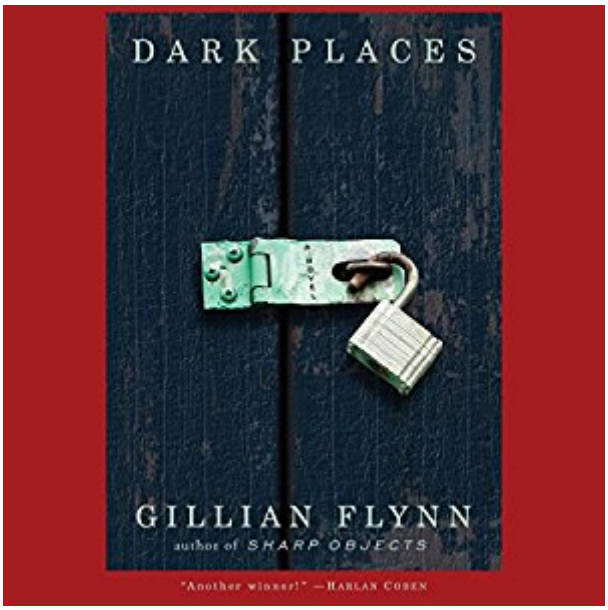
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Dark Places: A Novel



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Synopsis

I have a meanness inside me, real as an organ.Libby Day was seven when her mother and two sisters were murdered in Ã¢â ¬Å“The Satan Sacrifice of Kinnakee, Kansas.Ã¢â ¬Â• As her family lay dying, little Libby fled their tiny farmhouse into the freezing January snow. She lost some fingers and toes, but she survivedÃ¢â ¬â œand famously testified that her fifteen-year-old brother, Ben, was the killer. Twenty-five years later, Ben sits in prison, and troubled Libby lives off the dregs of a trust created by well-wishers whoÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve long forgotten her. The Kill Club is a macabre secret society obsessed with notorious crimes. When they locate Libby and pump her for detailsÃ¢â ¬â œproof they hope may free BenÃ¢â ¬â œLibby hatches a plan to profit off her tragic history. For a fee, sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll reconnect with the players from that night and report her findings to the club . . . and maybe sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll admit her testimony wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t so solid after all.As LibbyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s search takes her from shabby Missouri strip clubs to abandoned Oklahoma tourist towns, the narrative flashes back to January 2, 1985. The events of that day are relayed through the eyes of LibbyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s doomed family membersÃ¢â ¬â œincluding Ben, a loner whose rage over his shiftless father and their failing farm have driven him into a disturbing friendship with the new girl in town. Piece by piece, the unimaginable truth emerges, and Libby finds herself right back where she startedÃ¢â ¬â œon the run from a killer. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 13 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 43 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Random House Audio
Audible.com Release Date: May 5, 2009
Language: English
ASIN: B0028TY1CO
Best Sellers Rank: #105 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense #352 inÃ Â Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Women Sleuths #867 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary

Customer Reviews

SPOILERAs Johnny Depp said in the movie Secret Window, "The ending is the most important part."And it’s true, especially in a mystery.And I have to say, this ending was so implausible as to

induce eye-rolling.The travesty of the ending was made all the more painful by the fact that the book was REALLY GOOD up to that point. The author had constructed a very solid rope from the circumstances of the plot, and all she had to do was allow the rope to tie itself into a tight knot all by itself, just take the pieces she'd already laid out and let them work toward their natural and inevitable conclusion. Unfortunately, the ending she chose involves a number of glaring Red Herrings, plus an extremely unlikely "two independent murders happening AT THE SAME TIME," with the second murderer being out of left field (while he was forshadowed, he certainly wasn't central to the plot in any way until the last few moments).I'm going to try another book by this author because the writing itself was excellent and I enjoyed the way she constructed both the characters and the plot. And here's to hoping the next book I read from her has a better ending.

I enjoyed this novel immensely. Though predictable in places, it was well written, with satisfactory character development, a few good twists, and interesting scenarios. It was a very dark story. I read it after reading her widely successful "Gone Girl," which I enjoyed, though 'pop' and contemporary in style. It was a bit disturbing as well, but nothing like this one. While reading "Dark Places," I found it quite interesting that Gillian Flynn had written such a dark novel. It's a brave author who can do this, without worrying about alienating or upsetting some readers, or pushing them away. But to pen a story with such grim and violent content is merely real and palpable, in my opinion. News flash: Things like this really happen to good people! Some readers shy away from scary themes, as the idea that life is actually like this for some unfortunate people is a place they don't want to visit. However, I more than tolerate this type of story, as characters who live through dark and crazy situations are often incredibly resilient and courageous in the eye of adversity. And although I like diverseness in writing style, I can't help hoping Flynn writes more books like "Dark Places." I'm glad I read this after "Gone Girl," as I probably would have been disappointed otherwise. It's better.

I have read several of Gillian Flynn' s books, and love her style and character explorations, and this one embodied the qualities that have made me a fan. Her themes are dark, so if you want bright, cheery happily-ever-afters, this is not for you. I feel it could have been a bit shorter and tighter in the mid-way sections, but otherwise it was an engaging investigation into the main character's horrifying childhood experience, and the revelations she experiences about herself, her family, and life in general. The book as a whole, as well as the ending, left me satisfied, and eager to read Ms Flynn' s next book.

How can you not be a messed up person when (1) your family is slaughtered and (2) you testify you brother did it? Or did he? as the KC asks. The KC - Kill Club - amateur and professional sleuths who pick famous murders and try to solve them correctly. It’s this club that pays Libby, now a hard up, broken down shell of a woman, to speak them about "that night".

Twenty-five years after her fifteen-year-old brother Ben supposedly murdered her mother and two sisters, Libby Day is struggling and at a point in her life when she must find a way to bring money into the coffers. The fund that sustained her after the tragedies has dried up, and Libby flails about, seeking a solution.And what she finds is a group of individuals devoted to proving her brother was innocent--and willing to pay for mementos and information.Libby was seven years old when the murders happened, and the only survivor. Her testimony put her brother behind bars, but now she is wondering if things happened the way she believed it did. She reexamines the "darkplaces" to figure things out. And starts meeting with people to find out more, too. She also dreams about the events, with different scenarios each time. And she recalls how life as the orphan has changed everything for her, too.The setting is a Kansas farm in a small town filled with gossipy, mean-spirited individuals seemingly bent on shunning the Day family long before the tragedy struck.In alternating narratives,Ã Â Dark Places: A NovelÃ Â takes us back to 1985, to learn bits and pieces of that fateful day from the mother, Patty Day, and from Ben, the alleged perpetrator. As more is revealed, we begin to have our own doubts...and as we follow Libby’s first-person narration in the present, watching her accumulate data, the questions begin to grow until we wonder if there will ever be any definitive answers.All of the characters are flawed individuals, but beneath the surface of each, there is a hint of how they could be redeemed. If only...What mysterious person did Patty Day meet that night? Why is Ben so secretive about the events, and why is he denying having a girlfriend named Diondra? What, if anything, did his friend Trey have to do with the tragic events?Like a tornado sweeping across the flatlands, the events come full circle until finally the reader knows it all. And there were definitely some surprises. Another unputdownable read from Gillian Flynn. Five stars.

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