

In the Dark: A Novel (Jonathan Stride Book 4)

By Brian Freeman

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Two young lovers. A sultry summer night. One brutal, cold-blooded murder. In this stunning, atmospheric thriller, *In the Dark*, Brian Freeman takes you deep into Detective Jonathan Stride's complicated past.

It's the case that has haunted Stride for thirty years. During the summer after his junior year of high school, he fell in love with beautiful Cindy Starr, the girl who would become his wife. But on the Fourth of July, the same night that Jonny and Cindy cemented their love, Cindy's older sister Laura was savagely murdered. The police suspected a vagrant of committing the crime, but no one was ever arrested, and the case was closed.

Now, Laura's best friend Tish Verdure has returned to Duluth to write a book about Laura's death. Tish knows secrets that a lot of people would like to keep hidden, including information about Cindy that leave Stride questioning his entire past. When a young girl is found drowned in the St. Louis River and a witness to the original murder attempts suicide, Stride realizes that the violence of the past is spilling over into the present.

As he unearths the explosive events that led to Laura's murder, Stride discovers that the ripples of her death changed everyone's lives, including his own. Can Stride put to rest the ghosts of his past, or will they devour him whole?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Starred Review. Edgar-finalist Freeman's fourth thriller to feature Duluth, Minn., police lieutenant Jonathan Stride (after *Stalked*) may be his most ambitious—and accomplished—work to date. As the title suggests, even those involved in the closest relationships can be kept in the dark about a loved one's past. When a woman shows up in town and informs Stride that she's writing a book about the 30-year-old mystery surrounding the murder of the older sister of the girl who grew up to become Stride's spouse, he's forced to re-examine the validity of his bond with not only his late wife, Cindy, who died of cancer five years earlier, but also that involving his current love interest, a former Vegas cop turned PI, Serena Dial. Powered by darkly poetic atmospherics and deep character development (especially Stride, whose understated intensity, dignity and resilience are emblematic of the Twin Ports area itself), this harrowing and heartrending novel will leave readers guessing until the very last pages. *Author tour. (Apr.)*
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From School Library Journal
Eighteen-year-old Laura Starr was beaten to death the night of July 4, 1977. Her killer was believed to be a transient who got away. Thirty years later, Jonathan Stride (*Immoral; Stripped; Stalked*), the head of the Major Crimes department in Duluth, MN, finds that everything he thinks he knows about the case is not quite true when a friend of his late wife comes home to write a book about the murder. As alternating chapters excerpt the proposed book and follow the current-day story, Freeman builds a suspenseful tale of terror and secrets kept too long. [See Prepub Mystery, *LJ* 12/08.]
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From Booklist
Starred Review In the summer following his junior year in high school (and long before he became a detective), Minnesotan Jonathan Stride fell in love with Cindy Starr. But in the midst of their bliss, Cindy’s sister, Laura, was brutally killed in the woods near their suburban Duluth home. Police pointed the finger at a local drifter, but both Jonathan and Cindy believed the killer was someone Laura knew. A lot has happened in the 30 years since. Cindy succumbed to cancer, and Jonathan found peace with a new romantic partner, former Las Vegas PI Serena Dial. When Cindy’s high-school friend Tish returns to town with news that she’s writing a book about Laura’s death, Jonathan wants more than anything to let the past remain the past, but Tish’s presence prompts him to reconsider the case—and the possibility that a local citizen may have gotten away with murder. Freeman’s latest spine chiller (after Stalked, 2008) boasts intense suspense, clever plot twists and characters capable of every sort of evil. The good “guys” are gratifying to watch here, too, from shrewd and vulnerable Stride to his detective partner, Maggie Bei, who’s, smart, sassy, and wry. Macavity Award winner and Edgar finalist Freeman has the goods—and he’s getting better with every book. --Allison Block

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Misty Barrientos:

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Melvin Robinson:

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Marsha Gleason:

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