Heartsick

 by

 Chelsea Cain

This is a first in a series about Detective Archie Sheridan and serial killer Gretchen Lowell. At the start of this story Archie has been kidnapped by Gretchen and she proceeds to torture him over a period of 10 days. Instead of killing him like she has done to all her other victims she lets him go and turns herself in. Two years later after extensive rehabilitation and an addiction to painkillers, Archie is back on the force pursuing another serial killer. Archie is still pretty messed up physically and psychologically after his encounter with Gretchen, but he still has good detective instincts. This new serial killer is kidnapping and murdering 15 year old girls who look very similar to each other. Also, Archie has agreed to allow a reporter to tag along while they are investigating these series of murders. The reporter is going for an exclusive on Archie and his near death experience with the lovely Gretchen.

Another aspect of the story is that Archie still keeps in contact with Gretchen. She was a prolific killer and she told the authorities that she would tell them where more bodies were buried, but she would only tell Archie, so he makes a weekly trip to prison to visit Gretchen. Sometimes she gives him information and other times she does not. She likes the power she wields over him and he in a way has an attraction to her that is not at all healthy.

It is an interesting and unique take on the serial killer genre. The story has a lot of twists and turns and keeps you guessing up to the end. I look forward to reading the rest of the books in this series.