Birdwatcher 2

by Ann Greyson (Goodreads Author)







Review by Manik and Sayee | Favbookshelf

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Rating: 5

Birdwatcher 2 by Ann Greyson is one of those gripping stories that makes the story stick with you emotionally or hauntingly in nature. The main story centers around Joey Marks, a cold-blooded killer who's not only running from his past but clearly haunted by it. And more than emotionally, the book leans into a creepy, supernatural twist that completely takes you off guard. The heart of the story follows the investigation of a young girl's murder in the Poconos, where a detective named Silverwood is racing to connect the dots. Meanwhile, a haunted cabin, a ghost with unfinished business, and a town still reeling from a tragedy all collide in unexpected ways. What starts as a crime thriller slowly turns into something darker, which makes you hooked throughout the book.

The pacing feels tight, jumping between detectives, victims, and the killer, and while the transitions are quick, they keep the story moving. The writing style leans descriptive, sometimes a bit heavy, but the tension and emotion make up for it. What really makes the book stand out is how it weaves true crime elements with supernatural horror. The setting shifts from rural Pennsylvania to California, and each place feels strange in its own way. Characters such as Detective Silverwood provide the narrative with realism and 'grittiness' while Joey Marks evokes pure nightmare fuel. There's a strong theme of unresolved trauma and how it lingers; even when the killer disappears, the scars stay. Greyson knows how to build suspense, and she does a great job of dropping you right into the moment.

Detective Silverwood was a solid character. His internal monologue, mainly when he reflects on Abigail's death and the pressure to find justice, will make you care about the case on a different level. You weren't expecting to be pulled into the mind of a killer like Joey Marks, who relives his crimes in dream-like flashes. "The thrill of knowing he'd upended many girls' lives shot through him." that line alone still gives you chills. What makes it more compelling is how the author presents the nature of the killer, like how calmly he just goes about his day, humming in his car after dreaming about killing a child. Gillian Wincoff, Abigail's grieving mother, carries emotional weight. You can feel her distance, her breakdown, and the loneliness that comes after a tragedy. Don McKinney, the retired engineer who buys the cursed cabin, brings a surprising emotional arc. His disbelief turns into raw fear, and watching him unravel after his ghostly encounter feels honest. In conclusion, this book is more layered, more psychological, and definitely more chilling. If you're into crime fiction, this book is definitely a good choice.