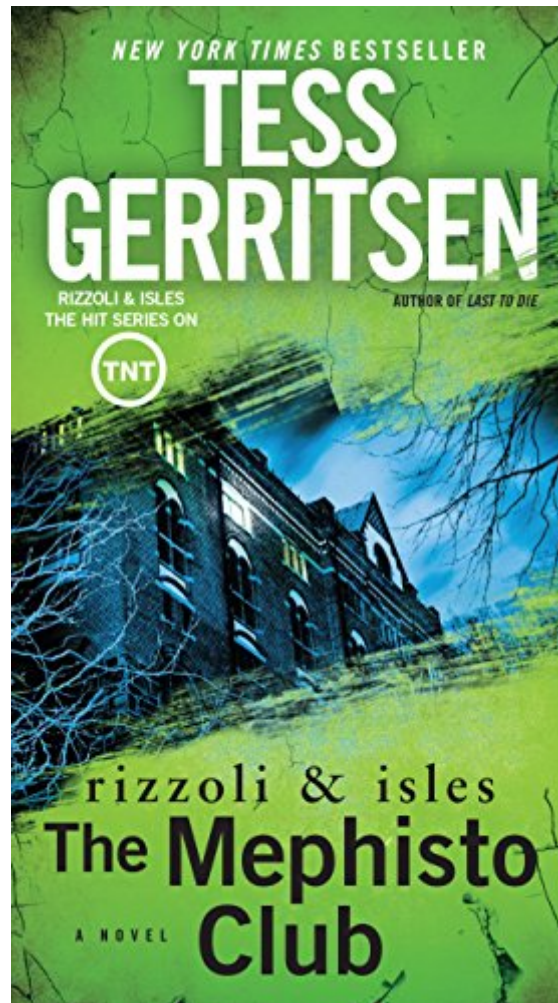




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The Mephisto Club: A Rizzoli & Isles Novel



Synopsis

This ebook edition contains a special preview of Tess Gerritsen's *I Know a Secret*. Evil exists. Evil walks the streets. And evil has spawned a diabolical new disciple in this white-knuckle thriller from New York Times bestselling author Tess Gerritsen. PECCAVI The Latin word is scrawled in blood at the scene of a young woman's brutal murder: I HAVE SINNED. It's a chilling Christmas greeting for Boston medical examiner Maura Isles and Detective Jane Rizzoli, who swiftly link the victim to controversial celebrity psychiatrist Joyce O'Donnell's professional nemesis and member of a sinister cabal called the Mephisto Club. On top of Beacon Hill, the club's acolytes devote themselves to the analysis of evil: Can it be explained by science? Does it have a physical presence? Do demons walk the earth? Drawing on a wealth of dark historical data and mysterious religious symbolism, the Mephisto scholars aim to prove a startling theory: that Satan himself exists among us. With the grisly appearance of a corpse on their doorstep, it's clear that someone's or something's indeed prowling the city. The members of the club begin to fear the very subject of their study. Could this maniacal killer be one of their own's or have they inadvertently summoned an evil entity from the darkness? Delving deep into the most baffling and unusual case of their careers, Maura and Jane embark on a terrifying journey to the very heart of evil, where they encounter a malevolent foe more dangerous than any they have ever faced . . . one whose work is only just beginning.

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Customer Reviews

When Maura is called to the scene of a horrendous homicide on Christmas Eve., she is shaken for the first time in a long time. A woman was dismembered and a Latin phrase was written on her wall. It is translated to "I have sinned." When another murder takes place outside the residence of Antony Sansone, he and his club are brought into the investigation with approval from higher powers in the BPD and against the wishes of one Detective Rizzoli. The story is told from the point of view of four different people. There is Maura Isles whose feelings for Father Brothy grow stronger as she tries to fight them. There is Jane Rizzoli, who is in the middle of her parents marital problems when she's not on the case. There is Lily Saul, who is running away with a horrific secret. All the way to Italy. Then there is her strange cousin Dominic who joined the family when they were fifteen years-old. There is more of a sense of the divine in this book. It's so much that it turns into a supernatural thriller, but enough to make you wonder if the devil or its decedents might be lurking in the shadows, oblivious to you.

This book seeks to merge suspense with the supernatural and is only partially successful. As Boston Detective Jane Rizzoli and Medical Examiner Maura Isles investigate a series of grisly slayings with satanic overtones, they reluctantly join forces with the Mephisto Club. The club is a secret society of intellectuals focused on extinguishing an ancient evil that lurks among the unsuspecting. This group believes that the Biblical and pre-biblical stories of the Watchers, angels that mated with human women, is true. The descendents of these unholy alliances roam the earth, wreaking havoc and feeding off the chaos and violence. Apparently, the goal of these evil predators is to rule the world. The plot veers wildly from location to location. As the club members track down a link in Europe, Rizzoli and Isles travel to New York State and then to a New England lodge where the evil ones are unveiled. This novel is interesting but uneven. The middle does drag and the two stories don't blend well. In order for the suspense aspects to succeed, there has to be commitment to the concept that evil not only exists but is personified. The club's member's credentials lend credence to the story but Rizzoli is too mundane to seriously consider it and Isles is

too afraid. Rizzoli's family problems, ie, her adulterous dad and her angry mom, seem silly and trivial. Isles affair with the priest is annoying. This was an interesting concept. There is bad, ie drug dealing, spouse abuse, theft, and there is evil, the Holocaust, 911 massacre. But the author seems afraid to commit either way and ultimately, it weakens the story.

I chose this rating, because it is a book that kept you wanting to know more about, what would happen next and how we as humans only believe in what we are told rather than what we see and hear. It kept me wanting to know who was really after them and if he would get caught before it was too late. I'd recommend this book to my friends who would enjoy such reading.

I downloaded the book because I love the Rizzoli and Isles tv series. However, I found the book dark and lacking in the spirit of the characters on the tv series. The book characters were very flawed and dark as well. References to Satan and the evil Watchers that roam the world to commit horrific acts of evil were troubling, but at the end it was hard to put down. The ending was satisfying as good overcame evil and Lilly, one of the main characters, was able to retain in her heart memories of her good family that no evil could destroy.

More than half of the book was being lectured to like I was back in school. And way too hinky for my tastes. Plus when it was all said and done neither Rizzoli nor Isles solved the case. This was a time waster. I'll read the next one because I've liked the previous novels.

Ms. Gerritsen starts out well with a strong storyline but somewhere along the line it loses its punch. Some of the characters, especially Anthony Sansone, are very hard to get into and become unbelievable. Usually Ms. Gerritsen has very strong characters that you get to know, but the members of the Mesphisto Club are vague, shallow and arrogant. I found more interest in the developing relationship between Maura and Fr. Brophy than I did in the club. I found I had more questions at the end of the book that never got answered. I'm sure Ms. Gerritsen will rebound with a winner in her next novel. As a side note, if you have not read all of Ms. Gerritsen's Rizzoli/Isles books in order, it might be a good idea to start from the beginning. Her character development is excellent book by book.

I just love it when a book is so good it makes you want to read more by the author. This was the first book I read by Tess Gerritsen and I then went on to read all of her earlier novels. This is a taut,

well-plotted thriller with an unexpected twist and classical overtones. I literally could not put it down and there were moments when I realized I was holding my breath with anticipation. I haven't watched the television show, and I don't plan to, because the books are just too good. If you want to read an intelligently written, fast-paced, tension-filled novel that will keep you turning pages well into the night, read this book.

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