



The Tarnished Eye

Judith Guest

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"The Tarnished Eye takes readers to the community of Blessed, in northern Michigan, where Sheriff Hugh DeWitt still grieves for his infant son, who died of SIDS a few years earlier. Obsessed with the past, he's endangering his future with his beloved wife and daughter." "Meanwhile, up the road from the DeWitts, in one of the rich summer cottages, Paige Norbois grieves for a lost love of her own. Married to a stern and unresponsive man, Paige wills herself to stay in the marriage and sacrifice her personal feelings for the sake of her children's stability." "But soon an unimaginable tragedy destroys all dreams of stability in Blessed. Paige, her husband, Edward, and their four children are brutally slaughtered in their home. Sheriff DeWitt, deeply moved by the horrific murder scene, must find answers to a string of urgent questions." When exactly did the murders occur? Why did nobody miss the family earlier? Who had a motive to kill? The man with whom Paige was having an affair? The business partner, who was stealing from Edward's publishing firm? Which family member was the primary, intended victim? And above all, what sort of trauma could fuel a killer's capacity to commit such hate-driven violence?

The Tarnished Eye Details

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Author : Judith Guest

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From Reader Review The Tarnished Eye for online ebook

Sue says

A well told story of the hunt for a killer, one up north the other in Ann Arbor. Found it hard to put down!

lynn says

Read this fictional account of a true story: an unsolved murder in a small vacation town in northern Michigan. The authoir stuck to the majority of the evidence while applying her own theory of who may have committed this brutal crime. A typical summer read type of style.

Renny Barcelos says

It never managed to grab my interest and was boring in most parts...

Jenny Yates says

This is a pretty standard police procedural. The writing is clear and sound, but not inspired. You keep reading because you want to find out who did it, and at the end you do.

The murder is a particularly violent one, with a whole family slaughtered at their summer house. The cop at the center of the book is a sensitive guy who's dealt with some personal loss, and who is trying to keep it together for his family. His anxieties pursue him, but they don't keep him from being an effective detective.

The book takes him through interactions with other law enforcement personnel, the voracious reporters reporting on the grisly murder scene, and the various suspects. Every once in a while, he comes home and his wife pampers him and nags him a little for not taking better care of himself. Then he goes back to working the crime, following his instincts. In the end, he figures out the answer without a lot of drama.

Carol says

I listened to this book and they used 2 narrators which I like because it's easier to keep the characters straight when I listen while I work. The story is loosely based on an unsolved crime from the 1960's in Michigan. The families involved - the one murdered and the sheriff who investigates - are such sad people. Both needed to talk to their families more!!

The story was good and kept me guessing till the end.

Mark says

A family of six is brutally murdered and the bodies are not discovered for three weeks. The investigation is led by the local small-town Michigan sheriff. He tries to enlist the aid of his friend, a big-city police chief, but the friend is dealing with his own high-profile case, that of a serial killer that is targeting U of M co-eds. Supposedly inspired by a true, unsolved mystery, Ms Guest does a good job of throwing in several red herrings before the final reveal. Lacking, however, was a reason to care about the victims. We only get to see them alive in the first couple of chapters and they are not very cuddly. The answer to the mystery seems almost too pat, tying up too many loose ends into one neat little package. Entertaining, but not gripping. Rather ho-hum, actually.

Barbara says

Judith Guest's *Ordinary People* is familiar to many, both as the book and the award-winning film. She clearly demonstrated sensitivity to family dynamics and to the desires and needs of individual adults and their offspring. This talent was again evinced in this mystery/ suspense novel. It is remarkable because she was able to integrate the story of the horrifying murder of a family of six with their psychosocial components and the process of the police procedural.

The similarity between these two books is also viewed in the process of grief, the coping skills involved for the individual and the adolescent's moods and view of parental regard. One could almost picture these characters with her sensitive narrative.

Guest was skillful at maintaining a high level of tension throughout the book, with a heightened sense of suspense during the climax. She deftly maintained the ability to keep the perpetrator of this heinous crime concealed with only minimal hints.

I did enjoy reading this mystery and hesitated between a 3 or 4 star rating. I would give it a 3.5 with the comment that *Ordinary People* was definitely better, but also different.

Ellen says

Beach read. Characters are not well defined. Sappy in places. It is a murder mystery and follows the typical timeline for this type of book (intro detective with some personal flaw/problem/unfortunate life event, horrible crime, attempt to find killer, twists, solve, detective as hero, detective fixes aspect of personal life, the end.) But as this type of book goes, not a bad read.

Heather says

Judith Guest is probably best known for her novel *Ordinary People*, which was turned into an award-winning motion picture. In her book *The Tarnished Eye*, Guest gives us a completely different kind of story, but with the same intuitiveness about why people do the things they do.

The novel is based on the true story of a murder that happened in Northern Michigan. In the fictionalized version, a family of six, the Norbois family, is brutally murdered while at their vacation home in Blessed, Michigan. Sheriff DeWitt, still recovering from the SIDS death of his infant son two years earlier, is emotionally ill-prepared to investigate this crime, yet he feels a strong desire to see the perpetrator brought to justice. His investigations take him to Ann Arbor, where the police chief is having troubles of his own in the form of a serial killer who is preying on young women at the University of Michigan campus. Despite the fact that each of the Norbois family seems to have someone who might want to kill them, the investigation leads both men to the conclusion that their cases are linked.

The writing is spare, but the emotions are strong. Through a series of flashbacks to the days before their deaths, Guest paints a picture of the Norbois family that makes you want to find their killer almost as much as Sheriff DeWitt does. DeWitt himself as the main character begins to come to terms with the tragedy in his own life through the course of the investigation, and you feel for him as a grieving father as much as you respect him as a dogged investigator. The setting didn't hurt my appreciation for the book. My parents live near Traverse City in exactly the same kind of resort area that the book describes, and many of the real places mentioned in the book are places I've been. All in all it was an enjoyable read, and I would recommend it to any mystery lover.

Amber Plant says

I listened to this on cd. This was my first book by Judith Guest and it was just ok. I think I would have liked it better in print but can't tell you for sure. The narrator's voice was slightly annoying to me and I couldn't tell his male voices apart so a lot of time I had to guess who was speaking. I also had to guess when the main character was thinking. The chapter where the little girl is speaking has got to be one of the most annoying voices I've ever heard and it was all I could do to not throw the cd out the window! Besides that, I thought the story was good and interesting. I was kept guessing until the end which is a huge bonus!

Melissa Erwin says

Great book!

Kristin says

The "true-life crime" that this book is loosely based on is actually the murder of my grandmother's cousin's family. To this day, the murder still remains unsolved.

Debbie Tanguay says

quick read murders in small town sheriff trying to solve- decent

SraPanadera says

It was well-written as far as mechanics and style go. As far as story---well. It is a quick read and quite interesting in parts but it can't decide what it wants to be. A murder mystery? A study of random evil and coming to terms with it? A grieving father who finally gets back into things? Guest gives us just enough on each of these and each character to make us interested and then fails to develop anything and basically just leaves us hanging. At which point the reader realizes that this was a waste of time, luckily not a huge one. On top of this, the murders were unnecessarily gruesome and creepy and for no purpose. Why make a point (several times) of a ten year old being raped and horrifically murdered in a manner different to anyone else if you are never going to tell the why or purpose of such? Or the mother? Why bring up the manner and details of a string of serial murders of young women if you are never going to give the why of that either? This seems odd, especially with the author being a woman. And what was with calling the serial murders "co-eds"? The book takes place in 2004 and the characters using the term are not that old. And northern Michigan is not the land that time forgot. Overall, this book seems to make you question the author's psyche than any characters. And speaking of characters, northern Michigan was given enough detail to figure in as one and it was by far the most interesting.

Cheryl says

After reading the novel about the murders of the Norbois family I had to find out about the real murders that inspired The Tarnished Eye. The fact that the real murders are still listed as unsolved is intriguing. Could the murders have actually happened the way Judith Guest's novel explains it? That's up to each reader to decide. I went to college in Ann Arbor from 1965 - 1969 so the coeds that were murdered were discussed a lot among my friends. I did not know about the murders in Good Hart, Michigan (or Blessed, MI in the novel).
