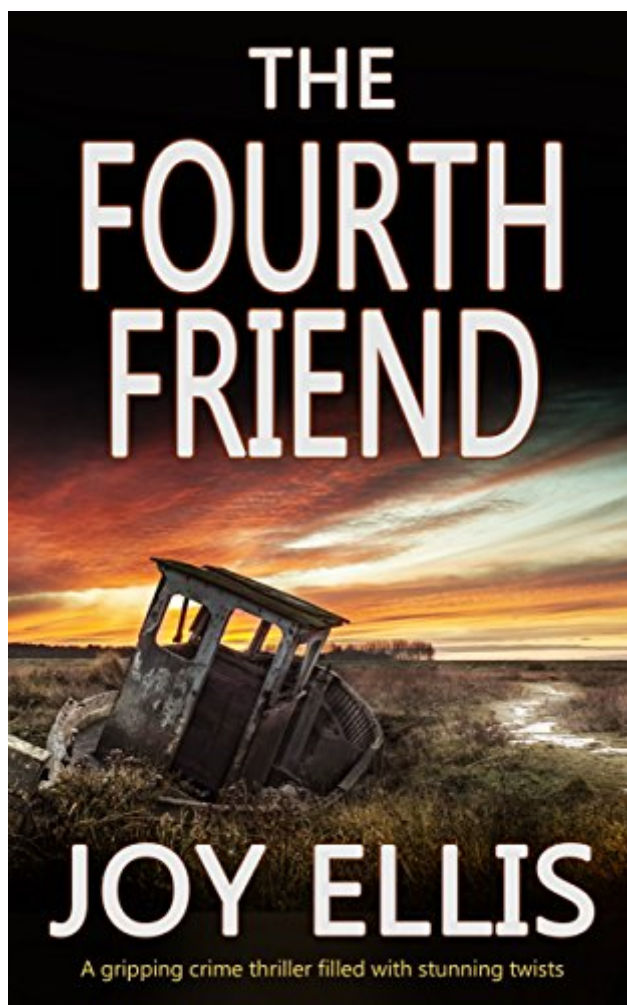


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# THE FOURTH FRIEND A Gripping Crime Thriller Full Of Stunning Twists



## Synopsis

Looking for your next unputdownable mystery? Then try this book by #1 best-selling author Joy Ellis, a mystery full of stunning twists and turns. **FOUR LOST FRIENDS. FOUR TASKS TO COMPLETE. ONE BIG MYSTERY LEFT.** Police detective Carter McLean is the only survivor of a plane crash that kills his four best friends. He returns to work but he is left full of guilt and terrible flashbacks. So for each of his four friends he decides to complete something that they left unfinished. Eighteen months before the crash, Suzanne Holland disappeared, leaving a room with traces of blood, but no other leads. Suzanne was the wife of one of Carter's four best friends. Adding to the pressure, the boss's daughter has a stalker. Due to the sensitivity of the Holland case, Carter is put on this investigation. DS Marie Evans is the only person Carter can confide in. But even she begins to doubt whether he can really cope and whether he is actually losing his mind. DI Jackman and DS Evans of the Fenland police face a battle to untangle three mysteries, and can they really believe their friend and colleague Carter? Full of twists and turns, this is a crime thriller that will keep you turning the pages until the shocking ending. What readers are saying about **THE FOURTH FRIEND** "I really couldn't put this one down, it is a real page turner and I didn't guess the end. Could be the best Joy Ellis book yet." • Barbara "Loved this book." • Elaine "Well written with twists and turns that allow you to think you have solved it ... believe me you won't see the ending until the last pages." • Clare "The story kept me gripped from the beginning and I certainly didn't foresee that ending." • Nerys "Another amazing read by the brilliant author Joy Ellis." • Grea Halliday "The tension started immediately as the reader wonders what will become of Carter McLean and continues throughout the book." • Joyce Fox **THE DETECTIVES** DS Marie Evans lost her husband in a motorbike accident and has personal connections to the case. DI Jackman leads the team. He is extremely smart and has a knack for bringing out the best in his diverse team. **THIS BOOK IS NOT PART OF THE NIKKI GALENA SERIES BUT TAKES PLACE IN THE SAME STUNNING AREA** Perfect for fans of Rachel Abbott, Sarah A. Denzil, Robert Bryndza, Mel Sherratt, Angela Marsons, Colin Dexter, or Ruth Rendell. **ALSO BY JOY ELLIS** **THE NIKKI GALENA SERIES** Book 1: **CRIME ON THE FENS** Book 2: **SHADOW OVER THE FENS** Book 3: **HUNTED ON THE FENS** Book 4: **KILLER ON THE FENS** Book 5: **STALKER ON THE FENS** Book 6: **CAPTIVE ON THE FENS** Book 7: **BURIED ON THE FENS** **JACKMAN & EVANS** Book 1: **THE MURDERER'S SON** Book 2: **THEIR LOST DAUGHTERS** Book 3: **THE FOURTH FRIEND**

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the third book in the Jackman and Evans series. In this book a new character joins them in the shape of D.S.Carter Maclean, The sole survivor of a plane crash in which his four best friends perished. He is haunted by their appearances to him and finds a coping mechanism by completing a task for each of them until they finally disappear. Alongside this are two other investigations for D.I. Jackman and D.S. Evans and the team to solve. The investigation into the disappearance of the wife of one of D.S. Macleans dead friends and the stalking and kidnap of Superintendant Ruth Crookes neice Leah. This is another great procedural from Joy Ellis! It could be read as a standalone though I would definately recommend reading the series in order as the characters develop throughout and add so much to the enjoyment of the series. This third book is full of twists and turns, characters that you can relate too and held my interest right up until the final and rather sad ending to the story of D.S. Maclean. I read this book over two days and cant wait for the next in the series as they just keep getting better and better. Thanks to Joffe books for the opportunity to read this as an arc. A definate 5\* from me.

4.5 \* Carter was in a light aircraft with his 4 friends when it went down and he was the only survivor. Being back at work is taking his mind off things to an extent. An old case is reopened where a woman is missing and the chief's niece is getting unwanted attention. I love Joy's books. There are always great characters that you take to, an excellent plot and a few other smaller plot lines along the way. A little humour into the mix makes for a very well told rounded book that I would recommend to anyone. Nothing too gory, nothing to put you off your dinner, just a nice drama that comes to life through the pages. A highly enjoyable read. I voluntarily chose to read this ARC and all opinions in this review are my own and completely unbiased

Detective Carter McLean suffers from survivor's guilt. While on a fun weekend with his four best friends, the plane crashes and kills everyone but himself. But that's not the last he sees of his friends. His friends visit him. Realistically, Carter does not believe in ghosts, but he sees them, always accompanied by the smell of smoke. These were all young men and they all left things undone. Carter decides to honor them by completing something each of them has left undone. His supervisors have him sitting at a desk, not knowing how he will handle the stress of dealing with victims, suspects. Even some of his colleagues worry about him. He is still under the care of a psychiatrist. Meanwhile, the police department doesn't shut down. Multiple cases are being handled by the team of detectives under DI Jackman. There is a missing woman who has ties to Carter. Another young woman has a stalker .. she happens to be the niece of one of their supervisors. I have read several books by this author ... and by far, this is the best ever. The premise is extraordinary .... and so well written. The characters are terrific, especially Carter. I felt such compassion for him and his circumstances. There is constant movement, as the cases are investigated and how all seem related in one way or another. The ending was so surprising. I had envisioned several scenarios ... but I never, ever saw this one coming. Many, many thanks to the author and Joffe Books for the advanced digital copy of THE FOURTH FRIEND. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

5 stars DI Rowan Jackman and DS Marie Evans make a return in this novel about a young detective named DS Carter McLean who witnessed the death of his four good friends in the same plane crash that he survived. After eighteen months of convalescence, Carter returns to work. Evans, who is a close friend of Carter's, especially feels that all is not well. Jackman and Evans are currently investigating the disappearance of Suzanne Holland who is the wife of one of Carter's dead

friends. They, and the psychologist who is seeing Carter, think that perhaps he should not be involved in the Holland investigation, but the bosses overrule them. McLean is under the impression that his dead friends want him to complete certain tasks that they didn't get to do before they died. For one, it was running a marathon for his father, for another it's to find some money he had hidden away to give to his girlfriend, and so on. When Superintendent Ruth Crooke's young niece Leah is being followed, she asks Jackman if McLean and Evans can look into the case. McLean and Crooke can't stand each other for some reason. Carter uses his unique contacts to locate the bad guys who kidnapped the girl and this leads him to the suspect. Through interviews, they learn that all of the harassing was done at the behest of another person, but the suspect changed the rules. Now they need to find the person who ordered the whole thing. Meanwhile, on the Holland case, they receive some interesting information from Ms. Holland's ex-husband, now living in Spain. They track down another lead and receive some exciting news from the forensic side. The ending is very sad and yet it is exciting. The book is very well written and plotted, as are all of Joy Ellis's novels. The tension started immediately as the reader wonders what will become of Carter McLean and continues throughout the book as we not only try to sort out the clues to the cases, but also worry about Carter. I like the way Jackman and Evans's team get along. They seem to respect one another, and not all detective stories read that way. Well done, Ms. Ellis, and I hope another book is out soon! I want to thank NetGalley and Joffe Books for forwarding to me a copy of this most remarkable book to read and enjoy.

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