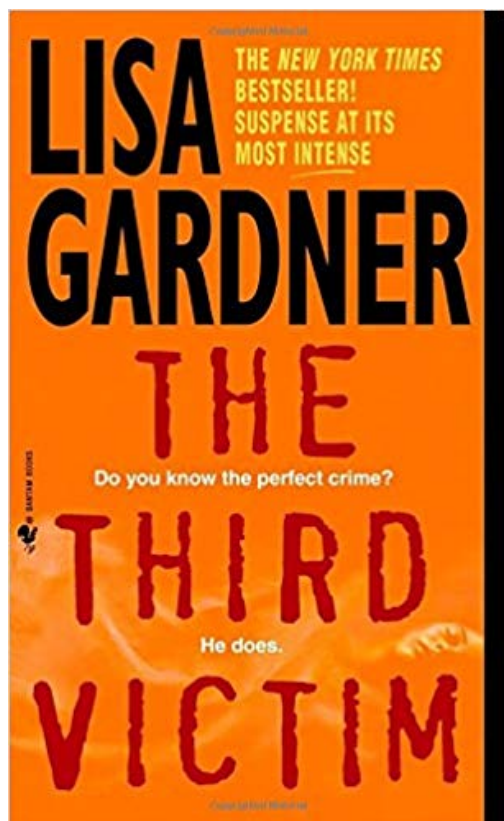


## The Third Victim: An FBI Profiler Novel *by* Lisa Gardner



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The past isn't over....An unspeakable act has ripped apart the idyllic town of Bakersville, Oregon, and its once-peaceful residents are demanding quick justice. But though a boy has confessed to the horrific crime, evidence shows he may not be guilty. Officer Rainie Conner, leading her first homicide investigation, stands at the center of the controversy. It's hitting too close to home, bringing back her worst nightmares, threatening to expose her secret sins. But with the boy's life at stake, she won't let anything stop her from finding the real killer. With the help of FBI profiler Pierce Quincy, Rainie comes closer to a deadly truth than she can imagine. Because out there in the shadows a man watches her and plots his next move. He knows her secrets. He kills for sport. He's already brought death to Bakersville and forever shattered the community. But what he has really come for is Rainie -- and he won't leave until he has destroyed her....



Reviews of the [The Third Victim: An FBI Profiler Novel](#) *by* Lisa Gardner

Fenrinos

It's really 3.5 for me.

After reading *Catch Me*, I was impressed with the book, especially with the connection to Gardner's other characters like Pierce & Kimberley Quincy, Roan Griffin, and even J.T Dillon and Tess Williams. So, I decided to read the first book of the FBI Profiler series.

*The Perfect Husband* is about a young woman named Tess Williams and Marine turned Merc named J.T Dillon. Tess was once married to a man named Jim Beckett, who seemed like "The Perfect Husband" at first. A handsome police officer who never hit her and took her away from her abusive father and married her. But then he started becoming psychologically abusive. He killed at least ten women before being taken down by Tess and going to prison. Now he's out and has set his sights on Tess, to finish off what he started. J.T Dillon is a drunken mess. He is reluctant to help Tess at first but eventually gives in. He and his sister, FBI Agent Marion MacAllister have a lot of unresolved personal baggage, mainly involving their father and somewhat involving J.T's wife, Rachel and adopted son Teddy. Meanwhile Special Agent Pierce Quincy is working with the Massachusetts authorities to help in the manhunt to find Jim Beckett, but will Jim get his revenge, or will Tess and J.T be ready to taken on mad methodical psychopath.

A crucial note: This is book marked a transition of genres for Lisa Gardner, and it is evidently clear in the amount of sex. There is nothing wrong with that, but some of it kind of feels like distraction when it's supposed to character development. Three of the key characters are very traumatized to the point where they act irrationally. It can be annoying, but also understandable. Sometimes victims of trauma aren't rational people.

As for positives, I can honestly say that I did like it when the pace picked up now and then and got exiting. The climax is a memorable one, but some might say that the last line spoken by [SPOILER] might sound a little corny.

Overall, I give it a 3.5. I think that Pierce Quincy was an interesting character (I see Hotch from *Criminal Minds*) and that Jim Beckett is a memorable villain, but a lot of the times, the pacing feels kind of slow, but there was a lot of really good backstory for many of the principal characters. You might get emotional by the end of this. I know I did.

Umge

Not Gardner's best work. I'm a big fan of hers, but I think the characters were just a little bit dumb. That creates a lot of frustration when reading because at some points you just roll your eyes.

Spoilers from now on.

Ok, shouldn't Tess have moved out of state to really elude her ex instead of moving around from Massachusetts town to Ma town? I mean seriously, the state is not that big. What about Montana or Wyoming? She obviously had plenty of cash....

And Marion's death was totally unnecessary and we are supposed to believe that Tess held Jim off longer than Marion? I guess it's fiction. And somehow the FBI never listened to the prison calls???? Seriously? You have to be joking... The portrayal of women in this book was frustrating and at times infuriating. I'm so glad her writing has improved in her later works, but I would not recommend this book.

roternow

I've read many books by Lisa Gardner. She's one of my favorite thriller authors. This early book of hers shows the elements of her writing -- interesting characters and plot twists -- but not the finesse that distinguishes her later books. The attempts at romance and sex are clunky and unbelievable. The pacing is a bit slow. The mystery is painfully convoluted and the ending was implausible and not really solved by police work.

There are also very strong elements, particularly her ability to draw intriguing characters quickly, but these characters carried so much baggage it became burdensome to the story.

As the story opens Rainie, a relatively new police officer, is on patrol with an officer trainee when they get the call there's been a school shooting in their small town. Three people are dead and the murderer seems obvious -- but not all the evidence matches up. When state and federal detectives show up, Rainie must fight not only the killer and her neighbors but the officials who want to push her off the investigation.

I enjoyed this book but if it had been the first one I'd read by the author I probably wouldn't have picked up another one.

lacki

The author writes well although I'm not keen on the plot. It is not really a mystery story more a horror, romance and soft porn combination. I wish the author could come up with a clever mystery plot with was slightly more realistic. I'm not going to read any more of this authors work.

Golden freddi

This book made me a die-hard Lisa Gardner fan. As I'm about to embark on my eighth Lisa Gardner novel, I have to think back to the book that started it all.

"The Perfect Husband" is a book you can't put down because you won't be able to get the story out of your head. The premise of the story is so immediately captivating that, as I've described it to friends, I've always gotten a chorus of "Oohs" which has inevitably resulted in one of more of them telling me later they're in the middle of devouring the book.

The best thing about Ms. Gardner's writing is that (unlike most suspense authors) she doesn't stick to the same cookie-cutter pattern in her stories. "The Perfect Husband" is certainly no exception to Ms. Gardner's "keep 'em guessing" approach. This story takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride of knuckle-biting plot twists that are guaranteed to raise the calmest reader's pulse rate.

Do yourself a favor and read this book.

OwerSpeed

This is Gardner's first book involving Rainy Conner and Pierce Quincy. The book takes you on a roller coaster ride from a school shooting to a past killing. An unexpected climax. It's a hard book to put down. Actually any of Gardner's books are very hard to put down.

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