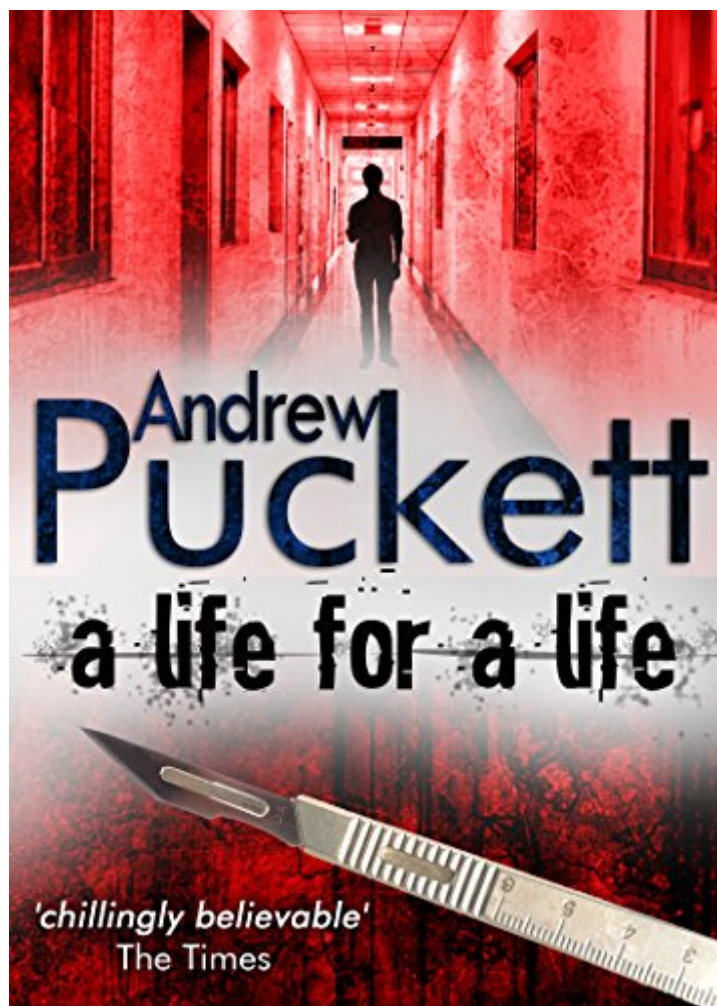


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# A Life For A Life



## Synopsis

When Dr Fraser Callan claims that Alkovin, the new "wonder drug" for leukaemia, has dangerous side effects, his boss, Connie Flint sends him to America for three months to shut him up. No one's listening to his concerns and Fraser's starting to wonder if someone's pulling strings to hush up Alkovin's problems. There's no love lost between Fraser and Connie, so when Fraser returns from America to discover that Frances, his fiancée, has contracted leukaemia and Connie is treating her with Alkovin, there's bound to be trouble. Under threat of dismissal and desperately worried about Frances, Fraser takes his troubles to Department of Health Inspector Tom Jones. But before Tom can get to the bottom of the Alkovin problem, Fraser finds himself imprisoned for murder... Will he solve the mystery of Alkovin? Or will he be silenced for ever? Praise for Andrew Puckett "Concise, fast-paced & | thoroughly enjoyable." William Weaver, Financial Times "Pacy, well written and a chillingly believable premise." Marcel Berlins, The Times "Another briskly diverting knowledge-ridden entertainment set in an offbeat milieu." Stephen Walsh, Oxford Times "Murder and sabotage at nuclear power station as protestors gather at gate and official nerves twang over tarnished safety image. Sober start with runaway early-movie finish." Matthew Coady, The Guardian "Well-drawn characters & | remarkable feeling of authenticity." F.E. Pardoe, Birmingham Post Andrew Puckett was born in Sherborne, Dorset. He has worked in various hospitals in Taunton, London and Oxford, and in the latter city was for many years microbiologist at the Blood Transfusion Centre. He draws on these experiences for his hospital-based crime novels. He now lives in Taunton with his wife and two daughters. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this medical thriller, reminiscent of a Robin Cook novel. When Frances finds she has Leukemia, she is more than willing to try an experimental drug treatment, Alkovin. Her fiance, Dr. Fraser Callan doesn't feel the same, in fact, he is dead set against it and for good reason. He knows the drug has too many side effects. The story speeds up from here and takes readers on a medical conspiracy thrill ride. I liked the author's writing style and because I am a fan of medical thrillers, this is an author I will be looking for when in search of future reads.

This book started off too slow for me - the unfolding of the story - the characters and the background (I like action) but when it got going it kept my attention. There were so many twists - I loved it. I have so many other things I want to say (all good) but can't because I don't do spoilers. Really, really recommended read. If this is an indication of futures words, I'm getting anything else written by this author.

This book caught my interest right from the get go. The characters where well written and you became engrossed in turning the pages. Couldn't put it down!

Good story, bad ending. I wanted to see the story resolved, not be left with a tragic ending never knowing if the supposition came true.

I enjoyed this one and it had a nice twist at the end.

Exciting read. Great from beginning to end. Highly recommend for those who like thrillers

Like many of Andrew Puckett's books, *A Life for a Life* is set in the murky underbelly of the health-care services. Puckett worked in this area for many years so he has thorough knowledge of the world he's writing about. The novel is a thriller and a page-turner. I read it in one day, sitting up until two in the morning to finish it. There are plenty of red-herrings and false leads and I was kept guessing until the end. The writing is spare and taut as befits the subject. But Puckett layers the novels with more issues than merely the solution to murder. He touches on the price of ambition, thwarted love, persecution, power and corruption. Most people's lives are a messy mixture of accidents, good and bad decisions, missed opportunities, behavior which is untypical and unplanned. Puckett is really skillful at capturing the chaos of life. The hero of the story takes one step, then another and soon finds himself in a landscape fast turning from marsh to quagmire. But he is not a man for giving up. If you like entertaining, gripping and thought-provoking thrillers then *A Life for A Life* fills the bill.

*A Life for a Life* by Andrew Puckett has all the elements of a classic crime novel, but with a modern twist. A ruthless murder, an unscrupulous pharmaceutical corporation peddling a so-called "wonder" drug, a sick woman and her impetuous fiancé, a false arrest, a daring prison break and an unexpected twist in the final pages. But what makes *A Life for a Life* different from the usual formulaic murder mysteries is the shifting points of view and the multiple layers of investigation. Firstly Fraser Callen, the tough Glaswegian doctor and anti-establishment figure, questions his medical superiors about the use of Alkovin in the treatment of leukaemia. Then the baton is passed to Superintendent Garrett and his female sidekick Inspector Lyn Harvey, brought in to investigate the vicious murder Medical Director, Dr John Somersby. Lastly, Department of Health Investigator, Tom Jones, investigates claims of hospital corruption, ably assisted by beautiful lawyer Agnes Croft. The story develops through a series of interlocking flashbacks, the pieces of the puzzle scattered across the pages for the reader to collect and slowly piece together. This technique heightens the suspense, making *A Life for a Life* a real page turner. With a second bloody murder, multiple suspects and a woman's life and sanity hanging in the balance, I rushed to the conclusion. Andrew Puckett has written a fast moving thriller with an eclectic cast of characters, each one with a possible motive for murder. I challenge anyone to have worked out who did it before the big reveal.

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