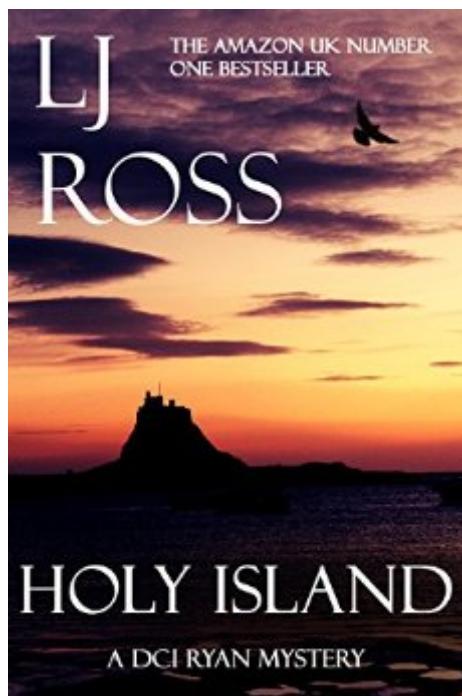


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Holy Island: A DCI Ryan Mystery (The DCI Ryan Mysteries Book 1)



Synopsis

THE UK NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER "LJ Ross is the queen of Kindle" - Sunday Telegraph "Holy Island is a blockbuster" - Daily Express Detective Chief Inspector Ryan retreats to Holy Island seeking sanctuary when he is forced to take sabbatical leave from his duties as a homicide detective. A few days before Christmas, his peace is shattered and he is thrust back into the murky world of murder when a young woman is found dead amongst the ancient ruins of the nearby Priory. When former local girl Dr Anna Taylor arrives back on the island as a police consultant, old memories swim to the surface making her confront her difficult past. She and Ryan struggle to work together to hunt a killer who hides in plain sight, while pagan ritual and small-town politics muddy the waters of their investigation. Murder and mystery are peppered with a sprinkling of romance and humour in this fast-paced crime whodunnit set on the spectacular Northumbrian island of Lindisfarne, cut off from the English mainland by a tidal causeway. "Superbly written. Well thought out plot and in-depth knowledge of the location made this a must read book. Can't wait for the next one." "Brilliant, fantastic, many more words I could say. This book was totally gripping from start to finish and the ending had me mentally saying 'oh no what next'. Can't wait for her next book." "I have never been to Lindisfarne but will definitely plan to go after reading this book. I enjoyed it tremendously, with enough pace and story telling to keep me engrossed. What an imagination!" "I couldn't put this book down from the minute I picked it up! A great mix of thriller, romance, intrigue with a hint of humour." "I love a crime novel and this one did not disappoint! Great twists and turns and good ending. Looking forward to the next one." "Great page turner, with a lively plot that holds numerous twists and turns; keeps you guessing until the very end. Fab new author - well done!"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book can't decide if it wants to be a police procedural, a Harlequin romance, or a Stephen King horror story. The writing is startlingly uneven and riddled with factual errors. It goes along like a perfectly decent murder mystery for a time, but then you hit some jarring error like the tide going out when it needed to be coming in (to cut off access to the tidal island); or the attraction between the two lead characters veers off into ridiculous internal dialogue or bodice-ripping action; or a seemingly decent, sympathetic character is revealed to be a drug-using Satan-worshipper. I began to wonder whether three different authors had alternated sections, challenging each other to find a way to continue the narrative after ever-more-bizarre plot turns. The plot becomes progressively more preposterous as it goes along, generating lots of eye-rolling on the part of this reader, and culminates in a cartoon-ish last-second rescue (on a dark and stormy night!). The mystery is that whole sections are written quite competently, and I have to think that with the help of a good editor, this could have been a dramatically better book.

Started out well, with a ritual killing on an island off Northumberland, but the characters had the depth of crepes. The author did a good job of conveying what it's like to live on an island and describing the relationships between different strata of society, but what comes out of the characters mouths is flat at best. Feelings, even when expressed, sound suppressed beyond even British reticence. Author has potential but needs coaching or mentoring to create fully realized characters. I know she sells a lot of books.... but she could reach a larger audience by beefing up her characters.

Holy Island is a well written mystery thriller set on a picturesque British Isle. In fact the author describes the setting so well it made me want to visit there, and I actually looked up the place, called Lindisfarne to see if it really existed. (It does). My only real beef with the book is, well, the beef - in the form of Detective Chief Inspector Maxwell Ryan. The aforementioned DCI Ryan has his own series and this is my very first time delving into it. It quickly becomes very obvious this was written by a woman, with visions of seduction by the world's handsomest detective. DCI Ryan, supposedly also one of the world's greatest detectives, throws every caution to the wind and falls madly for one

of the women involved in a series of murders on the tiny island, and this is where I was let down. All appearances of professionalism vanish the second he lays eyes on Anna. If a detective in the real world acted this way he wouldn't be a detective very long and there wouldn't be a series of books. In the process he also overlooks several obvious clues and fails to follow up on obvious details and events. Perhaps due to his distraction? And since everyone likes to nitpick: 'mini' means anything small - like a mini skirt. 'Mini' as used in this book is a brand of car owned by BMW and must be capitalized - something the author failed to do throughout the book for some strange reason. In any case, if you can overlook the over the top hyper masculinity, which I thought went out with the bodice ripping women's novels of past decades (and apparently most women can overlook it considering the author's popularity), then it's a pretty good mystery thriller, told rather beautifully. And the twist at the end is completely unexpected, not to mention shocking.

Not really a mystery, it is a romance, and very annoying at that. Cliche, every bit. Stupid silly. Wonder how passed off the population of Lindisfarne feels about all being satan worshippers. Really poor characters, actually they were farcical, author knows little about people, nothing about cops, and how is anyone still alive on the island with all the sacrifices? I stopped reading half way through, sipped to the end to see if there were any surprises especially. There weren't, as expected. Don't bother reading.

Less a mystery more a corny romance. All broody looks and about every other cliche you can think off.

This book started out interesting, but then the romance took over. I do not understand why authors think they need to inject romance to hold the reader's interest when a good mystery is more than enough. I liked Ryan, but his attraction to Anna was a bit much to believe of a so-called professional. This certainly was a novel of secrets.

3 and 1/2 stars here. While the forensic and police investigation parts were well written and thought out, I struggled with the relationship between Ryan and Anna. It was not to my liking. She came across ready to fight with anyone, and suddenly they are in a relationship...and she lashes out again. It seemed out of place and inauthentic to me given the rest of the book.. So I'd recommend the book for a well-written police procedural, but Anna and Ryan's "spats" irked me. Maybe just moody today??

Good beginning, but it went downhill from there. The romance didn't add a thing to the story, in my opinion, and when did it become necessary to have gruesome descriptions of the amount of blood a victim loses down to how far the spray extended after the cutting the artery?! I am really disappointed and even though the ending is an unresolved one, I have no desire to read the second book about DCI Ryan.

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