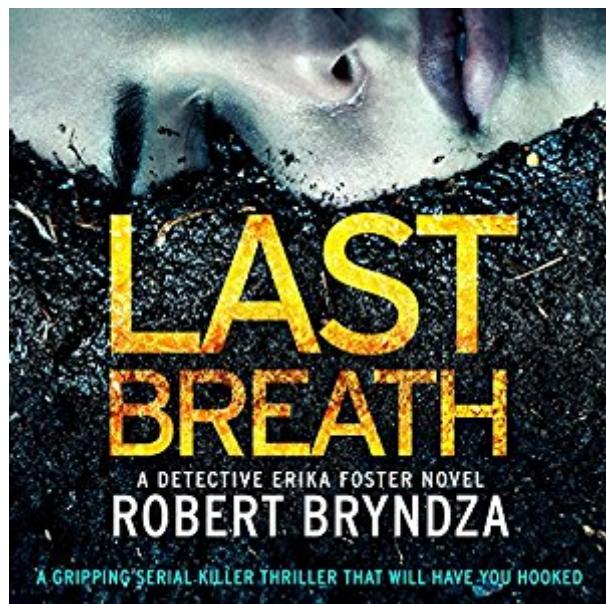


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# Last Breath: Detective Erika Foster, Book 4



## **Synopsis**

He's your perfect date. You're his next victim. When the tortured body of a young woman is found in a dumpster, her eyes swollen shut and her clothes soaked with blood, detective Erika Foster is one of the first at the crime scene. The trouble is, this time it's not her case. While she fights to secure her place on the investigation team, Erika can't help but get involved and quickly finds a link to the unsolved murder of a woman four months earlier. Dumped in a similar location, both women have identical wounds - a fatal incision to the femoral artery. Stalking his victims online, the killer is preying on young pretty women using a fake identity. How will Erika catch a murderer who doesn't seem to exist? Then another girl is abducted while waiting for a date. Erika and her team must get to her before she becomes another dead victim and come face to face with a terrifyingly sadistic individual. Gripping, tense, and impossible to turn off, *Last Breath* will have you on the edge of your seat until the final dramatic moment.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Detective Erika Foster is suffering the consequences of her unfiltered speaking and has been turned down for her reassignment to the murder unit. Of course that doesn't stop her from butting herself into the newest case: the torture, murder, and dumping of a young co-ed. Through Foster's diligence, and inability to directly and openly work the case, she finds a link to a previous case and a new serial killer is born! This discovery gives her a wedge back into the murder unit, at least temporarily. Without giving anything away, I especially enjoyed Foster's character development in

this book. She seems to be coming to some peace with her husband Mark's death. Maybe that anguish has been the source of her professional missteps? Maybe her relationship with Peterson can help smooth her edges (just a bit though, not too much)? I look forward to seeing where book #5 takes Foster and what devious villain Mr. Bryndza comes up with next. A copy of this book was provided by NetGalley and Bookouture in exchange for an honest review.

I preordered this book as I can never get enough great reading from this author. The storyline is amazing. It grabs you from the start, gets you involved with the characters and makes your emotions react to what is happening throughout the story. The author asked at the end of the book how the reader felt about using social media in this book. The way it was used points out the true dangers of what you write on any social media site. It puts you at risk for so many, many things, none of which are good. He pointed out what can really happen if we are not cautious and therefore having it in this story was indeed necessary. It brought out the vulnerability in all of us. I, for one, am grateful I do not belong to any social media sites. But for those of you who are, be careful what you put on there and never friend a stranger, even if they claim to be a friend of a friend. Lesson learned.

This is definitely a gripping thriller. It is very hard to put this book down, there is no good stopping point. You feel the frustration as they keep hitting road blocks and anxious with the team as time is running out. Erika Foster, being her tenacious self, embarks on a case that could be detrimental to her career. But in the end she can't sit back and watch as two young girls are found dead in dumpsters and not do everything in her power to catch the perpetrator. I look forward to the next installment!

"This series just keeps getting better." What did you love best about Last Breath? Seeing Erika continue to grow and evolve. She's been through so much and continues to have to deal with setbacks whether it's being overlooked for a promotion she deserves, dealing with Satan.... oh sorry, I meant Sparks, a new psycho on the loose in her district and so on.. What was one of the most memorable moments of Last Breath? For me, it was knowing the crazy serial killer was pretty early on and how said killer continually evaded capture. What about Jan Cramer's performance did you like? Every-damn-thing. She's amazing. I want her to record a voicemail for my phone. Was this a book you wanted to listen to all in one sitting? Yes, but it took a couple of days. Any additional comments? This series just keeps getting better. Just when I start to think there's only so

many books Bryndza can write within this world, this flow of madness that is Erika Foster's life... he goes and surprises me again. With the previous books you've definitely gotten a feel for the killers but you didn't really know them, not until near the end. Here you know who it is and as the story progresses you're given tidbits about spongebob psycho pants along with the why, where and how. At the same time the Author is weaving Erika's struggles and issues into the mix and it all just flows perfectly ending with a climax that left me breathless.

I'd have given this five stars were it not for one scene -- (spoiler alert) I simply cannot stretch my imagination far enough to envision a young girl with an injured arm, informed only by episodes of CSI, successfully using a broken safety pin to pick a lock located behind her head, then go on to pick two others. Except for that one scene, this is a well-plotted, well-characterized, tight story. I love the naturalness of the dialog, the relationships between characters (not just the police, but the very natural relationships of villains and victims as well), and the twists of plot which are always surprising, never telegraphed. I do think, perhaps, the outbreak of shingles at an opportune moment was a bit overdone -- shingles really doesn't spread over the whole body, but is confined to, usually, either the upper torso or the face. Still, I could overlook that were it not for the lock picking episode. I have read (and own) all four books in the series (this one scene is the first that felt false to me), and I will buy and read the fifth.

If you've been following my blog at all this past month, you'll know that I've been raving about Robert Bryndza's Erika Foster series. I finally caught up to the newest book, Last Breath, and it is just as intense and addicting as the first three books! It follows Erika as she inserts herself into an investigation into the body of a woman found in the dumpster. Things quickly escalate as a second victim is found, and the link that ties them all together is his preying on them through social media using fake identities. We know early on who the killer is, so that element of suspense is removed from the story. What you are left with is the chilling suspense as you are in his mind in varying chapters, and see him stalk his next victim. It is truly chilling and makes you want to make sure your social media is secure, and maybe get a degree in detective work to check out those new people who have friend requested you. I need book five!

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