6, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01681OR62

Best Sellers Rank: #42 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Police

Procedurals #454 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals

#1551 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

I really liked this author's *The Life We Bury*, to the point he was the first author I followed on here, so when I saw his next book was out I was excited to read it and even put it at the top of my reading pile when it came. But the difference between the two books was day and night for me and I struggled to read this one and finally gave up. *The Life We Bury* felt fresh and original with characters I was drawn to, the characters in this book felt unoriginal, no real depth to them and like ones I've read about a hundred times before. I was losing interest in the story because of that and then a line a female character gave a male character was so unrealistic and cheesy and it was the

point I gave up on the book. It felt like a scene out of your standard action movie where the female is one dimensional, there just as eye candy and unrealistic. The premise of the story was actually pretty interesting, but the characters bogged it down for me.

Detective Alexander Rupert is under a cloud. Accused of keeping money from a drug raid, he's about to face the charges in court. Meanwhile he's on hold in a dead-end job in the Frauds Unit. Then an intriguing case comes his way, and nobody else recognizes its importance. Alexander sees this as a chance to redeem himself. There is a high body count in this novel, thanks to the cold-blooded disregard for life of a killer from Kosovo. Drago Basta is one of the baddest villains I've encountered in fiction. He's so resourceful he appears to be unstoppable. Integrity among the characters is in scarce supply. Greed and corruption are rampant. But there are two admirable cops whose heroic actions we follow with bated breath -- Alexander's brother Max and a feisty woman cop from Manhattan who's helping Alexander investigate. (The novel is set in Minnesota.) For a police procedural, this is a somewhat edgy novel, because it's much more complex than good guys vs. bad guys. There's lots of action, and many a plot twist, but I was unhappy to see my favorite person die. Still, this is a well-done thriller with vividly realized characters. Best for readers who can handle dark plots.

While this book is surely not as good as his first, "The Life We Bury," it is certainly not a bad read. Eskens's debut book was phenomenal. It had everything I love and I'm sure many readers would agree. However, I don't think "The Guise Of Another" is a waste. I love a good mystery and this book did deliver on that aspect. It also had some twists and turns that I wasn't expecting, so that is always a plus. I understand why some readers have the complaints they do such as not identifying with the main character and being able to "like" Alexander. My thoughts on that are that most every book you read you are pulling for the main character. You hope for good things to happen to that character. You want everything to work out for that character in the end. This book was different and I LIKED THAT! When the story unwinds and you find out some things about Alexander, you're not sure how to feel. Eskens makes you think here. And the ending, wow! I liked that, too. It did not work out how I expected it to and that is good! A change is always good. Some readers said the book was predictable. Maybe in some spots, but not all the way through. And the comments that I'm seeing where people won't read anymore books by this author, I think are unfair. I think he has a lot to offer book lovers like myself. I loved his first book and will not stop reading him because of one book that wasn't a "hit." Many of my favorite authors have written books that I turned my nose up at,

like James Patterson and Jodi Piccolt. I liked "The Guise Of Another" for its mystery, it's multiple storylines, its twists and turns, and its "out of the box" ending. I will surely read another book by Alen Eskens. I don't think he's done wowing us.

The accidental death of a man named James Putnam sets off a chain of events involving corporate corruption, murder and the hunt for an incriminating thumb drive by a relentless serial killer in this second novel by Allen Eskens. It's the story of two brothers who are Minneapolis cops -- Max Rupert, a respected detective, and Alexander Rupert, also a detective, who's been under a cloud of suspicion since a drug bust went wrong. As the story opens, he's awaiting a session with the grand jury that may end in him being charged with corruption. James Putnam is killed when a Lexus slams head-on into his Porsche. Before he dies, he whispers, "Find it before they find her." And Alexander, who winds up with the case, sees it as a chance at redemption. He follows a trail of clues to New York and the Midwest, because the man calling himself James Putnam was actually someone else. And the real James Putnam supposedly died years ago. I found this a fast, satisfying read with well-developed characters. There are plenty of shades of gray in this book -- almost no one is free of deception. Drago, the hired hitman, is truly despicable, but even he has brief flashes of decency. Unlike many mystery novels these days, this is not part of a series. But it works well as a stand-alone book.

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