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## Every dead thing summary

Paeans to a host of other last-day crime-writing icons abound in this dark first novel of deprivation, detection and dissection. Former NYPD Detective Charlie Birdman Parker, it's been really bad. The son of a child-killing cop, Parker's alcoholism destroyed his marriage in name, while a deranged killer ended it in reality by gruesomely murdering his wife and child. After quitting the force amid ugly, suspicious rumors, Parker now ekes out a meager living captive fugitive for sleazy bail bondsmen, and talks through his anxiety with a sympathetic (and attractive) psychiatrist named Rachel Wolfe. One of his business ropes him into what appears to be an internal mafia feud, but soon leads to something altogether more sinister and depraved. Parker, who harbors a desperate desire to help other people's children when he couldn't make his own, follows a bloodied trail from the outer neighborhoods of New York to the Louisiana swamps (William Hjortsberg, Falling Angel) where a bayou medicine woman (shades of midnight in the garden of good and evil) helps him discover a gruesome series of child murders (cue Andrew Vachss). As this happens, the killer known as Traveling Man, who murdered Parker's own family, turns up, leading the detective to the help of a few career criminals befriended during his days on the force (think Robert B. Parker here, if Hawk were gay). As the Mob battle spills over into a full-blown feud and the bodies begin piling up, Parker and a sloppy FBI agent named Woolrich race against time to decipher the gorie language of Traveling Man's psychopathology and determine where he will strike next (Thomas Harris, big time). Traveling Man's MO has a terrible familiarity for Parker, which in turn increases his dependence on Rachel, which leads to good, you get the idea. Connolly's nods to established authors carry more than a touch of tribute, and Connolly himself uses a strong command of the written word and his American locales. Every Dead Thing is a promising first attempt, and should appeal to many fans of the genre. Adam Dunn writes reviews and features for Current Diversions and Speak magazine. I forget when or how I first came across this book, and I've wanted to read it again for quite some time so I could write a coherent review of it. I never got to it. Well, the 17th book in the series that originated from the roots of this book was recently released in the UK (US release coming in mid-October), and so I thought this was as good a time as one to dive back into this, and find out if it would be as good this time around as I remembered it the first time. EVERY DEAD THING (Amazon) is the first of the Charlie Parker series thrillers. I can't say I've been very lucky when it comes to finding thrillers that actually... Well, got away with it. Whether that emotional impact because of breakneck pacing, or rattling tension, or a narrowing storyline, I've only encountered relatively few that actually fit the bill they're trying to feed for me. Charlie Parker was a detective with the NYPD. The drive of the job drove a wedge between him and his wife though, and one night after a particularly heated argument and several hours of hard drinking on his part, Charlie Parker comes home to find his wife and young daughter slaughtered in the kitchen of their own home. The resulting guilt and his attempts to be involved in the eventual police investigation is almost enough to drive him over the edge and into madness. A few months later, his former partner asks him for a favor. He's got a case. A small one. Missing girl. Something Parker can do well. However, it doesn't take long for the case to open and pull it down. Each dark cavity turns out to be a different hole, and soon he is embroiled in the middle of the fallout from a serial killer case decades old that turns out to be colder and moldier than any of the crypts that must keep all his dead. But also, down in those dark places, he finds connections to the death of his wife and daughter and creates in him an urge for revenge and completion that will not be sedated until he has unearthed everything that has been buried for so long. It was interesting, reading this book for the second time. I found that there were some things I remembered very well, such as Connolly's impressive writing, great characters, and dark intricate plot that just didn't stop giving. However, there were also a few things that surprised me. Like how timid the supernatural elements actually were, and how long the thing was. The story feels like it's split into two big sections. The first deal with the mystery behind the missing girl, and the second with the trail that leads to the serial killer known to Mr Parker known only as The Traveling Man. The story mixes the mystery of a detective novel with the supernatural elements of a raging horror novel with apparent ease. But in this case, it's not necessarily an evil monster playing the supernatural threat. There are quite many cases in which reveal the horror and cruelty of the beast known as man. This, the first Charlie Parker thriller, introduces Mr. Parker's tortured past, the vicious nature of those he seeks, and a bit of the supernatural as well. As the main character, Charlie Parker is broken and contorted to extreme degree. It is hard to imagine how such events can affect the mind of a single individual, and yet the author has done a convincing job of it here. There are aspects of Parker's character that intelligence, but also that exposes his own intense desire for revenge and willingness to do something - anything - it takes to inflict mortal to the person who was ultimately responsible for the death of his wife and daughter. He is very contradictory, and sometimes both heroic and villainous as well. I ended up consuming the readings of two different storytellers while listening to this audiobook. As is typically the case, readers made a big impact on my experience. I only had to listen to the first part of the book as read by Titus Welliver, and then had to switch to one read by Jeff Harding. The Welliver version was vastly superior, and I was rather disappointed to find out that this was the only Charlie Parker book he told. Although I ended up loving the book as a whole, the experience was certainly diminished by Harding's reading of it. It just didn't have the same punch, and it was immediately obvious to me that this would be the case once I switched. If you decide to give this book a go and find that you have the ability to choose between both two versions, I would strongly suggest that you go with the Welliver reading. In fact, I enjoyed his narration so much that I'll probably end up going out and looking for something else that he's done. Always nice to find a new storyteller to chase after. ☺ If you're a fan of detective novels, and can look past the fact that it's only very minimally speculative (even I really had no problem with that fact this time), this would be a great book to pick up. As long as your stomach has the intensely dark content. Even if this is an old one, it's not every day that you come across a huge series that's already written and just waiting for you to dive in. Recommended age: 18+, more for violence and gore, but there is plenty of everything here Language: Strong, but especially of certain secondary characters Violence: Lots of violence and gory detail. Like a lot. Sex: Several strong references, a moderately detailed scene, and references to child abuse Written by: Wayne C. Rogers I had the pleasure of meeting John Connolly during the late summer of 2001. I was already a big fan of him having read Every Dead Thing, Dark Hollow and his latest book, The Killing Kind. What I had a difficult time understanding was how an author from Ireland was able to capture the tone and nuances of a New England writer as perfectly as he did. If I had to guess, I would have said John was a resident of New Hampshire or Maine. And this assumption would be based entirely on his writing. John, however, was Irish through and through. He explained to me that he spent a lot of time in the United States and that was how he had been able to capture the prose and style of an American writer. John is a little man in stature, reminds me of a Jockey. He eyes are bright with intelligence and adventure. This is a man who loves to travel, new new and have wonderful, exciting experiences wherever he goes. This is also a man who likes books. The first thing he did when he came into my apartment was go to my bookcases, which was lucky for me. John saw my copy of Joe Lansdale's The Bottoms and asked me what I thought. I told him the truth ... That I thought it was the best novel I'd ever read in my life. He agreed and asked if I'd ever read any of Joe's Hap/Leonard books. I said no, and he suggested I try them. In fact, if I remember correctly, he said that if I read one of them, I'd get hooked, and then go through the rest of the series in a

reading frenzy. He was right. That's exactly what happened after I read Joe Lansdale's Bad Chili. John and I talked for an hour about authors and books before he had to go to his next appointment, which was a radio interview for his latest novel, The Killing Kind. Talking to John and having a beer together was a great experience which I still treasure today. As I later discovered, authors rarely if ever, visit their fans at their homes. That act of kindness is therefore something I will never forget. The only downer at the meeting was that I had John's first three hardbacks on the counter by the stove for him to sign, and I forget to ask him to do it. By the time I saw the books and got back to the parking lot, he was gone. I should have had the books on the coffee table. John Connolly's debut novel was Every Dead Thing, which is the story of former NYPD detective Charlie Bird Parker, a man who experienced a tragedy of such magnitude that it's a miracle he's not crazy with fear. While he was still a homicide detective in New York City and an alcoholic, he had a fight with his wife one night and left the house in anger. He stopped at the local pub, got drunk, and then returned home a few hours late to discover that his wife and young daughter had been skinned alive by a complete lunatic. At first a suspect in the murder of his own family, Parker's alibi holds, but over time he is still forced to leave the police station. He stops drinking and makes it his life ambition to track down the man who butchered his family. Clues lead him to New Orleans where an old voodoo woman tells him about a serial killer known as the Traveling Man. This is the person Parker was looking for. The Travelling Man has killed countless times and will surely kill again, unless someone puts a sharp stake through his evil heart. Meanwhile, Parker is asked by a former colleague to track down a missing person.... A woman who killed his younger sister by a serial killer years earlier. Case leads Parker to Haven, Virginia and puts him on the trail of a horrible monster who's been killing children for over thirty years. Kills. will soon discover that this animal knows the identity of the man who destroyed his family. Eventually, Parker will head back to Louisiana and find himself caught in the middle of a massacre between two rival gangsters for the organization, and then face the Traveling Man in a final showdown of life and death. Expect goosebumps to pop up on your arms! Every Dead Thing is a thick novel of intricate structure, combining three plots that are connected to each other. The first is about Parker's quest for revenge as he hunts down the Traveling Man, while the second plot branches into a journey of total darkness and horror, starting with the disappearance of Catherine Demeter and leading to a monster who gains unimaginable pleasure by torturing and killing small children. The third plot is about Parker's eventual involvement with the New Orleans' crowd and how it ties in with his quest for the Traveling Man. Complex in size and underlying subplots, Every Dead Thing will not only shock and surprise you, but will also ask you to think about the nature of evil and its place in our society. This is certainly not a novel for the lighthearted. It is filled with an abundance of violence and death, as well as an array of richly drawn characters who reeked of unadulterated evil and will frighten you with their utter credibility. Even the heroes (Charlie Parker and his close friends, Angel and Louis) are touched by a degree of darkness. They are not saints who fight for the goodness of humanity, but rather murderers who are more than willing to do whatever it takes to rid the world of these soulless individuals. John Connolly has written a powerful book that is entertaining, thought-provoking and truly frightening to the core. It'll make you wonder about the hundreds of human monsters out there, hidden without our middle. All we can do is hope there are men like Charlie Parker who aren't afraid to take these creatures down the hard way. For readers who enjoy the works of Thomas Harris and James Patterson, grab a copy of Every Dead Thing. After you're done reading, I guarantee you'll be in a hurry to get the other novels in the incredible, exciting series. Order every dead thing here! Rating: 5/5 5/5

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