



The Ex: A Novel

By Alafair Burke

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The Ex: A Novel By Alafair Burke

A *Boston Globe* Best Book of the Year

In this breakout standalone novel of suspense in the vein of *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on a Train*, a woman agrees to help an old boyfriend who has been framed for murder—but begins to suspect that she is the one being manipulated.

Twenty years ago she ruined his life. Now she has the chance to save it.

Widower Jack Harris has resisted the dating scene ever since the shooting of his wife Molly by a fifteen-year-old boy three years ago. An early morning run along the Hudson River changes that when he spots a woman in last night's party dress, barefoot, enjoying a champagne picnic alone, reading his favorite novel. Everything about her reminds him of what he used to have with Molly. Eager to help Jack find love again, his best friend posts a message on a popular website after he mentions the encounter. Days later, that same beautiful stranger responds and invites Jack to meet her in person at the waterfront. That's when Jack's world falls apart.

Olivia Randall is one of New York City's best criminal defense lawyers. When she hears that her former fiancé, Jack Harris, has been arrested for a triple homicide—and that one of the victims was connected to his wife's murder—there is no doubt in her mind as to his innocence. The only question is who would go to such great lengths to frame him—and why?

For Olivia, representing Jack is a way to make up for past regrets, to absolve herself of guilt from a tragic decision, a secret she has held for twenty years. But as the evidence against him mounts, she is forced to confront her doubts. The man she knew could not have done this. But what if she never really knew him?

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Editorial Review

Review

“Riveting.” (*Entertainment Weekly*)

“Burke tells a compelling legal thriller that will have readers baffled until the final reveal.... Burke knows how to write, and Olivia Randall is one of her most authentic characters. No one would object if this is the start of a new series.” (Associated Press)

“Intriguing, suspenseful, compelling, insightful, surprising, and thoroughly satisfying — *The Ex* is a great read.” (Chris Pavone, *The Accident* and *The Expats*)

“Strong characters and a plot that’s handled deftly, despite its complexities, show Burke at the top of her game here. This is a compelling legal thriller with a strong emotional component grounded in a solid rational base, with a final twist to boot.” (*Library Journal*, starred review)

“Riveting.... Burke’s protagonist, Olivia Randall, is a complicated woman with legal skills to match the Lincoln Lawyer.... Olivia proves she’s at the top of her game as a criminal defense attorney. And with her pacey plot and fascinating characters, Burke proves she’s at the top of hers.” (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*)

“With an all-too-real mass shooting in a richly-observed Manhattan as its springboard, *The Ex* is an expertly crafted, intricately woven novel that is as emotionally complex as it is riveting.” (Kimberly McCreight, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Reconstructing Amelia* and *Where They Found Her*)

“Enjoyable.... There’s a great and satisfying surprise.... Worth the time.” (*USA Today*, three stars)

“Features smooth, engaging writing; a sharp, funny edge; and characters worth investing in. Burke has created some memorable female protagonists over the years, but Olivia might be the cream of the crop.” (*Kirkus*)

“Gripping.... Olivia makes an appealingly bold protagonist.... Burke keeps the suspense high throughout, prying open mysteries of relationships and perception.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“Briskly told and packed with plot, *The Ex* rocks. . . . A nifty bit of fine suspense.” (*New York Journal of Books*)

“Superb.... Equal measures superlative mystery and crack courtroom thriller reminiscent of the great John Lescroart or the William Diehl classic “Primal Fear.” We literally never know what’s coming next, putty in Burke’s devilishly adept hands as she shapes a wholly satisfying and brilliantly constructed whiz bang of a tale.” (*Providence Journal*)

“A deeply wrought, emotional story that transcends the crime at its core. This is perhaps her best work to date.” (*Strand*)

“This thought-provoking novel is brilliantly crafted, with a compelling and complex plot.”
(Bookreporter.com)

“Burke’s female characters are always very involving, with big, strong voices.” (Gillian Flynn)

“A major talent.” (Harlan Coben)

“Burke’s novels always deliver and constantly surprise. They’re both addictive and utterly rewarding.” (Megan Abbott)

“Superb.... Burke delivers a multi-layered plot that explores relationships and manipulation in a rich character study.... Anyone who has a former boyfriend—or girlfriend—will be able to relate to Olivia’s situation.... “The Ex” doesn’t let up until the final, believable twist.” (*Florida Sun-Sentinel*)

From the Back Cover

Olivia Randall is one of New York City’s best criminal defense lawyers. When she hears that her former fiancé, Jack Harris, has been arrested for a triple homicide—and that one of the victims was connected to his wife’s murder—there is no doubt in her mind as to his innocence. The only question is who would go to such great lengths to frame him—and why?

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About the Author

Alafair Burke is a graduate of Stanford Law School and a former Deputy District Attorney in Portland, Oregon. She is now a Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School, where she teaches criminal law and procedure. She lives in New York City and spends too much time on Facebook and Twitter, but has no plans to quit.

Xe Sands has more than a decade of experience bringing stories to life through narration, performance, and visual art, including recordings of the Nightwalkers series from Jaquelyn Frank. She has received several honors, including several AudioFile Earphones Awards, a coveted Audie Award, and was named Favorite Debut Romance Narrator of 2011 in the Romance Audiobooks poll.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Milliner:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you'll have this *The Ex: A Novel*.

Melvin Robinson:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible The Ex: A Novel? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

Jason Cook:

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