
Kate Atkinson

Ein Sommernachtsspiel



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Description

Einst belegte die erste Lady Fairfax alle nachkommenden Generationen mit einem Fluch. Die junge Isobel spürt diesen noch immer. Ist ihre Mutter tatsächlich fortgegangen, oder hat der Vater seine schöne Frau aus Eifersucht umgebracht? Tapfer versucht Isobel, die Geheimnisse in ihrer Familie zu lüften.

Insightful reviews

Kate George: Here's the thing. I really enjoyed 'Case Histories,' and was looking forward to reading Human Croquet. Anticipated it.

But here's the rub, and this is the spoiler so don't read past here if you don't want to know, I think it's very bad form to mislead your reader. Less than a third of the way through the story something happens that the reader isn't told about. We continue reading thinking we are still in real life, when in reality everything that happens from that point in the story only happens in the protagonist's head. It's a dream.

It's a dream (or hallucination) we and we aren't told it's a dream until the very end of the book. It's not real. And it's a cheat.

Bad form, in my book.

What would have cleared it was if Ms. Atkinson had told us the truth. If she had mentioned that our protagonist has hit by a falling tree, everything from there on out would have been okay with me. I wouldn't need to be told that the protagonist was unconscious. I would have been okay with any of the strange happenings, I only needed to be told that something happened.

To leave out that fact, well I'll say it again: It's a cheat and it does a disservice to the reader.

Catie: I loved this book. Infused with gothic melodrama, darkly comic and yet wistful, literate and playful. The narrator is deeply unreliable so those readers who prefer a straight tale will probably not like it although the book is an enthralling page turner. Yummy

Gail Goetschius: I really enjoyed this book. It is well written and chock full of eccentric characters realistically rendered. I'm rather fond of teenage characters(all those years of teaching high school) and Isobel is an endearing narrator . Her wry and witty perceptions of life prevent the tragic experiences she encounters from becoming too overwhelmingly depressing.

While I expected time travel to play a more significant role in the book it seemed almost an afterthought . I usually don't enjoy that type of thing but this was fun. I did get somewhat frustrated by all the alternate realities in the final quarter of the book. The traditionalist in me wanted to know the "real" story, but that is Atkinson's point...that lies with the storyteller who "knows how it ends".

I particularly loved the title of the book. On one level it is fun to imagine a quaint and happy family playing the corny games in Mrs. Baxter's book of entertainments. It would certainly never happen in any of the drastically dysfunctional families in the novel. On another level Atkinson is playing Human Croquet with the reader. We are sent off in one direction, blind to other possibilities, when suddenly we are ordered to stop and are sent in an entirely different direction through a different hoop.

Atkinson is a highly clever and creative writer. I'm definitely going to keep reading her.

Tarin Towers: have you learn a comedy of manners that consists of time travel? Or a Gothic novel that occurs within the 1960s? Or a coming-of-age tale whose rites of passage contain assembly Shakespeare, witnessing numerous murders, burning down a house, and changing into a tree? Kate Atkinson once more blew me away with this book. I had simply entire examining "Case Histories" (5 stars), an unforgettable non-traditional secret and expertly woven story of id and attachment, while i discovered "Human Croquet" on best of a mobile field in my neighborhood. This reproduction has been learn through a tender grownup who rotated all of the phrases she did not comprehend (quite a number of during this very British book). i am not giving this e-book five stars, yet i might supply it four-and-a-half if I could. There are a couple of spots where, even in a booklet of trade universes, there are a few consistency problems, and some locations the place the writing will get slowed down in descriptions of both philosophy or trees. (Interesting position to get bogged down, cannot see the woodland for, etc.) But the humanity, humor, depth, charaterization, and a focus to detail, in addition to the quality of the writing itself, make this a booklet i'd suggest to anyone, quite a person looking a strong, teenage lady heroine.

Linda: I'd wish to assessment this e-book for you, i actually would. yet I can't, I simply can't. Why? simply because I don't have the 1st clue what this e-book was once about. now not a clue. There is a few time travel, yet I'm unsure why it exists, what it's goal was once and the way it places the tale forward. Oh yeah, the story. Umm, 353 pages and 9 days later I'm unsure i do know the story. It's quite often approximately Isobel Fairfax and her super dysfunctional family members or even extra dysfunctional neighbors; the mysterious disappearance of Isobel's mother, and Charles Fairfax, Izzie's bizarre brother, who's anticipating extraterrestrial beings and the reappearance of his mother. there's a few William Shakespeare thrown in, and in truth I don't keep in mind or care sufficient to truly spend anymore time attempting to puzzle out this scorching mess. I am so pleased that this used to be now not my first ebook by means of Atkinson, simply because I doubt i might have ever learn one other through her if it were. i've got enjoyed some other e-book of hers i've got read. yet this you could be summed up in 3 letters - WTF?

Jessie: I picked this up after interpreting 'Life After Life,' which I first came across very confusing, then just a little boring, then amazing. analyzing 'Human Croquet' triggered comparable emotions in a unique order (boring-->amazing-->confusing), that is becoming simply because Atkinson messes with time, order, reality, and belief particularly often. Sound confusing? It is. I really, particularly enjoyed Atkinson's prose in 'Life After Life' or even even though i discovered it complicated initially, all of it got here jointly finally and that i was once haunted via it for days. 'Human Croquet' does not relatively make a lot experience as soon as

all of it comes together, or all through such a lot of it for that matter. it is a bit gradual every now and then and there are approach too many threads that do not get weaved together, yet total Atkinson's really unique kind and gorgeous prose (mostly) make up for it. i'm going to learn a few of her different works, yet take a holiday from her first...I'm ok with rule-breakers so far as order/time/perception go, yet *some* semblance of a beginning/middle/end will be nice. Also understand that this booklet has a few beautiful darkish parts (incest, abuse, murder) that I wasn't really expecting...it's extra miserable than i assumed it can be. The 'about this book' blurb makes it look like the time travel/Shakespeare point might be even more significant to the plot than it truly is.

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