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The Requiem Red



Synopsis

Life for patient 29 is full of medicated day dreams of a life outside the walls of Soothing Hills Asylum. But fantasies are not all that consume her. A monster roams the halls of the sanitarium she reluctantly calls home and three girls have been found dead. The dead girls share one common thread . . . each was 29's cell mate. As the investigation gets under way, she retreats into her mind, listening to the voices that call to her. She is endowed with the cursed gift of perception. Through it, she hears messages carried upon the notes of music, discerns words hidden among the strokes of paintings, and minds pleadings for help from the corn field outside. Could the key to the murders lie within 29's broken mind? Mason, an orderly, does not see 29 as a lunatic and as his belief in her grows so does her self-confidence. The possibility of one day leaving the asylum seems less and less like a fantasy. But the monster has other plans for her. Leaving will not be so easy, at least not while she is alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a more in-depth review and other book-related posts, visit my blog at kourtnireads.wordpress.com. I received an eARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Let me start off by saying: don't read the summary of the book. Honestly, I was very confused through the first half of the book or so and felt like the book completely lacked plot because what is mentioned in the summary of the book (a monster roaming the halls of the asylum and killing patients) is really not the main focus until towards the end. The real focus is on two girls: Jane and Jules. Jane is a patient in the asylum and Jules is the daughter of the asylum's head

doctor. It is almost immediately evident that the two girls are connected and the story really focuses on how they're connected. My confusion was further exacerbated by the fact that the descriptions of the purpose of each ward continuously changed throughout the book. For example, at different times in the book ward 3 was described as a children's ward, a tuberculosis ward, and a convalescent ward. This was confusing and irritating but luckily didn't interfere with my reading too much as knowing which ward is for what purpose wasn't very important. My other problem was that the romance between Mason and Jane seemed rushed. I felt like they went from a normal orderly-patient relationship to Mason sneaking into her room at night to be with her. It definitely could have used some more development. However, as the story progressed I liked them more and more and found myself really hoping they'd be able to be together and really didn't care so much about how sudden it was in the beginning. I will say that all the characters are interesting and I liked reading about them.

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