



## Review of **Birdwatcher 2** by *Ann Greyson*

Customer Rating:  5 out of 5

A suspenseful action-packed read.

by **Andrea Esparra**

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**Birdwatcher 2**, by Ann Greyson, more than a sequel—presents itself not only as horror fiction, but weaves together elements of paranormal, crime, and religious symbolism to construct a narrative richly layered in the exploration of grief and spiritual phenomena.

From the opening pages, we are pulled into the chilling landscape of a demon-haunted cabin in an idyllic Poconos resort town, and into a tense nationwide manhunt for the elusive Joey Marks—the murderer of Abigail Wincoff. The author expertly juxtaposes criminal violence and the supernatural, channeling the malevolence of horror. The pursuit of the serial killer by the seasoned Detective Philip Silverwood creates a parallel narrative of justice and evil in the world.

At the heart of the novel lies Gillian Wincoff, a grieving mother whose loss of her only daughter, Abigail, becomes the central axis around which the narrative—and its spiritual inquiry—turns. Greyson does not simply depict grief; she renders it sacred, exploring it as a threshold between the seen and unseen, blurring the lines between the rational and the paranormal. More than emotional pain—Gillian's sorrow does not simply mark the absence of her child; it becomes a confrontation with the void—the silence of God, the ambiguity of evil, and the fragility of meaning in the wake of trauma.

What distinguishes this novel is its portrayal of how trauma reverberates through human relationships. The marital strain between Gillian and her husband, Lance, is depicted as a fragmented and realistic portrayal of psychological and emotional isolation. How do two people remain tethered in the wake of unspeakable pain? How do we hold onto love when the ground beneath us collapses? These questions echo throughout the fragile dynamic between them—two souls orbiting one another in sorrow, stuck in those gray areas where language falters.

One of the most intriguing aspects of **Birdwatcher 2** is its engagement with Roman Catholic theology. The detailed exposition of exorcism rites transcends mere curiosity; it serves as an inquiry into the boundaries of sacred authority, ancient ritual, and contemporary belief. Greyson presents exorcism not as a spectacle of religious sensationalism, but as an attempt to wrestle control over forces that exceed rational containment.

Gillian's confrontations with the psychological manipulating demonic entity—which uses local energy to manifest as apparitions—are scenes of horror with a splash of comedy. Facing the demon that torments Abigail's soul, in order to liberate her daughter is a courageous undertaking. In doing so, Gillian becomes a modern-day Orpheus figure, descending into darkness not to retrieve a lover, but a child—a journey that asks us to consider what it means to redeem a soul. Greyson highlights Gillian's holding onto hope as an odyssey into the depths of the human psyche that traverses the darkest recesses of fear.

In conclusion, **Birdwatcher 2** is a novel that doesn't merely entertain—it endures, positioning the reader within the very tensions it dramatizes: between reason and mystery, between faith and doubt, between loss and hope. Greyson has given us a literary work that is as spiritually provocative as it is emotionally immersive.