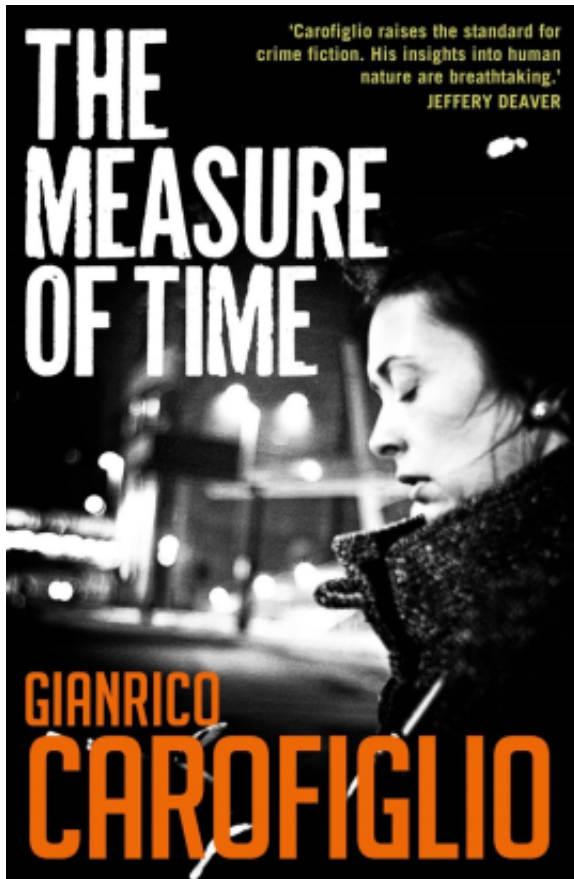


CAROFIGLIO'S LATEST IS AN EXCELLENT MEASURE OF HIS TIME AS A WRITER AND LEGAL HEAVYWEIGHT



(<https://thelibrarydoor.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/outlook-s3f01kq4.png>).

Courtroom dramas have long been a staple of the crime reading and watching public. I remember as a child, my mum being fascinated by 'Crown Court' a series of fictional legal cases presented as hour long plays. Think too of the popular Rumpole of the Bailey, Law and Order and Suits. In literary form, we have been entranced by courtroom stories since 'To Kill a Mockingbird', with authors like Michael Connelly and John Grisham writing whole series of books which introduce us to the intricacies of the American Legal system.

Cameras were never allowed in real courtrooms, before 2004. In fact, it was illegal to photograph or broadcast the proceedings the cases in a British court from 1925 to June 2020. Maybe the mysterious and hidden nature of legal proceedings, made them more appealing to the minds of the reader because of that.

This month's third review '*The Measure of Time*' by Gianrico Carofiglio is published by Bitter Lemon Press (www.bitterlemonpress.com) on the 15th March.

Here the reader meets, lawyer Guido Guerrieri, in his sixth outing for the author. One spring afternoon, Lorenza, a former lover of his, shows up in his office. Her son Jacopo stands convicted of the first degree murder of a local drug dealer. For the appeal, Lorenza turns to Guerrieri. But he is not convinced of the boy's innocence, nor does he have fond memories of how their relationship ended. Nevertheless, he accepts the case and soon becomes embroiled in a fascinating judicial process, tainted by unreliable testimony and hasty and incomplete police work.

This is my first encounter with this author and I am impressed. The translation from Italian to English is impeccable. It's a sign of a good translation, when you read a third of the book before wondering if it is a translation. So, a thank you too to Howard Curtis. And it's of course the sign of a good book, when you get caught up in the story so well that you aren't thinking of the mechanics of the writing. Guido, seems an interesting character. I'd like to read the other books to get more of an insight into his character. Its very apparent he has a great love of Italian food. The description of the dishes make your mouth water! The procedural and legal aspects of the story are clearly explained. No grandstanding or theatrics. Definitely no Judge Judy here.



(<https://thelibrarydoor.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/carofiglio-2.jpg>)

Gianrica Carofiglio (periodicodaily.com)

This Italian author Gianrico Carofiglio's (@GianricoCarof) 12th book and his sixth featuring Guido Guerrieri. The others include *Involuntary Witness* (2002), *Walk In The Dark* (2003), *Reasonable Doubts* (2006), *Temporary Perfections* (2010), *The Silence Of The Wave* (2011), *Cocaine* (2013), *A Fine line* (2014) and *Three O'Clock In The Morning* (2017). Before becoming a full time novelist Carofiglio was a member of the Italian Senate and also an Anti-Mafia prosecutor in the Italian port city of Bari.

This is a satisfying, mature read and will be a great addition to the library of readers who like their legal drama thoughtful and grounded. So with foreign holidays still looking very remote again this year, download a copy or order one on line from your local bookshop and escape to Italy in the company of Guerrieri and Carofiglio.

Reviewed by: Georgina Murphy

This book review is part of a Random Things Blog Tour, to see what the other reviewers thought of the book, visit their blogs listed below. Then, if you get a copy come back and tell us what you thought, we'd really appreciate the feedback.

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MARCH 24, 2021

BITTER LEMON PRESS, GIANRICO CAROFIGLIO, ITALIAN, LEGAL DRAMA, THE MEASURE OF TIME

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THE MEASURE OF TIME
GIANRICO CAROFIGLIO

"Carofiglio raises the standard for crime fiction. His insights into human nature are devastating."
JEFFREY DEANER

Today I'm on the 'The Measure of Time' blogtour, organized by Random Things Tours.

To promote this book I have an excerpt, but before I let you read it first some 'basic' information.

About the Author :



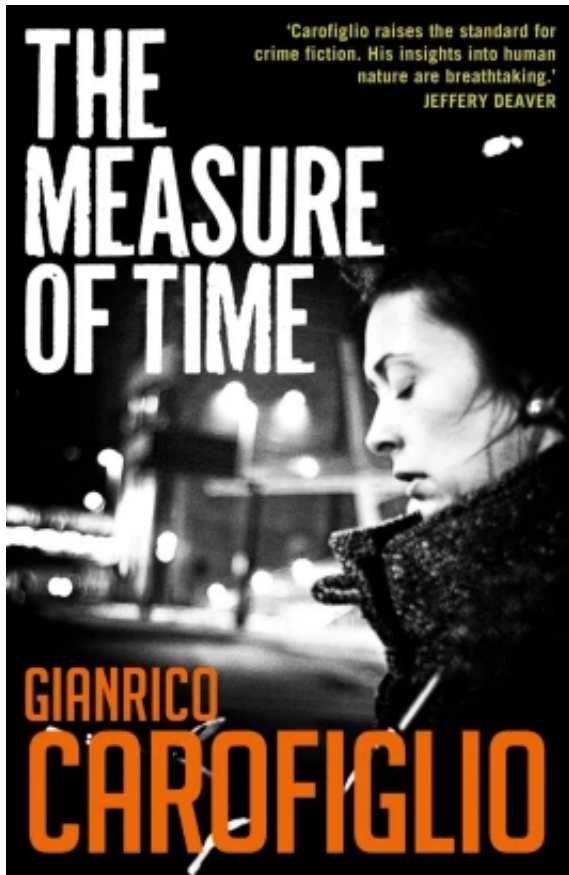
Award-winning, best-selling novelist Gianrico Carofiglio was born in Bari in 1961 and worked for many years as a prosecutor specializing in organized crime. He was appointed advisor of the anti-Mafia

committee in the Italian parliament in 2007 and served as a senator from 2008 to 2013. Carofiglio is best known for the Guido Guerrieri crime series: *Involuntary Witness*, *A Walk in the Dark*, *Reasonable Doubts*, *Temporary Perfections* and now, *A Fine Line*, all published by Bitter Lemon Press. His other novels include *The Silence of the Wave*. Carofiglio's books have sold more than four million copies in Italy and have been translated into twenty-four languages worldwide.

About the Translator :

Howard Curtis is a well-known translator from the Italian and has translated other titles in this series.

Synopsis :



One spring afternoon Lorenza, a former lover of Guerrieri, shows up in his office. Her son Jacopo stands convicted of the first-degree murder of a local drug dealer. For the appeal, Lorenza turns to Guerrieri. But he is not convinced of the innocence of Lorenza's son, nor does he have fond memories of how their relationship ended two decades earlier. Nevertheless, he accepts the case; perhaps to pay a melancholy homage to the ghosts of his youth. He soon becomes embroiled in a fascinating judicial process tainted by

unreliable testimony and hasty and incomplete police work.

[Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Measure-Time-6-Guido-Guerrieri/dp/1913394484/) (https://www.amazon.co.uk/Measure-Time-6-Guido-Guerrieri/dp/1913394484/.)

Excerpt :

"Before coming here I did my sums. It's been twenty-seven years."

"Oh yes," I replied almost simultaneously, congratulating myself on my effort at originality.

"I've often been tempted to drop by and say hello, have a chat.

Especially when I read about you in the papers in connection with some trial or other. I've even caught sight of you in the street, but I've never had the guts to call out to you."

I'd never noticed her in the street. The last time I'd seen her was September 1987, then she'd vanished from my life. I hadn't seen her again and hadn't heard anything about her.

I had assumed – for as long as I'd thought about it – that she'd left Bari, which was something she'd always said she wanted to do. With a slight sense of dizziness, I realized I'd never told anyone about her, or about those months when our paths had crossed. Maybe that was why my memory of her had faded until it had become intangible. As time passes, a memory untold becomes less and less real and gets mixed up with the even more intangible material in our minds: dreams, fantasies, private legends.

I didn't say any of this.

"What ... what do you do for a living?"

"I teach. I do other things too, but basically I'm a schoolteacher."

"Even back then you did a whole lot of things..."

"Not quite the same kinds of things... But anyway, that doesn't matter, I'm not here to talk about me." Her voice had hardened, as if to protect a vulnerable area.

I shrugged, tried to smile and gave her a questioning look. Her jaw muscles tightened.

"I'm here to see you for a professional reason. Meaning your profession, obviously."

"What's happened?"

She hesitated, then her hand went to a pocket of her jacket in an automatic gesture, as if searching for a packet of cigarettes.

"I don't know how to begin."

"Going to see a criminal lawyer is almost always an unpleasant experience. A person's unlikely to feel at ease, but we're in no hurry. My colleague Pasquale has already told me it's something to do with your son."

"My son, yes."

"How old is he?"

"Iacopo has just turned twenty-five. He's old enough to have already had quite serious problems with the law – and not just the law." Before continuing, she breathed in and cleared her throat. "Right now he's in prison. He's been there for more than two years. He was found guilty of murder."

She told me what had happened, and there was nothing good about her story.

Iacopo had always been a problem child – maybe because he'd never really had a father, but who can say? She didn't go into detail about that and I didn't ask any questions, just did a rapid mental calculation: he couldn't have been my son.

The Magic of Wor(l)ds

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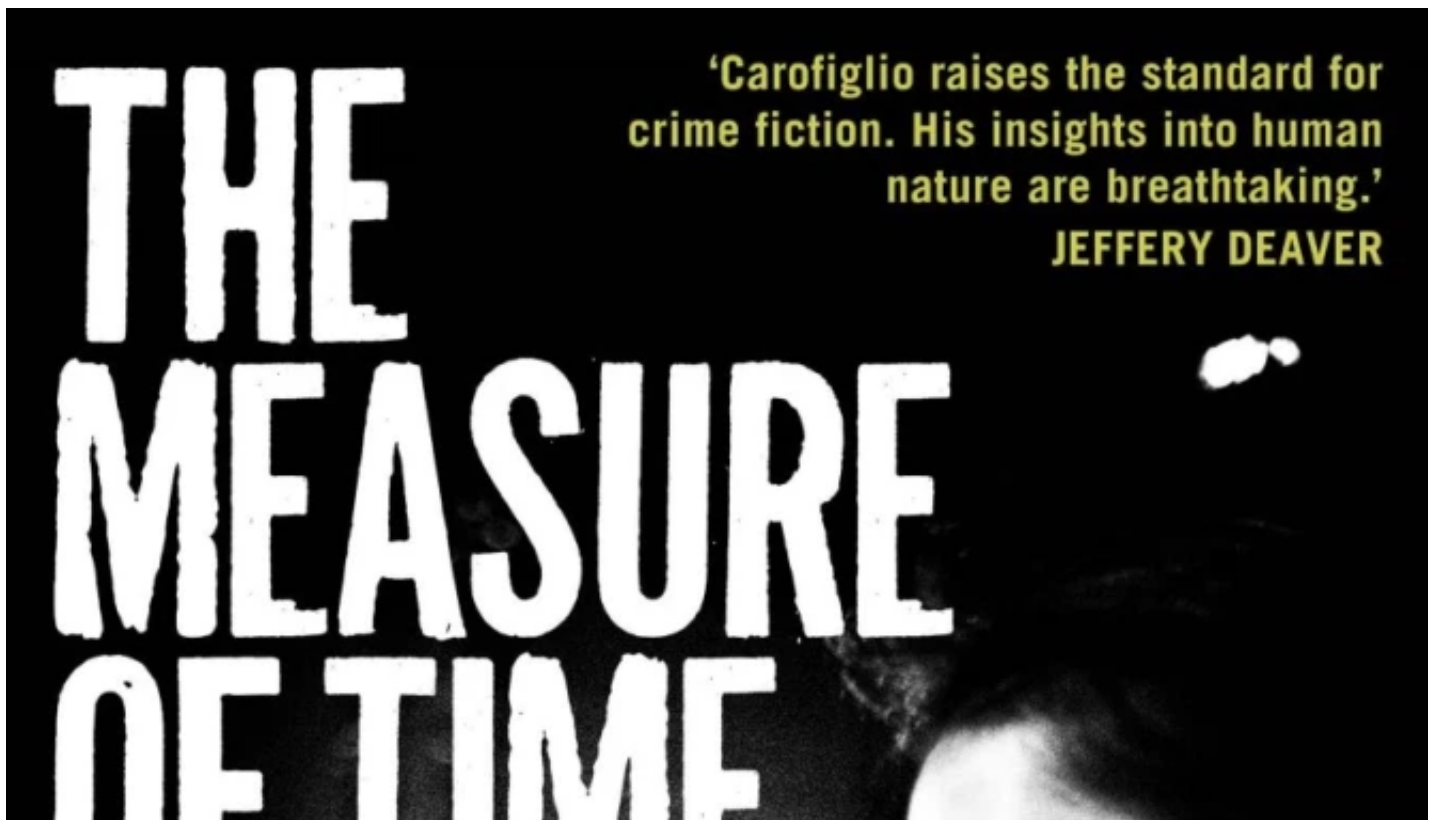
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21 MARCH 2021

The Measure of Time, by Gianrico Carofiglio – book review

I lost my reading mojo for a bit, back there. Recently, it has returned, but I have been mainly walking well-trod paths. *The Measure of Time* by Gianrico Carofiglio has offered me a new direction, though many of you will already be familiar with the Guido Guerrieri series set in southern Italy. The series is a big hit and this latest instalment was shortlisted for the STREGA prize, Italy's most prestigious literary award.





(<https://cafethinking.files.wordpress.com/2021/03/measure-of-time-cover.jpg>)

The Measure of Time is a court procedural. My knowledge in this area is pretty much limited to having watched *L A Law*, so it's fortunate that there is a great deal of explanation and exposition. Carofiglio was in his non-writing life an anti-Mafia prosecutor and he uses his pages to explain the tricks of the trade but also to riff a little about the philosophy behind them. A lecture that he has Guerrieri give some rookie magistrates could have been dull but will have you pondering modern morality. And this is the first novel I've read for a while (ie. ever) to give Aristotle not one but two name-checks at different points.

That may sound a little dry; it isn't. There's warmth and intelligence, a kind of Camilleri vs Kundera vs Baudrillard. And there is whimsy too, as Guerrieri explains his relationship with his punchbag (he talks to it and gives it personality and a name: Mr Punchbag). Howard Curtis has done a wonderful job in translation.

The case requires Guerrieri to represent the son of an old flame, and he reminisces on this decades-gone romance and his life at the time. I liked Guerrieri both as a 50-something and a 20-something, but found his irritation at his earlier self very relatable. He has a reflective inner life: he's constantly observing, analysing, rethinking. He doesn't get to sleep much, any more, and that restlessness rubs off on his mind. This is a book full of acute observation of human nature, rhetoric and personal integrity.

There's a slight melancholy to it all, but a level of wit that disguises it. Much of the novel's charm comes from its keen sense of place: the cafes, beaches, restaurants and – get this – the bookshop that's open only at night. It's all very cool indeed – but Guerrieri is almost the opposite of your noir protagonist. He has demons, but should he argue against them, they wouldn't stand a chance.

There's an ambivalence and ambiguity about the main case. You'll have to get to the end to find out which way it goes, but what's interesting is that Carofiglio has made us care less about the case itself than Guerrieri's reaction to it.

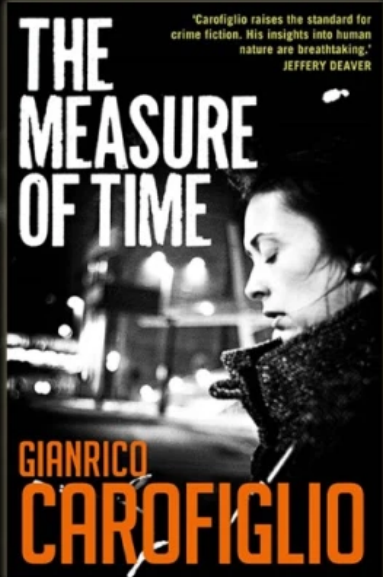
A novel that sweeps you in from the start. Highly recommended.

Thanks to Bitter Lemon Press for the review copy and to Anne Cater for the blog tour invitation.

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Review: The Measure of Time by Gianrico Carofiglio

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Key Summary of The Measure of Time by Gianrico Carofiglio

Welcome to my review for The Measure of Time by Gianrico Carofiglio. My thanks to Anne Cater of [Random Things Tours](https://randomthingsthroughmyletterbox.blogspot.com/p/services-to-publishers-authors-blog.html) for my spot on the blog tour. Thanks also to [Bitter Lemon Press](https://www.bitterlemonpress.com/blogs/authors/19584963-gianrico-carofiglio) for a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. The Measure of Time is about the appeal case of a young man accused of murder. It's told from the perspective of defence barrister Guido Guerrieri who was

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once in a relationship with the defendant's mother. It's the 6th novel in the best selling Guido Guerrieri series, although each works as a stand alone. I found this a fantastic novel, both authentic and enthralling, and can't wait to read the rest of the series! The Measure of Time is out now in [paperback](#)



(<https://i1.wp.com/rosegoldreports.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/IMG-4566-polarr.jpg?ssl=1>)

A narrow street in Bari on the south east coast of Italy

(<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Measure-of-Time-by-Gianrico-Carofiglio-Howard-Curtis-translator/9781913394486>) and [ebook](#) (<https://amzn.to/2PhOfIr>)

Review: The Measure of Time by Gianrico Carofiglio – My Thoughts

I have two main motivations for putting myself forward for this tour. First, I love a crime thriller and often read police procedurals; this is a little different as it's told from the defence barrister's perspective. Secondly, it's set in Italy which is a place I adore and have often visited both for holidays and work. I have not previously read any of Carofiglio's work and after reading The Measure of Time, I feel so fortunate to have found a new series I know I'll love! This is definitely the best thing about book blogging. I particularly enjoy the characters, story, writing style, and setting; where else would you find an only-open-at-night-bookshop-which-serves-alcohol-and-cakes? For this review I'll focus on 3 aspects which I loved: the plot, themes and writing style.

Plot

A woman, Lorenza, comes to the office of avvocato Guido Guerrieri concerned with the appeal case for her son Jacopo. Jacopo's original lawyer has died and he needs new representation for the appeal. Jacopo is a delinquent found guilty of murdering his drug dealing associate. It turns out that, almost three decades ago, Guerrieri was in a relationship with Lorenza. At the time, he was in



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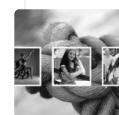
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love with a sophisticated bohemian woman, who briefly took an interest in him and then ghosted him. Jacopo’s case is not the nature Guerrieri’s practice usually takes on. Also, Guerrieri isn’t sure whether Jacopo is innocent. Nevertheless, he decides to accept the case. The reader witnesses the appeal preparation, it’s execution and outcome.

This is a very well rounded story, which follows a linear progression. The plot details have an authentic feel, no doubt informed by the author’s previous career as an anti-mafia prosecutor and member of Italy’s Senate. The pace is good with some parts faster and some slower. The main story is the appeal case, though every few chapters there is a short interlude where Guerrieri looks back at his relationship with Lorenza. There are also a couple of brief digressions, which are short enough to keep the reader’s attention but detailed enough to be interesting.



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Castello Normanno-Svevo in Bari

of perception, that of Jacopo and Guerrieri’s perception of Lorenza. The fact that the accused is a confirmed criminal makes him more challenging in terms of whether the reader (and the novel’s characters) can consider him innocent. The perception of Lorenza by Guerrieri is more than just a man reflecting on a previous love. It holds up a mirror to the human condition and shows how the passage of time changes one’s perspective. Time is also a recurring theme and as Guerrieri gets older he finds himself noticing how it speeds up.

Writing Style

Carofiglio has a succinct and precise writing style. There is enough detail that gives authenticity; but without any superfluous words. I find the writing very engaging and immersive. There are a few places where the author takes the reader on a digression, which although interesting in itself, does have me eager to return to the main plot.

Themes

There are several themes in this story, the main ones being justice, perception and the passage of time. Justice is the over-arching theme of the story as we follow Jacopo’s journey. There are sections where Guerrieri has discussions and gives a philosophical lecture where this theme is discussed in detail. I also enjoy the theme



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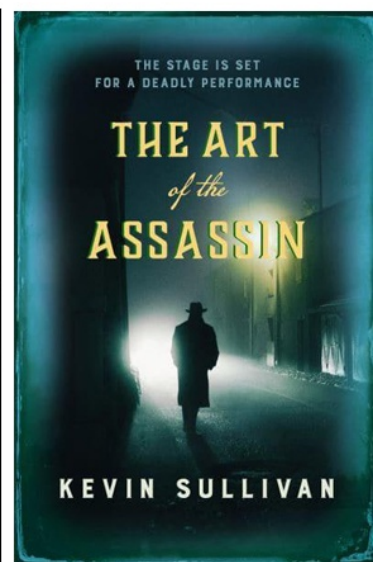
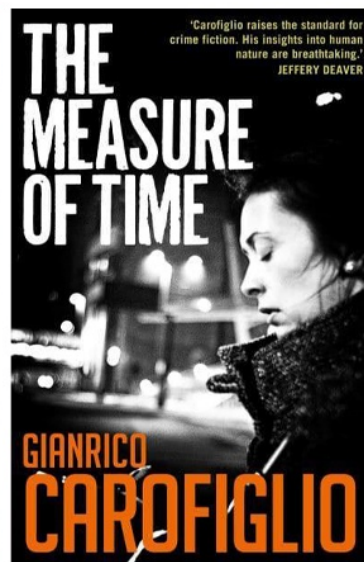
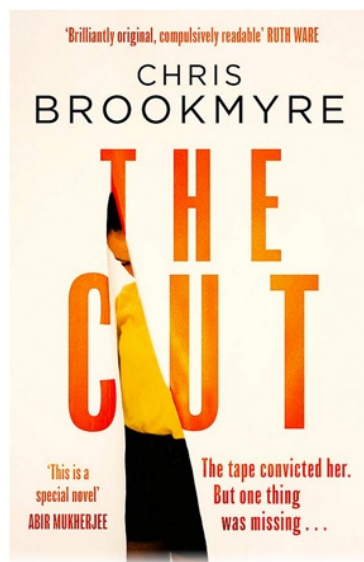
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LITERATURE

Crime fiction

Reviews of *The Cut* by Chris Brookmyre, *The Measure of Time* by Gianrico Carofiglio, *The Art of the Assassin* by Kevin Sullivan and *The Moment Before Impact* by Alison Bruce



T HE CUT (Little Brown, £18.99), possibly Chris Brookmyre's most exciting and funniest thriller yet, features Millicent, who has spent 25 years in prison for murdering her lover, a charge which she still denies.

Released to live with friends of friends in Glasgow, she finds the world a strange place and her existence pointless. But a chance discovery gives just the hint of a possibility of figuring out why her boyfriend was killed.

Pre-jail, Millicent was a special effects expert working in horror films and was the best in the business. When her path crosses that of a horror-obsessed film student and reluctant part-time burglar, the result is a dangerous chase across Europe and through the world of the video — itself a much-maligned art form, in the view of the odd-couple protagonists.

“Digressions are my passion,” admits southern Italian defence lawyer Guido Guerrieri in **The Measure of Time** by Gianrico Carofiglio (Bitter Lemon, £8.99).

Guido was never sure about law as a profession and now, having

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digression in literature, cinema, in the end in his own thoughts, as represented by the first person narratives of this much-loved legal series.

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In this one, he's hired by a lover from his youth who he hasn't seen in decades to handle the appeal of her son against a drugs-related

murder conviction. The case is hard enough but reassessing his own emotional history may be even harder.

For lovers of literary crime fiction, of tense and authentic courtroom dramas and of wry, melancholy and bluesy writing, this series is unbeatable.

In **The Art of the Assassin** by Kevin Sullivan (Allison & Busby, £16.99), set at the end of the 19th century, Juan is a Spanish photographer who has invented a groundbreaking system for photographing crime scenes.

He is assisting the police in a case of murder in a Glasgow tenement which involves Special Branch, syndicalists and an attempt on the life of a visiting crown prince, as well as a greater crime, topical now as then — the arming of despots by British business.

This characterful and complex thriller also contains pleasures for those intrigued by early photography and turn-of-the-century theatre.

A group of students are boozing at a music pub in Cambridge in Alison Bruce's **The Moment Before Impact** (Constable, £8.99) when a row breaks out.

Five of them pile into a car to head home but not all of them survive the journey and the driver, Nicci, is sent to prison.

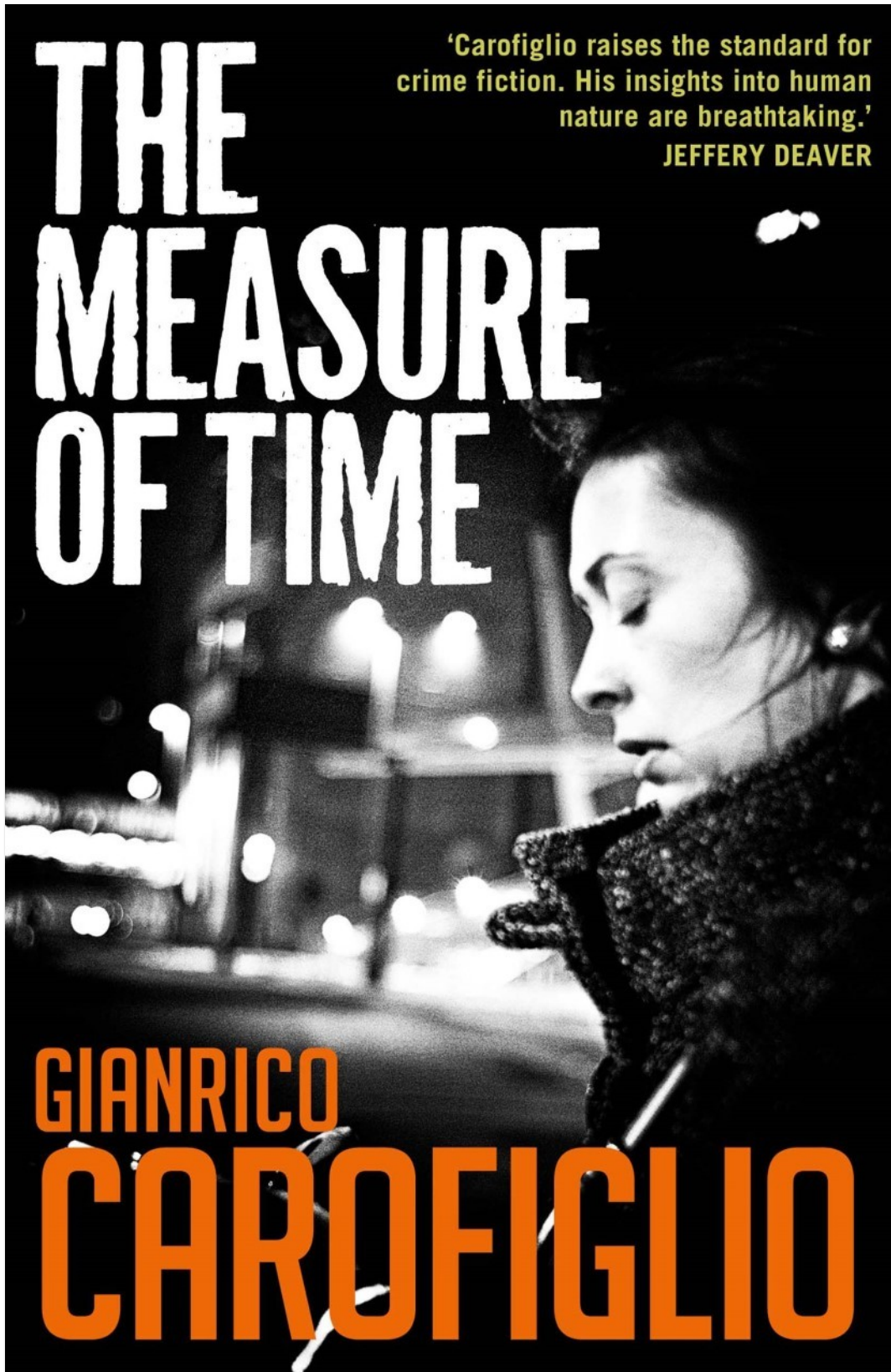
On her release, she returns to her old haunts and an encounter with a former friend sparks a terrifying fragment of buried



Fiction From Afar

Reviews of crime and literary fiction from around the world, often translated into English

The Measure of Time by Gianrico Carofiglio



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Translated by Howard Curtis

Bitter Lemon Press

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The Guido Guerrieri Series #6

Having explored a wide range of Bitter Lemon's translated crime fiction novels and also developed a taste for Italian novels, I was keen to delve into the works of Gianrico Carofiglio. His newest title "The Measure Of Time" was released on 18 March and is the sixth in the Guido Guerrieri series, eighth in total for the London based publisher. Guerrieri is a defence barrister in his early fifties based in Bari.

I must admit I did pick up this book with a slight trepidation wondering how well I would follow a novel that focuses on the Italian legal system. Gianrico Carofiglio was an anti-Mafia prosecutor in Southern Italy who has since turned to writing. He has sold over six million copies of his books worldwide. While I have read some John Grisham in the past and found myself a little perplexed, my concerns over "The Measure Of Time" were thankfully unfounded. Not only is Guido Guerrieri an intriguing and likeable character, but his legal functions were explained in a very clear and absorbing manner. Also no backstory was required and I enjoyed this as a standalone novel – although I will definitely be looking at his back catalogue when time allows.



When advised by his legal secretary Pasquale that he has had a request for an appointment by a lady named Delle Foglie, Guerrieri is prompted to think back to the period before he was a fully practicing lawyer when he dated a girl of the same name. While he convinces himself this cannot be the same person. This and a chance meeting with a younger lawyer who had recently lost his mother to a slow and painful death lead him to stop his work and ponder the passage of time.

“I’d often thought that thanks to what I had earned in my profession, of which I had spent a very small part, I could quit, sell the practice and devote myself to something else... Anything just to escape the grip of time. Time that keeps passing, never changing. Near motionless in its daily repletion but fading fast”.

Melancholy perhaps, but something many of us can relate to. Likewise, there is a thought provoking reflection on how it is extremely hard I it is to imagine a world after our own death. While this might seem like a mournful way to commence the first ten pages of a novel, it really sets the tone for a reflective and considered individual.

Having gained our empathy, we obtain his interest when Lorenza Delle Foglie walks into his office. It is revealed that she is the lady he knew years before. We begin to learn the relevance of the preceding passages as the years have not been kind to her. Having vanished from his life 27 years earlier she has now come to him in need of his help as her son is in prison for murder. With his appeal due she requires a defense lawyer. When he hears her story, Guerrieri is far from convinced about the innocence of Delle Foglie's son yet agrees to take on the case. His initial queries do not present him with any optimism that he can overturn his sentence but he does find a few aspects of the defence that were not correctly portrayed at the original trial.

We return through Guerrieri's thoughts to the times he spent with Delle Foglie, how they met and how she inspired him. Several years older than him and pursuing a bohemian lifestyle, she encouraged the studious trainee lawyer to take an interest in literature, films and culture thus enriching his life. While their short liaison was locked firmly in his memory without common friends to recall it, he does appreciate that she had been a mentor to him. It is this realisation rather than any lingering flame which encourages him to pursue some leads provided by her son.

There are some interesting characteristics to Guerrieri. He has continued to surround himself with strong minded females, in both his personal and professional life. Despite being settled with a partner, he is quite a solitary individual. He also finds time to confess his guilt to the faded punch bag which he no longer uses.

The final third of the novel is largely focused on the appeal trial. This is where Carofiglio's legal background provided us with realistic insights into the barrister's methodology. The author cleverly

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the accused, some designed to plant doubt in witnesses, to raise ambiguities with the judge and jury; and to press the relentless prosecution lawyer into avenues that discredit their own case. Through Howard Curtis' interpretation of Carofiglio's prose, I truly felt I could visibly see the characters, hear their testimonies and visualize their expressions within the court room just as well as I could through any televised drama.

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There is so much I enjoyed about this novel. I recognised the theme of the novel's title, that time can pass us by quickly. I was drawn to Guerrieri as a character and loved the setting of Bari. On sleepless nights he visits an all-night bookshop in the centre of Bari where he discusses Aristotle with fellow unsettled souls. The entrapped holiday maker within me would also love to take the two-hour boat trip to the Greek island of Othonoi referred to. One aspect that I particularly liked about this book is that it reinforced my beliefs that some people may not remain in our lives for a long time, yet their influence can have a profound lasting effect. This is an exceptionally crafted legal fiction which captivates the reader with processes explained in full clarity while contemplating subjects that are rarely considered. In short, it's a real gem of a book.

Thanks to Alex Hippisley-Cox for the review copy, and to Anne Cater for the blog tour invitation.