

Too Close to Home: A Thriller

By Linwood Barclay

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Critically acclaimed and bestselling author Linwood Barclay brings terror closer than ever before in a stunning thriller in which murder strikes in the place we should feel safest of all...

In a quiet neighborhood, in the house next door, a family is brutally murdered for no apparent reason. You can't help thinking, *It could have been us*. And you start to wonder: *What if we're next?*

Promise Falls isn't the kind of community where families are shot to death in their own homes. But how well did Jim and Ellen Cutter really know their neighbors—or the darker secrets of their small town? They don't have to look further than their own marriage to know that things aren't always what they seem. Now the Cutters and their son, Derek, must face the unthinkable: that a murderer isn't just stalking too close to home...but is inside it already.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Canadian author Barclay's previous novel, *No Time for Goodbye* (2007), a Thriller Award–finalist, showed that he knows how to put ordinary people into extraordinarily dangerous circumstances. Barclay works some of that same magic in his second stand-alone thriller, which opens with the shooting deaths of Albert and Donna Langley and their teenage son, Adam, in their Promise Falls, N.Y., home one hot summer night. Bill Cutter, a neighbor who works as a gardener and was once the driver and glorified gofer without an ounce of self-respect for the town's nasty mayor, and Bill's wife, Ellen, soon find themselves wondering who would want to kill the Langleys and what part their sullen 17-year-old son and Adam's friend, Derek, may have played in the tragedy. While this one isn't quite up to the standard of *No Time for Goodbye*—its convoluted plot creaks occasionally—readers will zip through it with delight. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Derek Cutter, a high-school student, takes advantage of his neighbors' vacation and hides in their house when they leave. He envisions his girlfriend coming over and having a quiet run of the house and a chance to get to know each other better. While calling her to come over, he is surprised by the neighbors' return. Thinking they forgot something, he hides in the crawlspace in the basement and waits for them to leave. A few minutes later, however, he hears a doorbell and gunshots. When he finally gets the courage to go upstairs, he discovers their dead bodies. The ensuing chaos will disrupt a small town and devastate him and his family. Barclay tackles a scary scenario and with the proper twists and turns creates an engaging thriller. Excessive profanity sometimes distracts to the point of grinding the story line to a halt, but that quibble aside, this is a gripping read. --Jeff Ayers

Review

"Barclay knows how to put ordinary people into extraordinarily dangerous circumstances.... Readers will zip through it with delight."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Affecting and effective . . . [Barclay] hit the international best-seller lists last year with his first thriller, *No Time for Goodbye*. *Too Close to Home* shows him in even better form." —*Wall Street Journal*

"A terrifically fast-paced suspense story." —*Washington Post*

"A gripping read." —*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Redus:

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Linda Soto:

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