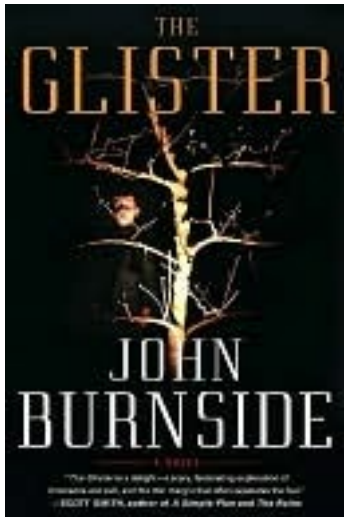

John Burnside

The Glister



Title: The Glister

Author: John Burnside

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Description

Acclaimed author John Burnside delivers a profound, page-turning novel about innocence, evil, morality, and the dark corners of the human psyche.

Mysterious illnesses affect the inhabitants of the post-industrial village of Innertown, and a pervasive sense of malaise hangs everywhere. So when teenage boys disappear into the poisoned woods surrounding the village's abandoned chemical plant, no one notices, or if they do, they don't say a thing. Not even the town's only cop, whose leads have long since died. To one boy, however, the chemical plant is beautiful, and it is there he will enact a plan to change the fate of the children of Innertown. To do so he will have to confront the blinding reality that burns in the chemical plant's cavernous center. "From the Trade Paperback edition."

Insightful reviews

T4ncr3d1: *"E' sempre estate, in un luogo o in un altro, per qualcuno."*

Un poliziotto che sconta la sua accelerata nomina con il più grave dei peccati, l'omertà; un imprenditore sinistro che segue fedelmente la sua specifica e personale morale; una donna alcolizzata e mezza pazza, vittima delle visioni di una mente che non riconosce più come propria; un vecchio guardone, bambino dentro, che vive ai limiti della cittadina e della società; una banda di ragazzini troppo annoiati per passare per teppisti; un adolescente abbandonato a se stesso, che legge Tolstoj, guarda film russi di 4 ore e come passatempo sperimenta il kamasutra; una adolescente abbandonata a se stessa, mangiata viva dal bisogno di concedersi a chiunque - in una grigia e anonima cittadina, sventrata dal più feroce postindustrialismo, questi personaggi si muovono come anime in pena, senza esser tuttavia mossi da tormento, quanto, piuttosto, dalla noia, una noia che rende pazzi, che intossica e crea dipendenza. E quando cinque ragazzini spariscono, uno dopo l'altro, ognuno di questi personaggi finisce con lo scoprire la parte inevitabilmente oscura di sé. Ma solo a pochi eletti spetta la redenzione.

Glister è un romanzo davvero anomalo. In un contesto provinciale extraurbano, che fa l'occhiolino alla critica sociale, si innesta il nodo narrativo di un romanzo apparentemente *noir*, con un fuoco multiplo sorprendentemente potente, capace di scavare nella personalità dei personaggi coinvolti, e con una progressiva e ben presto definitiva virata verso il surreale. Non si può dire che sia un *thriller*, dunque, né tuttavia pare essere fino alla fine un romanzo di critica sociale; a ben vedere, nel suo mutare continuamente forma, insieme al punto di vista della narrazione, l'unico aspetto a rimanere costante è quello psicologico - ecco, dunque, sarebbe più giusto dire d'esser davanti ad un romanzo psicologico. Un romanzo psicologico particolarmente coraggioso, che tiene incollato il lettore e alla fine lo fa affogare in una spirale di *nonsense*, allucinazione ultima di un processo d'intossicazione iniziato con la prima pagina.

Certo, qualcosa non mi ha proprio convinto, e anche parecchio. Sarà anche legittimamente funzionale a rappresentare l'alienazione dei personaggi, ma quella virata surreale che prende la storia non può convincere del tutto. Gli interrogativi rimangono, le perplessità pure, soprattutto per tutti quei piccoli dettagli di realismo che non possono esser tralasciati: i personaggi agiscono in vario modo, ma sembra che l'autore dimentichi tutte le ovvie e inevitabili conseguenze delle loro azioni. Il protagonista, Leonard, sparisce per giorni, lasciando in casa il padre morto, e nessuno sembra farvi caso. Non è plausibile. Così come non convince

pienamente l'altrimenti brillante caratterizzazione di Leonard, adolescente atipico dall'inverosimile maturità.

Credo che, alla fine, questo sia un romanzo del quale si possa dire tutto e il contrario di tutto. Che possa piacere e lasciare indifferenti, affascinare e fare schifo. Forse proprio per il suo voler essere, a tutti i costi, una storia *ai margini*: ai margini della realtà, del "mondo là fuori", del verosimile, del normale.

jen8998: A fascinating dark fable of a city where no one actually leaves but in which young boys frequently disappear.

sisterimapoet: I'm a fan of John Burnside's writing. I enjoy his pieces in the LRB and recall enjoying his novel 'The Dumb House' when I read it a few years ago.

I had high hopes for this novel. And I did enjoy it a lot. I liked the creepy otherworldliness of the setting. It felt normal and yet also very strange. It reminded me a bit of Michael Faber's 'Under the Skin'. You recognise the place and the people but something doesn't feel quite right.

I like the ever present tension. But I found myself getting frustrated by the jumping perspective. I would have preferred to stick with one character and to really get to know them and their voice. I also felt the ending spiralled out of control a bit. That was probably the intention, but it felt so tight and restrained throughout that I felt a little let down by it.

One of those books where the writing was superior to the story it carried.

Sara: John Burnside's *The Glisten* opens in a contemporary day ghost town. The chemical plant that after fused town with lifestyles and prosperity has been closed and left to rot. every little thing within the city could be defined as lifeless and deformed. The town's adults are apathetic, depressed and diseased. the kids are violent, promiscuous, and haunted. yet nobody ever leaves the town, except of course, they disappear. This e-book isn't really a standard horror or secret novel. It's extra of a truly lengthy darkish myth whole with an summary finishing and an imprecise moral. this isn't a simple read; it may top be defined as uncomfortable and difficult. Burnside manages to infuse each point of his stories with menace, right down to the final comma. there's sex, violence and grownup language—the majority of it devoted through younger adults. It's additionally the type of ebook that could torment it's readers for months. If there's a extra terrifying or traumatic novel out there, i've got but to learn it. I'd warn someone contemplating the radical that it really is frightening and edgy. you'll in contrast to it, yet be sure to learn it.

Jenelle: Usually, i am extra into novels that experience loads of dialogue, instead of a more often than not narrative story, yet I enjoyed the adventure of studying this publication - till the inconclusive ending. i discovered the ebook to be totally different than i used to be expecting. From the internal flap and reports from different authors i presumed it might be a criminal offense mystery secret that may be tremendous suspenseful, however it wasn't like that. even supposing I felt mislead, it used to be a very good tale that i believe used to be relate-able to an extent. I loved sitting open air and examining this. It sucked me in and had me connected to the story. I learn this in days and that i could not wait to determine the way it ended. I did bet the

"bad guy" earlier than it used to be published yet by means of the top i used to be so misplaced and confused. I felt like I had simply learn this nice manuscript that was once lacking the previous couple of pages. The Glisters had this nice build-up however it did not convey that delight you search for whilst studying a unique like this. i would like extra of an explanation. i am fascinated with an finishing that makes you think, yet I needed to take stars away for the full loss of a delightful ending.

Cheryl: the city and the folks of Innertown have by no means been a similar considering George Lister's chemical plant close down, in particular the woods. there's something evil within the woods. each year a boy or disappears, by no means to be obvious or heard from again. The police won't do something concerning the disappearances as there isn't any signal of foul play. There are a number of those who think in a different way and they're city policeman, John Morrison as well as Leonard and his friends. it appears Morrison is aware there's evil hiding within the woods yet he like the remainder of the experts won't do whatever approximately it. So it really is as much as Leonard and his acquaintances to struggle the darkness, earlier than it claims the remainder of them. Having by no means learn any of author, John Burnside's different past works to move off of what kind of writer Mr. Burnside is; i assumed The Glisters used to be a hauntingly darkish and grotesque piece of work. that may be a reliable thing. It drew the reader in and enveloped them in Evil. I couldn't cease reading. The Glisters is like driving a frightening roller-coaster journey that you just can't get abandon until the end, so all you have got left to do is simply carry on tight and luxuriate in the ride. i love that horror fanatics in addition to an individual searching for a superb frightening will benefit from the Glisters. this is often one ebook you'll want to get hold of once possible. You won't remorse it.

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