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When terrorist violence in London tears an American family apart, sixteen-year-old Laura becomes obsessed with finding her brother's killer.

The Terrorist Details

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Thien Doan says

The ending has a different approach than I expected, which I'm going to like this ending. Because the author made less action involved, but more main on oral speech. I know that can be lame, but I liked it. "Jehran said nothing." The scene has built a lot of imagery. The way of how the character expresses themselves. Larua was pretty darn mad once she had figured it out. She was mad the whole time in this book. Which I found key of book. This has drag lots of emotion of out of here. "What you talking about, Mohammed? All I do now is suspect people! I spend all day and night making lists! Lists of people who thought Billy was a nuisance! Lists of people who might know how to make bombs! I suspect sixth graders who bought Ritz crackers from Billy. I suspect neighbors, Mohammed. I suspect teachers. I suspect you." -Laura. Tons of energy and emotion just by reading that. I think that's my favorite part. It showed a lot about her as a character

"Laura stood with Eddie, waiting for the bus. Billy had loved London buses and sat in the top front seat of double-decker's."

This book has repeated itself too much I think. I think it's over use. The overuse of Billy, but again I began to see that what author writes is what Laura thinks. So if this was abuse a lot that means shows a lot meaning about Billy. Re-scene the time with Billy and Laura. So I understand why this and I would do found that pretty clever. I realize that after I finish the book. I was looking back all the moments in this book, and I see a pattern. If the book was written differently of not overuse of Billy, then Laura itself doesn't care about Billy and we be going through a Journey of no emotion about Billy, so in conclusion it will get dull in the book.

Alfredo Valdez says

How would you feel if your brother was killed by a terrorist,angry revengeful,clueless? In the book Billy is killed by package bomb in a subway station. The genre of this book is realistic fiction because it contains events that can possibly happen. What I thought of this book was a suspenseful beginning with the death of 5 year old Billy Williams and then turns into a mystery where Laura, Billy's sister, tries to find the killer by suspecting everyone at her school including her enemies and..... friends.

The setting of the story is in L.I.A school. It is important to the story because the main suspects of the terrorist attack according to Laura go to that school. Laura was trying to find the killer of Billy because she wants revenge on the killer, but she was blaming people with no proof because she is desperate to find the killer which leads her to investigate the death more in depth and find out why Billy was chosen to be killed,so It led her to she suspected Jehran as a victim because she was trying to escape London with Billy's passport because Jehran was being forced to marry an older man,and if she did not flee London soon she would be abused at a young age of 16.This leads Laura to try and help jehran and they are making a plan to escape to the U.S.A using Billy's passport.These events strangely occur after the death of Billy Williams. The type of problem is person vs. person because Laura has to face a killer who was obviously a human being. The theme of the story is the no matter how hard you try not all stories have a happy ending.I choose that theme because at the end of the story it states " thats it" Laura said "your just going to let the killer of my brother go with any any consequences. Jehran was judged as a minor and put in an orphanage,but later walked away and was never seen again.This shows that not all stories are fairy tales that end with "and they lived happily ever after".

This story is told in third person so it is a narrator watching from above. It is third person omniscient which is like a God because he knows the thoughts of all characters which makes it omniscient. The third person point of view affects the story because it can show what the characters are thinking about and says what he sees which means that in third person point of view there is no opinions said. The characters motivation is to find the terrorist who killed Billy because she wants revenge to who ever killed Billy. The author's tone is revengeful. In the text it states that "laura said "i will kill who ever murdered Billy." This shows that Laura wants to kill who ever murdered Billy with a revengeful tone and is very determined to find the killer.

I was surprised when Laura suspects Jehran as the suspect because she was supposedly Laura's new best friend after Billy died which was even more weird because she hated americans and never talked to Laura and all of a sudden she talks to an american AND becomes "best friends" with Laura. I added the detail of adding quotes around best friend because Jehran was only using Laura for Billy's passport. It became shocking to me because that the killer will become with the friends the victim's sister!!!. I'd compare this author with mystery/realistic fiction because this story contains both elements. The character i identify most as is Con because i would support my friends if something happened to them. I thought the ending of the book was suspenseful because it ended all of a sudden with no punishment for Jehran and she escaped freely from the orphanage where she was sent after the drama at the airport where she was getting yelled at by Laura.

I would rate this book 1 out of 5 because the problem is not resolved the way I thought it would be, i thought this book should have ended with Laura getting revenge on Jehran an a loud arguement between the two old "friends" and maybe even a fight because after what jehran did to the William's family i think Laura would want to throw a punch at Jehran. I would recommend this book to someone who likes mystrey. I did not like this book because the conflict was introduced to quickly and had TO MANY suspenseful moments which is something that i do not like in a book, i think suspenses should be introduced throughout the story

;-)

Emily says

I enjoyed this story, I found some of the plot twists stretched the feeling of realism, but the description of London as an international community as well as the portrayal of Americans, American attitudes, and the attitudes of others towards Americans feels honest and authentic. A good introduction to these ideas for young readers trying to understand our place in the world.

Roberta love youuuu says

I REALLY loved this book. It is one of the best I've reas in a very long time.

Shannon Rammler says

Brilliant, eye-opening and informative.

Danial says

I'm honestly not sure what to make of this book. I finished it, so it wasn't a horrible story line, but it was far from one of the better novels that I've read. I think the premise was a little juvenile and lacked inspiration, but the writing style and the suspense of the hunt for Billy's killer was enough to keep me reading.

There were a few typos in the book, which (while it didn't distract from the enjoyment) just added salt to the wound of lacking plot. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone that doesn't like the "Young Adult," but it does address some of the nasty stereotypes of Americans and how poorly we (think that we are) perceived by the rest of the world, but it does nothing to talk about the plutocracy found in this international school.

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KyleeJ says

I can see why this book was challenged. Even at 34 I could only read it in small chunks. I'm sure my 16yo could handle *THE TERRORIST*, but I wouldn't want her to be **required** to read it.

Viktoria Jean says

After i read this book, i realised that the 'terrorist' that the author is talking about is not necessarily those in army uniforms, holding huge bazookas and snipers and those who look especially tough and mean. A terrorist is just anyone with the intention of harming someone else. The author makes the idea clear that a terrorist can live in just anyone's heart, as seen in the case of Jehran, a sweet small girl whom noone would ever guess was the one who paid the guards to plant a bomb in Billy's hands. Everyone has a personal agenda. We learnt this from our literature text, *The Enemy of the People*, in school. This book illustrates this idea, that Jehran killed Billy because she wanted his passport to escape from her brother, who wanted her to marry a rich old man. Jehran has her own personal motive for everything she does and says to Laura. This book brings the idea clearly across that someone with his or her own personal agenda will do anything to accomplish it.

I am amazed by Billy Williams. Even though he is only a mere 11 year old boy, he is full of compassion. Like all other young boys, he is playful and enjoys tormenting her sister Laura. And he has a weird and interesting hobby of collecting everything under the sun. But he is alert and smart, when someone handed him a brown package, he instinctively knows what is in the bag, 'in a sickening moment, Billy remembers the terrorist warnings he had seen posted around London'. On seeing the baby stroller and the baby's mother in front of him, and the mess of people around him, he hugs the package to his chest and was blown to bits and pieces. He did not want the others to die as he knew that if he threw it away, the bomb would still explode and kill others. He is a very brave boy, as even at the instant he knew what was in the bag, he did not shrink away and fling it elsewhere. He'd rather he be the one who got blown up and not the mother and child in front of him or the unknowing people in the crowd. 'he could not throw the package into the innocent crowd'. At the rather touching moment, he thought of his mom before he wrapped himself around the

package, and it blew up. He is compassionate, brave and i admire him a lot. Under those circumstances, not many would be willing to protect the others by hugging the bomb to himself.

The story is a fast-paced one. Laura has a long list of suspects of who killed her brother and it was filed with names of her schoolmates. The suspect keeps moving from one person to the other, and no one had suspected Jehran. Laura herself had not been a least bit suspicious when Jehran had requested to 'borrow' Billy's passport [Jehran is small and boyish looking though she is frail and thin. she looks a little like Billy]. This shows that even if a person looks sweet, innocent and cute, he or she should still be kept at arms distance [not literary]. There was no foreshadowin or clues on who the killer might be. And that is the whole thrill of this book, unknowing.

Great Lines from the book:

'But thoughts of Billy did not lie gently. Billy might rest in peace, but the world did not. Every senseless act of violence the world over made her heart burst for her brother. Laura would shout, "No!" into the wind, but nothing Laura ever said or did could bring a child back from death.'

'Every winter for years, the Williams family had gone skiing in New Hampshire. There was no Billy, but there was still snow, and cold, and beauty, and the hard glorious work of skiing. Coming down the slope, Laura would try to cast grief into the snow-laden wind.'

Adam says

Caroline B. Cooney paints a horrifying tale of revenge as Laura Williams, a 16 year old British international student, finds out that her brother was targeted by a terrorist attack and killed. The first scene of the book has Laura's brother running through a train with his friend. A strange man hands him a package and tells him that his friend dropped it and leaves. Laura's brother remembers all the drills he had at school and realizes the package is a bomb, but didn't want anyone else to die. So, he lays on top of the package to absorb most of the blow and save the baby and mother that were closest to him. The scene really helps my writing because it shows how a single scene can take simple drills in school, that all of us have had, and make them into a horrifying incident. It also shows me how single scenes can reveal a character's true nature and instantly makes the reader fall in love with the brother. It also makes Laura's grief real and it makes the reader understand Laura's need for revenge.

Celeste_pewter says

Disclaimer: I received an ARC through NetGalley and Open Road Media in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Okay. I need to state right at the start of this review: I feel guilty for not liking this book, because Caroline B. Cooney's Both Sides of Time quartet was my go-to time travel series when I was younger.

However, The Terrorist just isn't that well-written.

The beginning of the story is compelling - the protagonist's little brother Billy, witnesses a terrorist attack on the verge of being carried out. He does his best to stop it, by putting himself between the bomb and others.

However, once the story switches to Laura's POV, I started yawning my way through it.

Laura's obsessed with finding answers about the terrorist act and her brother's death, but not in a normal sort of way. She carries out a lot of physical actions - including borderline stalking of others- which made me wonder why 1) her parents didn't realize that she was acting irrationally, and 2) why an adult - any adult - didn't do something to stop/help this girl.

Laura also constantly makes assumptions and leaps of logic which seriously had me questioning her sanity at some points. There are several instances of the book where she added 1 + 2 and came up with 5. That's how weird/random her leaps of logic were.

Ultimately, Cooney treats the very serious subject of terrorism as more of a obsessive focus/side project for a teenage girl, verses something that is genuinely very serious and should be treated as such.

Can't recommend this book.

Ali C says

This is absolutely my favorite book by caroline b. cooney. I cried (just a little), got mad.. basically related to the character.. No I haven't dealt with anything like that but I could only imagine how she felt.

Amara Tanith says

After the wonderful surprise that was *Fog*, I didn't expect to be as disappointed as I was by *The Terrorist*. While *Fog* balanced out its sillier YA-typical elements with a well-crafted tone of eeriness and a reasonably strong female protagonist, *The Terrorist* stars an obnoxious teenage girl who flaunts her extreme nationalism and rampant xenophobia.

I mean, my goodness. I like the US as much as the next citizen, but hearing Laura go on and on about how it's simply the only country worth living in is incredibly annoying. Her attitude is downright ludicrous. America and Americans are the only good place and people in the world, according to Laura. Meanwhile, the Brits are our eccentric, backwards neighbors across the pond, and everyone else is a terrorist.

When Laura's little brother Billy is killed by a bomb of unknown origin and motive, Laura decides that one of the other children at her international school for rich expats—one of her friends—is the terrorist behind it. Why? Because reasons! Reasons that don't make sense to anyone but Laura. So, of course, she interrogates each and every one of her friends. She forces them to show her their passports in order to prove they're really Americans. The Japanese American kid? She wants to know his entire family tree, and then implies he's lying because he couldn't possibly look so Japanese with that background.

And let's not get started on Laura's views of Middle Eastern people.

Now, here's the thing. Laura is an extremely unsympathetic protagonist. She's a massive brat. She's entitled and selfish. She's unashamedly xenophobic and extremely nationalistic. She's downright insufferable.

In other words, Laura is the perfect "lesson protagonist". Laura is an American-loving, foreigner-accusing young woman, and she desperately needs someone to open her eyes to the fact that the world is not in fact populated by cardboard cutouts of stereotypical human beings. And when Laura makes friends with the beautiful and exotic Jehran, a childlike and proper Muslim girl, it looks like she might just be coming around to the idea.

And then Jehran turns out to be the terrorist. She's just using Laura to get into the United States. *Her cohorts killed Billy so she could use his passport.*

Mother of god. The entire book built up this sense of, "Laura sure is prejudiced, ain't she? Ready to see her learn to respect other cultures?" ...and then at the last minute shoved in a, "Surprise! Laura was right all along! Those tricky Muslims sure are something, aren't they?"

I don't really know what to say. I spent most of the book hoping that Cooney was going to use Laura as an example of how prejudice is harmful and foolish, but the ending only validates and reinforces Laura's worst qualities—and it doesn't even have the decency to provide the stereotypical Muslim terrorist cell with any motive. Their identities aren't revealed. Their plan isn't explained. There's not even any proof that Jehran *was* a terrorist, just Laura and her Scotland Yard buddy babbling about Jehran's supposed crimes. After all, there's no evidence that ties Jehran or her mysterious family to Billy's death, and the bomb that Laura accused her of having *didn't exist*.

All in all, I'm very glad I read *Fog* first; otherwise, I would have been seriously rethinking my decision to purchase *Code Orange* and *Return of the Vampire*.

A copy of this book was provided via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel says

Good, but sad. A family of parent, an older sister and her brother living on a military base somewhere in the world. The kids go to an international school where they meet people from around the world. Suddenly, the family is effected by terrorism when someone in the subway tunnel gives the little boy a package. Nothing big enough to show the family. Could someone have done this on purpose?

Michele says

The more I read banned books, the more I realize that just because a book is banned, does not mean it's good literature.

I thought Cooney's writing style would have improved between *The Milk Carton* and *The Terrorist* but no, same cardboard characters and language that tells, not shows. Unlikable characters who don't mature and

show nothing more than shallow development through the course of the story.

This book was challenged because of portrayals of Muslims, but, frankly, I'm offended by the way she portrays teenage girls. If we give teen girls nothing but vapid heroines focused on boys, fashion, and prom, what are we telling them? Yes, that is a big part of girls' lives at that age, but I am an American who lived overseas and no girl I knew at my school was quite so petty or myopic.

My last gripe- why would the author create such a black and white, American is naive and innocent, Muslim is evil-hearted and malicious, world for her characters? I'd like to think that young adults are capable of thinking in more than just grandiose sweeping stereotypes.

Rong7 says

SWBST

All Laura wanted was to go back to the States, but when her little brother Billy dies, she wants to find the killer. Laura also wants to help her friend, a girl named Jehran, escape to the States with Billy's passport.. Billy was on the way to school when someone handed him a package, and inside that was a bomb. He hugged it tight so no-one would die when it exploded. So Laura's parents help police solve the case of Billy's murder while Laura helps Jehran escape. Then, when Laura and Jehran are at he airport, Jehran leaks information about what happened during Billy's murder and it's shocking. The terrorist is about love, hatred, and jealousy.
