

No Life Until Death (A Sharlene Bate Crime Thriller Book 2) by Garry Rodgers

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My rating: 4 star

This is a "WOW" book and I had a long debate with myself about giving it one of my very elusive 5 star ratings but I finally settled on a 4.5 rounded down to a 4. This book is technically so much better than the first book in the series "No Witnesses to Nothing" and is a lot easier to read and stay involved with the story without all the flashbacks and jumping around in the timeframe. This book really has only one plot with supply and demand branches and the transition back and forth between the two sub plots was very smooth, logical and easy to follow. Most of the excessive technical detail that bloated book 1 has been eliminated and the technical details that remain are needed in this story. It is difficult to figure out exactly in what year this story is set but it sure was interesting getting a look at some of the emerging technology like the GPS tracking device the size and weight of a brick and Special O sure needs a better magnet. Actually Special O doesn't come out all smelling of roses and needed lots of help, coincidences and observations by ordinary officers to track down the monster. With all of the great police procedurals and CSI and Forensics this story is very heavily character driven with wonderfully developed and realistic characters like the Bate and Playfair families and Grizz is a great detective and some of the most horrible and monstrous characters I've met in all my crime fiction reading. Now my excuse for not rating this a 5 star is that the ending, although solid, was not exactly what I would have like to have seen and rather than have Lito killed in the standoff scene I would have liked to have him in custody and all the big shots in the organ harvest scheme taken down and the whole mess tied up solidly rather than the slightly open ending we have although I guess it is a logical ending. I hope Mr Rodgers has more books planned featuring Sharlene Bate although I have seen that his next few books are based on true crime cases and I am not really sure if they sound like stories I like to read but I may try one just to find out.