



The Bird Yard

Julia Wallis Martin

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When 12-year-old Joseph Coyne is missing and is assumed to have been abducted, Detective Parker makes a promise to the boy's mother: We'll get him back, alive. It proves to be a promise that Parker cannot keep. When another young boy is missing under similar circumstances, the evidence leads Parker to an aviary or bird yard attached to an abandoned house. While the finches imprisoned in the aviary exert a magical appeal to the young boys who surreptitiously come to watch them, its owner is a shadowy figure whose hold over his young visitors seems far more sinister. Convinced that the killer is stalking his third victim, a child Parker knows, he enlists the help of a child psychologist to unravel a dark secret.

The Bird Yard Details

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Author : Julia Wallis Martin

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From Reader Review The Bird Yard for online ebook

Lichenia Green says

Horrible story but we'll told.

Peter says

This is the first book by J.Wallis Martin that I have read and believe that this book was shortlisted for some prestigious literary award. Now while I would not profess to be an expert in this particular genre, I felt it showed that she has potential but is not yet the finished product.

On the up side. The storyline ran at a lively pace making you want to turn over the next page to see what was coming up next, in fact it was easy to forget that only a month had passed from Gary's disappearance and the eventual conclusion of the story. There were some good atmospheric descriptions of the surroundings for the crime and the central characters were fairly well drawn. I also rather liked the prologue as it had me guessing quite where it fitted into the overall plot until quite near the end.

However, on the down side. For me the lead investigator Parker would probably have been better as a Private Investigator rather than a high-flying Policeman, he seemed to do everything himself with little feedback from the men around him. Something of a maverick rather than a leader of men. Also quite what the profiler Hanson added to the investigation is open to some debate, he seemed to be more distracted by his own personal relationship hang-ups and had only minimal input into actually solving the crime. In fact wanting to go and stay in his old matrimonial home rather than a hotel seemed rather freaky to me. Perhaps it was just fashionable to have his presence there?

In summary I felt that the story gave a somewhat original twist on both the mindset of paedophiles and in particular how they are able to target, befriend and ultimately betray vulnerable victims, boys in this case and also into why boys are taken in by them. It was a very readable book but it just lacking in that little something that would have made it a special read. As I said at the top the author shows promise and if this is just another step along the evolutionary trail then with more experience and in-depth knowledge she could become a very good one.

LJ says

THE BIRD YARD - VG
Martin, J. (Julia) Willis - Standalone

Roly's Yard is an aviary in Manchester, and boy after boy has been to visit the finches Roland raises there. Then two boys disappear, and one is found dead. Detective Superintendent Parker and psychological profiler Murray Hanson are closing in on Roly, but can they save his next victim?

Although you know who did it, there are plenty of twists and turns along the way through the investigation and a great "oh my" ending.

Amy says

Awesome, normally don't read crime novels but this one had me glued to it every lunchtime.

jazz-ee2 says

I picked this book up at the Nottingham BookCrossing meet, and started reading it a while ago but got distracted so brought it with me to read on a short break. This has obviously done the trick as I've finished it in quick time.

A great thriller incorporating psychology and very human elements of crime, it's a book I enjoyed as much as I didn't want to know what came next. Great characterisation, it really will have your skin crawling as you unwittingly look over your shoulder to find out who and why. There were times I felt the writing needed a little more polish, however I would definitely look out for more from this author who is new to me.

Andy Plonka says

Really unsettling, creepy read, but hard to put down

Listiyani says

Terrific! I still remember all the plot. This book make me realize that child world not always easy.. But i will not reread this book again. :D

Naomi says

I must say that I was pretty impressed with this book. It wasn't that it was a fantastic read, but the characters and the storyline were enough to keep me entertained and guessing. I think this is her only mystery featuring this character, so I am pretty much done with this author, but the book was a nice distraction!

Nance says

i eagerly sped through the first half of this story, in anticipation of a great thriller but ended up resenting all the ghoulish bird details. I also did not care for the depressing sidebar relationship between Hanson, his ex-wife and current lover. I actually found his character sorta useless, and could neither appreciate or sympathize with him at any time.

Joyce says

This dark and has an interesting pace. It does not race, it moves in its own rhythm. I liked it for what it was, but I don't think I could read a steady diet of this.

It's a bit along the lines of Criminal Minds in many ways. The most disturbing part is the little boy at the end. That's the part that most scares me. Has the die been cast?

Adriana says

This book was very disturbing. It is a story about a detective in search for the sick, perverted criminal that kidnaps little boys of about the age of 12, molests them and then kills them.

I found myself feeling so disturbed in regards to the concept of this book that I had to stop reading it quite a few times and pick up another book to get my mind off it all.

I give this book 3 1/w stars. I would recommend it but with fair warning of it's deviance.

Amy Franks says

Awesome, normally don't read crime novels but this one had me glued to it every lunchtime.

Linda says

An abandoned, derelict neighborhood in Manchester, England is slated for demolition. Only a single, crumbling house is still inhabited, by a solitary man and hundreds of exotic finches. The eerie aviary sets the tone for the entire novel, a compelling police procedural centering upon an urgent search for a missing boy. DS Parker recruits a forensic psychologist to assist in what increasingly appears to be a serial killer case, and, as these two men form a grudging working partnership, author Martin takes readers within their minds as they struggle with the horrific details of the case. A haunting journey, surreal and malevolent, with richly developed characters and compelling psychological underpinnings.

Becky says

[I'd have to kill you and dismember you and junk. (hide spoiler)]

Barbara Elsborg says

Spooky, unsettling suspense story that doesn't really race along but drags the reader kicking and screaming into the murky world that we'd all rather didn't exist. The descriptions of people and places are excellent. If only I could write like that. I think I prefer books where the good guys are a little more fleshed out though. Plenty of detail but not enough for me to identify with them. But if you don't mind books where pedophilia is the topic - and it's not done in any sort of salacious way - then try this.
