

As Good As Dead by Holly Jackson

My Rating: ★★★★★

Dead Girl Walking: Pippa Fitz-Amobi has another case to solve except this time *she* is the target! Who would look for you if you went missing?

This is the 3rd installment of the “A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder” trilogy by Holly Jackson. I decided to reread this particular book of the trilogy because it is my favorite one from the series. My first time reading the first book of this trilogy, *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder*, I was hooked. I remember it was during my summer vacation before sophomore year and I was on my flight back home from India. I needed something to pass time in the flight and I ended up reading the entire book in one sitting. Then in approximately a week I had finished *Good Girl*, *Bad Blood* (2nd book in the series) and *As Good As Dead*. Recently, after watching the first season of the

TV show adaptation of *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder*, I decided to reread this book. It definitely fulfilled that desire. Rereading it made me appreciate the darker tone and emotional depth even more. One criticism I did have is that some of Pip’s decisions felt impulsive and out of character for her. While these decisions do reflect her mental state and trauma built up throughout the series, certain moments near the climax feel a bit rushed compared to the careful pacing in the earlier books. However the criticism can be overlooked because of the strengths in this book. While the first book focuses on solving Andie Bell’s murder and the second focuses on Max’s trial and the investigation of a missing friend, this book shifts focus directly onto Pip, with her being the target. The greatest strength in this book are the character parallels. There is a strong connection between Andie from the first book and Pip in this book as both of them were once labelled as a “good” girl. In this book, Pip begins to mirror Andie in various ways, including turning to drugs to cope with pressure and trauma, hiding truths from her boyfriend, and breaking away from the idealistic views that once made up their realities. This parallel blurs the line between “good” and “bad” and shows how easily reputation can shift. This book serves as a conclusion because it shows the long-term consequence and damage of everything Pip has experienced. It ties the entire trilogy together by showing how solving crimes has permanently changed her.

