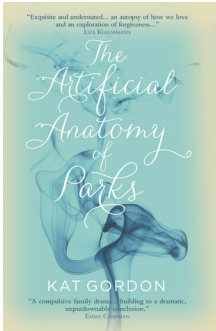


For Books' Sake's Reviews > The Artificial Anatomy of Parks



Want to Read

Rate this book

The Artificial Anatomy of Parks

by Kat Gordon (Goodreads Author)



For Books' Sake's review

Jul 29, 2015

Share on Facebook

bookshelves: literary-fiction

With masterful, understated prose, first time novelist Kat Gordon gradually unpins the inner workings of the mysterious Park family.

The *The Artificial Anatomy of Parks* is Kat Gordon's debut novel, and is without anything remotely resembling a beginner's mistake (if there is such a thing); her English degree from Oxford, and Creative Writing MA from Royal Holloway oblige here.

One might be forgiven for thinking that this is a book about green parks, because the title omits the word "the", which might have advised readers that it is about a family with the surname Park. The equivocation is significant : parks in novels are traditionally charged with symbolism; for instance of the relationship between wild, unchecked growth, and the sharp scissors of social refinement cutting everything into neat shapes. Transposed to a psychological plane, this seems to be the main problem of the fictitious Park family. Part coming-of-age-story and part psychological drama, this novel delves into the heart of family relations and family tragedies, and denounces the curious secrecy that often surrounds them. It takes place in London in the 1990's, and 2000's, and the dialogues are so life-like, it often uncannily doesn't seem like fiction at all.

Still with an eye on the title, the word "Anatomy" gives an inkling that the narrator has her family on the dissecting table, removing layer after layer of appearances in a reluctant quest to see what lies beneath. Tallulah "Tallie" Park is a young woman who would have liked to become a nurse, but these career dreams were aborted when, as a teenager, the surgeon's daughter broke away from boarding school and fell out of touch with her family. Now living and working in London under less-than-glamorous circumstances, she is largely estranged from her relations. When she is suddenly called to her father's sickbed in hospital, she far from ready to see him.

An unplanned family reunion around surgeon Edward Park's sickbed becomes the site of Tallie's gradual recollection...

Want to read more? Finish this review and find out more about women writers at our website:

<http://forbookssake.net/2015/07/13/th...>

Sign up

My Books

Browse ▾

Community ▾

READING PROGRESS

Finished Reading

July 29, 2015 – Shelved

July 29, 2015 – Shelved as: [literary-fiction](#)

COMMENTS

[Post a comment »](#)

No comments have been added yet.

[post a comment »](#)

COMPANY

- [About us](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Terms](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Interest Based Ads](#)
- [Ad Preferences](#)
- [Help](#)

WORK WITH US

- [Authors](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Authors & ads blog](#)
- [API](#)

CONNECT



© 2022 Goodreads, Inc.
Mobile version