



Hate

Alan Gibbons

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Eve's older sister, Rosie, was bright and alive and always loved being the centre of attention. Then one day, she is brutally murdered. Six months later, Eve meets Antony and discovers that he was there the night Rosie died and did nothing to help. Is there any way she can ever get past that? Inspired by the Sophie Lancaster murder in 2007, which saw Sophie and her partner Rob viciously attacked in Stubbylee Park, Bacup, Lancashire because of the way they dressed. This is a hard-hitting real-life thriller about friendship, courage, loss, forgiveness and about our society and communities.

Hate Details

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Author : Alan Gibbons

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From Reader Review Hate for online ebook

Bookread2day says

Alan Gibbons novel Hate is inspired by a true story. Hate is a fiction story. The attack on the character Rosie, is based on a real attack. Alan Gibbons came to write this story of Hate after meeting Sylvia Lancaster at a teachers conference. Sylvia told the audience how her daughter, Sophie died after Sophie and her partner Rob were both after a savage attacked in Stubbylee Park, Bacup, Lancashire 24th August 2007. Hate is a heartbreakingly good story. Eve's sister, died after an unprovoked attack on her. With a dark gripping twist Anthony is the new boy who has moved from his previous home town to start a new life with his mum near Manchester road where Eve and her best friend live. A storm is brewing as Anthony is the new boy in Eves class. But Anthony is no stranger to Eve she knows he was there the night her sister Rosie was attacked. There is no escape for Anthony from Eve, she has suffered heartbreak and her family have had a lot to cope with their pain and anger that their daughter Rosie was taken away from them through a savage attack. Eve has a crazy plan in store for Anthony. Although attacks are rare it does send chills down you when you hear about People of all ages and from all walks of life who are viciously attacked. You think times have changed, but some people are still so full of hate. The novel Hate is a solid page turner. I recommend Hate by Alan Gibbons to all readers and book groups as there are some questions at the back of the book that can be disussed. The book Hate is a story about love, loss, hate and we see a family sharing their experience of loss. There is forgiveness and standing up against prejudice and believing in who we are. A great novel not to be missed.

Emma says

Review by Beth - 4.5/5

Hate is an exceptionally well executed novel that takes its inspiration from the true, terrible story of Sophie Lancaster, murdered for looking different. Gibbons' inspiration is clear throughout and he deftly manages to craft a new story that puts the mindlessness of such events into a little perspective.

Hate is a dual narrative with Eve, the sister of brutally murdered Rosie and Anthony, a witness who stood by and did nothing, taking turns to tell their story and come to terms with everything they have been through. It's hard, to begin with, to feel anything but confusion for Eve, she can't possibly work out how to continue as before, her entire family has disintegrated. Her mother has been swallowed up by Rosie's forthcoming court case and fight for justice whilst her father has shrunk into nothingness, afraid and broken. Eve is somewhere in the middle not knowing what to do, only thinking 'What would Rosie do?' but this all changes when Anthony arrives.

Anthony's story is fascinating as it's clear he is haunted by Rosie too and the events of that night and his inability or choice to do nothing. Whilst Eve is powered by fury and grief, Anthony is engulfed by grief and frustration at his choices.

Scenes throughout this novel are hard to read, especially in light of the story's inspiration, but Alan Gibbons should be praised for not holding back. The murder scene is very hard going but it's through this you get a chance to see Anthony's perspective as well as watch (read?) in horror as both Rosie and her boyfriend are beaten beyond belief, for absolutely no good reason.

As the story progresses the second plot, focusing on Eve's friend Jess and her recently out homosexual brother is a chance for Anthony to do something he couldn't do before. I would say it was a little predictable as the cues and hints as the story built were quite obvious but this didn't detract from its power.

The back of the book features a range of thoughtful questions which would be brilliant for a book group or in a classroom discussion (this novel should be read in classrooms with no doubt).

Letty says

I could relate to Anthony, The Edge also written by Alan Gibbons, helped me relate to people in a similar situation although that story included race. However, 'Hate' is something I have never read about before, as a result I found it difficult to relate to Eve at first in the end I think I began to understand and empathise. I may not remember this story in a few years time but the message it gave me is something that I would like to remember. Don't exclude people for being different because the world would be a very boring place if everybody was the same.

This book is well written, 1st and 3rd person is used to help you empathise with Eve and understand Anthony. You can tell that this story took time to write, that Gibbons had to sculpt it before he could write; research and plan. I may not want to be a writer but this inspires me. It is not something that people want to talk about but it is something that we should.

Sally says

Hate is a hugely powerful book, sadly based on an horrendous personal assault that ended the life of a young woman in 2009 <http://www.sophielancasterfoundation....>

Alan Gibbons has written a very poignant and thought provoking novel looking at the many ways prejudice and hatred rear their ugly faces in modern Britain. It challenges people's reactions to such responses, be them verbal or physical. It highlights the power of a united front against social injustice as well as what a difference one person's action or inaction can make.

The book offers so many areas for discussion. It questions the true justice given by law, looks at the depth of suffering such a terrible bereavement on the family and the community as a whole as well as the witnesses to shocking crimes.

When standing up for someone potentially puts your own life on the line, is it something you could do? Is it something you should do? Is it something you would do?

I urge everyone to read this book and take the time to consider the real life case of Sophie Lancaster. I would love to live in a world where we didn't have to confront the horrible acts of other's hatred, but sadly that's not our reality.

Weasel says

If I were to recommend this book, it would be with a big disclaimer. I picked it up because it was one of the nominees for a local book award and because it was framed as being based on/around a real life case.

I read it v quickly, but I am going to be honest, I read it quickly because I was hoping that it wasn't going, or doing what it did. I was effectively angry reading.

The choices the author made, from his inspiration of being at a talk given by the mother of the real life victim, to the plotting of this book are problematic - and the set of 'questions to ask after you are done reading' aimed at teens while interesting and would spark good discussions, make the problems with the text grate a bit more on me. In a lot of ways, the author tried to do too much and failed.

Neither Eve nor her mother Cathy are nice people in this book. Very little in their behaviour and arc offer anything to make them sympathetic, besides 'we lost a close relative in a terrible way' which might have been enough, if it was framed better at some points.

The choice of having them direct all their attention to basically victim blaming a boy whose life (unnecessarily) was bad and who witnessed the murder but didn't stop it. He did give a statement, and the police had a list and other witnesses. They set out to ruin his life and shame him into giving evidence in court, ignore his point of view, even after being told that giving evidence in court could get him killed. And all this acting off anonymous information provided by someone who clearly knows more than he does, but doesn't want to be named.....

There is never at any point the suggestion of the same kind of anger being aimed at the actual killers. Yes this is how grief can go, they gained a perfect target and lashed out because he was there. It does not make it ok.

Add in the author's choice to give the impression that the only way you can get close to making up for not stopping a crime is to stop another one. Problematic.

(And you know, treating Anthony as she does, Eve is basically doing a prolonged version of what people did to her sister, nice.)

Eve and her mother are both doing unhealthy grieving. At no point is there any suggestion that they are moving onto something more healthy.

Six months after and the school acts like nothing happened? And Eve's friends? Really? She's clearly grieving and acting out, but no one is paying any attention. Urgh. Oh and all we know about Eve is she felt like the least favourite child and likes music. Oh and has more than one friend, honest.

Jess is outright creepy and inappropriate with Anthony (but it's ok, he likes his pushy stalker in the end) and her relationship with her brother came across as awkward and contrived (and while he's gay, there is no boyfriend shown - it's all vocal gay).

The use of anti-gay violence, brief mention of race issues, and domestic violence - it's a whole heap dumped in and it doesn't actually make it clear that there is a difference between the impact and approaches and level of damage involved in each kind.

Yes killing someone for being Goth is wrong, no doubt - but it isn't as culturally/socially ingrained as attitudes to race, gender and sexuality. Select people use it as an excuse, typically the abuse is vocal or person specific - it's good that the law was changed to reflect a wider range of discrimination, but you can't compare each to one another, or substitute them.

This book needed more of a focus on the crime, some more balance of the characters and actions - and a whole lot less unnecessary additions (Anthony and his mum being on the run from an abusive man - he could have just been someone at her school to begin with - or you know, there could have been some attempt to

recognise/deal with the domestic violence, rather than they ran and as long as they stay hiding they're good! yay.)

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It is well written, and it isn't a terrible read - but I can't forgive it the faults, given the crime that frames it and the problematic choices made and not dealt with.

Viola Sung says

A book that wakes you up with its stone-cold reality. Brings up issues that cannot be ignored.

Lyra van der Berge says

It was an okay read, but having Anthony "redeem" himself by landing himself in hospital for someone else hit the wrong chord with me. I understand the author was going for a moralistic message to counter the bystander effect, but there wasn't really anything feasible Anthony could have done and he was stuck in a horrible situation himself. I did not appreciate others guilt-tripping him like that to make themselves feel better and I especially did not appreciate the author actively suggesting that people ought to put their lives at risk and become martyrs for others to avoid / deal with senseless violence. I believe this sends the wrong message and is conducive to people taking justice into their own hands instead of contacting the authorities. Yes, the authorities can be incompetent and too late. Yes, if someone feels they are physically and mentally equipped to deal with the threat, it would be amazing of them to attempt to help whoever is being attacked. But we are human beings, not superheroes, and it is harmful that this book seems to perpetuate martyrdom and punish a young helpless boy for supposed negligence while he didn't do anything wrong.

Lucinda says

*'Times have changed,
but some people are
still so full of hate'*

Founded on facts this acute, profoundly evocative fictional work is something that lingers upon the mind. Inspired by the tragic murder of Sophie Lancaster this heartrending story is about love, loss, hate and forgiveness and about standing up against prejudice and believing in who we are. Impacting and full of thought-provoking resonance, I was struck by how Alan Gibbons' extraordinary novel touched me and left me most surprised. I was not expecting such intensity, rawness and gritty content to affect me in such a way as to reduce me to tears {as a result of becoming attached to the characters}. This 'deep' book is a fitting testimony of Sophie Lancaster's unjustifiable, horrifying murder and is certainly a very BOLD and striking tribute. I respect Alan Gibbons so much, as I noted how personal this fictional literary work was. Containing horrific truism and sincerity, HATE honours all victims of bigotry and prejudice with reverence.

For reflection, there is an additional section at the back of the book on pointers to take note of once you have read the story. It explores one's identity and self-evaluation, as well as the power of music, groups {social} and the importance of family. All these things hold such sway within our lives and even more so within teenagers.

I was able to connect on a personal level with the fantastic main protagonist and empathize & relate to her, as nostalgic thoughts were brought to the forefront of my mind. During such turbulent teenage years it is easy to lose sight of yourself, as outside influences can impress upon a receptive mind that's open to manipulation. We naturally look to others for guidance, insight and direction and so I would **highly recommend** this notable novel to YA/ Teen readers.

If only we could live in a more just world...

*I won a copy of HATE through a Goodreads, first-read giveaway *

Elizabeth Beverley says

Very emotionally charged writing about a very scary incident that ended in tragedy. Based on a true story of an awful Hate crime. Mr Gibbons weaves The threads of hate, loss, grieving, justice and surviving into a beautifully accessible story that teens will be able to relate too.

Kristy says

Based on the murder of Sophie Lancaster in 2007, who along with her boyfriend was attacked because of the way she dressed. When this happened it struck a chord with me because in my younger years (some 5-10 years prior to the attack) I was (and in many ways still am!) what you might call 'alternative', I've experienced heaps of verbal abuse and I've also witnessed violence towards friends of mine because of the way they look, though thankfully without the same horrific outcome. It's time this crap stopped.

So obviously I wanted to read this book! It looks at the murder of a girl similar to Sophie but more so at the effect it has on her younger sister Eve; Anthony, a witness to the attack and Eve's best friend's brother Oli who is gay. We see the different ways that Eve's life has changed; her parents separation, her mum's obsession with justice and campaigning, her feelings of inferiority and her grief. Anthony is eaten up by regret and anger at himself for not doing something when he had the chance. And Oli faces prejudice and bigotry just like Rosie did.

The book has a really powerful and important message about the prevalence of hate crime and about accepting how others choose to live their lives. It deals with so many difficult issues in an accessible way, the plot flows so easily that I devoured the book within a few hours. I had high expectations and I'm glad they've been met!

Anton says

A surprisingly high collective rating on here for this book which I can only attribute to the fact that 25 people

(at the time of me writing this) have rated 'Hate'. Surely as more people read this lacklustre effort, the rating has to dive. Because it's not a very good read. Nor is it informative, challenging, enlightening, or even at all interesting. It's definitely not entertaining, but then a book based on a real life British murder case, would be in poor taste if it set out to entertain.

When I read Jack Ketchum's 'The Girl Next Door' a couple of years ago, I did some research into the true life torture/murder case that inspired the novel, which then led me into this morbid Wikipedia-ing of related murder cases. The Sophie Lancaster story that this book is based on is one such case I read about and was predictably depressed by.

So scoring 'Hate' in a Goodreads giveaway made me intrigued to see what Alan Gibbons was up to with the fictional retelling of the events.

Sadly what could have been a probing, layered account that delved into the minds and motivations of everyone involved in the case instead is a half-baked tribute to the victim and her family.

The generous second star is because the book is not sensationalised, and Alan Gibbons' heart is in the right place.

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

„Hate” to nie?atwa lektura, ale napisana przyst?pnym j?zykiem, która potrafi wywo?a? nawet w doros?ym czytelniku dyskomfort i niepokój, rosn?ce ze strony na stron?. Alan Gibbons pokazuje przygn?biaj?c? rzeczywisto??, codziенно?? wszystkich m?odych, którzy maj? odwag? by? innym, wyró?nia? si? z t?umu, nie pod??a? za og?lnie przyj?tymi trendami. Z bliska pokazuje skrajn? nienawi??, która mo?e wybuchn?? znienacka, niczym niesprowokowana, wystarczy odmienno??. W „Hate” nie ma p?o??rodków, Gibbons niczego przed m?odymi czytelnikami nie ukrywa – ?ywych emocji, prawdziwych wydarze? opowiedzianych na nowo, bezlitosnych nastolatków gotowych zabija?, chocia? sami jeszcze nie przestali by? dzie?mi... Oraz oboj?tno?ci. Najgorszej z nich wszystkich, kiedy cz?owiek odwróci wzrok, godz?c si? na przemoc.

Tej powie?ci nie nale?y si? ba? – „Hate” dla dojrza?ych nastolatków to lektura obowi?zkowa.

Laurel May says

I was lucky enough to win this book via Goodreads First-reads Giveaway!

This book right here! Whoa! The worst part right now is that I wouldn't have read it if I hadn't won it! Not because I wasn't that interested, I was! But my To Buy pile grows every day and there's some books that are more of a priority! If I hadn't read this, I would have missed on an incredible, emotional and gripping story. I read this book in one sitting because it didn't take long for me to be invested in the characters and the suspense that kept me turning the pages!

I was 13/14 when the murder of Sophie Lancaster occurred. I don't remember much about it or the aftermath. After I finished reading Hate, I Googled the case and the project Sophie's mother started. I was very touched by this tragic case but also infuriated. Sophie and her partner were attacked by drunk youths simply because they were alternative. They were different so those teenagers thought they had a right to abuse them.

So in this book, Rosie is brutally murdered for her alternative appearance and her family is left dealing with

their grief. The story is told by Eve, Rosie's little sister, and Anthony, the guy who witnessed the attack but couldn't come forward to say everything he saw. Anthony and his mother are seeking a new start so they move to a new town. Only this town is where Eve lives and when Anthony starts going to Eve's school, the story unravels and we see how much anger and sadness Eve feels but also the guilt Anthony feels.

Although Hate, is about Eve and her family coping with the death of Rosie, it also deals with homophobia. It opens your eyes to how people react to what they don't understand or what is different from them. It shows us what our silence can mean, when we see or hear abuse but don't do anything, even though we disagree with what is being said. But it also teaches us about strength to be yourself and the importance of courage to stand up to hate.

At the end of the books there are pages for reflection that ask you questions about your identity and how you reacted to events in the story. I think ultimately, this book gets you thinking about hate crimes and how we see ourselves and other people. There's an important message ,one that needs to get across to everyone, about accepting people for who they are. It sounds like common sense, but in 2014, there are still racist slurs being used to hurt and homophobia is prevalent. The worst part is people now keep quiet and pretend it isn't happening.

Alan Gibbons is a wonderful writer. The metaphors he used to describe Eve's feelings were beautiful and poetic, and they helped me feel the grief, sadness and anger she felt.

Overall, a heartbreakin and intense read. It's an important book so check it out!

Georgie says

I gave this book three stars because I really respect what the author was trying to do, and the message the whole book has about different kinds of prejudice and the devastating effect it has.

Eve's older sister, Rosie, had a unique, alternative sense of style. Because of this, she was labeled a 'Goth' or 'mosher' and was beaten to death by a savage gang of youths in a local park, and her boyfriend was left fighting for his life. Eve is struggling to cope in the aftermath of Eve's death - struggling to understand the prejudice and cruelty that provoked it, with the notion that some of those responsible may not face justice, with the breakdown of her remaining family, and with the notion that she can never be as perfect as her sister was. Things get worse when a new boy, Anthony, turns up at her school and Eve realises he was at the park the night her sister died. But Anthony has a story too...Meanwhile, Eve's best friend Jess and her older brother Oli battle a different kind of prejudice.

The plot to this book sounded gripping, as well as topical. It's important to help readers of all ages understand prejudice in all its ugly forms, and at this Gibbons does a superb job.

My problem lay mostly with the characters of Eve, Rosie, and Anthony. Beyond feeling the natural sympathy for them that is only human, I found them very hard to relate to. Anthony was perhaps the most complex character, if not always sympathetic. But I found Eve to be judgemental and mean, and Rosie was just too perfect. Her constant attempts to be 'different' and 'stand out' did not seem to me to be a young woman genuinely expressing herself (as we were supposed to think) but someone who thought she was better than everyone else. I would also have liked to have the teenage thugs' background developed a little more - after all, prejudice like the kind they exhibit starts somewhere, and I felt that should have been

explored more. That said, I adored the characters of Jess and Oli, who seemed much more sympathetic and complex and real than Eve and Rosie. I wish there had been more of their story.

Avery says

Hate is a very intriguing book. The story is about the loss of a loved one and the ramifications following this ordeal but also about standing up to prejudice in the world. The message behind the story is strong and important. And I can appreciate the attempt of the writer to bring this important message into the world but I found the story a bit lacking.

The main character Eve needed more layers, all you saw of her was the loss of her sister, and that would be a significant part of her life but it would never make up a whole person. She was anger and judgement in human form, and I didn't really see much love for her sister in the story. It almost feels like there is resentment because she felt like her sister was perfect and she feels the need to live up to it.

The sister, Rosie, as a victim of a hate crime fits the 'profile'. The extreme way of clothing and outward appearance is described provocative enough to see the character come to life. And where people don't often speak ill of the dead, Rosie feels a little bit to perfect. Everyone had flaws and it creates layers in a character when you get to see the good and the bad.

Anthony is a character with a backstory that should have been fleshed out a bit. His history should have been given more layers to shed light on the other side of the story. Even though he redeems himself in the end, the reason why needed more body.

The book holds an important message and can be very educational for youth. The story just needed a little more work but I would read it again.
