

Subculture



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One boy is dead. Another is missing. And a Kentucky town lives in fear.

Enter the world of Subculture, a new thriller that blurs the lines between literary fiction and pure genre fiction entertainment. Novelist Charles Anthony Vilina has woven a character-driven tale of murder and suspicion that has readers talking both nationally and abroad.

A Kentucky community finds itself in shock and disbelief over the disappearance of two high school boys on a dark December night. Two months later, one boy's body is unearthed on the farm of a reclusive and enigmatic girl, a foreigner of Asian descent. Her arrest and subsequent trial for murder forces this community, and the reader, to appraise their personal beliefs in the face of their deepest fears.

For readers looking for a riveting murder mystery, Subculture won't disappoint. For those willing to read between the lines, this new novel dares to examine society's best and worst attributes in the face of fear.

Subculture Details

Date : Published January 21st 2012 by Charles Anthony Vilina

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Author : Charles Anthony Vilina

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Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Subculture for online ebook

Emily says

Meh. Some rather nice bits of writing, but the story just wasn't quite there. Several of the main characters didn't feel believable at all, and things that the story mentioned in passing needed more development--especially since one of them became the cover image. Also, not exactly a fitting title. This would be a solid first draft, but has quite a way to go. Disappointing as a finished piece.

Laura Slapikoff says

This writer has potential. He often writes lyrically, and his main character is fairly interesting. I had two major problems with the book. First, there are wrong word choices all over the place, such as "abstract" instead of "extract" and "postulate" instead of "expostulate." He also used the word "breath" instead of "breathe" throughout the entire book. The second problem was that the plot became extremely unbelievable during the courtroom scenes. The prosecutor made speeches that no judge would allow, as anyone who's watched an episode of Law & Order knows. I'm not ready to throw this guy out with the bathwater, and I'll read his next book if I can download it for free, as I did this one. Hopefully as he matures as a writer, there will be better things to come.

Jonathan Peto says

Several of my Goodreads friends have written novels. This one is the only one by an author who also inhabits my physical world. His wife is a colleague, so I was curious about this book for that reason. I was also leery. What if I don't like it? What if it is one of those poorly written, poorly edited Indie novels? This guy knows where I live....

Luckily, I'm safe this time. I have lots of good things to say about Subculture. First and most basic, it is clear this author is an author who has studied his craft. This is not a first draft. This is not, as Sue Grafton apparently said about Indie authors, "... a student managing to conquer Five Easy Pieces on the piano and then wondering if s/he's ready to be booked into Carnegie Hall."

A crime drives the plot of Subculture. There's suspense. A high school student, a girl, is arrested for the murder of another student, a boy, and I reached the last pages of the book unsure if she was guilty or not. Both possibilities seemed likely at different times. Did I guess some details of the crime? Sure, but not everything and not without a doubt. And some important things came as a surprise.

Subculture is not just for readers of the crime genre. The author is clearly interested in other things too. The story takes place in Kentucky. In general, the community of the story is Christian and rather insular. People know each other and know each other well, but the accused girl, Marsha Kilderry, is an outsider. Her father came from the town, but she had been living there only a short time before the events of the story. She moved in with her grandmother because she was now an orphan. After the death of her parents, she came to Kentucky from Sri Lanka, her mother's country. She's different from the other kids at school in obvious ways, like her skin color, and in other ways too, such as her thinking and life experience.

Subculture is not the kind of crime novel to open with the crime or some other explosive event. At the same time, I can't imagine saying it has a slow start. Marsha and her grandmother live on a farm. The grandmother is not in the best health and Marsha is responsible for a lot of chores. We experience her world in vivid detail: the pigs, the mud, the natural environment all around her. If you demand a pure, unadulterated crime novel exclusively focused on plot, Subculture may not be your thing, though there are plenty of twists in its 250 pages. If you are interested in a crime story with vivid descriptions of a rural setting, a crime story with a clash of cultures to ponder, and a crime story with an array of interesting characters, give it a shot. The story is told through several characters, including Marsha, an investigating detective, a prosecutor, and more. Usually, that might be a bad thing. It worked well here. One of many things that did!

Toni says

I enjoyed this book from the aspect that it kept me thinking. I never saw the end coming, in many ways the book is strange and so many aspects of it depend on the culture of each character. I finished reading it last night and really haven't stopped thinking about it since. Makes you think about whose definition of right is really the right one....or is right different for different people. Glad I read it.

Jenn says

Gym reading, aka free or cheap on the Kindle. I almost lemmmed this one. I didn't like Marsha. She was flat and too internal to warm up to. But I kept going and I'm glad I did. I really got into this one and very much enjoyed it. I saw a bit of the ending coming, but certainly not all of it and not until the last third or so of the book. I'd definitely recommend.

Dawn says

Started out slow and a little hard to get into but then got really good in the middle. Ending was a little disappointing as I had whodunit figured out fairly soon after the body was discovered. Some of the actions of the characters are hard to understand so I think there could have been more backstory and character development.

M.L. Roos says

What a surprise to read something so well crafted, so character driven and so focused on entertaining the reader. This is only the second book that Charles Anthony Vilina has written and I was astounded by his realism and depth. Not a horror book persay, but it certainly contains elements of psychological horror. Very well done.

Nancy says

Not bad for a starting author. Very flowing, descriptive at times but needed more development in other areas. I think this author definitely has potential. Wasn't really a page turner for me. I was into the second part before it really got interesting to me. Not my favorite but all in all not bad.

Rob Osterman says

I was going in with one set of expectations and I came out pleasantly surprised. I'll just say that we picked up a Kindle copy around the time that 50 Shades of Grey really was taking off. This is not that kind of "Subculture".

What it turned out to be was a gripping, page turning legal drama. I'm, honestly, a little more into the procedural side of things so a lot of the mental images of the characters did not tap my interest, however, Mr. Vilina did a wonderful job of weaving together points of view in a way that worked incredibly well and made each character clear and concise. The book is not completely linear but the jumps in time work for the narrative and are clearly marked to help you stay focused.

I'm a huge fan of crime dramas and I do admit that some of the basic arcs were fairly straight forward. I did enjoy it though, and the speeches of the main character worked for the context. It is not a flattering view of some aspects of American culture, to be clear, and puts a pretty dark light on the adversarial form of justice we use, but overall I think it works for the novel. I do think that some who are sensitive to fairly broad strokes may have difficulty with the lack of sympathetic characters among the people of Fontaine Kentucky.

Overall, it was an engaging read and one that I found myself often flipping pages through long after I should have put it down for a break.

Elaine says

This gripping tale of well-liked missing high school seniors takes place in Kentucky.

Marsha is a senior in Lee High and has only been in the States for six months. The students don't know her and most don't care to know her making fun of her every chance they get. She timidly but bravely voices her differing opinion in class while they judge her. They see her as different and different is evil in their eyes.

When two popular basketball players end up missing and with the county's attorney, Conrad Baker running for office and wanting to look good in the eyes of the constituents, he sets his sights on nailing this case. Things look up for him when the body of one of the students turns up buried on the property of Marsha's grandmother – the woman with whom she lives.

There are some horrific scenes within. With twists and turns you don't see coming, you'll want to make time for this one.

Jaime says

I'd actually give this 3.5 stars. It was a free kindle book, so I didn't really know what to expect. I started reading it one night before bed, and next thing I knew, it was 2 am and I was finishing it. I didn't think it was the most unique story (rather predictable), but it was suspenseful none the less. I would recommend it as a "fun" read. If the author comes out with another novel, I'd probably check it out.

Amanda Smith says

My review from amazon.com dated 3/30/2013

Title: Awesome Book

This book definitely did not follow the way I thought it would. Some characters were really easy to hate. Plus the main character didn't give details of her life to anyone easily- not even the reader.

I was yelling at the book, yelling at her to confide in someone but she just wouldn't! I finally got to know the main character at the very end.

This book is definitely about people who are prejudice against people that are different without trying to walk in their shoes first.

Sally Beaudean says

The author is an incredibly talented writer. I haven't read a book with such beautiful images in such a long time. His descriptions touch each of my senses -- a delightful reading experience. I was immediately intrigued with the book's main character and remained so until the very end. Mixing the characters' cultural differences with a good old fashioned murder mystery was masterful. I recommend this book. It's a quick read and very satisfying.

Emily says

A book which is as riveting as it is thought provoking. My attention was demanded by this book into the dark hours of morning through a page-turning night. A murder mystery with a major dose of religious debate. I like the definitions Marsha, our quiet and pensive leading lady, gives on the rare occasions she does speak. In fact her silence even had me doubting her innocence, especially in the final chapters! The author continuously requires his audience to think about the intolerance which clouds many people's judgements. Odd or different, each person has a right to their own views of the world.

Bob says

this is a pretty good mystery story with a few very compelling characters. the protagonist is an asian girl who finds herself in small town america, living with her grandmother and working her small farm. being an outsider and suspect for that reason alone, when a high school boy goes missing, she is the prime suspect. this book is more about how people react to each other than about plotting. so it's more emotional than intellectual and it hits right on the mark in that area. my one criticism would be that the title and cover photo don't seem to belong with this book. the cover looks like it should be a 50 shades of grey clone. it's not. it's head and shoulders above that book and has nothing to do with its subject matter. well worth reading.
