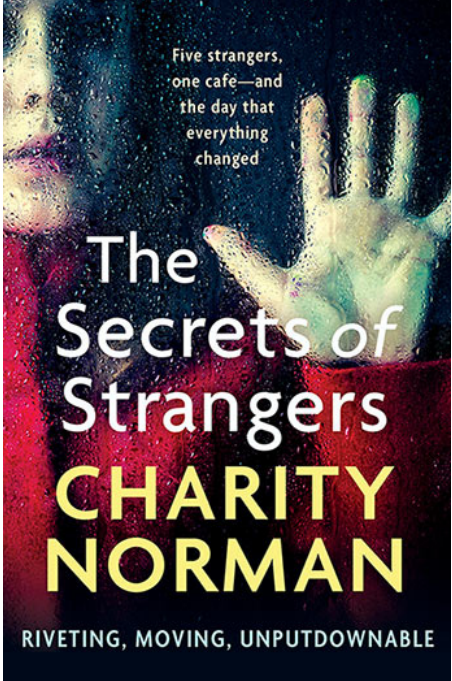


Reading Notes

The Secrets of Strangers - Charity Norman

1. Our first impressions of Sam are as a deranged killer. How does your view of his actions change as the novel progresses?
 2. The cyclical nature of abuse is touched on in this novel. Do you consider Sam to be a victim or a perpetrator?
 3. The themes of unseen pain and secrets runs throughout. Which character do you feel shows the most strength?
 4. The characters in the café form a connection. What do we learn about the impact of shared experience, and how does it progress the story?
- 
5. There are representation of 'strong' women and 'flawed' men in the novel. What do you feel are the implications of how gender is presented, and does this impact on the power dynamics between the characters?
 6. Guilt, remorse and empathy all feature as strong themes throughout the novel. How do Robert, Sam and Nicola demonstrate these, and did you as reader empathise with any of the three? What about Neil?
 7. Animals are significant throughout the novel. How do the various animals contribute to our thinking about the characters? What did you feel was the significance of the animals and the treatment of them?
 8. Whose story had the greatest impact on you, and did you have a favourite character?
 9. What did you think of the ending? How does it make you feel about Sam?

Thank you for reading *The Secrets of Strangers*! I would love to connect and hear your thoughts. Find me on social media, or subscribe to my newsletter.