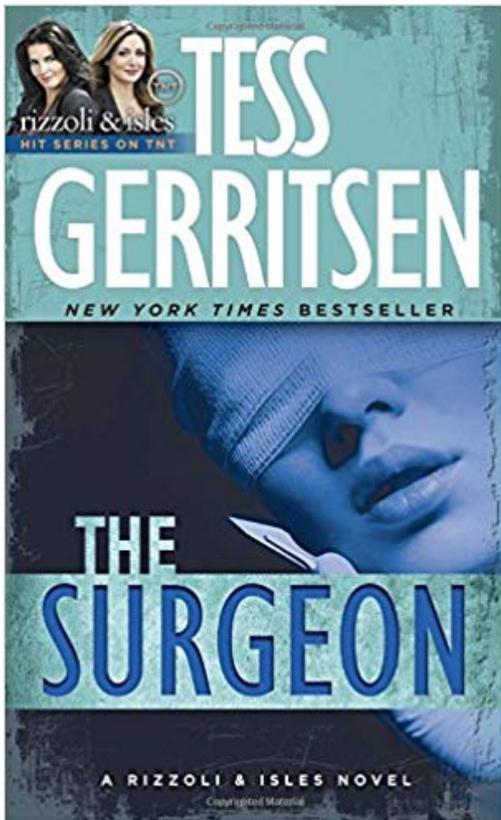


## The Surgeon (with Bonus Content): A Rizzoli & Isles Novel by Tess Gerritsen



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**ISBN:** 0345447840

**ISBN13:** 978-0345447845

**Author:** Tess Gerritsen

**Book title:** The Surgeon (with Bonus Content): A Rizzoli & Isles Novel

**Publisher:** Ballantine Books (July 2002)

**Language:** English

**Category:** Genre Fiction

**Size PDF version:** 1362 kb

**Size ePUB version:** 1441 kb

**Size FB2 version:** 1984 kb

**Other formats:** azw doc docx mbr

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “A briskly paced, terrifically suspenseful work that steadily builds toward a tense and terrifying climax.”—*People* (Page-turner of the week)**  
He slips into homes at night and walks silently into bedrooms where women lie sleeping, about to awaken to a living nightmare. The precision of his methods suggests that he is a deranged man of medicine, prompting the Boston newspapers to dub him “The Surgeon.” Led by Detectives Thomas Moore and Jane Rizzoli, the cops must consult the victim of a nearly identical crime: Two years ago, Dr. Catherine Cordell fought back and filled an attacker before he could complete his assault. Now this new killer is re-creating, with chilling accuracy, the details of Cordell’s ordeal. With every new murder he seems to be taunting her, cutting ever closer, from her hospital to her home. And neither Moore nor Rizzoli can protect Cordell from a ruthless hunter who somehow understands—and savors—the secret fears of every woman he kills. **“[A] top-grade thriller . . . Sharp characters stitch your eye to the page. An all-nighter.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)** **“Creepy . . . will exert a powerful grip on readers.”—*Chicago Tribune***



# Reviews of the **The Surgeon (with Bonus Content): A Rizzoli & Isles Novel** by Tess Gerritsen

## **Hanad**

I've been putting off reading this series due to the Rizzoli & Isles television series, but it wasn't necessary. Like Longmire, the producers use the authors' works as springboards to new storylines, so both books and television series can be enjoyed.

I think the detail that threw me the most was the absence of Dr. Maura Isles, who isn't introduced until the next entry, *The Apprentice*. I had already been informed of the differences between literary Rizzoli and her TV counterpart-- and that's enough comparisons between the two mediums!

I have to admit that the serial killer part of *The Surgeon* was a tad old hat, but this was written in 2001 when he would've been much fresher. Watching the investigation unfold was fascinating; it took a lot of basic police work, dotting the i's and crossing the t's. Going back over the same ground until some small detail stood out and begged to be followed up on.

Due to Gerritsen's medical background, readers get an excellent feel for the protocol in hospitals and the split-second decisions that must be made in the emergency room. But the overarching theme of *The Surgeon* is women competing in what has always been considered a "man's world." Jane Rizzoli and Catherine Cordell both have cores of steel; they have to because of their occupations. Too many times women have been treated as victims, as a sex not worthy of being heard, only of being ignored, protected as something "lesser," or... of being disposed of. Tess Gerritsen makes readers feel every second, every ounce, of this injustice. It's this passion of hers, along with her fast-paced story, her fascinating characters, and her eye for detail that will keep me reading her books.

## **Samugor**

If you have never seen the "Rizzoli and Isles" tv show, you will really "enjoy" this novel, though enjoy is a verb I am not sure fits. It is a very bloody and "terrifying" plot that will give you the willies. It is, also, the basis for a couple of plots in the tv show.

If you are reading this novel, as I did, because you really enjoy the tv show you will be severely disappointed. The show was a wonderful montage on plots, people, characters and humanity. The two main characters, on the tv show, are great friends, people whom I would like to know, interesting, good, thoughtful and warm, they genuinely like one another and they have great interaction with their colleagues, their families and their jobs. That does NOT happen in the books. Rizzoli, in the books is unlikable, rude, hard headed and totally not someone whom I would trust to find a lost pair of glasses. Isles, in the books, is not at all interesting. She is more like a paper doll than the fascinating and fabulous person she is in the tv shows. Rizzoli's family is mean and vicious in the books, not the supporting and great group of people they are in the show. In addition Rizzoli has NO redeeming qualities and her "fellow" officers seem to spend all their time waiting for her to fall on her face and fail. And Isles is, actually, a flat paper character.

Now as to the books, if you are looking for the characters on the show in the book, you will not find them.

What you will find is stories based more on the monsters Gerritsen is writing about. In the books, the police are there to, eventually, catch the bad guy. The bad guys are much more interesting and the plots are good. If I had never seen the tv show I would love the books. Unfortunately, I came to the books after the show.

The Surgeon is someone, in the book, whom Isles, of the tv show, would have caught immediately. I caught it, the major clue that led, eventually, to figuring out "who dun it". And the major plot points of the book are carried forward into the tv show, as well as the "sequel" The Apprentice.

Do I like the novels? Yes, when I can quit "seeing" the tv show.

This is the thing you need to keep in mind, on the tv show the primary point is the interpersonal relationships. I never thought I would say this, but I actually like the way the show is written better than the way the characters are portrayed in the books.

However, the books are better vis a vis the crimes. And that is because the books are about the crimes.

Thus, for interpersonal relationships, family, characterization the tv show is much, much better.

For "crime" the books are more centered and complete.

Both are enjoyable but for different reasons.

### **Stonewing**

This was SUCH a good read! The episodes of violence and/or sexual content were brief and pertinent to the story (although "brief" and "pertinent" are pretty subjective, so others may disagree). This is the kind of book that found me totally absorbed with the characters and the action; saying things like, "No! Don't go there!!" and "C'mon! You know better than that!" I'm hoping that I'm not the only one who "converses" with the characters in a book. I experienced all of the ups and downs of the investigation right along with Jane Rizzoli. I'm now reading the next in the series, "The Apprentice" and it is just as compelling. I plan to read the whole series. NOTE: If you watch the TV series, you will see that there are some differences, such as the physical description of Rizzoli and of Isles, as well as some differences in other characters. I just don't find this distracting.

### **lacki**

I read this book because I enjoy reading and learning about medicine and the different stories which it regards. It compared to my expectations by exceeding them because the mood Tess Gerritsen creates with the dialogue of her characters allows an eerie and suspenseful atmosphere for her readers to indulge in. My personal connection to this book includes my passion for medicine, as well as my mother's stories which she brings home from the operating room. I believe the theme of rape and murder which led to the medical perspective kept me on my toes because the police investigation of the rape and murder crimes brought in new characters who led the story into many different brilliant directions. I believe young adults should read this book because it introduces them to a new and different genre which they have not dipped their toes into before. It might cause emotional irritation at first, however, the story only becomes better the deeper you read into it. Gerritsen's The Surgeon is a wonderful book for young adults who wish to experience a suspenseful police investigation novel.

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