
Stephen King

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon



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Author: Stephen King

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Description

Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland strays from the path while she and her recently divorced mother and brother take a hike along a branch of the Appalachian Trail. Lost for days, wandering farther and farther astray, Trisha has only her portable radio for comfort. A huge fan of Tom Gordon, a Boston Red Sox relief pitcher, she listens to baseball games and fantasizes that her hero will save her. Nature isn't her only adversary, though - something dangerous may be tracking Trisha through the dark woods.

Insightful reviews

Lyn: I could say that Stephen King “hits a home run” with *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* but that would sound trite and campy.

But what the hell.

King hits a home run, this is a great book.

It's about a nine year old girl (but big for her age) who gets lost in the woods – and a lot more. This is about fear, deep primal fear that is at the roots of our childhood and never really goes away, just retreats back into a far, dark corner to wait. Most everyone has a memory from childhood when a hand held was suddenly - not held; when a parent was there – and then not there.

When a path in the woods was suddenly lost.

Everyone has a memory from when they were suddenly alone.

King knows better than most any writer today about fear, and here he demonstrates his incredible ability to awake in the reader a deep primal fear that we all can recognize, and what better illustration of that recognition than a little girl lost in the woods?

Trisha realizes when she “felt the first winnow flutter of disquiet” that she was lost in the woods, and from there King leads us in an uncomfortable, suspenseful long walk in the woods with a very likable protagonist.

Reminiscent of Algernon Blackwood in his brilliant [The Willows](#) and especially in [The Wendigo](#), King creates an antagonist in an almost personified menace of “the woods” or “the wild” and finally in a mystic representation of a wild god.

And of course – baseball. BRILLIANT! As a baseball fan himself, King plays on the spiritual quality of the game while adopting baseball's natural rhythm in the novel's structure. *Tom Gordon really did have a phenomenal season in 1998, an all-star election and 46 saves, finishing 69 games.



Book Concierge: Book on CD performed by Anne Heche

A young girl who loves baseball (and particularly one Red Sox player) takes a few steps off the path when on a hike through the Appalachian Trail with her mother and older brother. In the blink of an eye, she is lost and trying very hard not to be terrified.

King is a master craftsman and he is never better than when playing on all our childhood (and adult) fears, magnifying them tenfold and letting his (and our) imagination carry us away.

I loved Trisha McFarland! She's resilient, intelligent, and brave. She's also young and makes some wrong decisions which get her farther into trouble. (Number one rule of being lost in the woods – STOP moving, stay put and wait for rescue ... but if she'd followed that rule there wouldn't be much to the novel.)

I grew up going camping with my family. We slept out in the open (no tent), though we usually had a tarp of some kind to keep off the rain. But I don't think I could fare half so well as young Trisha did. She remembered a science class that helped her, and lessons her mother imparted

on other nature hikes helped her forage for a few berries or edible ferns.

This is not to say that she had an easy time of it. The “tough tootsie” voice in her head definitely shoots holes in each theory and idea Trisha has, filling her with doubt and increasing her fears. The noises and violence of nature can be frightening and shocking to anyone, let alone a nine-year-old town girl, not accustomed to such experiences. It’s easy to imagine boogie men and monsters lurking in the dark (not to mention the real dangers of snakes, poisonous plants and predators). The best thing she did, however, was keep her spirits up by relying on her beloved Tom Gordon, the Red Sox “closer.” It was those “conversations,” and using her Walkman to listen to the ball games, that sustained her and gave her hope and courage.

Anne Heche did a marvelous job of performing the audio version. She knocked it out of the park! 5**** for her narration.

Susan: A story of a young girl lost in the woods who falls into delirium. An adventure of survival that has a explosive ending with Stephen Kings softer side thrown in.

Kat Stark: Buddyread--even if it used to be large short--with the nonetheless notable Hersh (Click to learn her review)Unfortunately, this failed for me. Yes, King has incredible characterization and writing, yet that's to be expected...this wasn't the simplest of the bunch for me generally as the tale was once flat out dull as shit.Characters: Trisha used to be wonderful. I suggest we get to determine issues via a 9-year-old's standpoint and that i proposal it used to be especially true to her age. She had a keenness for baseball and Tom Gordon used to be evidently her favourite player. She was once powerful and shrewdpermanent at times, yet we additionally see her vulnerable. The query is whether she used to be hallucinating a number of the issues she observed within the woods and the tale does make you query that idea. both way, I did like interpreting via her eyes, so props for that!Plot: this is often the place the booklet frequently will get swift-kicked within the ass by means of me...but i feel i'm going to spare you from the boredom and be vague. Trisha will get misplaced within the woods alone. this is often primarily a survivor story. She is going via hunger, no longer having sufficient food, vomiting, hallucinating Tom Gordon as her imaginary good friend and whatnot. The pacing used to be sluggish and the single attention-grabbing parts--since i am not a big baseball fan at all--were the wasps.I hate wasps. I hate bugs. I hate any creepy crawly in general.They freak me the fuck out. We had a wasp nest in entrance of our residence final month and that i would really fee my door sooner than opening, stick my hand out, and seize my mail genuine quickly to prevent getting stung in any respect cost. whilst housing got here to kill the nest, they ignored 3 wasps that frolicked close to my car. I both waited for them to depart or ran to my car. One time, i would not even get out of my motor vehicle i used to be too freaked that Jaden and that i may get stung. I needed to look forward to my husband to come back and kill them or i'd ask him to stroll me to and from the automobile door to the home door.That's how a lot they freak me the fuck out.To be fair...I have by no means been stung by means of anything. ANYTHING. Bees, jellyfish, wasps, regardless of the fuck else which can sting you...NOTHING. So I don't comprehend if I'm particularly allergic or not. So in my brain sting = painful death.Now is not that extra fascinating than the story? It most likely is. there have been a number of scenes with

insects and especially wasps that creeped me out. I want there have been MORE, since it simply did not appear like sufficient to me. i used to be bored 90% of the time. The factor approximately King is that his tales tread on reality, that's why they are so frightening to start with simply because they're rather well researched and realistic. during this case, that is what made it too uninteresting for me. Plus, my husband and i've obvious each episode of endure Grylls and bare and Afraid , so we pretty well recognize each trick within the book. Thus, this learn wasn't too frightening for me yet i will be able to know how others may perhaps think otherwise (so i have factored that into my scare rating). Writing: incredible as always. i like all of King's prose, no matter if the tales were not so good. Reference: just like the Candyman's bees other than swap it to wasps and upload a few Fever Pitch in there, minus the romance and comedy and also you get...what the fuck is that this anyway?? Quote: Gimme a few Gif: Scare Factor: Gore Factor:

John Wiswell: this is often not less than my 3rd time examining the lady Who enjoyed Tom Gordon, however the first in a couple of decade. I'm staggered by means of how good it's held up, and the way it holds for a similar cause it clicked again then. Patricia MacFarland's story of having misplaced within the desert and looking survival and civilization isn't unique until eventually you upload King's human element. Trisha is what sells this book, now not her plight. One of King's maximum strengths is to make issues you've by no means skilled believe familiar. right here Trisha has nutrients poisoning and is vomiting her brains out in a swamp, face-down in leaves, without wish of being stumbled on and no bearings on the place she is. I've by no means been there, and also you most likely haven't either. but the extra particular it gets, the extra tangible it gets. A advertisement jingle in order that occurs to go through her head, and he or she reveals herself mumbling it in-between bouts of vomiting, possibly to calm her, or maybe simply because that a part of her mind is on auto-pilot. Again, I've by no means been in that circumstance. but within the throes of disease, and particularly within the throes of throwing up, I've had weird and wonderful issues get caught in my head, and i've murmured in addition to them, even repeating them hours afterward. past sympathy for the girl's circumstances, and comprehension for why she's misplaced or scared or sick, there's that intensely particular aspect that earrings real and executes uniquely in King's prose. No different writer can flip making a song "Dial 1-800-54-GIANT" into the item that makes a misplaced little lady throwing up within the woods consider totally real. This is without doubt one of the purposes I revere King: not anyone has his feel of personality and human proclivities. somebody can write a narrative a couple of woman in danger or an individual getting misplaced within the woods. this stuff take place the entire time, and are written approximately even perhaps extra frequently. yet no else writes Patricia MacFarland, a lady who needs her father have been nearer whereas additionally fearing approximately alcoholism, a woman who attempts so challenging to thrill her mom whereas being infuriated with every thing she does, and who crushes on a baseball participant she's by no means met and imagines he's maintaining watch in order that it's secure to sleep whilst she's too drained to stroll anymore. This personality is so dynamic, one of these package deal of advanced reactions, of inside of jokes and dad tradition and human insecurities and optimism and self-loathing cynicism, that the worst a part of the publication is that extra books aren't like it. there's extra intensity and originality to her in those 224 pages than there's to Harry Potter in 3,000+ pages. The novel is a heady mix of Trisha's inner existence and what information she will wring out of her world. we all know her surroundings and worry its darkness, but in addition overhear radio publicizes on her walkman.

retaining the battery potential we simply get a bit – a bit of the message that specialists understand she's lacking yet aren't taking a look within the correct place, a bit of an nameless caller who claims she was once abducted and places assistance on the inaccurate path, and on not less than one night, the fearful wish of the top of a baseball game, anticipating her loved Tom Gordon to save lots of the inning. Because she's half-starved, tired, out of her element, and accountable for her personal existence in absolutely new ways, issues spill out of her. relatively within the first 1/2 the novel, as she's easing into attention of ways misplaced she is, she fills the void of human interplay and stimulation with chatter and memory. As she hunts for food, she could be mindful speaking approximately bands or tv together with her most sensible friend. This, too, is uncannily exact to the best way strolling during the woods can be, when, with not anything speedy to occupy your mind, your existence can entertain or hang-out you. We get short interludes that appear to be from open air the wooded area – seeing her divorcing mom and dad meet, almost certainly hook up together, her brother dealing with a grieving approach over certainly one of her dolls – and will legitimately wonder if those are fugal daydreams of a haggard girl, or if we're given swish perception into how the realm is behaving in her absence. really in this 3rd reading, blending these in with the hallucinations of Tom Gordon and a technological know-how instructor claiming to be God produced unique hypothesis as to how deep Trisha's coping mechanisms functioned. Even figuring out the ending, it's this point of funding in a personality that made her being stalked by means of creatures and scrounging for nutrients scary. For Horror to work, you always need to make me care in regards to the horrified person.

Carol: Warning: do not get Skulled.....Being stranded within the mosquito infested woods of the Appalachians is not any enjoyable for 9 12 months outdated Trisha McFarland. With visions of the article following her and scary phrases from The chilly Voice, her love of baseball and Boston crimson Sox nearer Tom Gordon is her in basic terms salvation. This 1999 Stephen King audio event (narrated via Anne Heche) just isn't scary, yet is unique with one hell of a last pitch!

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