



Cry Blue Murder

Kim Kane , Marion Roberts

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Will anyone hear you cry?

Celia and Alice share everything – their secrets, hopes and the increasing horror that a killer is on the loose and abducting schoolgirls just like them. Three bodies have been found, each shrouded in hand-woven fabric.

From within the depths of a police investigation, clues are starting to emerge. But as Alice and Celia discover the truth, danger is closer than anyone knows. Who can you trust at a time like this?

A contemporary fable about loyalty and betrayal from two exciting new voices in Australian young adult fiction.

Cry Blue Murder Details

Date : Published April 24th 2013 by University of Queensland Press

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Author : Kim Kane , Marion Roberts

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From Reader Review Cry Blue Murder for online ebook

Eugenia (Genie In A Book) says

*Four girls walk,
arms linked, a paper chain,
and in their wake a siren screams:
cry blue murder.*

.....

I received this novel through the Goodreads First Reads program

After finishing:

W-W-WHAT?!! - NOW THAT WAS A TWIST I DIDN'T SEE COMING.

*****Review*****

Cry Blue Murder by Kim Kane is a YA psychological thriller that definitely lives up to its eerie title. The novel in itself is a relatively short, quick read but with a story line that is fast-paced and enough to keep the reader guessing as more clues emerge about the person behind these macabre abductions and killings.

This novel was composed in its entirety out of email correspondence between Celia and Alice, police statements and news clippings. Although this *could have* made the plot feel disjointed and lacking flow, this actually contributed to making the investigation seem all the more real. Taking the reader into the heart of these morbid occurrences was what gave this book the creepy edge that it needed. The online friendship between Alice and Celia was also interesting to observe, as we see how the news of these abductions have impacted on their own families and diminishing sense of security in their neighborhoods.

Also being a psychological thriller, this novel definitely can be confusing at times - as it should be. Just when you may think you know who the killer is, another person is interviewed who changes your mind. I'm glad that the novel wasn't predictable, and it is definitely a positive thing that the reader had to 'expect the unexpected' (a clichéd term, but here it works)

THE ENDING

Now, every thriller needs that final twist that leaves the reader jumping out of their seat. In this case, I'm glad to say that the novel delivered just that. Although I found the story finished on quite an abrupt note, it wouldn't have been wise to drag it out. The final identity of the murderer is not explicitly stated, leaving the reader to find out for themselves...

CONCLUSION

Cry Blue Murder is a novel that definitely passes with flying colours as a YA psychological thriller. It explores the consequences of a murderer on the loose in appropriate depth and poses the questions: Is anybody really safe? Could the murderer be someone you least expected? I would definitely recommend this to fans of this genre and am looking forward to what other novels Kim Kane or Marion Roberts have to offer.

Katie says

This is the first book that has ever had me tearing my hair out in frustration at the inability to warn a character of what's just around the corner (without going down the spoiler path, the last couple of chapters almost killed me!). As the parent of a teenage girl, this book made me even more aware of how scared I am of something happening to her. As a bookseller, I can't wait to share this with girls who want "real world" drama rather than paranormal fiction. What a fantastic book!

Susan says

Thrilling. Couldn't put it down.

Olivia Searle says

I have found Cry Blue murder just so intriguing! You will just want to keep reading on! Its about two girls emailing each other over a disappearance of another girl who turns out to be murdered. But once they get to know each other something horrible goes wrong.

This book has been my favourite book yet. Its engaging, mysterious and could be in real life! I would highly recommend reading Cry Blue Murder if you want a relaxed book to read.

Reynje says

Despite a genuinely creepy and intriguing premise, I found the execution of Cry Blue Murder somewhat wanting.

The story opens with the abduction of Hallie Knight, a school girl from Melbourne's south-east suburbs, and the subsequent investigation into a possible link with two previous murders. Someone - dubbed the Cocoon Killer - is kidnapping girls in their early teens, poisoning them and leaving their naked bodies wrapped in shrouds of handwoven fabric and hair. Rocked by the tragedies, and as the cases remain unsolved, the community responds with understandable fear. Suddenly, their suburban streets are no longer safe.

Cry Blue Murder is related entirely through documents: emails exchanged between the two main characters,

spliced with statements, interview transcripts and newspaper articles. The two girls, Celia and Alice, meet on a facebook page for then missing Hallie Knight, and quickly strike up a regular correspondence. Both feel somewhat isolated in their situations – Celia at a new school and Alice banished to a boarding school after a family tragedy – and find comfort in their budding friendship. It's also a medium for the girls to express their anxiety over the ongoing Cocoon Killer case, and communicate how it's impacting their lives.

With some reshuffling in order to tell the story in a logical and suspenseful manner, Kane and Roberts have attempted to replicate the kind of material that might be found in a Barrister's brief – organising records of the police investigation to gradually reveal clues. And while the format works exceptionally well for a maximum impact reveal, it unfortunately makes the beginning feel somewhat flaccid and slow. I had expected to be immediately plunged into a chilling story, close to the detail of the mystery. In reality, the first half of the novel is more about the girls themselves and the way their friendship develops. In hindsight, it's the right choice for the story, but it did take me a while to warm up to the pace.

The thing is though, I called the killer early. It's possible that that was meant to happen, to augment the unsettling tone of the book; I can't say for sure. By the final pages, I was less shocked by the reveal than by the abruptness of the ending. The authors leave readers with little explanation of the killer's motivations, just a few breadcrumb hints threaded through the plot.

Cry Blue Murder is a quick read, and both Kane and Roberts have a good grasp of their characters' voices (even if a couple of the cultural references and instances of slang felt somewhat dated given the ages of the girls.) The emails are conversational and expressive, while still conveying detail about their lives and fleshing out the secondary characters, including family members. That said, I never felt particularly engaged by either Celia or Alice, and perhaps this was the problem. For much of the novel, my lack of interest in them resulted in diluting much of what should have been a creepy, unsettling atmosphere.

That said, the concept really is clever, and I suspect other readers won't have the issues with the execution that I did. If you're looking for an inventive YA mystery, definitely give it a go.

Erin says

I did not like this book. I waited a little bit before writing this review because when I started composing in my head all I had was "WTF! That was so not a psychological thriller %^*^*\$!!" Anyway, it was bordering on mean, so I waited. I wanted a psychological thriller. I wanted suspense, mystery, baited breath.. frankly, I wanted some type of emotional (and ideally visceral) reaction. Instead, I could care less about any of the characters of this book, and there was zero suspense or thrills or chills. It didn't suck me in at all. The characters are supposed to be having this awesome friendship, which is mixed in with their horror. I never got a sense of horror or deep friendship. The ending was fairly predictable, and I was hoping for a punch that would make the preceding 200 papers more palatable, but alas it was all pretty much as expected. This book was also ridiculously short.

I recently read Scowler, which scared the daylights out of me. So, if you are looking for a short, genuinely creepy book then I will gladly point you in that direction.

This book had a cool premise, but I never connected with any of the characters, there was no suspense or mystery or terror, and, all in all, it was just a huge disappointment.

Francesca says

This book, in my opinion, was absolutely amazing. Although it does have a relatively slow-moving beginning that is definitely not for everyone, about halfway through the short novel you'll find yourself unable to put it down.

The first few pages explains the absence of Hallie, who is believed to have been abducted while walking to a certain spot at 5:30 in the morning, where she is picked up by her friend and that friend's mother. What scared me most about this book is how much I could relate! I walk to school every morning; and even walk to rowing training every week at, like Hallie, 5:30 in the morning when it's still dark. After reading this book, as a 15-year-old-girl (the same age as the killer's victims) living in Melbourne and doing the same things these girls do, (i.e. doing rowing, going to a private school for girls, hanging out with friends at Chapel Street, etc.) I feel so much more aware. I think it's an intriguing book that all teen girls should read, because you never truly understand what people are capable of before reading a book like this. Yeah sure, we see heaps of stories on the news about killers on the loose, abducting teenage girls around our age, but you never experience it in a way like this.

Although I have noticed many people are complaining about working out the twist too early and that it didn't make it enjoyable, I have to disagree for the following two reasons:

First of all, I worked out the twist before I even STARTED reading it! My friend had recommended it to me before explaining to me the plot and that there was a "twist I'd never see coming". Well, I guessed it almost straight away and she couldn't believe that I got it so quickly. I think it's partly due to the fact that my mother is constantly warning me about issues like this, because she is definitely a paranoid one. And after working it out before even reading it, I still thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, knowing the twist in a way made me enjoy it even more, because whenever a hint was dropped or anything, I knew straight away. Therefore, I found myself so deep in the book, as though I had this connection, and whenever something happened, I just kept thinking, "Get out of there!!!! Stop girl, stop!" It was like when you're watching a horror movie, and you know what's going to happen - e.g. A girl hears a creek in the basement, and decides to go check it out - and you start to shout at the TV saying, "Don't go down there!! You'll regret it! You're going to die! Ruuuuun! Ruuuuun for your life! WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING? DON'T ASK IF IT'S YOUR MOTHER WHO IS DOWN THERE??? WHY WOULD YOUR MUM BE DOWN IN YOUR BASEMENT GIVING YOU THE SILENT TREATMENT? DID YOU RECENTLY MAKE HER ANGRY? NO, GIRL, YOU DIDN'T, SO RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!!" But of course, the girl doesn't run for her life, and as a result she is brutally murdered. It was just like that for me, because I knew exactly what was going to happen.

Secondly, even if I hadn't have known the twist, I would have worked it out quickly like the others. However, although people are complaining about how it was too easy to work out, I think that was the point. The authors dropped hints along the way, like breadcrumbs in 'Hansel and Gretel', so that when you connected them altogether, it just made sense. And so that, like I said before, makes the experience so much more scary, knowing what's going to happen, and watching the events unfold knowing that there's no way you can stop it from happening.

I strongly recommend everyone, especially teenagers, to read this book. I think it's a life-changing experience for us teens, and makes us more aware of today's society and the evil people that want to hurt us for no other reason than the simple thrill of it.

Javani says

Cry Blue Murder Book Review

Cry Blue Murder by Kim Kane and Marion Roberts is a great book. It is written in a very interesting style because almost the whole book is the emails of two teenage girls. This story is about the mysterious disappearances of school girls in Melbourne, Australia. Alice and Celia, the two main characters of this story end up finding each other when yet another girl goes missing, they have never seen each other but connect and chat through email. As the investigation for the kidnapper goes on, the two girls find themselves becoming very close friends but they are always if they might be the kidnapper's next victim. This book is suitable for girls from ten up. And I believe this book is a great read.

Helen Stower says

Missing teenage girls, suspense, chat room grooming & police investigations. Someone in Melbourne is abducting private school girls, poisoning them and leaving their naked bodies wrapped in hand woven fabric and hair. Cry Blue Murder is a YA mystery that is sure to captivate young teenage girls.

Kim Kane & Marion Roberts begin their story with a list of witnesses at a trial and a poster of missing school girl, Hallie Knight. The entire narrative is told through a series of documents. Recorded interviews, newspaper articles, emails, statements to police and poems are presented to the reader as the kind of material that might make up a brief presented to barristers by lawyers wishing to inform them about the history of a court case.

The central characters of the book are Celia & Alice who first "meet" on a facebook page for then missing school girl, Hallie Knight. Early in the story, they exchange email addresses and it is through their emails that their friendship develops and the reader comes to know each girl. Celia, in particular, is experiencing the stress of the missing girls as it is her school and neighborhood from which they've been kidnapped. She does indeed become a more direct target as the book progresses but all is not as it seems.

A suspenseful read that contains an important warning to all young people.

Amanda says

Cry Blue Murder by Kim Kane and Marion Roberts is set in Melbourne and revolves around the disappearances of teenage girls. Celia and Alice start emailing each other after fifteen year old Hallie Knight goes missing and they both post on her online memorial page. They often feel they can't talk to anyone else about the missing girls and confide in each other.

Cry Blue Murder is a unique YA book, written entirely in email format, with the addition of documents such as missing persons reports, police interviews, and coroner's reports. This surprised me at first as I'd been expecting a novel but once I began reading the plot quickly hooked me. I don't want to say too much about the plot or characters for fear of spoiling anything for potential readers.

Initially I found it hard to find distinctions between Alice and Celia but as their emails progress, each girl's personality comes through and I felt for them and their situations. Both girls describe their not-so-perfect home lives, and I wished they had an adult to share their fears with, as well as each other. I will say that both girls felt realistic and I truly believed in each of them and I found their lives vivid and intriguing.

This book is really cleverly written as there's only so much you can share via emails and the documents mentioned, but each new bit of information, including first hand information regarding the killer, contributed to new theories and it kept me guessing the whole time, even though I felt I knew what was coming. The pacing really picks up towards the end; I could not put this book down and ended up finishing it in one afternoon.

When I think of what truly scares me it's not paranormal stories involving vampires or werewolves it's realistic stories such as this one. This book is so relevant to our society right now and I am sure there are so many parents who would feel this fear even more than I do. I was so worried for the girls, I felt helpless watching the final events unfold and not being able to do anything for them, and the ending left me feeling chilled and hollow. I also really wanted more information as I wasn't sure if I was supposed to be left wondering or if I was supposed to know what exactly had happened, but after I thought about it I realised this ending is often the real-life ending; not every crime is solved, often they leave a hole in the life of the people involved and there is no closure or happy ending.

Cry Blue Murder is a riveting and realistic story and one that will stay with me for a long time and one I'd like to re-read. This could, and should, definitely be read by teens and adults alike.

Thank you to the fantastic people at UQP for my review copy.

Wai Chim says

I was intrigued to learn that this was a collaborative work, but once I got into it, I understood why. The voices of the two girls are so authentic and the exchange so honest and touching.

I won't give away too much but I loved the little red herrings that had you guessing. And when you reach the end you want to look back and second guess everything all over again!

Gripping, beautiful, HAUNTING. A stunning book from UQP.

Nisma says

I really really don't want to write a lot because I'm afraid I'll give something away...!

JUST ONE THING. The best thing about this book is the unique way the story is told. I mean, I'm pretty sure everyone's raving about it (and if they're not, well, they should). But anyhow - emails, newspaper articles, statements, police interviews, reports - that's literally the way the story unfolds.

IT'S FREAKIN' EPIC.

That is all.

Michelle says

Rating: 3.5

Cry Blue Murder is unique and compelling murder mystery told through the emails of two teenagers who become friends online following the disappearance of a young girl. The unusual format, which includes police interviews and witness statements, heightened both the mystery and creeping dread I felt as the story unfolded.

The format worked very well, especially towards the end, making the book fast-paced and easy to read. Alice and Celia were interesting narrators and I enjoyed learning more about their lives and families. They were easy to relate to and I liked the fact that their stories were well developed outside of the murder mystery. However, at times I did find it hard to believe teenage girls speak the way they did in the emails. The police reports and newspaper articles also moved the story on quickly, although I must admit I was annoyed by the complicated, unrealistic way the news articles were written. Mind you, I am studying journalism and have written for newspapers so maybe I'm just being picky.

The ending was abrupt and left me desperately wanting more information. I didn't really have any ideas about the killer until quite close to the end. When they were revealed I was shocked, then immediately flicked back through the book looking for clues. Maybe it's the journalist in me, but I wanted to know more, more, more!

Despite these complaints, I found *Cry Blue Murder* to be an intriguing, captivating and creepy mystery. The unique format of this book makes it a stand out in this genre and one which I recommend to those looking for a YA twist on the classic detective centred murder mystery.

This review and many more can be found at Maree's Musings.

Melanie says

See more reviews at YA Midnight Reads

Suspenseful and somewhat eerie, Kim Kane and Marion Roberts' *Cry Blue Murder* was a uniquely told mystery thriller that follows two girls who bond a close friendship through a disappearance of a girl. I was immediately captivated by the synopsis and how creepy it sounded--a killer on the loose abducting school girls? Sounds pretty darn amazing, especially for the mystery lover that I am.

Cry Blue Murder was told completely by emails, documents, newspaper articles, lists etc. This isn't your typical novel. I liked the style that the authors were trying to achieve--it was a refreshing way for the plot and scenario to unfold, but it failed to do what was most important. And that was to make characters that I needed to root for. I didn't really feel much towards Alice or Celia at all--the authors excelled at creating different personalities, yet I found it difficult to empathise with them and fall into the story. I just felt like a bystander the entire time.

The unique way of telling the story was done well. All the information and situation slowly began to unravel itself in front of me, even though I found myself stumbling here and there. The writing style probably won't be everyone's favourite, but it worked well for me.

I did like the fast pace--so I didn't feel particularly bored about reading the book. The story is a rather short one too, when compared with other books so it works nicely for a one-sitting read. I was genuinely creeped out in the middle section of this book. I actually know the places that these authors placed their characters in so it really had an effect on me. I was pretty chilled for a while there.

I definitely thought the ending required more brushing up and details, despite that. Moreover, I'd like to add that the reveal of the killer started to become obvious towards the end of the book so I didn't feel really shocked at the end, which was a shame.

In all, *Cry Blue Murder* was a thrilling read that had a refreshing format that I really loved and a eye-catching premise. While I failed to click with the characters, this book still has many merits. I definitely recommend for people to check this one out!

~Thank you UQP Australia for sending me this copy!~

MaryG2E says

Several reviews on this page have given thorough critiques of this excellent YA mystery novel, set in Melbourne, Australia. I agree with what the reviewers said and don't wish to go over old ground. Rather, I'd like to say why I think *Cry Blue Murder* is very clever, due to the structure which underlies the narrative.

A key element of this book is its authenticity. I grew up in the suburbs of inner eastern Melbourne where this story is set, and I went to a school very similar to Ashbourne or Barrington Hall. Many of the street names and buildings are thoroughly familiar - they do exist, which makes me think that either or both co-authors also lived and went to school in the area. It feels very real to me.

One of the co-authors, Kim Kane is a practising lawyer, and obviously has a thorough first-hand knowledge of how a criminal case is built up from bits and pieces of information and clues. The end notes advise that the grouping of documents is arranged as per a barrister's brief in order to give the reader the flavour of a real crime.

If you look beneath the surface of this easy-flowing narrative, (where there is no actual narrator by the way) you gradually get to see the anatomy of a crime laid out like a text book example. For some YA readers, this may be an eye-opener.

WARNING: Spoiler alert! Leave this review now if you don't want to know the ending.

(view spoiler)

4.5 ★s for me.
