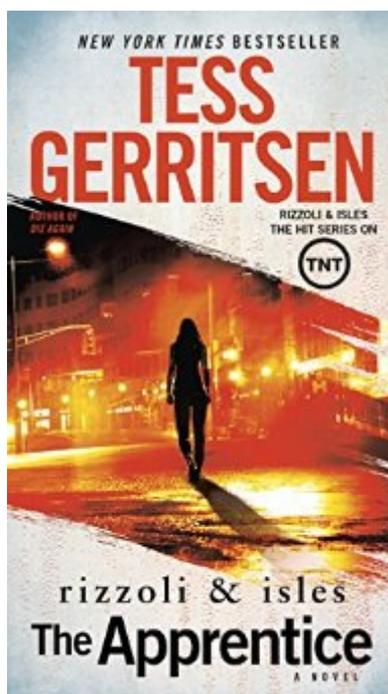


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The Apprentice: A Rizzoli & Isles Novel



Synopsis

BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Tess Gerritsen's *Last to Die*. The bestselling author of *The Surgeon* returns—and so does that chilling novel's diabolical villain. Though held behind bars, Warren Hoyt still haunts a helpless city, seeming to bequeath his evil legacy to a student all-too-diligent . . . and all-too-deadly.

THE APPRENTICE It is a boiling hot Boston summer. Adding to the city's woes is a series of shocking crimes, in which wealthy men are made to watch while their wives are brutalized. A sadistic demand that ends in abduction and death. The pattern suggests one man: serial killer Warren Hoyt, recently removed from the city's streets. Police can only assume an acolyte is at large, a maniac basing his attacks on the twisted medical techniques of the madman he so admires. At least that's what Detective Jane Rizzoli thinks. Forced again to confront the killer who scarred her—literally and figuratively—she is determined to finally end Hoyt's awful influence . . . even if it means receiving more resistance from her all-male homicide squad. But Rizzoli isn't counting on the U.S. government's sudden interest. Or on meeting Special Agent Gabriel Dean, who knows more than he will tell. Most of all, she isn't counting on becoming a target herself, once Hoyt is suddenly free, joining his mysterious blood brother in a vicious vendetta. . . . Filled with superbly created characters—and the medical and police procedural details that are her trademark—*The Apprentice* is Tess Gerritsen at her brilliant best. Set in a stunning world where evil is easy to learn and hard to end, this is a thriller by a master who could teach other authors a thing or two.

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Customer Reviews

In the book *The Surgeon* we met Jane Rizzoli a hard as nails detective with the Boston Police. She is responsible for the arrest of "the surgeon" the serial killer that had been hunting on the streets of Boston. A year later and with many emotional as well as physical scars later Detective Rizzoli is called to another murder scene with chilling similarities to the Surgeon Case. After the investigation gets under way FBI agent Gabriel Dean shows up and is given all access to the investigation. Jane does not understand why he is there, he won't tell her anything but he does have the uncanny ability to know where to look for evidence and what kind of evidence to look for. Then just when things start to get going Warren Hoyt "the surgeon" escapes from prison and looks to have hooked up with the Dominator. Working together these two murders led investigators on a chase that includes some shocking twist and turns. This was a well-written book that allowed you to get to "know" detective Rizzoli and perhaps even like her this time around. The characters were all well developed and the use of medical terminology was not left undefined so a layperson could understand what was going on. This is a sequel to the book "*The Surgeon*" but it can still stand-alone. You will not have a hard time following the storyline or how characters interact with each other. This was a true edge of your seat read but be aware that some of the descriptions of murder scenes, and autopsies are very vivid. A great read for the fan of Thrillers!

I have been patiently waiting to get my hands on this book and finally I have. I have read every single book that Gerritsen has released and in *The Apprentice* I have not been disappointed. It is more or less a continuation of her earlier novel, *The Surgeon*. The big difference is that this novel focuses more on the female detective that helped crack the case in the first one. Jane Rizzoli was to me not a very likable character in the first book, but in this book she takes on a new light. She was portrayed as a very masculine type of female in *The Surgeon*, but in *The Apprentice* she takes on the role of the strong woman who is feminine yet at the same time a spitfire. When murders start happening in Boston a year after the Surgeon has been in jail, Rizzoli is the only one who sees the connection at first. But as the body count mounts suddenly an FBI agent appears on the scene.

Rizzoli who in all of her years as a detective has never seen the FBI work in this way, is very puzzled. Her puzzlement only deepens as her attraction to the FBI agent Gabriel Dean does also. When The Surgeon, Warren Hoyt, who she put behind bars in the first book, escapes from prison, all hell breaks loose. Rizzoli has suspicions that The Surgeon and their new killer, The Dominator are working together to fulfill their murderous fantasies. Tensions increase as Rizzoli and her fellow officers keep coming up with dead ends and no suspects in sight. The only problem that I had with this story was its abrupt ending. Once again, I am impressed with Gerritsen's style and attention to detail. She is a wonderful story teller and I fully intend to keep reading her books and I highly recommend them to anyone!

Boston Homicide Detective, Jane Rizzoli, still bears both the physical and mental scars of her last, and almost deadly encounter with Warren Hoyt, "the surgeon," who methodically tortured, mutilated, and viciously murdered his victims in a killing spree that ended last year. Thanks to Rizzoli, Hoyt is now behind bars, in a maximum security prison, and he's there for life. So you can imagine her horror, when she's called to an eerily familiar crime scene, and it becomes immediately apparent that a copycat killer, soon dubbed "the dominator," is on the loose and has taken over "the surgeon's" work. As the body count rises, Hoyt escapes from prison and joins forces with his apprentice. This very lethal pair are now hunting together, and their next target is Jane Rizzoli, the victim who got away..... Tess Gerritsen is back with a sequel to last year's best-selling and cleverly plotted thriller, The Surgeon. The Apprentice is a fast read, tense and suspenseful, and filled with vivid scenes, and graphic descriptions. But unfortunately, if you read The Surgeon, you'll find there's not much new here, just a rehash of last year's story. The characters are well drawn and interesting, but the large chip on Rizzoli's shoulder, her drive to be always one better than any of her male counterparts, and her constant whining starts to get old and detracts from the story. With a rushed and unsatisfying ending, that leaves several plot lines hanging and too many questions unanswered, The Apprentice is far from Ms Gerritsen's best. For those looking for an intriguing and compelling thriller, read The Surgeon.

Are sequels ever as good as their predecessors? Are they written because the author is running out of ideas, and so is recycling previous things? Series fiction usually has a new case every time, and may not dwell much on the original. But Tara Moss's Makedde Vanderwall series has the Stiletto Murders still fresh in the mind with the first three novels ("Fetish", "Split" and "Covet"). Tess Gerritsen has also brought back her killer, the Surgeon, in this follow-up - "The Apprentice". We first

met homicide detective Jane Rizzoli in "The Surgeon", where the killer preyed on damaged women, and cut out their uteruses. "The Apprentice" (which should be read after "The Surgeon" as it names the killer) sees murders similar to the Surgeon's, but the victims are different - instead of damaged women, they are wealthy couples. And the Surgeon has escaped from prison. Neuropsychiatry is brought into this novel with an interesting take on murderers - damage to their frontal lobes causes them to kill. Detective Jane Rizzoli considers if this is true... or maybe some people are just born evil. Tess Gerritsen's most fascinating and thrilling novel is "Gravity". Yet her other medical thrillers are of extremely high quality. Lately she's been into police procedure and life in the medical examiner's world - i.e. the novels are going more mainstream - but still manages to write complex and intriguing storylines. Can you believe this fantastically intelligent and talented author used to write romantic suspense? Tess Gerritsen proves that change really is for the better. And as a former physician, her novels have that ring of authenticity. "The Apprentice" is well plotted, with interesting characters, curious deaths and murderers who are very clever, indeed. Tess Gerritsen's books must be read.

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