



## Playmates

*Jess C. Scott*

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## ABOUT THE SERIES:

A psychological thriller about a brother sister serial killing team--and their slow descent into amoral mayhem.

Follow the Wilde twins in a twisted tale of love and loyalty...

GENRE: Psychological Thriller

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## Book 1 PLAYMATES:

As kids, Tania and Trevor's unsupervised play time offers a lifeline to sanity amidst the chaos of family dysfunction. When danger threatens Tania, Trevor isn't willing to stand by and watch his sister get hurt. The instinct for survival is only rivaled by the killer instincts the Wilde siblings encourage in each other. Instincts that turn into a deadly game igniting their first taste for blood.

Book #1 in *The Wilde Twins* trilogy.

## Playmates Details

Date : Published 2014 by jessINK (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Jess C. Scott

Format : Paperback

Genre : Dark, Thriller, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Playmates for online ebook

### **Maria says**

I've been a fan of Jess C. Scott's writing for a few years now. I love the way she always comes up with original and edgy ideas for novels and stories. Playmates is no exception.

This story is captivating, engrossing, shocking, and compulsive.

The Wilde twins, Tania and Trevor are children when we meet them in this book, the first in a series. The author has done a brilliant job in painting a picture of a dysfunctional family. I was left wondering whether the twins were psychopaths by nature or whether their upbringing had caused them to have no respect for life. Either way, I couldn't help feeling sympathy towards them.

Be prepared to be shocked by this book. There are many scenes that will be disturbing to some readers. If you are interested in psychology and enjoy psychological thrillers you will not be able to put this book down.

Extremely well written, this is a must read for open minded readers looking for something unique to read.

I am eagerly awaiting the second book in the series.

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### **Darcia Helle says**

Are killers born defective or made by their circumstances? Jess C. Scott shows us that the answer might sometimes be a little of both.

One of the things I love about this author is that she puts us right into the messy circumstances, with no apologies and no sugar-coated scenes. We feel what it's like to be these kids, with all their hopes and misery. We follow them as they grow older, as their hopes are continually squashed and their misery turns to something else entirely.

This novel is not for squeamish or easily offended readers. The material is raw and unflinchingly honest. The truly sad - and scary - part is that this story could easily be playing out in reality at this very moment.

Playmates is the first book in a trilogy, and it ends on a cliffhanger. Be forewarned that there isn't a comfortable ending here. I will definitely be reading the book 2, so I can find out what happens next with the twins.

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### **Laurie says**

Author Scott produces a promising beginning to her Wilde Twins series where fraternal twins are a grisly brother sister team of serial killers. In this first book she begins by introducing us to them as children. We

see how Tania goes from a normal 9 year old girl to a teen with little or no empathy, especially for those that seem to have a better life than she does.

\*SPOILER ALERT\* nope not going to give away the conclusion of the story. I couldn't if I wanted to since there was no conclusion, just a cliff for me to dangle off of. For those readers who enjoy cliff hangers, you're going to love this one. Personally, I feel jipped. When I invest my time to read a book and don't get some closure, some sense that the book has ended, even if there is a sequel there should be some sense of a conclusion to this book before the next one begins. Ok, off my soap box about my biggest pet peeve and moving on...

The characters are incredibly well developed. Their actions and reactions are realistic and gives insight to the reader as to how and why the twins develop exactly as they do psychologically and allows us to sympathize with Tania even if we do not condone her actions.

This installation of the series definitely piques one's interest to follow the Wilde twins lives to see where fate takes them next.

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### **Stuart Keane says**

Within the world of literature there's a rumour, a forbidden rule, that certain topics are taboo. While in hindsight, this is probably a good idea - we don't want society collapsing around us - for certain genres to break out of the mould and claim a name for themselves, they have to push the boundaries to their potential. I've always believed that horror is one genre that's constantly criticised for it's material but it's probably the most successful at pushing that envelope to breaking point.

Playmates, by Jess C. Scott, starts out as a wonderful tale of family bonding. For the first few pages, Trevor and Tania, brother and sister, are twin siblings who care for one another, plan to run away and generally look after each other through the good and the bad. From the start, the relationship between the two is paramount, effortlessly flitting between each of them in turn during the chapters which creates a double-sided view to proceedings. This technique is refreshing but also important to the plot.

However, all is not rosy. Tania and Trevor live in an abusive home. Mom is a religious nut-job with an obsession to pills and Dad is the poor recipient of her rage...or so it seems. Regardless, the twins are exposed to this on a daily basis and it's only a matter of time before it affects them...a process that develops throughout the book. This is not just the novel's strongest benefit but also a joy to behold for any thriller fan.

You feel for these characters, especially the twins. Yes, the subject is taboo (scenes of rape, incest and sexual abuse are frequent and potentially offensive but never just 'tacked on'; each scene serves a purpose) but it's these scenes, interactions and consequences that shape Tania and Trevor. You can see them growing in front of you, on the page and in your mind, and it's this development that keeps you turning the pages until the finale. Serial killers shouldn't be condoned but when they're this entertaining, you kind of forget that.

This is a mesmerising read, a very adult, mature, entertaining and horrific novel that stretches the boundaries for the sake of the story. This isn't a bad thing, the subject matter on hand isn't one that can be wrapped in cotton wool and trying to do so would've killed the story. Readers are clever folk and wouldn't stand for this. If you want to write about something serious, you can't go halfway. You need to go all the way, regardless of offence or critics, and Scott has done that here. At times, I winced, gritted my teeth and frowned. I can

imagine some people reading this and throwing holy water on it. Which is probably why I loved it so much.

5\* - Phenomenal read. I don't have many book series on my TBR list but I think this one just made it on there. At times bleak and depressing but also heartwarming and realistic, you won't find a better serial killer book that tugs at your heart strings. Not since American Psycho have I read a serial killer book this entertaining. Excellent stuff.

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### **Maryann Breedlove says**

Climb on board and travel through time as serial killers are formed.

This novel walks the reader through a dark adventure of adolescence and puberty seen through the experiences of Twins; A boy and a girl. They live in the same house and the same bedroom yet life for one is much harsher and darker than the other. The story investigates how two siblings can be in the same environment but be shaped so differently. The author revels how effortlessly a leader rises to take control and how far we are willing to go when we love.

The thing about this novel which struck me the hardest is the suggestion our personalities are, in part, inherited. The sins of the father (mother) are visited on the children.. not only by word and deed but in the very makeup of their chromosomes.

There is a dark twisted justice suggested in these pages.

Please be advised, this novel deals with dark and disturbing subjects. Although not graphic, murder and child sexual abuse are major themes of this work. The author did not need to use descriptive detailed words to paint the horrific picture in your mind.. so if you are of a sensitive nature I would not suggest you read this novel. If, on the other hand, you are of a curious nature.. thrill at understanding concepts different from your own.. are one of those people who has to look at the car crash even though you don't want to.. because you need to know.. than this is a outstanding beginning to a trilogy.

This is not a stand alone novel.. it is a cliff hanging ending so be prepared.

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### **audrey says**

Tania and Trevor are adolescent twins devoted to one another and share an unbreakable bond strengthened from enduring a volatile dysfunctional home. An ominous metamorphosis gradually transpires as they mature into fledgling serial killers. This is the first book in the Wilde Twins trilogy.

Playmates is a captivating story that is intelligently written. I loved the psychological elements presented throughout the story. I appreciated that the author approached the story with a broad understanding on child development and abnormal psychology. I liked that the information was conveyed unobtrusively through the characters establishing a more impactful characterization.

I also enjoyed the social commentary prominent throughout the story. It included an interesting assessment on mass media, pop culture, consumerism, and conformity. I liked how it explored themes concerning

society such as family dynamics, gender roles, and sexuality. I appreciated that the ideas were presented with a morally ambiguous stance preferring to expose its influence on the characters and their thought process.

The chapters alternate between both siblings creating a contrasting yet united perspective. The story highlights pivotal events each year from when the characters are 9 to 13 years old. The simplistic youthful narratives were intriguing to read. I liked that the narratives highlighted how the main characters actively processed external information around them in an attempt to better understand their world. The author acknowledges the myriad of influences that contributed to the main characters evolving into serial killers in a natural suspenseful progression.

At times the higher cognitive thinking made them seem a couple of years older. However I think overall their concerns and thought process were true to their age range. I also liked that the preteen perspective presented was modern with recent embedded references illustrating the extensive generational changes.

The ending is abrupt and I didn't consider it to be well executed cliffhanger but the second book (Bedmates) picks up immediately where the first ends continuing with the suspenseful action. If you plan on reading this story I would suggest purchasing the trilogy boxset for a more seamless reading experience.

Playmates is a compelling and thoughtful story that delivers a suspenseful account of a sibling serial killing team emerging from childhood.

**[Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book through Story Cartel in exchange for an honest review.]**

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### **Jo Reason says**

Growing up in a very unstable and dysfunctional family, twins Trevor and Tania only have each other to trust and rely on as their mother is rather attached to pills and alcohol and their father seems to take all the abuse, or does he? This is the first in a trilogy.

This is a well written book, but boy, it is dark and disturbing, oh, did I mention dark and disturbing? This is a psychological thriller at it's best but with some moments some readers might find uncomfortable due to the subjects covered.

It is written from the point of view of the twins, alternating chapters from Trevor to Tania, which are very easy to follow. The author has researched well life in a dysfunctional family from the point of their age group, but she has done a brilliant job from Tania's point of view. The story covers various years of their life as they grow and develop and learn about life from each of their points of view. The characters are well developed you can almost see and feel the things Tania goes through as I felt that Tania's character was better developed.

This is a fast read I finished it in two sittings as it is not a very long book. I actually found it unputdownable although I was disappointed with the ending, I was so into the book wanting to know what is about to happen and it just finishes, no warning, nothing, a cliff hanger but as this is the first of a trilogy I understand this is to get you to buy the next book.

Warning this book is not for the faint hearted due to the subject covered in the book.

The title and cover are very appropriate. I would be interested in reading more from this author.

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## **Lorrea - WhatChaReadin'? says**

\*\*I received this book for free from Story Cartel in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

Tania and Trevor Wilde are twins. They live in a small lake town with their parents. Every night their parents have "wine time" where they hurl bottles and insults at each other. Tania and Trevor spend "wine time" in their room wishing they could be anywhere else and making a plan to get away. The Wilde family is the definition of a dysfunctional family. Mom is abusive towards Tania and Trevor feels helpless to stop it. Then she invites strange men into the home while dad is away working. The next day, though, she will have bible study with some of her friends. Dad, is not exempt from the dysfunction. He is a professor at the local community college and brings home co-eds to the basement.

Tania frequently thinks about death and often coaxes Trevor to the dark side. She doesn't have many friends so she counts on her brother to fill that void. Then an unfortunate incident takes place and makes them both a lot darker.

Playmates, is a psychological thriller about killer kids. While this book did not have me on the edge of my seat, it held and captured my attention. I wanted to know what was going to happen next. I look forward to the next titles in the Wilde series. Bedmates and Soulmates.

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## **HornFan2 (Mike) says**

Got this free from [storycartel.com](http://storycartel.com) for my review.

While the writings okay, just didn't get into the book. Felt for the subject matter, it's was way too tame, unrealistic, and could have been a lot better.

Just felt this one would be like one of M.A. Comley's, were she scares the crap out of you, keeps you reading and wanting more.

It just seemed like the twins acted like boyfriend/girlfriend, not sibling's. Nothing bad really happened to Trevor, seemed like it was Tania that was the one abused. I was expecting to have the book more scary than it was, but it's cookie cutter, with what the twins do, very, very tame and even the killing of Brian was written way too easy.

I seriously doubt I'll read the other two in the series. Not because of the subject matter but rather I just feel the author just didn't pull it off or make me want to bother. I also think, being a Investigative Discovery fan, before that Court and then Tru TV watching all the crime shows, no way does she make it believable for me.

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## **Jason Pettus says**

(Reprinted from the Chicago Center for Literature and Photography [[cclapcenter.com](http://cclapcenter.com)]. I am the original author of this essay, as well as the owner of CCLaP; it is not being reprinted illegally.)

I have to confess, I don't have much to say about Jess C. Scott's new dark bizarro novel *Playmates*, book one of a coming "Wilde Twins" series, because there's simply not much to say about it in the first place -- a transgressive noir in the style of Kathy Acker, like many of these books it is cartoonish in the level of abuse and degradation on display (in this case, by a set of dysfunctional parents towards their twin children), which serves as the catalyst for a series of ultra-violent, Tarantinoesque adventures (involving the Wilde Twins of the book's title, who go off on a streak of chaos when older that is so over-the-top as to be deliberately ridiculous). And that's...well, you know, it is what it is, and those who like these kinds of books (*you know who you are*) are sure to like this one as well, although for general readers be warned that this follows a well-worn set of easily guessed tropes and doesn't really contain much more of interest besides that. A book tailor-made for the hardcore bizarro fans it was designed for, but that likely won't appeal to anyone else, it is getting the middle-of-the-road score today that such an assessment deserves.

Out of 10: **7.2**

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### **D.B. says**

*Playmates* (Wilde Twins Series, Book #1) by Jess C Scott is a well written psychological thriller. The author pulls the reader right in and makes the reader feel as though they are right there beside the twins.

The twins, Tania and Trevor, are very close. They often read each others thoughts and feel each others feelings. They have grown up in a dysfunctional family; an alcoholic and drug addicted mother, along with a father that rarely notices his children at all.

Tania bears the brunt of her mother's anger, while Trevor tries to be there for his twin sister and make things better. Left to mostly raising themselves, the twins do the best they can. Tania is darker and more sinister than Trevor. She often coaxes her twin brother to do things he normally would not do if left on his own.

This psychological thriller is a bit disturbing. It contains scenes of abuse, incest, murder, and rape. There is a sexual overtone throughout the book.

I recommend this book to adult readers who enjoy psychological thrillers.

I received a copy of this book through Story Cartel in exchange for an honest review.

<http://mauldinfamily1.wordpress.com/2...>

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### **HKelleyB says**

*Playmates* (Wilde Twins Series) by Jess C. Scott is a dark, disturbing, psychological thriller about the dysfunctional lives of young twins Tania and Trevor Wilde.

The Wilde family lives in Pleasant Lake. The father is an English teacher; the mother is a former beauty queen. At the story's start, the twins are about to turn nine. What appears to be a 'normal' American family is anything but. There are issues, serious ones. There's self-hatred and alcoholism, emotional and physical abuse. But, that's only the beginning. This story goes to the dimmest, deepest depths of depravity to pose the

question: Are serial killers born or made?

Scott takes a subject that is difficult to think about, difficult to acknowledge, and places it in the forefront in this novella. Like a highway accident you rubberneck to view, the story grabs you and you cannot look away. I did not want to finish this story. I did not want to like it either. But, it is a well-written book with intriguing characters, a deep and troublesome plot, and a well-woven theme.

Warning: This novella is NOT for everyone. It should come with a NC-17 rating.

However, for those adults who want to delve into the psychological depths of how a lack of parenting, a lack of supervision, and a lack of love molds and shapes two young children into morbidly dangerous menaces to society, *Playmates* (Wilde Twins Series) by Jess C. Scott will not disappoint. 3 stars

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### **Yawatta Hosby says**

\*\*\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

I enjoyed this book. Meet Trevor and Tania, a set of twins who were doomed from the start. Talk about dysfunctional parents! Each twin had a first person point-of-view account, my favorite type of stories to read. My favorite line: “Do the crime, do the time...”

I respected the author’s edginess. She wasn’t afraid to tackle taboo subjects. I can’t really explain; otherwise, I’d be posting spoilers. Those kids, especially Tania, went through hell and back, and this was only between the ages of 9-13! I cringed through a lot of the book because Jess C. Scott did an excellent job of showing rather than telling. She painted a vivid picture in my head, and I really felt for Trevor and Tania.

I really loved the twists and turns throughout the story. Their mother was a piece of work. I cheered when she died. Was their dad a saint? Did he look out for their best interests? Or was he an evil monster? You’ll have to read to find out.

It was a nice build up to the twin’s first kill. I had chills down my spine through most of the book. And that cliffhanger! Talk about mind-blowing!

Normally, I’m not into series, preferring standalone novels, but I have to check out the next book to see what happens with Tania and Trevor’s journey as teenagers.

I RECOMMEND this book to read.

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### **Kelly Smith Reviews says**

Jess C. Scott is the founder of jessINK Publishing, which gives her the freedom to write what she pleases...and what she pleases is the dark, disturbing tale of two murderous young twins in *Playmates*, the first in a trilogy.

Trevor and Tania Wilde are each others' twins, best friends and protectors. Their mother is a drug addicted alcoholic and their father is always angry. Their mother hits Tania and makes her feel like trash. She sleeps with men for money and wants her twelve year old daughter to do the same.

Trevor seems to get off lighter than Tania, but he uses that to help his beloved sister out of jams.

The only thing that makes their time bearable is each other...and their obsession with violence.

This story is NOT for the faint of heart. Its appeal comes from the fact that there are no bloodsucking vampires or flesh-eating werewolves in the narrative. The biggest monsters are the humans. There are two little kids with their whole lives ahead of them, but life has other plans for them.

Murder (actually multiple murders), rape, incest and anger fuel Playmates. While the kids are despicable, readers will find themselves wanting to hug them and give them milk and cookies under a safe roof.

You will cringe, you might cry, but you will definitely be unable to take your eyes away from your ereader! (I consider this to be 18+, by the way. It is far too sinister for most teens.)

5/5--excellent!

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### **Tony Parsons says**

Tania & Trevor Wilde were twins & lived in a log cabin at Pleasant Lake. Angela (Mom) Wilde was taking pills & prostituting herself when dad Viktor Daniel Wilde was out with his buddies. Susan & Barbara frequently did a Bible Reading session with Mom. Is there more to this family than meets the eye?

Who killed Angela? Who/why was Billy Reed killed?

At age 12, 1 of the very 1st books my biological father gave me was on serial killers.

As a former school/crisis social worker I haven't ever worked with a family quite like this one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. Wow, a very well written psychological crime thriller book. It was very easy to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. No grammar errors, repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make great movie, animated cartoon, PP presentation or paid-per-view mini TV series. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free book (Story Cartel)

Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

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