

Garden of Evil: A Britt Montero Novel (Britt Montero series Book 6)

By Edna Buchanan



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While attempting an arrest, a sheriff is slain by an enigmatic young woman who promptly vanishes into the northern Florida landscape. As the story comes over the wire, reporter Britt Montero is intrigued. Few copkillers escape so easily.

The murders continue. Men are lured into sex by the same woman, their lifeless bodies dumped half-naked in ditches, woodlands and along the road, their cars, cash, and valuables gone. The murderer, who leaves lipstick traces on the bullets she uses-slugs that blossom into flower-shaped blades designed to maim-is swiftly dubbed the Kiss Me Killer.

Tracking the killer's path, Britt senses it will lead to Miami, sweltering through the hottest summer on record. When a top politician tastes the killer's kiss of death, leading to a media frenzy, the story belongs to Britt and quick reader reaction comes-from the killer. They open a chilling dialogue, and the body count mounts as the bad and beautiful serial murderer decimates the hard partying South Beach scene. The mutual fascination between killer and reporter builds into an explosive face-to-face meeting that turns deadly as Britt begins a terrifying odyssey through the Sunshine State's dark heart, in the company of the murderer. On the road, on the run, a young father is brutally slain, his small child is kidnapped, and the truth behind this bloody spree is exposed in a shocking revelation. The question is: will Britt survive to write it?While attempting an arrest, a sheriff is slain by an enigmatic young woman who promptly vanishes into the northern Florida landscape. As the story comes over the wire, reporter Britt Montero is intrigued. Few copkillers escape so easily.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Miami crime reporter Britt Montero (Margin of Error, etc.) endures a heat wave and much worse when some apparently unrelated stories converge. When a woman claims to Britt that she's a hit man's target, she's perceived at first as lonely, then as paranoid; a headless man smashes up a car during a shootout when his lifeless foot jams on the accelerator. That's all in a day's work for Britt, but then a female serial killer roars onto the scene. Keppie's M.O.: two shots delivered to near naked, post-coitus males, lipstick traces on exploding shells, stolen cars and purloined credit cards. Britt is on the story, and the pretty killer, enamored of her press clippings, takes an interest in the reporterAwho, not being one to turn down a chance at good copy, consents when the cops hatch a plan to catch Keppie by using Britt as bait. Of course, the plan goes awry and Britt finds herself in a car with the murderer and a frightened young boy, driving across the Sunshine State. In addition to winding up on the wrong end of a pistol-whipping from the slinky Keppie, Britt helplessly witnesses the killer practice her craft and gets caught up in a televised, O.J. Simpson-like car chase. Throughout, Buchanan sustains a feverish pace with hyper-fast cuts between major and minor plot lines. Although the resolution is relegated to an emotionless kind of narrative postscript, Keppie, a longlegged mankiller with a family secret and guile to spare, will easily command the attention of Buchanan's fans. Meanwhile, Britt herself, tough yet tender, remains a solid enough character to retain readers' interest despite the hyperbolic escapades Buchanan subjects her to in this over-the-top tale. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

After taking a break with Pulse, Miami crime reporter Britt Montero is back and she's hotter than ever! As usual, Britt is in the thick of things, sweltering during a Miami heatwave and chasing the usual suspects. But her most interesting assignment is about a mysterious woman who kills a sheriff in north Florida and then weaves a southerly track downstate toward Miami, leaving a trail of corpses in her wake. Each is found with his pants downAhis genitals mutilated, shot with Black Talon bullets, and graced with traces of lipstick. She becomes the "Kiss-Me Killer." Britt's coverage of the murders attracts the attention of the killer, who contacts Britt and draws her into a dangerous cat-and-mouse game that could cost Britt her life. The usual cast of interesting side-kicks add to the fun. Britt's many fans will welcome this fresh installment in the series. Recommended for public libraries.

-ARebecca House Stankowski, Purdue Univ. Calumet Lib., Hammond, IN Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From **Booklist**

Miami reporter Britt Montero is preoccupied with tight deadlines, pressure from her editor for the big scoop, a boyfriend who might propose, and a former beauty queen who keeps phoning to say someone's trying to kill her. Then a story that could be her biggest news coup ever falls into Britt's lap. A beautiful but deadly serial killer has already murdered half a dozen men by seducing them, putting a bullet between their eyes, and then shooting their genitals off. The so-called Kiss Me Killer has eluded police so far. But in a bizarre twist, she phones Britt to promise an exclusive interview if Britt will meet her secretly. Britt notifies the cops, who set up an elaborate plan to capture the woman. Naturally, the plan fails, and Britt ends up as the killer's hostage during a gruesome and deadly murder spree, during which, ironically, the killer provides Britt with the promised interview. Britt gets her big story all right, but the price is far too high. Taut, terrifying, and suspenseful, Buchanan's hard-hitting novel takes this solid series to a new level. A four-star read from the former *Miami Herald* columnist. *Emily Melton*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rufus George:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Garden of Evil: A Britt Montero Novel (Britt Montero series Book 6). Try to make the book Garden of Evil: A Britt Montero Novel (Britt Montero series Book 6) as your buddy. It means that it can being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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Heather Delph:

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Theresa Collins:

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