



Dysphoria (or The Admirer)

Karelia Stetz-Waters

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This book has been re-released under the title THE ADMIRER.

Helen Ivers is running from a horrific past to what she hopes will be the safety of a small New England town. As the president of Pittock College, another tragedy explodes into her life soon after her arrival. Besieged by memories of her mentally ill sister, which refuse to let her rest, she must face an abomination even as her mind begins to unravel. A young woman died on the train tracks in a shockingly brutal manner.

Reeling from the murder and the threat to her students, Helen is approached by professor Adair Wilson, who draws her into her life and her confidence amid a web of swirling deception.

Ivers and Wilson are as desperate to know the identities of the victim and killer as the killer and the police are to hide them. Whether Adair is Helen's savior and can be trusted as a lover becomes increasingly unclear as Helen becomes a target.

In a crisis with no clear allies, Helen must not only learn the truth but fight to stay alive. The killer is watching and she has been chosen. Every hour of doubt, fear, and hopeless investigation brings the bone saw closer.

Dysphoria (or The Admirer) Details

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Author : Karelia Stetz-Waters

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Jem says

A taut psychological thriller that delivers on all fronts--the mystery, the suspense, and surprisingly, even the romance. The setting, the characters and the happenings are suitably creepy. I like the author's insight into the minds of not just the protagonists, but also the killer and the victims, and the mental and emotional illnesses they suffer from. Her depiction of mental illness and their devastating effects on not just the victims themselves, but their loved ones as well, was compassionate but doesn't pull any punches. The author manages to give us all that and still maintain the tension and suspense throughout. All of the characters were believable...even their unusual 'fetishes' sounded plausible. There is a bit of a creep factor...as the author goes inside the mind of the killer that at once, shows their human as well as their monstrous side. Indeed, this would make a very nice horror movie. A perfect 5 stars.

Natsu says

One creepy read that puts you right in the the shoes (or, more appropriately, heads) of the characters.

I've always liked psychological thrillers, even in films, especially when the creators eff with your brain so well that you don't just view the story, you become part of it.

Helen and Adair both have personal issues that puts a strain in the budding relationship. It doesn't help that their first real interaction happens in the aftermath of a brutal crime. Sparks fly, suspicions arise, and the death toll rises as the mystery unfolds.

this book was gory in the right places, insane, thrilling, and romantic (in a creepy and out of the box way)..

Jem says

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Elizabeth says

This book grabbed me right from the start! I was drawn in immediately by the characters and the plot. The protagonist, antagonist, and supporting players are each compelling in his/her own way.

This is one of those books in which the villain, although heinous in his/her actions is also understandable. Stetz-Waters explores the issues that the murderer struggles with in depth and lets the reader relate to the disorder and the person. No small feat, given the murderer's actions.

The heroine and her love interest are both complex interesting characters and this made the book intriguing as well.

I didn't want the book to end! It's a great thriller, all encompassing, an escape from "real life".

Jeanne Haskin says

Helen Ivers, the president of Pittock College, has seen what no one should ever suffer, a suicide so grotesque that its scents, images, and associated memories threaten her sanity and career. Pitted against a killer who's obsessed with mutilation, she cannot begin to know the madness and twisted fantasies that mark her as another victim. Frightened out of her wits, Helen knows she can trust no one. Not even her gorgeous, lesbian lover, who becomes privy to hurtful secrets that are soon turned against Helen. As Helen's terror escalates and one murder follows another, she can run from the bone saw, but she can't outthink the killer.

Justina Johnson says

Dysphoria is a powerhouse, brilliant, and nerve-wrenching book of mental imbalance and steadfast love set in a remote southwestern corner of the Berkshires in Massachusetts. There is a charming, but haunting, private college as its centerpiece. With my eyes extra wide open and my jaw dropping to my knees, I was completely drawn into the mystery, the intrigue, and the love affair. Be forewarned, there are some really scary folk, some fingernail biting, and some solid hits to one's own sanity. I adored this a great deal!

Dr. Helen Ivers has been through a hair-raising, devastating family loss and tragedy. She is also a brilliant college administrator capable of turning an institution back on its feet and financially healthy for the long run. Additionally, she has one of most intense dark sides I have ever seen that put her at emotional, professional, and psychic risk again and again. I loved her even when she couldn't love herself.

Professor Adair Wilson is a force of nature. Her theater students love and adore her, she takes stands for issues she feels are being swept under the carpet, and she is intensely attracted to Dr. Ivers with not the best technique to reel Helen in, however. There are some odd, unsettling, and completely well-founded dark areas in her past. She is also extremely wealthy and has a family that will storm the ramparts to protect or save her. She is my hero!

I'm not sure I'm qualified to say this is a 'masterpiece', but it certainly felt like one to me. The people, the setting, the issues, the darkness, the depth, and the love were both exhilarating and exhausting. That is the

best thing a book can do, from my point of view!

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Baxter Trautman says

Good, creepy debut novel.

LVLMLeah says

4 1/2 stars

Kindle edition

My review here:

<http://bi-curious-romancenovel-chat.b...>
