



Skin

Mo Hayder

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When the decomposed body of a young woman is found by near railway tracks just outside Bristol one hot May morning, all indications are that she's committed suicide. That's how the police want it too: all neatly squared and tidied away.

But **DI Jack Caffery** is not so sure. He is on the trail of someone predatory, someone who hides in the shadows and can slip into houses unseen.

And for the first time in a very long time, he feels scared.

Police Diver Flea Marley is working alongside Caffery. Having come to terms with the loss of her parents, and with the traumas of her past safely behind her, she's beginning to wonder whether their relationship could go beyond the professional.

And then she finds something that changes everything. Not only is it far too close to home for comfort - but it's so horrifying that she knows that nothing will ever be the same again.

And that this time, no one - not even Caffery - can help her ...

Skin Details

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Author : Mo Hayder

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From Reader Review Skin for online ebook

Dannii Elle says

I have been binge reading this series over the last few months and I have yet to find a single fault with it!

This installment in the Jack Caffrey crime series is pretty much a continuation of Ritual, the previous release. It, like its predecessor, follows not just Detective Inspector Jack Caffrey but Police Diver Flea Marley and their converging story lines. The split perspective allows for multiple sub-plots to be explored and for the reader to gain a further insight into varying roles and procedures inside the police force - something I find fascinating.

As always, both the story and the crime we are presented with aren't as cut-and-dried as they first appear, and the meandering plot leaves me puzzling out (and totally being misdirected) the crime through false endings, diversionary clues and superfluous characters all designed to lead the reader off the scent.

This tale is undoubtedly chilling but its focus seems to be more on the human aspect of the crime and the effects what we see have on us. The moralistic lines are blurred here and it is for the reader to decide who the bad guys really are...

Kyriaki says

Ο Μπεν Τζ?ικς και η Λο?ση Μαχ?νι ε?ναι νεκρο?. Η Μ?τσι Κ?τσον αγνοε?ται. Και η υπ?ρχει και η υπ?θεση απ? το προηγο?μενο βιβλ?ο, η οπο?α εκκρεμε?.

Με τον Μπεν Τζ?ικς ασχολο?μαστε μ?νο στην αρχ? και νι?θω ?τι μπ?κε μ?νο και μ?νο για να μας ανακατ?ψει, η παλι? υπ?θεση μια μπα?νει μια βγα?νει και την ιστορ?α με την αγνοο?μενη Μ?τσι Κ?τσον την ψιλοβαρι?μουν και με εκνε?ριζε ο ?λος -λ?θος- χειρισμ?ς της υπ?θεσης. Η Λο?ση Μαχ?νι, η βασικ? μας υπ?θεση -αφο? ξεμπερδ?ψαμε το ποιος φ?νος ε?ναι αυτοκτον?α και ποια αυτοκτον?α φ?νος- ε?χε ?να κ?ποιο ενδιαφ?ρον.....αλλ? δυστυχ?ς δεν με ικανοπο?ησε.....ο?τε ο τρ?πος με τον οπο?ο εξελ?χτηκαν τα πρ?γματα, ο?τε ιδια?τερη αγων?α ε?χε, ο?τε και η αποκ?λυψη του δολοφ?νου ? τα κ?νητρα του (κυρ?ως αυτ?!) με ?πεισαν.....

Φυσικ? και ε?χε κ?ποιες καλ?ς στιγμ?ς αλλ? σε γενικ?ς γραμμ?ς χλιαρ?...

Διαβ?ζονταν πολ? γρ?γορα, η ?ρα μου π?ρασε ευχ?ριστα και νομ?ζω πως ?ταν καλ?τερο απ? το προηγο?μενο! (αλλ? σαφ?ς κατ?τερο των δ?ο πρ?των!)

B.R.A.CE. 2018: ?να βιβλ?ο με ?να μ?ρος του σ?ματος στον τ?τλο (καρδι?, οστ?, δ?ντια, δ?ρμα, α?μα, κτλ)

Brenda says

My mind tended to wander a little while reading this book. I think it was partly due to the writing itself. There were some paragraphs that I couldn't understand, had to re-read, look up British slang, or just move on. The writing seemed erratic and disjointed, so it confused me a little, then later I got the gist. This book

picks up a week after the previous book, Ritual, ends, and it leaves us with a cliffhanger. The book entails Caffery and Flea doing their things, suicides, murders, and one sick doctor. I don't really like what either of the protagonists do in this book. I hope the next one is better.

Heather Fineisen says

August Halloween--a trick and a treat. Creepy throughout but with enough character development to balance the ick. Not a story with complete resolution, which I suspect runs throughout the Jack Caffery Books. This is my first and I liked the dive recovery element of the police and a bit off balance throughout. Off balance as the author intended. Well done.

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Η Μο Hayder ε?ναι μ?α συγγραφ?ας που τα τελευτα?α χρ?νια ?χει συζητηθε? ?σο λ?γοι ομ?τεχνο? της. Ο ιδια?τερος τρ?πος γραφ?ς της, αλλ? και η ακ?μα πιο ιδια?τερη προσ?γγιση των ιστορι?ν που αφηγη?ται, με την gore γοτθικ? αισθητικ?, ?χουν διχ?σει ουκ ολ?γες φορ?ς του αναγν?στες που ε?τε την λ?τρεψαν για τον ρεαλισμ? της, ε?τε την μ?σησαν γι' αυτ?ν, αφο? δεν ?ταν σε θ?ση να διαχειριστο?ν μια τ?σο ωμ? αντιμετ?πιση καταστ?σεων, ειδικ? ?ταν αυτ?ς αφορο?σαν παιδι?. Με την "Τελετουργ?α", που κυκλοφ?ρησε π?ρσι στη χ?ρα μας -αν και στο εξωτερικ? ε?χε πρωτοκυκλοφορ?σει το 2009, η Hayder φ?νηκε να επιχειρε? μια στροφ? στην συγγραφικ? της καρι?ρα, πρ?γμα που επιβεβαι?νεται με "Το Δ?ρμα" που κυκλοφ?ρησε πριν απ? λ?γες ημ?ρες απ? τις εκδ?σεις Δι?πτρα. Κι αν θ?λετε την ?ποψ? μου, πολ? σοφ? η επιλογ? της αυτ?, αφο? ακ?μα κι αν ξεν?σει κ?ποιους αναγν?στες της, δεν επιτρ?πει να την καθορ?σει καμ?α ταμπ?λα.

Αφετηρ?α της ιστορ?ας μας, και αυτ? τη φορ?, η ανακ?λυψη του πτ?ματος μιας ν?ας γυνα?κας, κοντ? στις σιδηροδρομικ?ς γραμμ?ς ?ξω απ? το Μπρ?στολ. ?λα τα στοιχε?α μαρτυρο?ν πως πρ?κειται για αυτοκτον?α, αφο? το πτ?μα δεν φ?ρει σημ?δια κακοπο?ησης, εν? κοντ? σε αυτ? βρ?θηκε και ο σουγι?ς που φα?νεται να ?κοψε τις φλ?βες της. ?μως, ο επιθεωρητ?ς Τζακ Κ?φερι, σαν απ? ?νστικτο, ?χει τις αμφιβολ?ες του για το κατ? π?σο τα πρ?γματα ε?ναι ?πως δε?χνουν κι ?τσι αρχ?ζει τις ?ρευνες προσπαθ?ντας ν' ανακαλ?ψει τι πραγματικ? συν?βη, ?χοντας βαθι? μ?σα του την α?σθηση πως η υπ?θεση αυτ? σχετ?ζεται με την προηγο?μενη που ε?χε αναλ?βει. την ?δια ?ρα που κ?ποιος βανδαλ?ζει τ?φους. Παρ?λληλα, η δ?της της αστυνομ?ας Φλι Μ?ρλι, προσπαθε? ν' αφ?σει π?σω της το πρ?σφατο τρομακτικ? παρελθ?ν της, εν? αναρωτι?ται αν μπορε? η σχ?ση της με τον Κ?φερι να προχωρ?σει με τον οποιονδ?ποτε τρ?πο.

?πως προαν?φερα, η Hayder, απ? την "Τελετουργ?α" ακ?μα, ε?χε αρχ?σει κ?ποιες αλλαγ?ς στον τρ?πο προσ?γγισης των ιστορι?ν της, αλλ? και στο πως θα τις αφηγηθε?. Χωρ?ς να εγκαταλε?πει πλ?ρως τον ωμ? ρεαλισμ? της, οι λεπτομ?ρειες που αφορο?ν τα εγκλ?ματα που ?ρχονται στο μικροσκ?πι? της, ε?ναι λιγ?τερο ?ντονες και ?γριες, με την ?δια να δ?νει την α?σθηση πως δεν θ?λει να ταυτιστε? απ?λυτα με το gore στοιχε?ο, αλλ? πως μ?σω αυτο? θ?λει να φτ?σει στα βαθ?τερα σημε?α της ανθρ?πινης συνε?δησης και ενσυνα?σθησης, ε?τε αυτ? εκδηλ?νεται με σωστ? ε?τε με λ?θος τρ?πο. Ουσιαστικ?, στο "Δ?ρμα", φα?νεται να εστι?ζει περισσ?τερο στη ανθρ?πινη πτυχ? της ιστορ?ας και ?χι στο ?γκλημα αυτ? καθ? αυτ?, και παρ? που η ιστορ?α της ε?ναι για μ?α ακ?μα φορ? ψυχρ? και σκληρ?, διασπ?ται σε πολλ?ς μικρ?τερες υπο?στορ?ες, το π?ντρεμα των οπο?ων οδηγε? σε μια εσωτερικ?, ηθικ? π?λη που δεν αφορ? μ?νο τους

εμπλεκ?μενους σε αυτ?ς, αλλ? κι εμ?ς ως αναγν?στες.

Επ? της ουσ?ας, "Το δ?ρμα" ε?ναι μια ?τυπη συν?χεια της "Τελετουργ?ας", ?χι μ?νο επειδ? η Φλι συμμετ?χει ξαν? σ' αυτ?ν, αλλ? γιατ? οι δ?ο ιστορ?ες συνδ?ονται μ' ?ναν τρ?πο που δεν μπορο?με να φανταστο?με ?ταν ξεκιν?με την αν?γνωσ? της, παρ? που εμπιστευ?μαστε το ?νστικτο του Κ?φερι ο οπο?ος, απ? την αρχ? κι?λας της αφ?γησης, μοιρ?ζεται μαζ? μας τις σκ?ψεις του και στη συν?χεια, τους φ?βους του. Ναι, ε?ναι η πρ?τη φορ? που βλ?πουμε τον Κ?φερι να βι?νει το α?σθημα του φ?βου, γεγον?ς που τον καθιστ? πιο ανθρ?πινο και οικε?ο στα μ?τια μας, αποδεικν?οντ?ς μας πως ?χει πολ? περισσ?τερες πλευρ?ς απ' αυτ?ς που αρχικ? πιστε?αμε, πρ?γμα συναρπαστικ? και εξαιρετικ? ενδιαφ?ρον απ? ψυχογραφικ?ς προσ?γγισης και αν?λυσης χαρακτ?ρα. ?μως, και η εξ?λιξη της Φλι ε?ναι εξαιρετικ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα, με την παρουσ?α του αδερφο? της και της συντρ?φου του να πα?ζουν καθοριστικ? ρ?λο, ?χι μ?νο στις εξελ?ξεις, αλλ? και στην αποτ?πωση της δικ?ς της ψυχοσ?νθεσης, καθ?ς και στην αλληλεπ?δρασ? της με τον Κ?φερι, ?να απ? τα πλ?ον ενδιαφ?ροντα δ?δυμα που ?χουμε συναντ?σει ?ως τ?ρα στην κατηγορ?α του αστυνομικο? μυθιστορ?ματος.

Αυτ? που πρ?πει, ?μως, ν' αναγνωρ?σουμε στη Hayder, εκτ?ς ?λων των ?λλων, ε?ναι η μοναδικ? ικαν?τητ? της να διασπ? την προσοχ? μας, να μας αποπροσανατολ?ζει και, τελικ?, να μας προσφ?ρει την ανατροπ?, το στοιχε?ο εκε?νο της ?κπληξης που π?ντα προσθ?τει π?ντους σ' ?να αν?γνωσμα του ε?δους. Οι προοπτικ?ς εξ?λιξης της ιστορ?ας αυτ?ς ε?ναι τ?σες πολλ?ς και διασπασμ?νες με τ?τοιο τρ?πο, που τ?ποτα δεν αποκλε?εται και ?λα τα σεν?ρια ε?ναι πιθαν??. ?μως, αυτ? που εγ? κρατ?ω, ε?ναι ο τρ?πος με τον οπο?ο η συγγραφ?ας προσεγγ?ζει ?ννοιες ?πως η δικαιοσ?νη και η ηθικ?, που μπορε? μεν να βασ?ζονται σε κ?ποιες γενικ?ς, υποκειμενικ?ς ιδ?ες, ωστ?σο, στο πρακτικ? τους σκ?λος, υπ?γονται σε καθαρ? αντικειμενικ?ς απ?ψεις, θεωρ?ες, αξ?ες. Κι εδ? ε?ναι που αναρωτι?σαι, ποιος πραγματικ? ε?ναι ο κακ?ς της ιστορ?ας αυτ?ς; Π?ς μπορε?ς ν' αποφασ?σεις ?ταν οι ηθικ?ς γραμμ?ς, εκτ?ς απ? εξαιρετικ? λεπτ?ς, ε?ναι τ?σο πολ? θολ?ς που ?λα ε?ναι αποδεκτ?; Αυτ? ε?ναι, ?μως, ε?ναι κ?τι που θα πρ?πει ν' απαντ?σετε μ?νοι σας.

Cat says

My least favourite of the Jack Caffery series so far. Thus, this three stars are, in fact, two and a half rounded up.

'Skin' takes place a few days after the events described in the previous book, 'Ritual'. It's dark and macabre, as a Mo Hayder book it's supposed to be, but this time it didn't feel as usual.

I had some difficulties in getting into the story. For me, the beginning of this book is a bit too jumbled for my taste, and it wasn't easy to follow. Again, some of my difficulties had to do with police-related expressions the author uses to describe different positions in the force, or weapons they use, everything abbreviated, that I don't know what they are supposed to mean.

Then, there was a je ne sais quoi in Phoebe 'Flea' Marley's story that made me frown all the time. The way she deals with her younger brother Thom is just... Come on! The guy doesn't take responsibility for none of his acts, and it has to be Flea to come all the time and clean after his mess?! I can't say I liked Flea that much in this book.

As for Caffery, he looks a bit crazy this time. Or even crazier, since what happened in 'Ritual' has left some

kind of trauma, and now the man can't stop looking over his shoulder. I don't really like him, as a character, but he was better than Flea in this book.

Regarding the crimes described, yes, they were gruesome, but there wasn't that "I wonder who the crazy perpetrator is"-feeling, because as soon as the person is presented to us, we know we have the killer. It's not what I would call exciting.

In fact, to be honest, there's nothing really exciting about this book. I was thinking of giving it only two stars, but, because it reads quite well, I've decided to give and extra half star.

Let's hope the next book on this series, 'Gone', is better.

Rob says

Skin immediately proves Mo Hayder to be even more ambitious than I thought. Not so much the fourth book in the Jack Caffery series as an immediate sequel to the third book, *Ritual*, what we have here is a panoramic, widescreen mystery told on a huge tapestry. The book picks up a week after the end of *Ritual* and once again stars Caffery and diver "Flea" Marley, only this time it keeps them apart for much of the story as they wrestle with two very different kinds of fallout from the events that occurred in the previous book. There's all the usual stuff that makes Hayder's work so compelling – a twisted crime at the heart of the plot, pitch-black humor, morally ambiguous protagonists – but as I read this one it struck me that one thing Hayder does so well in these last two books is to move the action out of London and into the rural corners of Southwest England between Bath and Bristol. It's out here that she's able to plumb some increasingly creepy depths, playing with the darkness that lurks in the forests and quarries instead of the urban streets and alleys that are often the setting of contemporary mysteries. There's no good reason I can think of why Hayder's work isn't better known in this country.

Chrissa Vasileiou says

Η ?ποψ? μου για το βιβλ?ο στο site "Book City" και τον παρακ?τω σ?νδεσμο: Το δ?ρμα

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

SWEDISH REVIEW

Jag hade turen att läsa Hud direkt efter att ha läst Ritual vilket gjorde att det kändes som om jag läste bara en bok, som var uppdelad i två böcker då handlingen i Hud tar vid i stor sett direkt efter handlingen i Ritual slutar. Då jag tyckte att Ritual slutad med några lösa trådar så var jag väldigt nöjd över detta.

Jack Caffery är inte helt övertygad om att fallet från föregående bok är helt avklarat. Han har en känsla av ett någon slapp undan, någon som förföljer honom. Frågan är varför? Och först tror han att de besynnerliga självmordet som han undersöker har med morden från föregående fall att göra. Eller rättare sagt från personen som kom undan. Men det är bara han som är misstänksam och tror att det kan rör sig om ett mord och inte ett självmord. Under tiden har Flea Marley egna problem med en överraskning som hennes bror

Thom har lämnat bak i hennes bil.

Som med föregående bok så är denna bok svår att sluta läsa. Handlingen är intensiv och fängslande och både Fleas personliga problem och Jacks undersökning är intressanta att följa. Jag var så inne i handlingen att jag nästan såg rött när Thom och hans flickvän Mandy började ställa till problem för Flea. Jag hoppas innerligt att de får vad de förtjänar i någon kommande bok. Maken till vedervärdiga personer är det svårt att finna.

Hud är en mycket bra bok och slutet var både perfekt och frustrerande. Frustrerande för att jag nu bara måste ha fortsättningen!

Tack till Modernista för recensionsexemplaret!

ENGLISH REVIEW

I was lucky to have read Ritual right before I read Skin because that made it feel like I was only reading one book that was split into two books since the story in Skin feels like a continuation from Ritual. And, since I felt that Ritual ended was some questions left to answer was this especially satisfying.

Jack Caffery is not convinced that the case from the previous book is completely over. He has a feeling that someone got away, and that person is stalking him. And, the question is why? He also thinks that the suicide that he is investigating has something to do with the murder cases from the previous case. Or rather the person that got away. But, he is the only one that is suspicious about it. Meanwhile, Flea Marley has to deal with her own personal problem, a surprise that her brother Thom left back in her car.

Like the previous book was this one hard to put down. The story is fascinating and intensive and both Flea's personal problem and Jack's investigation are interesting to follow. I was so caught up with the story that I almost exploded with anger when Thom and his girlfriend Mandy started to make trouble for Flea. I hope they get what they deserve in the future. I loathe them both!

Skin is a very good book, and the ending was both perfect and frustrating to read. Frustrating because I now must have the next book soon!

Thanks to Modernista for the review copy!

Γι?τα Βασιλε?ου says

ΤΟ ΔΕΡΜΑ, της Mo Hayder

Στο ν?ο αυτ? βιβλ?ο της Χ?ιντερ, διαπιστ?νουμε ?τι πρ?κειται για μια, ο?τε λ?γο ο?τε πολ? συν?χεια του προηγο?μενου βιβλ?ου της με τ?τλο “Η Τελετουργ?α”. ?πως και στην Τελετουργ?α, συναντ?με τον ντετ?κτιβ επιθεωρητ? Τζ?κ Κ?φερι αλλ? και την αστυνομικ?/δ?η Φλι Μ?ρλε?, παρ?α με τις συγκλ?νουσες γραμμ?ς της ιστορ?ας του καθεν?ς τους. Η πλοκ? ε?ναι διασπασμ?νη σε επιμ?ρους τομε?ς, που στο τ?λος ?μως της ημ?ρας, η δυνατ? π?να της συγγραφ?α τους πλ?κει μαζ? σε μια ?μορφη και καλοδουλεμ?νη ιστορ?α.

Και σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο, ?πως και στην Τελετουργ?α, βλ?πουμε μια διαφορετικ? Hayder. Εξακολουθε? να περιγρ?φει τα εγκλ?ματα με το γνωστ? οξ? και ωμ? της τρ?πο, μ?νο που τ?ρα σαν

κ?τι να ?χει αλλ?ξει. ?χει γ?νει πιο ανθρ?πινη, πιο προσιτ?. Η ιστορ?α ε?ναι αναμφισβ?τητα ψυχρ? και ειδεχθ?ς, αλλ? εστι?ζει περισσ?τερο στην ανθρ?πινη πτυχ? του εγκλ?ματος και τα αποτελ?σματα που βλ?πουμε ακ?μη και σε εμ?ς τους ?διους. Οι ηθικ?ς γραμμ?ς ε?ναι θολ?ς και παρεισφρ?ουν η μια στην ?λλη κι ο αναγν?στης ε?ναι αυτ?ς που καλε?ται για να αποφασ?σει ποιος ε?ναι ο κακ?ς και ποιος ?χι.

Πριν αγορ?σω το βιβλ?ο ε?χα διαβ?σει κ?ποιες κριτικ?ς σε sites του εξωτερικο? και ε?δα ?τι κ?ποιοι το θεωρο?ν το χειρ?τερ? της μ?χρι τ?ρα. Προσωπικ? ?χω κ?θετα αντ?θετη ?ποψη. Μετ? το Κελ?ηδισμα, το οπο?ο θεωρ? ανεπαν?ληπτο και θα ε?ναι το αγαπημ?νο μου π?ντα, Το Δ?ρμα ε?ναι το αμ?σως επ?μενο στην προτ?μησ? μου. Μου αρ?σει αυτ? η αλλαγ? της συγγραφ?ως και μου ?χει ταιρι?ξει.

Απ? μ?να 8,5/10.

Καλ?ς αναγν?σεις!

Bill says

Anyone who's read my reviews on Birdman and The Treatment knows I have a soft spot for Mo Hayder. Even though she let me down in Ritual by veering away from Caffrey's storyline regarding his brother, I cannot forget how those first two novels hit me like a bag of bricks. In Ritual, she introduced a new character, Flea, and I wasn't keen on her. I was much too resentful of where the storyline was going so there was no way she was going to win me over.

Skin is pretty much a continuation of Ritual. I knew that going in, and normally that would have discouraged me. But when she keeps putting more books out in the series to higher ratings, I can't resist the chance of hitting another novel that would match the intensity of the first two.

Well, I'm happy to report that not only was Skin a good read, but I was able to swallow my resentment and warm up to Flea. This was no Birdman or The Treatment, but it's still Mo Hayder. Her pacing in this novel was very good, where the alternating storylines made for compulsive reading.

I just hope that with the next novel, Gone, she places more focus on Caffrey and less (or totally eliminate) The Walking Man. I couldn't care less for him. Or the whole African mojo/jojo story arc for that matter.

Mildly recommended in anticipation of better things to come...

Keith says

I only recently discovered that this mystery novel featuring protagonist Jack Caffery is one of a series about this British DI and I can now say that I plan on searching out the others. This intriguing thriller of moral decisions faced by two dedicated police officers that feel they must make "the wrong decisions for the right reasons" is a winner. Sgt. Flea –a nickname for Phoebe- Marley, head of the Police Divers Recovery Team and Caffery are co-workers with an undefined shared history, assigned to search for a missing celebrity but

here their paths begin to diverge as each become involved in a series of events that seriously compromise their duties as police officers. Mixed in is a mysterious and possibly predacious creature that seems to be stalking Caffery and a series of suicides that are highly suspicious; the result is an intelligent whodunit. The story's resolution is unpredictable and surprising and the main characters evolve into two troubled yet sympathetic personalities. Hey, how much more can you ask from a detective mystery? I highly recommend this one.

Siobhan says

This is a brilliant addition to the Jack Caffery series, if only for all the wrong reasons.

In terms of the grand storyline across the series this is a really important book. I adored where everything was heading. In fact, this book turned my view of Flea completely around – in Ritual I had hated her character yet in Skin I realised just how brilliant she actually is. So yeah, this is a wonderful book for where the rest of the series is heading and brings together so many different elements that you want to find out more about.

That being said, I felt as though the individual crime of this book took a backseat. I wanted more about that aspect of the story, as I felt as though we did not enter it at the depth we usually do. As always we're given an interesting crime but due to the fact that so much is going on in preparation for the rest of the series, along with bringing in things from prior books, it is not executed as well as it could have been. I simply wish we'd headed deeper into that world and it hadn't felt as though it was pushed completely aside.

As a whole I love where this book sends us but I felt as though some aspects were rather lacking.

Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: Next in the series and Mo Hayder is my favourite author in the world! (at the moment)

Summary: A suicide is found and everything points to case closed, though the ex-husband does show concern that things don't seem right. When another suicide with the same MO shows up Jack Caffery asks to be put on the case as he has found some connections between the two. At the same time celebrity rich girl, Misty Kitson, has simply vanished and police diver Flea Marley has been called in to search a few lakes and a quarry. Flea and Jack do not work together in this novel, they are off on their own this time. Jack's case takes him to a very strange human being and a sick prolific serial killer while Flea is hit out of the blue by a family problem that she must deal with and it is something that will change her life forever.

Comments: First off the mystery story was quite good, it did lack Hayder's trademark gruesomeness and weirdness which I've come to expect but still a strange enough case to be worthy of Hayder's talent. Flea's story, however, is the one that gets the reader's blood thumping. Not exactly a mystery as we learn the facts as quickly as Flea does but more pure thriller. What Hayder has done in this book is examine her main characters personalities and moral boundaries. From earlier books we know what Jack is capable of, but he has shown determinedly to prove himself the better man he knows he can be. Flea we've only seen from one side, this novel tests her boundaries and between them both Mo Hayder has created two very unique main character detectives for a police procedural series. Are they likable? "Can" they be likable? What does it say

about the reader if he does like them? Personally, I did not like Jack the first time I met him in "Birdman" but I grew to like him quite quickly. At this time I do still like both Flea and Jack but with caveats and I must see what the next book brings before I make any final decisions. But whether I like them or not as persons, I love them as the unique, distinct detective team in Hayder's twisted thrillers with plots that no one else could write.

Paradoxe says

Ε?ναι ?ρρυθμο και παραπα?ει αν?μεσα σε αρκετ?ς διαφορετικ?ς υποθ?σεις εργασ?ας. Απ' την ?λλη δ?νονται λεπτομ?ρειες για την ανθρ?πινη υπ?σταση των χαρακτ?ρων, ρεαλιστικ?ς. Παρ?τι, τον ?διο τον Κ?φερι τον απλοποιε? και κατ? κ?ποιο τρ?πο τον "κλισεδοποιε?". Η δε ?παρξη του Πλαν?βιου και οι συναντ?σεις μαζ? του φ?ρνουν κ?τι απ' το ?ρωμα του Κ?νολυ. Αυτ? η εντ?πωση ενισχ?εται και απ' τη στιχομυθ?α, τον τρ?πο ?νταξης και την ατμ?σφαιρα που αφορ? το Τοκολ?σε.

Στα πλην η χ?ρτινη απεικ?νιση των συναισθημ?των, αλλ? στα συν η δι?σταση της σχ?σης Μ?ντι – Τομ. Στα συν επ?σης, οι πειστικο? κι αληθοφανε?ς δι?λογοι κι ?τι οι υποθ?σεις εργασ?ας μεμονωμ?να δεν ε?ναι κακ?ς κι ?χουν μ?λιστα ωρα?ο φιν?ρισμα.

Το βρ?δυ της Παρασκευ?ς και το σο?ρουπο του Σαββ?του κ?λησαν ευχ?ριστα κι ο ρυθμ?ς ?των γρ?γορος. Του ταιρι?ζουν οι Opeth χαμηλ? και ?να μπολ?κι με κ?σιους, αμ?γδαλα και π?νατς, βγαλμ?νο απ' ευθε?ας απ' την κατ?ψυξη.

2.5 με πτωτικ? τ?ση. Ελπ?ζω το επ?μενο να ε?ναι αν?τερο, εφ?μιλλο των Τ?κνο και Κελ?ηδισμα.

Nasia says

?λα παιδι?, ας σοβαρευτο?με που αυτ? ?χει πουλ?σει τ?σα αντ?τυπα. Θ?λω δε?τερο αστυνομικ? στο καπ?κι μπας και ξεπλυθε? η ντροπ? αυτο?.

Nick Reys says

Ever since I discovered Mo Hayder last year, I became quite a fan of her writing, especially the books about inspector Caffery. They were exciting, nervewrecking and gross. The last Caffery I've read, Ritual, brought a really dark undertone to it all, dealing with the African Muti and Tokoloshe. I was thrilled to know that all of that would continue in Skin, as would Flea Marley return.

Alas, this turned out to be everything I hoped it wouldn't be. A not so great sequel.

The plot seems interesting at first, judging by the blurb. A serial killer who skins animals as well as humans. This would become another gross read like Birdman and The Treatment. The skinning, however, is kept to a bare minimum, and apart from a dog and a rabbit, you can take that quite literally.

The whole reason behind the skinning and killing that did happen, escaped me. I never got the satisfying explanation her other books had. Too bad, cause there is quite some potential here.

The search for the killer is also a turn-off. It's all dark until one connection between two victims is made and

from there on, it's obvious whodunnit. Even then remains the question, why skin -take a lil' bit of skin- them? It's actually not until Caffery enters the house of the killer that we know he 'skinned' them.

Then there is Flea Marley. In Ritual, she was a pretty cool sidekick to Caffery, but they barely crossed paths whatsoever here. She was completely minding her own business here. That business made her become someone completely different. Not the likeable Flea from Ritual but rather an annoying character who happens to enter the main storyline way too much. Because of all the drama going on in her own personal life, she chooses to go against the law several times, which made her act out of character, ot so I think.

Everything in this book takes place about a week after the events in Ritual, so the Tokoloshe-stuff is all quite fresh. Where in Ritual everything about this creature was wrapped in mist, here things were revealed a bit more. Even though it was an interesting thing in Ritual, and fitted nicely in the bigger picture, I felt that he was kept around just to make things a bit easier for Caffery and Flea.

At the end, the story is clealy not finished, so I truly hope Hayder picks up her game and delivers again, cause I'd hate to see the storyline lead out in Ritual shrivel down to this and less.

Joanna Reed says

I feel I am being generous when offering this book 3 stars. I was looking forward to reading this following on from Ritual and seeing how Flea and Caffery's relationship might develop and unfortunately their interaction was ltd. You also got the impression that this was going to continue with the Tokoloshe which in a way it did but with a real lack of depth. It seemed like Mo had changed her mind half way through the book and their story lines although weirdly crossing over they seemed very removed from each other. It felt like two books mashed together rather than one complete story and within that there were so many references to past and future potential story lines it detracted from the main story. There was no real depth to the murder case that Caffery was investigating. A lot of the story was very over the top and so far fetched I struggled to believe on invest in this one. lacked suspense and rather predictable! However it is easy to read and you will breeze through it but in a nut shell it's very unrealistic and a bit rubbish! In no rush to read the next instalment as the more I read of Mo's the worse they seem to get.

📚📚📚 Janni says

2,5 ??

Ich kann weder Fleas noch Cafferys Handlungen nachvollziehen. Auch sind die Charaktere sehr blass und für mich nicht rund.

Noch will ich Mo Hayder nicht aufgeben, da mir bisher 1 von den 3 gelesenen wirklich sehr gut gefallen hat. Aber ich befürchte, dass diese Reihe nichts für mich ist.

Karina says

Unfortunately, there were too many 'I can't exactly believe this would really happen' moments in this book. I

have enjoyed Hayder's books in the past and given them high ratings, but this one didn't deliver as well as her previous books in this series.
