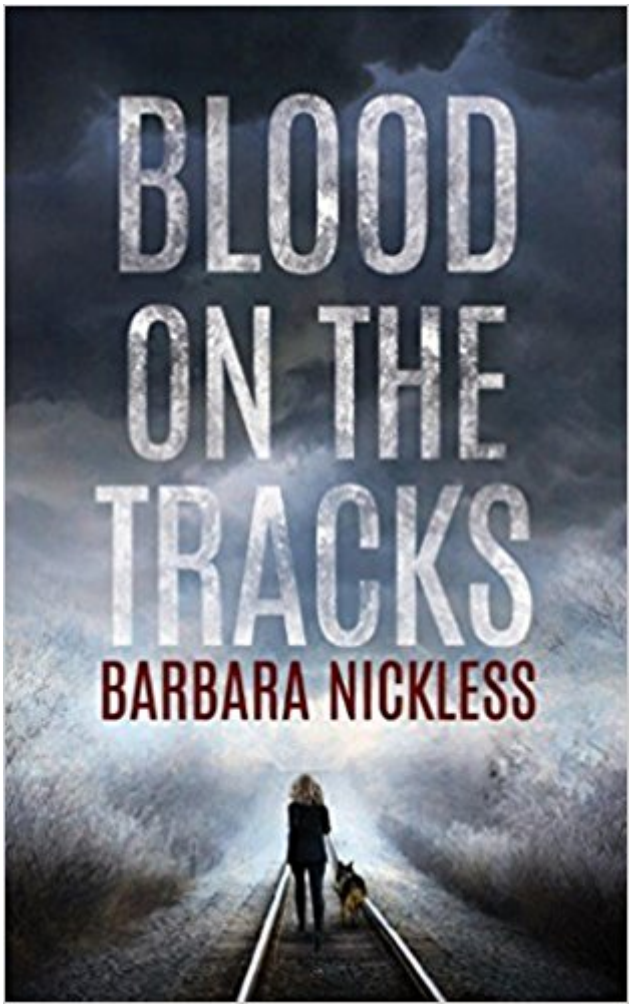
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Blood On The Tracks (Sydney Rose Parnell Series)



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Synopsis

A young woman is found brutally murdered, and the main suspect is the victimÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fiancÃƒÂ©, a hideously scarred Iraq War vet known as the Burned Man. But railroad police Special Agent Sydney Rose Parnell, brought in by the Denver Major Crimes unit to help investigate, can''t shake the feeling that larger forces are behind this apparent crime of passion.In the depths of an icy winter, Parnell and her K9 partner, ClydeÃ¢â ¬â •both haunted by their time in IraqÃ¢â ¬â •descend into the underground world of a savage gang of rail riders. There, they uncover a wide-reaching conspiracy and a series of shocking crimes. Crimes that threaten everything Parnell holds dear.As the search for the truth puts her directly in the path of the killer, Parnell must struggle with a deadly question: Can she fight monsters without becoming one herself?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Suspense Magazine Best of 2016 Books Selection: DebutÃ¢â ¬Å“A stunner of a thriller. From the first page to the last, Blood on the Tracks weaves a spell that only a natural storyteller can master. And a guarantee: you'll fall in love with one of the best characters to come along in modern thriller fiction, Sydney Rose Parnell.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Jeffery Deaver, internationally bestselling author Ã¢â ¬Å“Beautifully written and heartbreakingly intense, this terrific and original debut is unforgettable. Please do not miss Blood on the Tracks. It fearlessly explores our darkest and most vulnerable placesÃ¢â ¬â •and is devastatingly good. Barbara Nickless is a star.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Hank Phillippi Ryan, Anthony, Agatha, and Mary Higgins Clark award winning author of

Say No MoreÃ¢â ¬Å“Both evocative and self-assured, Barbara NicklessÃ¢â ¬â„¢s debut novel is an outstanding, hard-hitting story so gritty and real you feel it in your teeth. Do yourself a favor and give this bright talent a read.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •John Hart, multiple Edgar Award winner and New York Times bestselling author of Redemption RoadÃ¢â ¬Å“Fast-paced and intense, Blood on the Tracks is an absorbing thriller that is both beautifully written and absolutely unique in character and setting. Barbara Nickless has written a twisting, tortured novel that speaks with brutal honesty of the lingering traumas of war, including and especially those wounds we cannot see. I fell hard for Parnell and her four-legged partner and can't wait to read more.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Vicki Pettersson, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of SwerveÃ¢â ¬Å“The aptly titled Blood on the Tracks offers a fresh and starkly original take on the mystery genre. Barbara Nickless has fashioned a beautifully drawn hero in take-charge, take-no-prisoners Sydney Parnell, former Marine and now a railway cop battling a deadly gang as she investigates their purported connection to a recent murder. Nickless proves a master of both form and function in establishing herself every bit the equal of Nevada Barr and Linda Fairstein. A major debut that is not to be missed.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Jon Land, USA Today bestselling authorÃ¢â ¬Å“Blood on the Tracks is a bullet train of action. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s one part mystery and two parts thriller with a compelling protagonist leading the charge toward a knock-out finish. The internal demons of one Sidney Rose Parnell are as gripping as the external monster sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s chasing around Colorado. You will long remember this spectacular debut novel.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Mark Stevens, author of the award-winning Allison Coil Mystery SeriesÃ¢â ¬Å“Nickless captures you from the first sentence. Her series features Sydney Rose Parnell, a young woman haunted by the ghosts of her past. In Blood on the Tracks, she doggedly pursues a killer, seeking truth even in the face of her own destruction. The true mark of a heroine. Skilled in evoking emotion from the reader, Nickless is a master of the craft, a writer to keep your eyes on.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Chris Goff, author of Dark WatersÃ¢â ¬Å“Barbara NicklessÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Blood on the Tracks is raw and authentic, plunging readers into the fascinating world of tough railroad cop Special Agent Sydney Rose Parnell and her Malinois sidekick, Clyde. Haunted by her military service in Iraq, Sydney Rose is brought in by the Denver Major Crimes unit to help solve a particularly brutal murder, leading her into a snake pit of hate and betrayal. Meticulously plotted and intelligently written, Blood on the Tracks is a superb debut novel.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •M.L. Rowland, author of the Search and Rescue mystery novelsÃ¢â ¬Å“Blood on the Tracks is a must-read debut. A suspenseful crime thriller with propulsive action, masterful writing, and a tough-as-nails cop, Sydney Rose Parnell. Readers will want more.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Robert K. Tanenbaum, New York Times bestselling author of the Butch Karp/Marlene Ciampi legal

thrillersÃ¢â ¬Å“NicklessÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing admirably captures the fallout from a war where even survivors are trapped, forever reliving their trauma.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“Part mystery, part antiwar story, NicklessÃ¢â ¬â„¢s engrossing first novel, a series launch, introduces Sydney Rose Parnell...Nickless skillfully explores the dehumanizing effects resulting from the unspeakable cruelties of wartime as well as the part played by the loyalty soldiers owe to family and each other under stressful circumstances.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly Ã¢â ¬Å“An interesting tale...The fast pace will leave you finished in no time. Nickless seamlessly ties everything together with a shocking ending.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •RT Book ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“If you enjoy suspense and thrillers then you will [want] Blood on the Tracks for your library. Full of the suspense that holds you on the edge of your seat, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s also replete with acts of bravery, moments of hope, and a host of feelings that keep the storyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s intensity level high. This would be a great work for a book club or reading group with a great deal of information that would create robust dialogue and debate.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Blog CriticsÃ¢â ¬Å“In Blood on the Tracks, Barbara Nickless delivers a thriller with the force of a speeding locomotive and the subtlety of a surgeonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s knife. Sidney and Clyde are both great characters with flaws and virtues to see them through a plot thick with menace. One for contemporary thriller lovers everywhere.Ã¢â ¬Â•
Ã¢â ¬â •AuthorlinkÃ¢â ¬Å“Blood on the Tracks is a superb story that rises above the genre of mysteryÃ¢â ¬Â¦It is a first-class read.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Denver Post --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Barbara Nickless is an award-winning author whose short stories and essays have appeared in anthologies in the United States and the United Kingdom. An active member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime, she has given workshops and speeches at numerous writing conferences and book events. She lives with her family in Colorado. Blood on the Tracks, which won the Daphne du Maurier Award and was a runner-up for the Claymore Award, is her first novel.

It’s not a good mystery unless there is a twist...or two...or three...or so many twists you begin to question when enough is enough.Don’t get me wrong. There are many more reasons to read this book than to pass it by. Here’s a quick rundown, without spoilers:THE HEROINE -- At first, it appeared this was going to be another female character who somehow seems to do everything right despite all the angst she has to lug around. However, the author has created a character with believable issues, one who uses her problems to help solve her case. Sydney Parnell is an interesting heroine who won me over after reading only a few chapters.THE PLOT -- While the

mystery is the main focus, the sub-plot is woven with devilish care, the author teasing us with a fact here, a fact there. You know the sub-plot ties in with the murder, but the reasons why are slowly revealed throughout the course of the book. A great technique that keeps the reader wondering, and driven to continue turning pages.THE WRITING -- Ms. Nickless writes with excellent care. Her scene descriptions are vivid, and the attention to the thoughts of her main character Sydney is wonderful. Overall, enjoyable to read. Worth 5.5 stars in this area!ADDITIONAL WRITING THOUGHT -- The author uses transcripts of the main character's notes, interviews, journals, etc. at the beginning of each chapter. These small interludes were a great device that revealed much about Sydney Parnell in an entertaining manner...great idea!JUST SO YOU KNOW -- With a gritty story, there is the possibility of gritty dialogue. If you object to the use of f-bombs and similar words, this is not the book for you. One R rated sex scene also occurs. I don't subtract stars if an author chooses to include language or sex, just letting potential readers know both exist in this book. As far as this being the first in a series, the story does stand alone and does not require additional purchases.THE TWISTS -- Like everyone else, I enjoy being surprised. Revealing who we think is the murderer followed by a twist revealing the actual murderer is entertaining, and many authors have used this method successfully. Twist after twist after twist? To paraphrase Jerry Maguire, "You had me at the first twist." For me, I enjoy when an author drops clues throughout the book that add up to a strong justification when the murderer is finally revealed, and I personally thought this could have been handled a little better. I hesitate to say more without spoiling the story for others.HOWEVER...even with the "twists" issue, the story is excellent and I found myself really liking the character of Sydney Parnell. Definitely recommend this as well as subsequent books in this series. 4-1/2 stars

Since I enjoy reading police procedural novels, I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t need to go past the summary description that this one included a K-9 partner to immediately select it as my Kindle First choice.While this is an especially interesting police procedural story since Sydney Rose Parnell and Clyde are part of a railroad police force, it goes much deeper. The writing and the characterizations are both excellent. The dialogue rings true for all the various characters and the pacing makes it a page turning thriller.However, there is enough introspection and philosophical musings that it can also be classified as literary fiction. The plot is complex and has numerous twists and turns that do not seemed forced. The murder mystery is challenging enough for even dedicated fans of the genre.The only jarring note for me was the use of apparitions which stretched my ability to suspend disbelief and seemed both out of place and unnecessary. Flashbacks and related thoughts about

the dead, would have been just as effective but more realistic than ghosts which first appear in the beginning of Chapter 1, so no spoilers with this comment.The main murder mystery is concluded in this book but there is a major storyline left open as a lead in to the next book. Overall, I found this to be an enjoyable, fast paced and well written thriller.

I was hooked from the first chapter - drawn in by the main character, Sydney, who hides her complex and compassionate nature beneath a stoic exterior. Blood on the Tracks unfolds with insight, wit, and crisp, tight dialog. I haven't read a novel straight through in a long time, but this one kept me captivated from beginning to end. Sometimes I swear my heart was thumping out of my chest!The book is also relevant to our times with its exploration of PTSD, homelessness, brokenness - and through it all - Hope. Nickless looks at the underbelly of life with obvious respect, integrity and understanding of heart, and shows what it means to keep going when everything is against you.An impressive and thrilling ride into dark and twisted places - honoring the courage and strength of the human spirit.I highly recommend this book, and look forward to the next in the series!

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