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The Game You Played: A Chilling Psychological Thriller



Synopsis

Little Boy Blue, where did you go? Who led you away? Only I know . . . Two-year-old Tommy Basko goes missing from a popular inner-city playground. Six months later, his parents begin receiving cryptic messages in rhyme about Tommy. The police don't believe the messages are from the abductor, but Tommy's mother Phoebe is certain they're a game meant for her. Against the advice of the police, Phoebe decides to play the game. She begins a frantic search for the writer of the rhymes, at the cost of causing her marriage to shatter. When the shocking identity of the message-writer is discovered, Phoebe's desperate race for the truth has only just begun. Who took Tommy? And why?

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Customer Reviews

Anni Taylor is absolutely brilliant in her debut book *The Game You Played*; an intense psychological thriller. I stepped out of my comfort zone of Fantasy and Sci-Fi for this and I am so glad that I did. *The Game You Played* opened up a whole new world for me. In *The Game You Played*, we are painted a picture of a happy family in Australia. Phoebe, Luke and their son Tommy are at the park, enjoying themselves, like any other normal family would. When Tommy suddenly disappears,

Phoebe's world is shattered into a million pieces. 6 months later and Phoebe discovers that someone is leaving notes for her, alluding to the kidnapping of little Tommy. As Phoebe races to find the source of the cryptic notes, as well as her son, the world suddenly doesn't seem so black and white. The shocking discovery of the correspondent will leave Phoebe questioning everything she's ever believed in. You too, will question everything as you follow Phoebe on her journey to discover the truth. The Game You Played kept me guessing until the very end. I had my theories and my queries but every time I got close to the answer, Taylor threw in another curve ball that shattered my ideas. If you are looking for an intense psychosomatic page-turner, I guarantee that this one is for you.

Absolutely phenomenal!!! This book takes off running and never stops. It's one of those stories that takes you by the collar and tells you that dishes, laundry, work, they can all be done later. This story is to be read. Now. I started out thinking this was going to be a mystery: who kidnapped Tommy? However, just when I thought I had the answers guessed, everything changed. Again, and again. This is no cut and dry mystery: it's a psychological thriller, and written at the caliber of perfection I have come to expect from this author. Psychological thrillers are her game... and this one did not disappoint!! I recommend this to anyone looking for an exciting read with several turns you won't be able to predict!

Can I just say WOW!!!! Anni Taylor had me on the edge of my seat and I was mad, happy, sad, pissed every emotion you can think of I was feeling it. Phoebe feels lost as any mom would at the loss of a child whether it's from losing them at a park/store, or from death we grieve and there is no questioning that we lose our minds for our babies. Phoebe has been through Hell and back and she just wants closure...she finds help in the one thing that can get her close to her son. When things get rough in the marriage after suffering a loss of a child who or what do we turn to?... The anger I felt towards Luke was indescribable, but then I guess in some way I understood that he was hurting too. Sometimes we tend to neglect the feelings of a man because he is a man. They are supposed to be the strong one, the one that holds the family together. This book will not disappoint. It has you guessing to the very end. Phoebe is on a mission and will rest at nothing to get the answers that she seeks. Who will stand by her? What other mysteries are there lying in the shadows? This book was absolutely amazing. I'm still wanting more, I cannot have guessed at the conclusion and I'm still at awe I absolutely loved it.

Darling Harbour playground. Luke Basko (30, son, husband/father, narrator), Phoebe Basko (wife/mother) & Tommy Basko (2, toddler) were at the water park. Some woman had already called the police. Tommy was gone. Detective Trent Gilroy was assigned to the MP case & leading the press conference. 6 months gone by. Dr. Leona Moran had been seeing Phoebe (nee Vance). The media had once dubbed Tommy Little Boy Blue. Someone kept sending nursery rhymes to Phoebe. Rob Lynch (husband) was Luke's business partner. Another cryptic nursery rhyme message. What news did Detective Ali Haleemi have for the parents? Fast-forward, what news did Detective Gillian Farley & Detective Kelsey Donahue have for Phoebe. Will Tommy be found? Dr Mrs (.). I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one. A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written down under psychological thriller book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any 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 another great psychological thriller movie, or better yet a mini TV series. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars. Thank you for the free author; Booksends; dailyfreebooks; Digital Services LLC.; bookTony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Clever story about a child's disappearance and his parents' quest to investigate. Along the way we are presented with a very interesting cast of characters and their interconnected lives. Chapters are told as first-person accounts by the parents. Occasionally there is a chapter from the POV of another character. The needle of suspicion made some wild swings for a while then settled on someone. This being a psycho thriller, I had an inkling that the needle would swing in a different direction. It did. In a most believable and satisfying way. There were some awkward moments when the story slowed down while we were presented with new, seeming unrelated, information that became integral to the plot. Post climax, the story believability kind of went off the rails for me. It was hard for me to wrap my head around the psychic change that happened. In my life experience, such a change is also accompanied by lots of work and guided introspection by a willing person. None of that type of effort was described.

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