

Gnomon by Nick Harkaway

3 stars

A complex but fascinating story.

Harkaway describes the events of an interrogation on a refusenik, Diana Hunter, who has opted out of the Government's system and lives off the grid running a lending library, until she is arrested and dies whilst under intense interrogation. Investigator Mielikki Neith, is her opposite and believes in the surveillance system, and reads Diana's life history and inner thoughts through the interrogation records to discover that her memories are entwined with the minds of others, including Gnomon, leading Neith to the truth of the Gnomon case.

With off-the-wall sci-fi concepts the plot contains an unimaginable dystopian concept which I could only describe as a modern version of 1984. Personally, the fantasy elements of the novel weren't compelling but the underlying criminal investigation throughout was gripping as secrets were discovered.

The reason I gave this book 3 stars was that the plot was beyond the realm of reason. However, the narrative itself was extremely well written and unpredictable causing there to be a sense of suspense throughout. This novel is a complex read with a dense prose which requires attention, making it quite a difficult read.

I would recommend this to someone who is looking for an in-depth read which will provoke philosophical questions, however it wasn't a book for me.

Lucy

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.