

The Lost Man by Jane Harper

5 Stars

A crime thriller set in the Australian Outback

Jane Harper has written a compelling novel that reflects the stark landscape that is home to the Bright family. The family cattle farm is vast, so vast that it takes 4 hours to reach the outer boundaries by car. The harsh conditions seem to mirror the conflicts within the family, and as the story evolves, the reader is drawn into a web of long-buried secrets, secrets that rip the Bright family apart.

Cameron Bright, the middle brother, is found dead in the shadow of the Stockman's grave, a local landmark steeped in legend. His older and younger brothers are shocked at his death. There seems to be no motive and no clues. The barren outback is a deadly place to get lost, and nobody survives without water in the scorching heat.

The life of a cattle rancher is difficult and fraught with battling nature. The book touches upon many dark themes including domestic abuse and sexual abuse, and the ending has a real twist that I did not expect.

This is the third book that Jane Harper has written, and I will be sure to read her first two novels based on this book. Her atmospheric writing really captures the harsh landscape, and the story has so many great characters.

Gillian

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review