



Le temps est assassin

Michel Bussi

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Votre été sera corsé !

Eté 1989

La Corse, presqu'île de la Revellata, entre mer et montagne.

Une route en corniche, un ravin de vingt mètres, une voiture qui roule trop vite... et bascule dans le vide.

Une seule survivante : Clotilde, quinze ans. Ses parents et son frère sont morts sous ses yeux.

Eté 2016

Clotilde revient pour la première fois sur les lieux de l'accident, avec son mari et sa fille ado, en vacances, pour exorciser le passé.

A l'endroit même où elle a passé son dernier été avec ses parents, elle reçoit une lettre.

Une lettre signée de sa mère.

Vivante ?

Le temps est assassin Details

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Author : Michel Bussi

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Dolceluna says

E' la prima domanda che ovviamente si pone chiunque inizi a leggere "Tempo Assassino": "E' geniale come *Ninfee Nere*?" (il primo lavoro di Bussi). Risposta: no.

"Ma", aggiungerei io, "è un bel romanzo?" Risposta: sì.

Questo per premettere che "Tempo assassino" soffre, ahimè, della sindrome da "confronto" con un primo capolavoro che ha fatto conoscere l'autore, con la sua genialità e bravura, al grande pubblico. Come un secondo figlio, che ci si aspetti sia brillante come il primogenito. Quindi la domanda spontanea ci sta. Quella genialità unica che aveva contraddistinto "*Ninfee Nere*", a quel livello, no, secondo me non c'è. Questo non vuol dire che questo secondogenito sia da buttar via, anzi. La storia si fa divorare velocemente, a scapito della mole, e il lettore resta fino alla fine con quella curiosità di sapere come va a venire, come e perché, con quel "E quindi? E allora?" fra le labbra, fra le pagine che sprizzano mistero, sorprese, colpi di scena, anche ironia. E anche suspense, i passaggi in cui l'assassino compare, come un'ombra dietro l'angolo, e non si fa scrupolo di ammazzare chi gli può causare pericolo, non mancano.

Rispetto a "*Ninfee nere*" lo definirei più thriller "classico", capace di tenere alta l'attenzione del lettore dall'inizio alla fine. Il doppio piano temporale, però, c'è sempre. C'è l'estate del 1989, quando Clotilde, in vacanza in Corsica con la famiglia, fa un incidente in macchina ed è l'unica della sua famiglia a salvarsi; e c'è l'estate del 2016, quando Clotilde, ormai donna, moglie e mamma, ritorna nello stesso camping della Corsica in cui aveva trascorso quella maledetta estate (e le precedenti) e qui, comincia a ricevere messaggi scritti e firmati dalla madre. Ma come? La madre si è schiantata sulle rocce di quel precipizio in cui la loro auto è caduta vent'anni prima, l'ha vista morta, con i suoi stessi occhi! E quindi? Nel frattempo altri fatti strani insanguinano questa estate del presente. E mentre questi due piani temporali s'intersecano, noi conosciamo questa protagonista, prima adolescente atipica e un po' introversa e ora donna caparbia, decisa a tutti i costi a scoprire che cosa diavolo sta succedendo.

Una menzione particolare va all'ambientazione, la bella Corsica, descritta con una chiarezza che pare di vedersela davanti, con le sue scogliere a strapiombo sul mare, i suoi pericolosi tornanti, le sue spiagge, il suo Mediterraneo, i suoi sapori. E anche una certa chiusura mentale, legata a un fortissimo senso di appartenenza e alle sue tradizioni, che Bussi attraverso la storia sottolinea molto bene, e che sinceramente, a tal punto, non mi aspettavo. Non conoscendo la Corsica e non essendoci mai stata, mi chiedo se effettivamente sia così, o se Bussi abbia calcato un po' la mano, ma propendo per la seconda.

Insomma, Michel Bussi è uno scrittore capace, e molto. Non si può sconfinarlo nel cassetto solo perché "*Ninfee Nere*" è stato quello che è stato, qui ci porta a leggere 500 pagine con una velocità e una curiosità che sorprendono anche noi stessi.

Quattro stelle piene e non cinque, perché nel finale alcune risoluzioni risultano poco credibili e un po' campate in aria. E anche perché mi piacerebbe che questi autori capaci approfondiscano ogni tanto anche la mente e il mondo dell'assassino, vittima come tutti, un po' come ad esempio riesce a fare il sommo Maurizio de Giovanni. Ma non cadiamo nuovamente nei confronti, questo secondogenito ne soffre già abbastanza.

Ffiamma says

pessimo. storia sciatta, personaggi ridicoli, finale imbarazzante.

Brooke - One Woman's Brief Book Reviews says

www.onewomansbbr.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/onewomansbbr

3.5 stars

Time Is A Killer by Michel Bussi. (2018).
(Originally published in French, 2016).

Summer, 1989: Clotilde is 15 and on holiday with her parents in Corsica when their car plunges into a ravine and only Clotilde survives.

27 years later Clotilde returns to the island with her husband and daughter. She receives a letter from her mother - as if her mother was still alive. Clotilde begins to question the past even though she saw the corpses of her mother, father and brother; but who sent the letter and why?

This book was enjoyable but at the same time felt like a bit of a trek to read. At 452 pages long, I think it could have been a fair amount shorter and still had the same effect. I'll give it this, despite it feeling very slow the ending was very well done and while I picked some elements I certainly didn't even dream of others. I liked the technique of reading extracts from Clotilde's 1989 diary (although she was certainly an extremely well written 15 year old haha) alongside the current timeline. The location was described beautifully, Corsica sounds like it would be an amazing place to visit!

A good novel that mystery fans may really enjoy set on a gorgeous sounding Mediterranean island in the French region.

Daoud Hipa says

Saisissant! D'abord tout va un peu lent, on a envie de se passer de tous ces descriptions pour apprendre l'essentiel, mais puis, on ne peut pas juste laisser tomber sans terminer.

Margaux says

Bussi m'avait vraiment habitué à mieux. Grosse grosse déception. Les personnages n'ont aucune profondeur, l'intrigue traîne en longueur et est totalement superficielle par moment et la fin est carrément invraisemblable. Je n'ai pas du tout accroché.

Vivek Tejuja says

I remember reading Michel Bussi's, "After the Crash" in one night. I remember not sleeping (thank god it was a weekend, so I eventually did catch up on some sleep) and before I knew it, it was dawn and the book was done. And what a read it was! The same did not happen this time. I loved, "Time is a Killer" but the book was way too long for me to pull an all-nighter and finish it. At 512 pages, not once did I find it dull, boring, or insipid. At the same time, if anything, I just wanted more and more.

Set on Corsica, "Time is a Killer" is a book about murder, revenge, loss, and most of all memories, home and identity. I loved how Bussi very cleverly, quite almost makes this a literary thriller and yet it isn't that. The book alternates between the summers of 1989 and 2016.

Clotilde Idrissi, the 15-year-old daughter of a Corsican father and a Franco-Hungarian mother, is the only survivor of a terrible automobile accident that takes the lives of her parents and older brother Nicolas in August 1989. Twenty-seven years later, Clotilde is back on the island with her husband Franck and her 15-year-old daughter, Valentine and things aren't what they seem. While all seems changed on the island, some secrets of that night and accident reveal themselves to Clotilde (of course I won't tell you through who) and her life is never the same.

Bussi has a knack of merging the present with the past. He has done it in his earlier works as well and does it stupendously in this one too. While sometimes, it might seem a bit tedious to read this book, however, let nothing deter you. It is undoubtedly one of the best noir books I've read so far, this year. The mystery is hidden superbly and will have you guessing right down till the last page. It will immerse you and just as I was, so will you be enchanted by the beauty of Corsica, as described by Bussi.

"Time is a Killer" is a great read. It is fast-paced, has the necessary elements of relationships and how sometimes we don't communicate enough and a good plot. All the makings of a great summer read. Do not miss out on this one!

Caro says

Vorab sei gesagt, dass ich Bussis Bücher eigentlich liebe und die Geschichten bisher immer brillant fand! Auch dieses Buch fing gut an, der Schreibstil war gewohnt gut und die Geschichte schien interessant. Im Laufe des Buches habe ich allerdings alles als sehr langatmig empfunden. Die Zeitsprünge waren voller unnötiger Details und die vielen teilweise geschichtlichen Infos über Korsika, haben eher dazu beigetragen, dass man die Seiten überflogen hat, anstatt dass die Insel bildhafter geworden wäre. Ein großer Minuspunkt war auch, dass ich ausnahmslos alle Charaktere unsympathisch fand! Was ich gut geschrieben fand, waren jedoch die zynischen Beschreibungen Bussis hinsichtlich Liebe und Beziehungen, die an einigen Stellen sehr unterhaltsam waren.

Alles in allem wäre das Buch für mich noch ein 3-Sterne-Buch geworden, wäre nicht das Ende gewesen. (Für mich) unrealistisch, skurril, übertrieben heldenhafte Aktionen, seltsame Dialoge und dazwischen sogar ein bisschen Kitsch. Aus diesem Grund kann ich leider nur 2,5 Sterne geben und hoffe, dass mir Bussis nächstes Buch wieder besser gefallen wird! ?

trovateOrtensia says

Scritto male, noioso, improbabile, personaggi che definire stereotipati è un complimento.

Sibylle Seys smets says

Très joli livre mettant en miroir les troubles et questionnements de l'adolescence, et où on se retrouve 30 ans

plus tard. Que sont devenus nos rêves et nos illusions, avec le suspense en prime. Donne aussi envie de retourner vite fait en Corse. Parfait pour les vacances.

Kaisu says

Ich schwanke zwischen 3 und 4 Sternen. Da ich mich aber einfach in die Beschreibungen über Korsika verliebt habe, sind es 4 geworden. Mehr Details in der kommenden Kritik :)

Clarabel says

Un scénario certes rocambolesque, qui tient néanmoins en haleine et participe au sensationnel du récit. La lecture idéale pour la détente (soleil, vacances, secrets de famille, premières amours et retour aux sources). Tous les ingrédients sont réunis pour concocter une bonne tambouille !

Paromjit says

Michel Bussi writes stunning psychological thrillers, and *Time is a Killer* is just amazing. Translated from the French, it shifts from the past to the present, set on the island of Corsica. A 15 year old Clothilde Idrissi is the sole survivor of a car crash which kills her parents, Paul and Palma, and her 18 year old brother, Nicolas in 1989. 27 years later, now Clothilde Baron, married to Franck, and with 15 year old daughter, Valentine, aka Valou, she returns to lay the ghosts that have haunted her to rest and to visit her family from her father's side. As a teenager, Clothilde dressed as a Goth, immersed in the character of Lydia Deetz from *Beetlejuice*, and *Dangerous Liaisons* is her choice of symbolic reading matter, a harbinger of events that unfold in 1989. She believes her whole life is a dark room, a belief that is firmly reinforced in the present day. Her presence awakens the past as strange and sinister events begin to envelop Clothilde, as long forgotten echoes filter into her life, threatening to splinter her family apart and bring danger and darkness swirling thickly around her. This leaves Clothilde scared, terrified and wondering if there is anyone around her that she can trust and rely on.

Clothilde was closer to her father and extremely jealous of her mother, and now she struggles to be close to Valou and connect with her. Valou is not interested in her mother's past or Idrissi family history and is closer to Franck. The narrative goes back to 1989, resurrected through the missing notebook kept by the young Clothilde but in the hands of a unknown man. We become acquainted with the petty rivalries, jealousies, relationships and machinations of a group of hormonal teenagers surrounding Nicolas. Clothilde is also privy to some of the fissures apparent within her parents marriage and the powerful Idrissi family willing to do anything to keep Corsica free from the commercial development blighting other islands. Clothilde encounters characters from her past, many in completely unexpected circumstances than she would ever imagined them to be from what she knew of them in the past, including the charismatic Natale, the fisher king of princesses, dolphins and magic, her obsession and love. Clothilde begins to slowly disintegrate as she receives letters that imply her mother is still alive, a breakfast table laid out as it would have been from the past, her wallet disappears from the safe, and her daughter comes to be endangered. Idrissi family secrets slowly begin to seep out, challenging everything that Clothilde thought she knew of the past.

Michel Bussi evokes Corsica beautifully, through the characters, the landscape, family traditions and the sea that envelops the island. His ability to capture the world of a teenagers and Clothilde is extraordinary, the overheated emotions, the obsessions and passions. I loved that Clothilde was reading *Dangerous Liaisons*, which Bussi uses to good effect as Clothilde begins to become aware of all that eluded her in 1989. This is a cracking psychological thriller with twists that just keep on coming, making me avidly turn the pages to find out where it all ends. A superb read which I recommend highly. Many thanks to Orion for an ARC.

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

„Czas jest morderc?” to dramatyczna rodzinna opowieść w środku skwierczącego lata, w której wątek kryminalny zdaje się być rozmyty, niewyraźny, drgający, unoszący się w rozgrzanym powietrzu. Pośród morza i gór, bajecznych zatoczek do nurkowania, rozmigotanej wody... Korsyka to nie tylko miejsce akcji, ale cicha bohaterka Michela Bussiego – urokliwa, zjawiskowa, ale też śmiertelnie niebezpieczna, pełna sekretów, o których lepiej zapomnieć. Dzięki niej, „Czas jest morderc” może zdawać się niemal plażową, letnią lekturą, ale dobrze wiemy, że zbrodnia odnajdzie się też i rozgości w tej listopadowej szarudze, która czeka na nas za oknem.

Séverine Ilestbiencelivre says

Quel pied ce bouquin ! une intrigue fascinante, avec, comme c'est si bien le faire l'auteur, pas mal de petits rebondissements qui nous tiennent en haleine jusqu'au judicieux dénouement ! Bref, une intrigue prenante, de la nostalgie autour de l'année 1989 (Le Grand Bleu, la Lambada ...) , du suspense et de l'émotion (que sont devenus nos rêves et passions adolescentes ...) . Un très grand Bussi ! Une grande réussite ! Un livre » d'atmosphère « que je conseille à ceux qui avaient adoré » Nymphéas noirs » ! 19/20

<http://www.ilestbiencelivre.com/1611/...>

Audrey Martel says

J'ai vraiment essayé, je savais d'emblée que ça risquait de ne pas tomber dans mes cordes mais j'étais remplie de bonne foi.

Les personnes sont inintéressantes, tout comme l'intrigue, l'écriture et la construction. Les chapitres dans le passé, présentés sous forme de journal sont remplis de placotages enfantins qui, au mieux ne font pas avancer l'histoire, au pire décourage le lecteur de poursuivre sa lecture.

J'ai fini par lire une page sur cinq, et à sauter directement à la fin, mais je n'avais tellement aucun intérêt pour cet univers que j'ai abandonné, surtout quand j'ai compris où l'auteur nous amenait.

Aïe, aïe, aïe, je m'excuse Michel ! Mais je suis persuadée que tu sais trouver ton public. Un roman idéal pour les lecteurs/trices de Musso-Levi-Gounelle-Hildebrand.
