



The English Boys

Julia Thomas

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The English Boys

Julia Thomas

The English Boys Julia Thomas

Daniel Richardson and his best friend, Hugh Ashley-Hunt, both rising British actors, are in love with the same woman, the free-spirited Tamsyn Burke. Reluctantly, Daniel steps aside when Tamsyn decides to marry Hugh. Shortly before the wedding, however, she's murdered, and suspicion falls on the family, friends, and associates present.

Motivated by both Hugh's grief and his own, Daniel joins forces with Tamsyn's younger sister, Carey, to find out who killed her. In the process of digging into Tamsyn's past, Daniel tries to discover what secret she was hiding, and why someone close to her might want to silence her forever.

The English Boys Details

Date : Published July 8th 2016 by Midnight Ink (first published 2016)

ISBN : 9780738749020

Author : Julia Thomas

Format : Paperback 329 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, European Literature, British Literature

 [Download The English Boys ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The English Boys ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The English Boys Julia Thomas

From Reader Review The English Boys for online ebook

Stephanie A. says

One of those wonderful books where you fall for the characters in a few pages, and never lose that feeling. Daniel/Tamsyn won my heart in their very first conversation, their chemistry just leaping off the page, and although her untimely death is the catalyst for the story, she has plenty more to say and do in a number of flashbacks as we get to watch him fall in love with her.

Daniel Richardson, by the way? Favorite character in an age. I loved his bromance with Hugh, every second of his friendship with Tamsyn (heart sufficiently on his sleeve for others to notice, but respectful enough to keep it in check around her and take what he can get), and the partnership he strikes up with her sister in an attempt to solve her murder, which unfolds in EXACTLY the manner I hoped.

I loved the premise of Daniel & Hugh being big-name actors, giving a fascinating peek into the perks and demands of that profession as well as the toll it takes on your personal life. And did I mention the part about how nothing goesos my fire like a good Pining Champ? Because ugh. He pines so well, thoroughly lovelorn from beginning to end. I had some concerns about the toll that would take on my heart, but ultimately was quite satisfied by how it was handled.

(view spoiler)

For me, this was first and foremost a character-driven book, with the mystery such a distant second that at first I was annoyed by chapters devoted to the investigators -- but I found a soft spot for one when he adopted a runty Springer Spaniel pup, and eventually it turns out there is a good reason to have his perspective. By the time Tamsyn's past (which did not paint her in nearly as bad a light as I feared) surfaced and her killer was identified, I was pretty invested in knowing who did it, and I think that was handled really well too.

Catherine says

If I hadn't known ahead of time that this was Julia Thomas's first novel, I never would have guessed while reading it. It's very well-written, engaging, and really kept me guessing.

The book takes place in London and the main characters are Daniel and Hugh, two best friends who are both in love with the same woman, Tamsyn Burke. Tamsyn has already (seemingly) made her choice, as the book begins at Westminster Abbey on her wedding day to Hugh. But before the wedding can take place, a member of the wedding party is murdered.

The rest of the story takes place partly after the murder and partly in flashback as stories are told leading up to the final reveal.

Because I read a lot of mysteries, I can often figure out what's going on and guess at either who the murderer is, why it happened, or both. It's unfortunate for me that I've developed this skill since it makes reading mysteries a little less fun. What IS fun is when I read a book and have NO idea what's going to happen. That was the case with this book. There's one big plot twist mid-book that I didn't guess at all, and it's a doozy!

I hope to read more books from this author. This one was really enjoyable.

Andrea Randall says

Julia Thomas's debut novel embodies the true definition of literature - a written body of work with artistic and intellectual value. *The English Boys* is a brilliant story, and Thomas certainly tells it with a clever finesse. And, yes there is an intellect behind the storyline and writing that should not go unrecognized. No, it should be praised!

This murder mystery is set in modern day England with a very intriguing plot - a young British actor in love with his best friend's bride becomes a suspect along with close family and friends after the bride is found murdered moments before her vows.

Although multiple POVs are used, the story is mainly told from Daniel Richardson's perspective. Through Richardson's character, the reader travels through an emotional journey of love, grief, anger, and trauma of discovering secrets of those closest to you. How well can a person know another? Do you truly know what motivates your best friend, sibling or significant other?

This book is a suspenseful must-read if you are a fan of murder-mysteries! Warning: Remember that you can never really know another person-their thoughts or hidden secrets-unless they're willing to share. A person can never truly decipher another's motivation; therefore, everyone must remain a suspect. Preorder now, and enjoy on July 8th.

~*Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and Midnight Ink Publishing in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are honest and my own.*~

This review was originally written for the Genuine Jenn blog.

Diane S ? says

3.5 Daniel and Hugh have long been friends, both successful actors they are starring in the same movie for the first time. Daniel meets Tamsyn first, they become friend though secretly Daniels wants to be more. Alas, Hugh gets the girl, he and Tamsyn become engaged much to Daniels sorrow. They are to be married at The Abbey, but before Tamsyn can walk down the aisle she is stabbed to death. Who would kill a bride on her wedding day and why?

Daniels and the bride's sister Carey set off to investigate on their own. We learn of Tamsyn and Daniel's friendship from his backstory, meet some of the characters from her past. It isn't until the last third of the book that we learn some things about Tamsyn and if you read this you will see why. Now the pieces begin to fall in place. This authors strength is in her characterizations, especially Daniel who we come to know fairly well.

Quite a good debut novel, and it has the added draw of NOT being compared to *Gone Girl* or *Girl on a Train*. Two comparisons of which I am very tired. Will definitely watch for this authors next book, my guess is

she will get better and better.

ARC from publisher.

Elysia Fionn says

I think I got seriously sucked in by the cover art and the title. Was hoping for a little more cloak-and-dagger, a bit more sexy naughtiness... or am I the only person who thinks of sexy naughtiness when I read the words "English Boys"? (I've known too many of them not to... ahem!)

Enjoyed 3/4 of the book, then the ending was... meh. Lately that's been happening to me a lot. Grab a book off the library shelf, love the beginning, left cold by the ending. Hopefully, since this is Ms. Thomas' first book, she'll read these reviews and take a bit more effort crafting a satisfactory denouement on her next effort!

Melissa Froelich nevener says

Absolutely loved this book! Just get comfy because you will get to the point that you can't put it down. Great story, great characters! Can't wait to see what's next from Julia Thomas!

Moirra says

I really enjoyed this book--it was a very good mystery. My only complaint is that it switches POV quite a lot, and it doesn't make it clear, as in some books written today, when that happens--as in a chapter heading that says "Daniel" or Murray". Sometimes it was obvious; other times, it just seemed to veer off. And I think that made it a little hard for me, as a reader, to connect fully with the characters. To me, this was a story that should have been told from one POV only--either the detective or Daniel, the bereaved.

Susan says

I don't know why, but this reminds me of the Robert Galbraith novels. Maybe in the very Britishness of it. Of course, Julia Thomas lives in Oklahoma and is not British. However, she is a very talented writer, because you believe that this was written by someone from the UK. Excellent writing, a plot that grabs and the right ending. Not necessarily a happy ending, but the right one. If this is her first novel, I really want to read her next one!

PS- I have now gotten my two favorite librarians to put a hold on this one. They were quite excited to find out Will Thomas's wife had written a book and such a good one at that.

Carol Ann says

What can I say? I absolutely loved the book. The writing is excellent. My hope is that there will be another title featuring DS Ennis or perhaps some back story for CI Murray. Terrific debut and I look forward to more from Julia Thomas. Much more.

LJ says

First Sentence: The Book of Common Prayer, as any good member of the Church of England knows, is rife with dark and fearsome parts.

Tamsyn Burke is murdered moments before she was meant to walk down the aisle of her wedding. Two men loved her; Hugh Ashley-Hunt, her fiancée, and Daniel Richardson, his best friend. Daniel can't let it go and end up joining forces with Tamsyn's sister, Carey, to find the killer. Their investigation reveals long-hidden secrets.

We begin with an interesting comparison—"...one line in The Solemnization of Marriage, which called forth the "dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed." It is also so much improved over the usual portent to which some authors subject the reader.

In addition to the aforementioned characters, one is also very intrigued by DCI Gordon Murray, and DS Ennis. Thomas does have a wonderful way of introducing characters through their personalities.

It is also good when an author makes you stop and think. Descartes' Cartesian Circle, and The Theory of Chaos vs. Determination aren't often detailed in a mystery, but the information is fascinating. Some of Thomas' observations are certainly unique and inclined to say with one—"He watched as a couple pushing a pram with a freakish plastic cover went by; he tried to imagine zipping a child into what seemed an airless prison, cut off from all humanity by a torrent of rain."

There is a nice balance between the characters, as well as time spent in the past and present. There is also a nice balance of the investigations done by the civilians and the police.

And then we get to the end when things rather fall apart and things happen which make no sense at all and were completely unnecessary. In fact, the more one thinks about it, the more annoying it is. It was incredibly disappointing that the author made the choices she did. Making some changes would not only have provided a wicked-good twist, but have been more suspenseful. It also could have led to a very good ongoing series with more interesting characters, should the author have wanted.

"The English Boys" is a decent debut book and it was a completely engrossing story that was very well done, up until the end. However, the end will cause this reviewer to approach the author's next book with caution.

THE ENGLISH BOYS (Novel/Pol Proc-Daniel Richardson-England-Contemp) – Good
Thomas, Julia – 1st book
Midnight Ink – 2016

Ashley says

I look forward to future Julia Thomas mysteries. Sometimes the genre is way over worked. There's all these weird twists and fetishes. Yeah there was a bit of a curve, but we know from the very beginning that everything is not the way it seems so it's fairly easy to guess who may be guilty. But you enjoy the journey so much.

Daniel Richardson is actually a main character that you want things to work for. He's a successful actor, good looking, but doesn't get caught up in all that and mostly wants to be left alone. Just not in a mean, grouchy way. He's a balanced character. His best friend, our villain Hugh, isn't overdone either. He has a major personality flaw, but in his day to day life he's a good guy. And he's not even pretending really. You're sad the victim Tamysn dies, but mostly because poor Daniel loves her. She herself, she's not the perfect wonderful woman he builds her up to be. Other characters make that plain. In fact, I was upset with her for stringing Daniel along as she plotted to take down his best friend. I'm not saying don't take your revenge...but don't also cozy up to Daniel as if you aren't planning on destroying his world.

I liked Carey, Tamsyn's little sister, a lot. She's smart, sensitive but strong, and for once her virginity isn't made into a major plot device. She simple is.

I loved the inspector. His devotion to his dead wife, his methodical police work that didn't jump to strange conclusions. His ending is probably the best thing for him, though I do feel bad for his puppy :(.

Two somewhat minor editing problems:

- When the detective is interviewing Hugh's father the detective notes that he hasn't used his wife's name a single time. That's not true, on the previous page he told him 'Caroline is arranging flowers for the funeral.' Perhaps what is meant is that as he discusses death he isn't referring to his wife?

- At Hugh's funeral Daniel is trying to come to terms with his best friend having murdered 3 people. But a few paragraphs later we see that at that point Daniel thinks Hugh 'only' killed 2. He is unaware of Inspector Murray's death.

Funny side note- I didn't read anything about the author until I was several chapters in. You usually can get a strong feel for where an author is from based on their writing style. The book is set in England, the author uses terminology and phrasing usually reserved for English writers, and even uses the F-word a couple times, infinity more likely in an English writer. Then I notice the biography says she's from Oklahoma. I was surprised. But then when I read her dedication and her background in reading almost exclusively English novels, it all made sense haha.

Jon Hartley says

Thomas shows in her debut novel that she knows how to create three-dimensional characters that are full of all kinds of little idiosyncracies that make them feel like real people. Unfortunately, she does not display a similar talent for developing a plot and moving it along at an even pace, and in the mystery genre, that's what must come first.

The first half of the book plods along after getting off to a quick start. In any mystery, the early investigation will largely be fruitless, but good mystery authors will at least give you reason to believe that the first suspects could be perpetrators. You never get that sense in this book, and it feels like Thomas is just treading

water for 150 pages or so.

Things get a little more interesting as relationships blossom among the characters, and that carries the book for the later half, and then all of a sudden, with about 40 pages to go, a huge reveal comes that makes it entirely obvious who did it. It's hard to call this a "whodunnit" when the best books of that type make it clear that, in hindsight, the clues were always there. In this case, there's a twist that couldn't possibly have been predicted that makes you feel like you wasted a good deal of time reading the earlier portion.

From there, the book rockets along at 90 miles per hour to a rather abrupt, unsatisfying conclusion. The worst of it all is chapter 31, which is an utter disaster that has everything you don't want in this type of story- characters doing completely irrational things, a villain who inexplicably feels the urge to talk about his crimes before killing a good guy a la Scooby-Doo...it's not good.

I'm not sure if I'd read another book by Thomas. Mystery isn't exactly a high-brow genre, and that's fine, but if there are any commandments within it, they are that the author must keep the pages turning and that the story must have a satisfying conclusion. Thomas seems to be a good writer, but this effort simply falls short of the mark.

Judith Shadford says

First work of Julia Thomas, read after *Penhale Wood*. Two Brit actors, friends since childhood, 15 minutes before Hugh was to marry Tamsyn, yes, at Westminster Cathedral, even though Daniel was really in love with her, and she's murdered! Not a bad first chapter. But Thomas writes more than beach reads. All three have just finished filming Hardy's *The Woodlanders*, and there is a delicately done amount of Hardy-esque angst and *schadenfreude* that ensures close reading. As in *Penhale Wood*, once I finished, I really needed to rethink the entire plotline, which of course, was turned inside out.

Highly satisfactory. I hope she keeps these highly engaging mysteries coming.

Ivonne Rovira says

Wow. Just wow. Julia Thomas' debut novel unfurls slowly and beautifully and then speeds up faster and faster as one shock after another is revealed. Who would believe that this perfect gem, told partly in flashback, could be a first novel?

Beautiful, bohemian actress Tamsyn Burke is stabbed to death moments before her wedding. For whom is her death worse? Her fiancé Hugh Ashley-Hunt? Or Hugh's best friend, Daniel Richardson, the one who loved and lost Tamsyn? However, it's Daniel and not the groom who tries to solve Tamsyn's murder.

Free-spirited Tamsyn's little sister Carey is her exact opposite. A practical 23-year-old medical student, Carey drops everything to join Daniel in investigating who killed Tamsyn in Westminster Abbey. What Carey and Daniel discover will create both surprise and suspense. Highly, highly recommended.

In the interest of full disclosure, I received this book from NetGalley and Midnight Ink in exchange for an honest review.

Linda George says

Good mystery story with a twist...aren't those the best kind?

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.
