



Violet

Written by Scott Thomas

Published by sanmarco-sf

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Violet

Violet

By Scott Thomas

Violet Evergarden

In the lineage of Peter Straub's *Julia*, Scott Thomas's Violet is the disturbing tale of a woman haunted by her long-abandoned imaginary friend.

Violet

Violets Sf

For many children, the summer of 1988 was filled with sunshine and laughter. But for ten-year-old Kris Barlow, it was her chance to say goodbye to her dying mother.

Violet

Violet Grey

Three decades later, loss returnsâ€”her husband killed in a car accident. And so, Kris goes home to the place where she first knew painâ€”to that summer house overlooking the crystal waters of Lost Lake. Itâ€™s there that Kris and her eight-year-old daughter will make a stand against grief.

Violet Benson

But a shadow has fallen over the quiet lake town of Pacington, Kansas. Beneath its surface, an evil has grown—and inside that home where Kris Barlow last saw her mother, an old friend awaits her return.

Something about the story and the way Mr. Thomas writes just leaves me with a deep, down disquieting feeling.

I will say that 2 books into this author, and I feel he knows what's up.

His first book was messed up from the start. And I mean that in a good way. This? Honestly, if it were almost, any other author, I'd have quit. This started as a slow burn. But, hold on tight, because it gets going. Had I quit, that would have been real stupid on my end. I did have the heebie, jeebies! Not too big a deal! But, dude..when my short hairs stand straight up, that does it! Now y'all don't know me, but I have hair on my head That's it! .When I say my short hairs have stood up, that means that I'm so scarified, that I've found an unknown region of hairs!!! LOL! O.K.,.that's a lie, but just barely! Maybe! Also, my thanks to the author, Inkshares Press, "whom I'm keeping my beastly eye on," and also Netgalley! Still, Inkshares have been coming on strong lately. We'll see how that goes. Recommended! ...more

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Violet

Violet Chachki

DNF 26%

The writing is so detailed it's painful. Every single move is chronicled and I'm so bored I can't take it anymore.

I feel like I'm reading a script.

Here's a sample:

"She did a quick pass over her bottom teeth and spat a bubbly mixture of toothpaste and saliva into the sink. Cupping a hand under the faucet, she slurped cool water into her mouth. She spat the water out and rinsed the sink before turning the faucet off."

THE ENTIRE STORY IS LIKE THIS.

I mean, a simple "She brushed her teeth." DNF 26%

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THE ENTIRE STORY IS LIKE THIS.

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At 26%, one day has passed that consisted of cleaning house. Imagine the amount of detail involved in describing a house cleaning. Ugh.

I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Violet

I hope this book does not just get pigeon-holed as a horror novel, I hope that this gets a wider audience than just readers of the genre because while it is a very suspenseful and at times scary book, it is also so much more than that. I loved this authors first book Kill Creek and was very excited when I was given the chance to read and review an arc copy of this. This is a book about friendship and family ties and ultimately, loss. It's also about survival. What people do and tell themselves I hope this book does not just get pigeon-holed as a horror novel, I hope that this gets a wider audience than just readers of the genre because while it is a very suspenseful and at times scary book, it is also so much more than that. I loved this authors first book Kill Creek and was very excited when I was given the chance to read and review an arc copy of this. This is a book about friendship and family ties and ultimately, loss. It's also about survival. What people do and tell themselves to get by when the crap is hitting the fan with the realization that the world won't stop turning because you need it to and that life goes on whether or not you want it to.

Right from the onset you know that the characters are going through it. From the beginning you know that they are running from something, trying to regroup, and get themselves back to some sense of normalcy. This setup is what made the book for me in terms of connecting with the characters and making me care for them and about what was going on. And I think without the time spent doing this the ending would not have been as impactful nor as emotional. All these different things were happening and backstories were filled in and all the while it seemed like I, as the reader, was circling the drain, sinking slowly but gaining momentum towards the finale. And what a grand finale it was! Everything came together in such a spectacular and satisfying way I just might have had tears in my eyes. (might have, because men don't cry)

I also loved the way the author used music to set the tone and mood throughout. As the main character listened to old mix tapes her mom had made I was able to hear these songs in my head as I knew and loved most of them myself and it totally added to my overall enjoyment and appreciation of the book. It was little things like this that set this one apart for me, the little added details that might not have been necessary to further the plot but made the story all the more vivid for their inclusion.

Violet made me laugh, it made me sad, it also scared the crap out of me. The book made me feel pity and disgust but also relief and happiness. Violet is a fast paced book without a wasted page and no time was spent with meaningless fodder or filler. Total reading enjoyment is to be found in here and I give this my highest recommendation possible.

I want to thank Inkshares and Netgalley for providing me the arc of this but that in no way impacted my opinion or review. ...more

Violet

Violet Color

Writing up my review for Cemetery Dance now...

Tweet from like 5 minutes ago:

"WOW! I just finished VIOLET by @ninjawhenever and my cage is rattled! I feel this tremor in my fingers--not sure if I'll be able to type out a review for @CemeteryDance tonight or if I need to calm myself first...we shall see. Early thoughts, DAMN THAT WAS GOOD/SCARY!

@Inkshares"

Review pending.

Violet

Violet Flower

4.0 Stars

A Slow Burning Piece of Psychological Horror Fiction

Sometimes you read a book at just the right time. This was certainly the case with Violet. After reading too many horror stories with weak writing and flat characters, I was finding myself burnt out by the genre that I love so much. Picking up Violet was the perfect remedy to my reading slump. If I had read this book years ago, I honestly might not have appreciated it as much as I did reading it now. In the past, I often preferred a fast paced plot over character development or good prose. Thankfully, my reading tastes have evolved over time and I have come to enjoy slower, more literary stories.

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This was a wonderful piece of quiet horror that explored universal themes of grief that could easily appeal to readers who do not normally read horror. At its core, this was a very character driven story, focused on the relationship between a mother and daughter as they attempted to heal their emotional pain. Both characters felt well developed with realistic responses to their loss.

The horror elements in this one took a while to show up and were quite subtle when they finally did emerge. While I personally did not find this one scary, but I was still completely immersed in the narrative. The horror in this one was primarily psychological since the story was told from the perspective of a potentially unreliable character. For most of the story, the horror of the story was quite ambiguous, which is something I personally really enjoy reading in the genre.

The author has a very descriptive writing style, which certainly slowed the pace of the narrative. The actions of characters were recounted in such detail that it made for a slow burning reading experience. As someone who typically prefers shorter horror fiction, this was a bit longer than the stories I normally pick up. Yet, I never found the story bloated or boring. Instead, I was immersed in the entire time. The narrative pace did pick up in the final section of the novel. I stayed up way too late reading those last few chapters. Without giving away any spoilers, I will say that the narrative built to a gripping climax with a satisfying ending.

Readers will undoubtedly try to compare Violet to the author's debut novel, Kill Creek. However, these two novels are very different from each other. While I have not personally read Kill Creek (yet), I feel that I know enough to compare the two books. As I understand, Kill Creek was much more fast

Violet

paced with meta horror elements that were not present in Violet. I appreciate an author who demonstrates range in their writing, because I do want to read the same story over and over again.Â

This was my first time reading Scott Thomas, but it certainly won't be my last. I was very impressed by his storytelling abilities as he pulled me into this emotional narrative. I would highly recommend this one to readers who appreciate subtle psychological horror, fully fleshed out characters, and well crafted stories.Â

Disclaimer: I received an ARC copy of this book from the publisher. ...more

Unfortunately, I've decided to DNF Violet. I gave it over 100 pages, and it's not working for me. I loved Kill Creek, so I was really looking forward to Violet. It feels very overwritten with a lot of unnecessary details - it's almost like an attempt at writing a King-style book, but it's just too much. There are 15 pages about cleaning a house, and also a detailed section with a back-and-forth conversation with a server when ordering food. It's extremely slow-paced, and I can't do it for 300+ m Unfortunately, I've decided to DNF Violet. I gave it over 100 pages, and it's not working for me. I loved Kill Creek, so I was really looking forward to Violet. It feels very overwritten with a lot of unnecessary details - it's almost like an attempt at writing a King-style book, but it's just too much. There are 15 pages about cleaning a house, and also a detailed section with a back-and-forth conversation with a server when ordering food. It's extremely slow-paced, and I can't do it for 300+ more pages. I was interested in the synopsis, but I can't connect with the book itself. ...more

Violet

Violet Voss

3.5/5 Stars!

VIOLET is the second major release from Scott Thomas. The first being KILL CREEK, which I adored. I liked this book as well, but not quite as much.

Kris Barlow and her daughter Sadie have recently suffered a tragedy that will change their lives forever. Sadie has now gone from a lively young girl to a quiet withdrawn one. In an effort to take their minds off things, Kris decides that they will spend their summer at a cabin on Lost Lake where she used to go as a child with her parent 3.5/5 Stars!

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Kris Barlow and her daughter Sadie have recently suffered a tragedy that will change their lives forever. Sadie has now gone from a lively young girl to a quiet withdrawn one. In an effort to take their minds off things, Kris decides that they will spend their summer at a cabin on Lost Lake where she used to go as a child with her parents. They discover the home in a serious state of disrepair which keeps them busy for a while and Kris begins to see positive changes in Sadie's behavior. When they go into town, though, they get strange looks; one townie even tells Kris she needs to keep a close eye on her daughter in this town. Not long after that, back at the cabin Kris hears Sadie talking and giggling and thinks she is finally on the road to recovery. But is she really? Will they get the emotional healing they were seeking? Why were the townsfolk acting so strangely? You'll have to read VIOLET to find out!

I love a slow burning story, (see my reviews of Straub's GHOST STORY and/or Thomas Tryon's HARVEST HOME), and this one does start off slowly-but I was all hey, no worries, it's cool. But about 100 pages later I wasn't finding it so cool. Don't get me wrong, time was spent describing the town and its residents, (fine) the complicated goings on within the Barlow family, (fine), but the incredibly detailed sanding of the deck and the cleaning of rooms? Not so much.

If I set that aside and just focus on the family mysteries and how they unfurled, I feel more satisfied. Mr. Thomas had me intrigued with the story, which is why I kept going, but even in that area, I felt like it took too long for anything of substance to happen. Lots of teasers and a little foreshadowing will only hold me for so long. When the action did start though, I was glued and I dug the denouement in a BIG WAY(!), I just felt like it took too long to get there and it pains me to say it.

One thing that worked for me on all levels is the music featured. (Kris finds an old mix tape and plays it almost continuously when working on or in the cabin). For me, even when the music wasn't mentioned, I was still hearing it in my mind, playing behind the scenes I was witnessing. I thought that was done deftly and I appreciate the skill required for it to blend in the way it did.

Violet

I seem to be in the minority on this book as most of my reviewing clan seem to have loved it. All I can say is, please remember this is just my opinion, and if you were thinking of giving VIOLET a try, please do! I probably just read it wrong. I DO recommend this book, in spite of the things I've mentioned, but I was hoping so hard to LOVE it, and it just didn't happen.

Recommended!

Thank you to Inkshares and to NetGalley for the e-ARC of this book in exchange for my honest feedback. This is it.

...more

Review to follow...

Violet

Violeta

Love! Here's my review from www.scifiandscary.com

“She imagined the road ending without warning, driving over the edge, plummeting into an infinite nothingness, until her screams became a song for the darkness.”

As only his second published novel, Violet is quite simply masterful. I dug everything about this book from the details to the characters, and of course the plot that sunk its hooks in me and didn't let go.

This novel boasts a writing style that I found familiar from Thomas' previous work, Love! Here's my review from www.scifiandscary.com

“She imagined the road ending without warning, driving over the edge, plummeting into an infinite nothingness, until her screams became a song for the darkness.”

As only his second published novel, Violet is quite simply masterful. I dug everything about this book from the details to the characters, and of course the plot that sunk its hooks in me and didn't let go.

This novel boasts a writing style that I found familiar from Thomas' previous work, Kill Creek; however, it is decidedly different. Here I found lush and highly detailed descriptions that enveloped my reader mind and pulled me through this creepy tale in a binge read I just couldn't escape from. Nor did I want to. Kill Creek was like watching a film and the details and pacing worked to put on the quite the show. Violet is an immersion. It isn't just watching events unfold; the extreme attention to detail put me smack in the middle of Kris and Sadie's lives.

Kris and her daughter Sadie are put through the paces in this novel. Throughout the entire 400+ pages, Thomas made sure both of them acted in ways that were true to the character. Not overdrawn, no stereotypes in sight, these female protagonists are fully developed people, flaws and all. There are a few instances in which I would NOT have behaved as Kris did, but that's okay. She acted in a manner that matched the grieving, conflicted mess that she was.

This story is a journey. I appreciate that Thomas takes the time to set things up, weave in the back story organically, all the while keeping the focus on the lives of Kris and Sadie. Because we road trip with them, clean with them, cook with them, and so on, we are made more than just observer of their lives. This is crucial when it comes to the creep factor and the reveal “and oh man are both of those in rare form.

TLDR? I loved this book. I really liked Kill Creek, but this one is special to me. What's next for Scott Thomas? Will his next book follow along the lines of Violet or will it hearken back to Kill Creek? Or will this chameleon subtly change again? I don't know, but I'll be here for it. ...more

Violet

Scott Thomas, author of *Kill Creek*, delivers a most masterful read. Horror pertaining to childhood has always freaked me out. *Violet* freaked me out on another level. I can hang with evil toys, urban legends, and the paranormal. What I can't hang with is imaginary friends. *Violet* plays on that creepy aspect from our childhoods. Imaginary friends have always scared me. Kids seeing an invisible person or thing and spending time with them. Kids converse, confide in, and get into mischief with them. Scott Thomas, author of *Kill Creek*, delivers a most masterful read. Horror pertaining to childhood has always freaked me out. *Violet* freaked me out on another level. I can hang with evil toys, urban legends, and the paranormal. What I can't hang with is imaginary friends. *Violet* plays on that creepy aspect from our childhoods. Imaginary friends have always scared me. Kids seeing an invisible person or thing and spending time with them. Kids converse, confide in, and get into mischief with them.

To me, it's spine-chilling because you really don't know who or what is talking to you, your friends, or your children. Bystanders can't see them or communicate with them. When a kid mentions their imaginary friends by name, I freeze up and chills run down my spine. You don't really know if the imaginary friend is benevolent or malevolent until it's more than likely too late. What happens when the kid grows up? Does the imaginary friend go away? How can you be sure? *Violet* explores all of these questions and more.

I was truly blown away with Scott Thomas's prose. He has become a stronger writer since his debut. The sentences flow better and the dialogue is smoother, making for a smooth reading experience. The pacing is nice and taut. The story never bogs down or gets sluggish. The two main characters are everything. The mother-daughter duo, Kris and Sadie, have tons of depth. And something or someone has been waiting for their return. *Violet* is filled with tragedy and great sadness. You can immediately sense the dread with the gut-wrenching opening scene. It's the foreboding that propels the story forward at a breakneck speed. Scott Thomas sucks you headlong into the story with his complex characters and rich narrative. You want what's best for Kris and Sadie. I was on the edge of my seat during all of the arduous situations and scenarios.

Scott Thomas uses vignettes to expand on the characters backstory. Thomas reveals a little bit at a time, peeling back layers of the characters and their history. He gives you just enough information to keep you turning the page. The scenes in *Violet* are vivid. Thomas doesn't just tell you about the people and places, he shows you. It's one helluva reading experience. Like I said before, there's so much tragedy and it's heart-wrenching just thinking about what horrible things Scott Thomas puts his characters through. He literally throws the whole kitchen sink at his characters to see if they can survive.

I would like to say that before I started this book I read the synopsis. I normally don't, but I just felt compelled to with this one. At first, I thought it revealed a lot about the plot, but upon finishing the story I realized that it barely scratches the surface. You couldn't guess the plot, climax, or ending if you tried. I have never cried with a character more than I did with Kris. It has a lot to do with the way Scott Thomas wrote her scenes, and how much emotional trauma she has endured over her lifetime. After

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Violet

all, Violet is set in the aftermath of tragedy and loss. Mental health also plays a key role in this story. It certainly adds an extra layer of intrigue to an already outstanding tale.

Violet is eerie in the best ways. This book has all the ingredients you need for a great horror story. Scott Thomas fills your horror heart with coming-of-age, psychological, emotional trauma, tragedy, and dynamic characters. Thereâ€™s a plethora of twists and turns along the way. When you think you know what is really going on, Thomas pulls the rug out from under your feet. The reveals are the fun part because you get to experience them with Kris. And that ending will send you reeling. You wonâ€™t see it coming. None of you will.

The cover is splendid. I donâ€™t know who the creator is, but I do know it catches the eye. It sets the tone for the reading experience. Youâ€™ll want to notch out a nice chunk of time to read this one. You donâ€™t just read Violet, you experience it. Violet is simply one of the best books of the 2010s. Violet is definitely my favorite book of 2019, so far. Itâ€™s in my top ten for sure. If you havenâ€™t put this one on your TBR piles, then remedy that immediately. Youâ€™re going to want to read this one. If you have this one on your TBR piles, I suggest you move it to the top. Overall, you canâ€™t ask for a better book or a better reading experience. I canâ€™t wait until his next release. I may have to re-read Kill Creek now that I think about it. Violet gets all the stars! Helluva book!

HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION! ...more