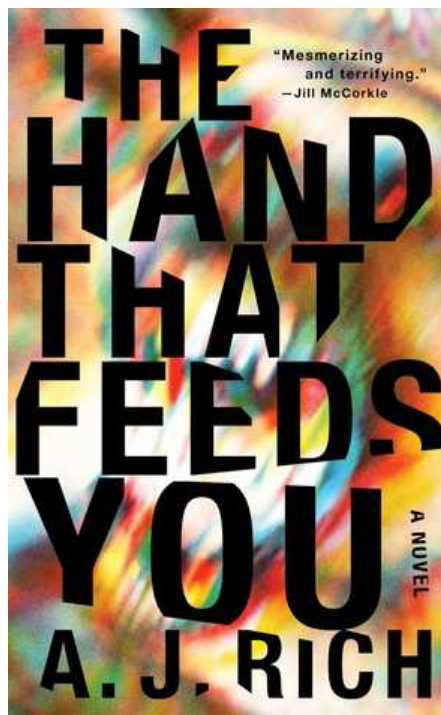




The Hand That Feeds You

A.J. Rich , Amy Hempel , Jill Ciment

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The Hand That Feeds You A.J. Rich , Amy Hempel , Jill Ciment

Morgan's life seems to be settled - she is completing her thesis on victim psychology and newly engaged to Bennett, a man more possessive than those she has dated in the past, but also more chivalrous and passionate.

But she returns from class one day to find Bennett savagely killed, and her dogs - a Great Pyrenees, and two pit bulls she was fostering - circling the body, covered in blood. Everything she holds dear in life is taken away from her in an instant.

Devastated and traumatised, Morgan tries to locate Bennett's parents to tell them about their son's death. Only then does she begin to discover layer after layer of deceit. Bennett is not the man she thought he was. And she is not the only woman now in immense danger ...

The Hand That Feeds You Details

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Author : A.J. Rich , Amy Hempel , Jill Ciment

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From Reader Review The Hand That Feeds You for online ebook

Lisa says

The hand That Feeds You by A.J Rich is a well written thriller that mixes psychological with a high Mystery content. I found it a real page turner & had my full attention.

Morgan a Psychology student is completing her thesis on victim psychology when she returns home to find her fiancé Bennett murdered & two of her dogs Cloud & George covered in blood & her other dog Chester shot , she immediately fears for her dogs safety as they are taken to the Boston animal shelter.

Morgan starts seeing Cilla a Psychiatrist who helps her cope with Bennett's death she try's to find his parents but there is no trace of them, then in comes Detective Homes as she shows Bennett's photo , he immediately starts grilling her about him & she starts to wonder why?

Meanwhile Morgan tries to see her dogs at the shelter & is unable to see them as they are classed as Dangerous until she meets Billie a volunteer who works there, she seems kind & helps Morgan see them BUT HAS BILLIE GOT MORGANS INTEREST AT HEART?

Morgan then starts getting emails about Bennett from a person Susan Rorke , she goes to see Detective Homes & he tells her that Susan Rorke was killed 6 weeks ago SO WHO IS SENDING THE EMAILS? Is Bennett WHO SHE THINKS HE IS?

What we do find out is that Bennett was also engaged to a lady named Samantha , who does not believe that what Morgan is telling her about Bennett is true so she shows her the exact same ring that Samantha has.

As Detective homes finds out more information about Bennett, Morgan hires a lawyer Laurence McKenzie who her brother Steven knows he then tries to get her dogs out of the shelter does it on pro bono basis as he is a dog lover too, anyway what happens from here is a game of cat & mouse.

I liked this book a lot due to being an animal lover whether its cats or dogs or whatever there was a bit of sadness about one of Morgan's dogs that brought a tear to my eye. 4 stars

Liz Barnsley says

The Hand That Feeds You is a psychological thriller that has an awful lot going for it. The addictive quality is spot on, I read this in one sitting, readability factor high.

When Morgan comes home to discover that her fiancée is dead, her dog's are the culprits, she has a breakdown. Upon recovery she discovers that he was not who he claimed to be, in fact nobody seems to know who he is. Further investigation shows that she is not the only one he has been taken in by him and death seems to follow him around...

Overall though I had a few issues here. The resolution is so predictable, unbelievably so, although right up

until the last moments I did wonder if the authors were doing a terrific job of misdirection. No though. My guess is that YOUR first guess at the ultimate "bad guy" will be the right one. Now I don't necessarily mind that, when you read as many of these types of books as I do surprises are few and far between. Still that was a slight disappointment given the quality of the writing and the depth of storytelling that had gone before.

Also at points for me the plot got over convoluted and nonsensical, especially in relation to the actions of certain characters. Of course a reader needs a modicum of suspension of disbelief when reading this type of novel, if everyone behaved sensibly you wouldn't have much of a story - still I did often find myself saying out loud "But WHY would you do that?"

On the plus side I did like Morgan as a character although she was actually entirely unlikeable. She is set up as intelligent and proactive yet has a decent amount of vulnerability. She's a bit of a victim (in fact that was one of my things - really, how many times can you get into that type of trouble in one lifetime?) who's dry yet engaging character voice kept me turning those pages. I also enjoyed the "dog" elements of the tale, liked how the authors created little pockets of interaction between the players that gave flashes of insight into their motivations and the mystery element is well imagined if a little bit of an ultimate letdown.

Overall I would definitely recommend this for fans of psychological thrillers mainly because, despite some flaws, this is one of those books that you won't be able to put down once you've turned the first pages.

Happy Reading Folks!

Figgy says

This book was an incredibly quick, engrossing read.

"I saw the pig hearts," I said, as neutrally and calmly as one can say *I saw the pig hearts*.

It dealt with forensic psychology, specifically that of sociopaths, and was made all the more fascinating by the real world facts dropped in there.

Sociopaths make up 4 percent of the population, 12 million Americans. They are not necessarily raging criminals: most of them are charming, intelligent, and know how to mimic concern, and even love. But they lack conscience, do not feel empathy, and feel neither guilt nor shame for their behaviour. They are also expert manipulators. During childhood and adolescence, 9 percent of the sociopath population tortures or kills animals.

So why the low rating?

Well, while this is an easy book to lose yourself in, and while it appealed to this wannabe forensic investigator who's fascinated by the psychology of serial killers, sociopaths and so on, it left a lot to be desired.

The rest of this review can be found [here!](#)

Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Πριν ακ?μα φτ?σει στα χ?ρια μου το συγκεκριμ?νο βιβλ?ο, οι κριτικ?ς που ε?χα διαβ?σει σχετικ? με αυτ? ?ταν εξαιρετικ? διφορο?μενες, κ?τι το οπο?ο μου ε?χε προκαλ?σει μια εσωτερικ? σ?γχυση, αφο? δεν ?μουν σε θ?ση να γνωρ?σω εξ' αρχ?ς την πραγματικ? του ταυτ?τητα. Ωστ?σο, με το που το ?γγιξα, συν?βη κ?τι μαγικ?. ?λα μου τα ?νστικτα ενεργοποι?θηκαν στη στιγμ?, φων?ζοντ?ς μου πω? πρ?κειται να διαβ?σω ?να βιβλ?ο, την αναγνωστικ? εμπειρ?α του οπο?ου θα απολα?σω στιγμ? τη στιγμ?. Και πραγματικ?, ?τσι ?γινε, αφο? προς μεγ?λη μου ?κπληξη, "Το χ?ρι που σε τρ?φει", δεν ε?ναι ?να ακ?μα κοιν?τυπο αστυνομικ? μυθιστ?ρημα, αλλ? κ?τι πολ? περισσ?τερο, κ?τι διαφορετικ?, ?να κε?μενο ικαν? να σε συγκιν?σει με τρ?πους που δεν φανταζ?σουν και το κυρι?τερο, ?να κε?μενο που σε προκαλε? να σκεφτε?ς.

Η Μ?ργκαν ε?ναι μια ν?α, δυναμικ?, δραστ?ρια, ?ξυπνη και μορφωμ?νη γυνα?κα, που θεωρητικ? ?χει μια τακτοποιημ?νη και ?ρεμη ζω?. Ε?ναι τελει?φοιτη θυματολογ?ας, ?χει σχ?ση με ?ναν ?ντρα που φαντ?ζει ιδανικ?ς για εκε?νη, το διαμ?ρισμ? της που αποτελε? το προσωπικ? της καταφ?γιο, εν? δ?νει απλ?χερα την αγ?πη της στα σκυλι? της που αποτελο?ν μ?λος της οικογ?νει?ς της, προσφ?ροντας παρ?λληλα βο?θεια σε ?συλα αδ?σποτων ζ?ων. Η ηρεμ?α ?μω? αυτ? θα ανατραπε? ?ταν η Μ?ργκαν θα βρει τον αρραβωνιαστικ? της ?γρια δολοφονημ?νο, και ως δρ?στε? χαρακτηρ?ζονται τα σκυλι? της. Στην προσπ?θει? της να ανακαλ?ψει τι πραγματικ? ?χει συμβε?, αλλ? και να σ?σει τους σκ?λους της, ανακαλ?πτει πρ?γματα για τον Μπ?νετ τα οπο?α θα την εκπλ?ξουν, με σημαντικ?τερο ?λων πω? δεν ?ταν αυτ?ς που ?λεγε και πω? ?σο καιρ? ?ταν μαζ? την χειραγωγο?σε, ?πως ακριβ?ς ?κανε και με ?λλες γυνα?κες. ?μω? αυτ? ε?ναι μ?νο η β?ση του παγ?βουνο και μ?χρι να φτ?σει η Μ?ργκαν στην κορφ? ?χει να διαν?σει μεγ?λη πορε?α και κυρ?ως, να αναθεωρ?σει την ?δια της την ?παρξη.

Η Amy Hempel και η Jill Ciment, δ?ο ιδια?τερα αναγνωρισμ?νες και πετυχημ?νες συγγραφε?ς, αποφ?σισαν να γρ?ψουν απ? κοινο? το εν λ?γω μυθιστ?ρημα, υπογρ?φοντ?ς το ως A. J. Rich, επηρεασμ?νες απ? την προσωπικ? ιστορ?α μιας πολ? καλ?ς τους φ?λης η οπο?α και ε?χε ?λα τα χαρακτηριστικ? της Μ?ργκαν, εν? παρ?λληλα ε?χε μπλεχτε? σε μια σχ?ση που αν και φ?νταζε ιδανικ?, αποδε?χτηκε πω? μ?σα σε αυτ?ν λειτουργο?σε ως θ?μα εν αγνο?α της. Το γεγον?ς πω? το μυθιστ?ρημα αυτ? βασ?ζεται σε αληθιν? γεγον?τα το καθιστ? ?χι πιο ενδιαφ?ρον, αλλ? πολ? πιο τρομακτικ?. Ειδικ? σε μ?α εποχ? ?πως αυτ? που διαν?ουμε, που οι σχ?σεις γ?ρω μας, ακ?μα και οι συζυγικ?ς, δεν σου παρ?χουν καμ?α απολ?τως ασφ?λεια, αφο? ο σ?ντροφ?ς σου μπορε? να αποδειχτε? τ?ρας απ? τη μια στιγμ? στην ?λλη, το να διαβ?ξεις μια ιστορ?α ?πως αυτ?, ?που μια γυνα?κα που ακολουθε? ?λα τα σ?γχρονα πρ?τυπα του χειραφετημ?νου μοντ?λου γυναικ?ν, γ?νεται θ?ματα χωρ?ς καν να το συνειδητοποιε?, σε κ?νει να ανατριχι?ζεις. Ο λ?γος, απλ?ς! Ε?ναι γιατ? το επ?μενο θ?μα θα μπορο?σες να ε?σαι εσ? ο ?διος.

Οι συγγραφε?ς δεν εστι?ζουν τ?σο στο αστυνομικ? σκ?λος της πλοκ?ς, που αν εξαιρ?σουμε το κ?πως βεβιασμ?νο και ε?κολο -για τα δεδομ?να της ιστορ?ας- τ?λος, ε?ναι ?ρτια δουλεμ?νο και σε παραπλανε? σε πολλ? σημε?α επιτυγχ?νοντας να εντε?νει την αγων?α του αναγν?στη, αλλ? περισσ?τερο στην εγκληματολογικ? αν?λυση της ?λης ιστορ?ας. Εκμεταλλευ?μενες στο ?πακρο

την επαγγελματική ιδιότητα της πρωταγωνίστριάς τους, οι συγγραφείς αναλύνουν μέσω αυτής τα ψυχολογικά προφύλαγμα των και δραστην, επεκτείνοντας την δράση τους αυτή -πέραν του προσωπικού επιπέδου- σε μια εκ βάθρων κοινωνιολογική ανάλυση της σύγχρονης κοινωνίας, η οποία μαστίζεται από διαστροφές, διαταραχές, και την απεγνωσμένη ανάγκη πολλών ανθρώπων να ασκούν τον έλεγχο με τρόπο που ξεφεύγει από τα όρια της υγιούς επιθυμίας, αλλά και την ασυνάσθητη παρρημία κποιών άλλων να αφνούνται σε αυτή που με πουλο τρόπο τους κατευθύνουν ορισμένοι έτσι ώστε να σκφτονται, να πράττουν και να λειτουργούν κατ' εντολήν και όχι κατ' βούληση.

"Το χέρι που σε τρέφει" είναι -για μένα- ένα από τα καλύτερα βιβλία που διβάσα τελευταία και κυρώς, ένα από τα καλύτερα βιβλία στο έδος του. Οι συγγραφείς έχουν κάνει πολύ αυστηρή μελέτη του νομικού κδικά και κυρώς, του ψυχολογικού κδικά που απαιτεί μια επιστήμη πως είναι η θυματολογία, η οποία και αποτελεί παρακλδί της εγκληματολογίας, μετατρέποντας την θεωρία σε πράξη και αναλύνοντας την βίμα προς βίμα. Και εν η απφασή τους αυτή έκολα θα μπορούσε να χαρακτηριστεί ως ριψοκνδύνη, θεωρώ πως υποστηρίζεται στον απλυτο βαθμό από το τελικό αποτέλεσμα. Μια ιστορία που φαντζει ξνή αρχική και που όμως, καταλήγει να φανεται τόσο οικεία που το αίσθημα είναι σχεδόν τρομακτικό. Μια αποτοπώση της εποχής που διανύουμε με όλες τις αρνητικές της προεκτάσεις, αλλά και με τα θετικά που μπορεί να επιφέρει η αναγνώριση των λαθών μας. Μια ιστορία τρομακτική και συνμα γοητευτική που σε παρασέρει και σε καθηλώνει ολοκληρωτικά, που με ένα λόγο καλύτερο φινίλε, θα μπορούσε να μας απογειώσει.

Linda Strong says

Authors Amy Hempel and Jill Ciment write this as A. J. Rich.

Morgan Prager comes home to the apartment she shares with her fiancée and finds him dead, brutally mauled by her three dogs ... 2 of them are rescued pit bulls and 1 is a Great Pyrenees.

It is here that the story divides into two individual stories.

She finds that her fiancée isn't who he said he was not his name, not his parents, not his job, not his education ... seems like he has lied about everything. On top of that, he was manipulative and bordering on cruel.

Morgan is berating herself for not picking up any clues that he was a sociopath. After all, she is a graduate student attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Feeling that the local police aren't much interested, she starts her own investigation. She wants ..needs...to know who this man was that she loved.

In the meantime, authorities have taken her dogs away (one was killed by police) and she is awaiting a court date to see if she can get her dogs back.

Following both strands of the plot, there are fascinating characters including Bennet's oddball exes and an all-too-attractive animal rights lawyer.

But things heat up when her fiancée's exes start turning up dead.

This is billed as a psychological thriller but I don't think this one lives up to that description. I lost interest in finding out about the fiancée ... he had no redeeming qualities.

I did enjoy (for the most part) the scenes with the dogs. And of course, we all read in the news about how dangerous pit bulls can be. But in a lot of instances they have a bad rap and can be just as gentle and loving as any other dogs.

There were areas that seemed rather slow and some that kept me glued to the pages. It was an okay read.

3 stars

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

The Hand That Feeds You by A.J. Rich {a pseudonym for the partnership of authors Amy Hempel and Jill Ciment} offers an interesting premise.

Psychology student Morgan Prager is devastated when she returns home one evening to find her fiancée, Bennett, mauled to death by her beloved pets, a Great Pyrenees and two fostered pit bulls. But when attempts to notify Bennett's family of his death reveal he was not the man she thought he was, for Morgan, a psychologist writing a thesis about victimology, the betrayal is stunning and she is determined to unravel the truth.

While I found The Hand That Feeds You to be a quick and largely enjoyable read, unfortunately I felt the execution didn't quite work on a number of levels.

Morgan is an inconsistent character, whose potential is undeveloped. I really loved the idea of a psychologist studying victimology becoming a victim, but was disappointed that Morgan was revealed to lack even a modicum of self awareness, especially for a thirty year old woman with years of psychology study. While I could just about believe she could be romantically duped by Bennett, and her stubborn denial of some truths was frustrating.

I felt uneven pacing resulted in diluted tension, some plot elements were heavily foreshadowed while others seemingly came out of nowhere. There were some odd scenes that seemed out of place and the ending was ultimately anti-climatic.

The writing didn't quite gel either, cold and occasionally awkward.

Overall I thought The Hand That Feeds You lacked the depth and subtlety that could have made this story a great psychological thriller.

Airin? says

Morgana gyvena ram? gyvenim? - baigin?ja studijas, turi sužad?tin? ir augina tris šunis.
Vien? dien? po paskait? sugr?žusi namo Morgana patiria šoka. J? pasitinka krauju susitep? augintiniai, o miegamajame ji randa žiauriai suniokot? savo mylim?j?... K? padar? Benetas, kad šunys taip su juo pasielg??

Knygos viršelis viliote viliojo kuo greičiau žengti pro praviras duris ir išsiaiškinti kas gi tokio kraupaus ten nutiko.

Peržvelgiau kitą šalį? leidimus, tai be jokios abejonės, lietuviškas viršelis - gražiausias!

Kai sužinojau, kad po A.J. Rich slapyvardžiu slepiasi dviejų rašytojų duetas - baisiai nudžiugau. Iš karto atmintyje iškilo, turbūt, visiems trilerių mylėtojams gerai pažįstama situacija? pora, pasislepusi po Lars Kepler pseudonimu. Puikios knygos, ne?manoma atsitraukti. Juk, kaip sakoma, kartais dvi galvos geriau nei viena, todėl šiai knygai automatiškai užsikėlė aukšta kertelė.

Rašymo stilius lengvas, per daug neapsikraunant plaukiau per istoriją, tad ir knygą "sukramčiau" per du vakarus.

Veikėjai? Hm.. keli tikrai stiprūs, bet kai kurie man pasirodė ne visai išbaigti. Suprantu, kokie rašytojų akimis jie turėjo būti, bet vat, manęs kaip skaitytojos, jie ne?tikino.

Labiausiai patiko vietos, kur aprašomos Morganos studijos ir tyrinėjimai internete. Ji - teismo psichologijos studentė, susižavėjusi viktimologija (viktimologija - kriminologijos šaka, kuri tiria nusikaltimų aukas). Tai turbūt pirmas mano skaitytas trileris, kur didelis dėmesys buvo skiriamas aukoms, priežastims kodėl jomis tampama, jė mstyms, o ne giliniams ? skriaudėjo elgsenai. Už tai iš manęs knyga gauna didelį pliusą. Kaip ir visiems gyvūnų mylėtojams, sunkiausiai skaitėsi apie gyvūnų prieglaudą ir netinkamą elgesį su gyvūnais. Taip gaila visų ten gyvenančių nelaimėlių, ne jie kalti, kad kai kurie žmonės neturi širdies. Ir aš esu be galo dėkinga kiekvienam, kuris yra neabėjingas ir stengiasi iš visų jėgų šiems gyvūnams suteikti geresnį gyvenimą.

Iki visiškai wow man, dėja, kažko pabaigoje pritrūko. Taip, čia yra viskas ko reikia prikaustančiam trileriui : istorija originali, čia stengiasi išlaikyti iki paskutinio puslapio, pabaiga neblogai susukta, bet kaip greitai baigėsi! Keli puslapiai ir viskas. Man taip norėjosi daugiau paaiškinimų, sigilinimo ? priežastis kas, kaip ir kodėl.

Na visumoje debiutas neblogas, kaip ir minėjau, istorija tikrai originali, šiek tiek apšlifavus būtų labai geras trileris. Nepaisant visko, manau, kad knyga tikrai atras savo skaitytojų.

Andrea says

A.J. Rich is actually Amy Hempel and Jill Ciment writing as a team, and I was so excited when I heard that. Individually, they are both beautiful writers. Sadly, I found this novel to be terrible - poor characterization, repetitive, an implausible plot, and worst of all it was terribly written. Really disappointing.

Nora|KnyguDama says

Be galo lauktas detektyvas. Vien anotacija taip suintrigavo, jog spirgėjau knygą perskaityti. Man ji kaip siaubo filmo aprašymas skambėjo, tai galit suprasti mano nekantrum. A.J. Rich - dviejų rašytojų Amy Hempel ir Jill Ciment duetas, o detektyvas "Ranka, kuri tave maitina" - jė debiutinis romanas. Debiutas tikrai neblogas, istorija originali ir kitokia, tačiau visgi tikėjais daugiau.

Morgana studijuoja teismo psichologiją. Jė ypač domina aukos mstymas, būdas, kitaip sakant - viktimologija. Taip pat ji be galo myli šunis. Pati turi didžiulį pirūnų kalną kalyt, bei yra priglaudusi du pitbulius mišrūnus, daug savo pinigų aukoja prieglaudoms ir gyvūnų gerovės organizacijoms. Visi jie gyvena nedideliame bute. Nors šunys ypač meilūs ir draugiški, Morganos sužadėtinis Benetas jė nekenčia. Jė erzina viskas kas su jais susiję. Kartą, grįžusi po darbą, namuose ji randa keistą vaizdą. Grindys ir sienos

nutaškytos raudonai, šun? kailiai taip pat susitep?. Nenor?dama ?sileisti blogiausios minties ji žengia toliau ir miegamajame išvysta kraupiausi? vaizd? - neatpaž?stamai sudraskyt? Beneto k?n?... Netrukus atvyksta greitoji pagalba, policija, jos šunys išvežami. Morgana negali patik?ti, jog jos augintiniai taip pasielg?. Prad?jus tvarkyti mirties formalumus, jos laukia dar vienas sm?gis - Benetas neegzistuoja. Apie j? niekur n?ra joki? ?raš?, jo duoti t?v? ir jo paties adresai klaidingi.. Morgana pradeda d?lioti taškus ant i ir suvokia - ji niekada n?ra buvusi jo namuose, jis griežtai atsisakydavo matytis su jos šeima ar draugais. Tik ji viena buvo j? ma?iusi.

Knygos pradžia - oho. Ryte rijau kiekvien? sakin? ir vis labiau klimpau ? autori? sukurt? m?sli? ir keistenybi? li?n?. Prisipažinsiu - šiek tiek lipau per save skaitydama apie skriaudžiamus šunis, prieglaud? ir sistemos neteisyb? j? atžvilgiu (visi žino, jog gyv?nai ir j? teis?s yra mano silpnoji vieta). Tad persp?jimas tokiems pat jautraširdžiams - kai kurios vietos tikrai už širdies griebis. Ta?iau didžiulis knygos pliusas - griunamas pitbuli?, kaip agresyvios ir nesukalbamos veisl?s stereotipas. Bravo! Nesp?jus knygos ?pus?ti, pabaig? jau žinojau. Nežinau kas kaltas, ar mano patirtis ir perskaityt? knyg? kiekis ar per akivaizdžios autori? užuominos ir nuorodos link esm?s. "Ranka, kuri tave maitino" - be galo kinematografiškas trileris. Skaitant taip ir jau?iau, jog kada nors knyga tikrai bus ekranizuota - tam ji turi visus elementus. Ir esu tikra, jog žmogus retai skaitantis detektyvus šia knyga bus sužav?tas. Savo ruožtu, tik?jausi sud?tingesn?s paslapties. Tr?ko tos vyšnait?s ant torto.

Sara Cutaia says

OUT IN JULY! Oh my God. I don't usually go for thrillers, but I've heard lots of hype about one of the authors that co-wrote this and had to try it out. AND THANK GOD I DID. Morgan is a grad student studying victimology who ends up being victimized herself by a man she was engaged to. She finds him murdered by her dogs one day, and thus ensues a dazzling downward spiral as Morgan discovers Bennett is not the man she thought he was. It's full of fresh and shocking revelations on every page. Strangely erotic, always engaging, and sexy in a mysterious way, "The Hand That Feeds You" is a must read.

AmberBug *shelfnotes.com* says

www.shelfnotes.com review

Dear Reader,

I feel so let down by this book. What should have been a page turning thriller, not to mention well written... became an annoyance to me. A dog loving psychology student comes home to find her fiance murdered by what looks to be her dogs. That alone sounds horrifying and a good twisty mind fraak. So yes, I was intrigued and wanted to stick with it and find out what truly happens. Being a dog lover myself, I was definitely on the side of "the dogs didn't do it". I'm not going to give anything away, don't worry! Let's just say that the thriller wasn't what disappointed me...

One thing I can't stand when reading is superfluous descriptions that don't DO anything for the story. These needless sentences bother me so much that I can't focus. Now maybe, just maybe The Hand That Feeds You suffered from this because two Authors were cooking in the kitchen (a small kitchen) and didn't cut down on the ingredients enough?! If you don't know what I mean about "two" authors, go search online because A.J. Rich is just another pseudonym. Anyways, I guess I should back up my complaints with some examples, and since this isn't an ARC (just a plain old book I decided to purchase), this is finished work. Here's a few

examples of unnecessary wording that had me so distracted:

"I hung up the black dress I had bought for the funeral. I had worn it before to a cocktail party, but this time I'd wear it with black tights instead of lace thigh-highs." -Do we REALLY need to know exactly how she wore this dress before?

"I could not read any more, so I changed into a larger pair of sweatpants and continued reading more." - What?! I'm not sure if I'm missing something or what but really?

Before I go any further, I have to admit that for some people, this won't bother them and might in fact enhance the story, giving even more background to the characters. I'm just not one of those people. It bothers me to the point that it takes away from all the good this book has to offer. For example, I DID not see that ending coming at all. The characters were well written and very intriguing and the story itself was very unique. I would rate this higher overall in general but I'm sticking to my low rating for me... I have to be true to myself.

Happy Reading,
AmberBug

°°°.°..°°°._. ????? Ροζουλ? Εωσφ?ρος ._.°°°.° .°°° ★.°°.★ ?????? ???????
?????? Ταμετο?ρο Αμ says

- Αν δεν υπ?ρχουν σκ?λοι στον Παρ?δεισο,τ?τε ?ταν πεθ?νω θ?λω να π?ω ?που π?γαν κι εκε?νοι.
Will Rogers.

?να δυνατ? ψυχολογικ? θρ?λερ με μυστ?ριο και ανατροπ?ς αλλα και αναπ?ντεχες εξελ?ξεις.
Τα π?ντα κιν?νται γ?ρω απο την διαταραχ? αντικοινωνικ?ς συμπεριφορ?ς και την ψυχοπαθητικ? διαταραχ?.
?νθρωποι που δε?χνουν φυσιολογικ? και ζουν αν?μεσα μας υποφ?ρουν απο προβληματικ? αυτοεκτ?μηση -ενσυνα?σθηση -ανάλγησ?α-ανευθυν?τητα-εχθρικοτητα και ?λλειψη ανησυχ?ας για τα προσωπικ? ?ρια.

Ειναι αυτο? που ψ?χνουν θ?ματα δοτικ? και συμπονετικ? για να ανεχτο?ν και να υπηρετο?ν ολες τις εντολ?ς τους αδιαμαρτ?ρητα. Οι κοινωνιοπαθεις λ?γο διαφ?ρουν απο τους ψυχοπαθε?ς που σε αυτ? την κατηγορ?α χειραγωγο?ν πανε?κολα τα θ?ματα τους και εκμεταλλε?ονται αδυναμ?α και καλοσ?νη απο ?τομα-θ?ματα που τους λε?πει η αγ?πη.

Η Μ?ργκαν μια τρυφερ? και ευα?σθητη ?παρξη κ?νοντας μια ?ρευνα για το μεταπτυχιακ? της με θ?μα την θυματολογ?α, γνωρ?ζει μ?σα απο σελ?δες κοινωνικ?ς δικτ?ωσης ?ναν ιδανικ? ?ντρα που καταφ?ρνει να γ?νει ο εκλεκτ?ς της καρδι?ς της σε βαθμ? υπ?ρτατης χειραγ?γησης κυρ?ως ερωτικ?ς.

Η Μ?ργκαν λατρε?ει τα σκυλια και μαζ? με το δικ? της φιλοξενε? αλλα δυο απο καποιο καταφ?γιο αδ?σποτων και παρατημ?νων σκυλι?ν που ειναι και εθελ?ντρια.
Γυρ?ζοντας σπιτι μια μ?ρα βρ?σκει τον αγαπημ?νο της κατακρεουργημ?νο απο δαγκ?ματα και

επιθ?σεις ?γριων σκ?λων που προφαν?ς ειναι οι δικο? της.

Ο νεκρ?ς αρχ?ζει να ξετυλ?γει ?λο το κουβ?ρι μυστηρ?ου που τον περιβ?λλει αφο? στην ουσ?α ειναι ?να ?τομο που δεν υπ?ρχει ταυτοποιημενο πουθεν?,εν? παρ?λληλα εμφαν?ζονται κι ?λλες γυναι?κες που ε?χαν σχ?ση μαζ? του και παραδ?ξως μια-μια πεθα?νει με παρ?ξενο τρ?πο. Απο εκε? και μετα αρχ?ζει η περιπ?τεια και η αγων?α εν? η μια αποκ?λυψη αποτελε? μεγαλ?τερη ?κπληξη απο την επ?μενη.

Μια ιστορια απο την οπο?α μαθα?νεις πολλ? για τις σχ?σεις των ανθρωπων,για τις προβληματικ?ς προσωπικ?τητες,για την εμπειρ?α που δυστυχ?ς αποκτ?ται μονο μ?σα απο π?νο και ?σχημες καταστ?σεις. Τα φαιν?μενα απατο?ν,ειναι το προφαν?στατο.

Αλλα ?ταν κ?ποιος θ?λει να ειναι απατημ?νος, δεν δ?χεται την αλ?θεια ? Δεν ?χει τη δ?ναμη να τη δεχτε? και συνεχ?ζει να χειραγωγε?ται τοτε ισως να μην ειναι το θ?μα αλλα ο θ?της.

Καλ? αν?γνωση.

Πολλο?ς ασπασμο?ς.

Bookread2day says

The perfect couple. The perfect life. The perfect murder.

This is most fascinating unusual thriller that I have ever read. Morgan who is engaged to Bennett and is studying victim psychology. When Morgan returns home from her class she finds Bennett has been savagely killed and her dogs circling the body covered in blood. But who is framed for Bennett's death?.

This is a fabulous novel that has the perfect victim that sinks his claws into his life that he once shared with Morgan long after he has died. It would be unforgivable of me to give too much away.

This is a must buy must read.

The Hand That Feeds You is mesmerizing and terrifying being hugely effective and entertaining with may twists and shocks for crime fans.

Patty says

This was a pitiful book. It's poorly written, the characters aren't developed. I don't feel anything for the characters, the characters don't feel anything for themselves or each other. The dogs aren't even interesting. The authors go off subject so much it is annoying and ridiculous. I believe the point of the story might be that once a victim always a victim.

At one point in the book she includes this paragraph:

“The last funeral I had attended was Kathy’s, a “green” funeral. No coffin, no headstone; we carried her shroud-wrapped body on a handcart deep into a forest in her native Virginia to a designated area where we, her friends, dug the grave. Kathy weighed practically nothing at the end. We lifted her off the cart and laid her in the ground. After we filled the grave, we scattered leaves over the freshly turned earth and brushed away our footprints with branches.”

Really! That's a nice little paragraph..., but it has absolutely no place in the story, secondly you can't just go burying people in the ground wherever you want. It's like the author wanted to throw in the subject of being "green," and she liked this paragraph so she just threw it in there.

I really wanted to like this story. The premise is still good, it just needs rewritten. Throw out all the stuff that doesn't have any place in the story and build the characters so that they come alive and make us have some compassion for them. In the story one of the dogs is executed and we get nothing from her, no feelings at all. She is devoid of feelings. Ug...

Jo Anne B says

This book really frustrated me. Morgan is supposed to be a psychologist studying victomology and is herself a victim! I guess that could be a clever story if it weren't so obvious and the person didn't do such ridiculous things to put themselves into dangerous situations. Morgan did not even come across as intelligent enough to be a psychologist. No need to launch a whole study online about being a victim when you make yourself into one. She was what she should have been studying. I felt like a victim reading about this psychologically disturbed woman. The characters were very poorly developed. I didn't like any of them. They all seemed stereotypical and cold. I only kept reading to figure out who murdered Morgan's boyfriend and what his whole deal was. Ever hear of DNA testing? That would have put a lot of questions to rest in this story. I ended up not caring about what happened and just wanted it to end. There were a lot of violent scenes with rescue dogs attacking and killing people that I didn't care for either. The story ended so quickly compared to how long and drawn out the rest of the book was. This quote sums up how messed up the plot was:

" You'd been studying men who manipulated women, but the real fun starts when a woman manipulates a man to manipulate women".

Totally disappointing psychological thriller. It was just a psychological mess.

Brenda says

4.5★s

When Morgan returned home to find the front door ajar she was worried – the dogs could easily escape – she worried Bennett hadn't latched it properly. Bennett didn't like her dogs; but Morgan loved dogs and had rescued two pit bulls plus she had owned her Great Pyrenees since she was a puppy; Cloud was a gentle giant. The absolute horror of what confronted her when she entered the house was shattering – her dogs were covered in blood and her fiancé, Bennett, dead in a brutal, macabre way.

With help from her brother Steven, Morgan began to search for Bennett's family to let them know what had happened to their son. She hadn't been to his home, but he had told her the address – but that address didn't exist. When the police could find no identification for Bennett, the situation became bizarre. Deeper investigation revealed to a stunned Morgan that the man she had been engaged to was not the man she thought he was. Was his name even Bennett? The lies and deception; the layers and layers of deceit were shocking! But the sudden realization of the immense danger that Morgan as well as others were in left her in a state of complete disbelief. What was the truth? Who was this person?

The Hand That Feeds You is an incredibly twisted and gripping psychological thriller which I found impossible to put down! The fast pace and page turning action was full of suspense; Morgan was a well-crafted character, flawed but likeable. For those of you who love a good psychological thriller, I have no hesitation in highly recommending *The Hand That Feeds You*.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my copy to read and review.

Audra (ouija.doodle.reads) says

I'm not sure why I keep doing this to myself. I always want these "psychological thrillers" to be good, or at least interesting, or at the very, VERY least to have some sort of twist that I don't figure out within the first 50 pages. But, alas.

The characters, especially Morgan, were flatter than frogs hit by all eighteen wheels of a semi. Even the dogs were underdeveloped.

Add this one to the towering stack of less-than-thrilling-thrillers clogging the arteries of bookstores everywhere. The cheeseburger smells so good, but I'll try harder to remember next time how awful it makes me feel after I'm done eating it.

Susan says

When we meet thirty year old Morgan Prager, she is living in a Brooklyn apartment and writing her Master's thesis in forensic psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Her thesis is looking at what identifies a victim and it was through her online research that she met her fiancé Bennett. Bennett told Morgan he lived in Montreal, where he managed bands and she thought little of his unwillingness to meet her family. After all, she only really had her brother, Stephen, and the distance between them made their time precious.

Morgan had three rescue dogs and, despite their size, she had never considered that they would be violent. However, one day she returns to find her apartment door open and Bennett's body torn apart in her bedroom. After the initial shock, Morgan attempts to contact Bennett's family – but they cannot be located and, it seems, that Bennett himself does not exist...

This is an interesting thriller, where Morgan has to face the fact that she might be one of the very victim's she has been studying. Duped by a man who was not what, or indeed, who he said he was, Morgan embarks on a quest to discover who the man she loved really was. Although I really enjoyed the thriller part of this storyline, the novel does get a little bogged down in a side story which revolves around Morgan's dogs and the lawyer, Laurence McKenzie, who attempts to help save them. Although the strands of the story are brought together, I felt it would have been better if less of the novel had dwelt on this part of the book.

Overall, this is an interesting psychological thriller about a woman who has to confront the fact that she was duped by a man who had ruined several lives – and possibly even taken at least one. Morgan's search for answers brings her into danger and there are a good range of possible suspects, as you wonder who she can trust. It is a little formulaic in parts and the plot gets a little side-tracked, but I did enjoy it and would certainly read more by this author.

Kristin says

I was pretty disappointed. I didn't find it "smart" or "sexy" or "emotionally riveting" as the publisher suggests. The idea of a psychologist studying victimology while exhibiting traits of a victim herself was quite fascinating, but somehow it fell flat. I just can't get over how such a great concept was executed in such a watered down way -- I can't really explain it better than that. The ending was also incredibly abrupt, with a giant twist (which I saw coming from a million miles away) that could have ramped up the suspense but was resolved way too easily instead. All of the characters -- particularly Morgan, Bennett, and "Libertine" -- could really have used fleshing out. For instance, a tragic event in Morgan's early life is callously used as a plot point to underline the modern plot (at least in my reading), without adding an emotional complexity to her character (as it should). Speaking of strangely handled emotional events, this book is **not** for dog lovers. While the authors write about the importance of dog rescues and how difficult of an environment and calling it can be, they seem to write about the fates of some dogs with a shocking emotional detachment. This almost echoes the sociopaths Morgan was studying -- in a bad way. I really wouldn't recommend this one, and especially not to animal lovers.

Tempo de Ler says

Depois de o encontrar morto no seu apartamento, Morgan descobre que o noivo não era quem ela julgava ser. Bennett mentiu-lhe em relação ao seu nome, ao emprego e em relação a grande parte do que rodeava a sua vida pessoal.

A polícia acredita que foram os cães de Morgan que mataram Bennett, mas, embora tenha algumas dúvidas em relação aos dois cães que acolheu recentemente, Morgan está convencida que a sua cadela Cloud é inocente. Assim, decide começar a investigar por si mesma; Morgan precisa de saber qual a verdadeira identidade deste homem, quais as suas motivações e porque terá mentido.

Este início dá ao livro um alento misterioso que me deixou curiosa logo desde o início A inclusão de um advogado de defesa de animais e de uma preocupação genuína pelo destino destes cães traz uma originalidade interessante ao livro.

O enredo aprofunda-se e torna-se sucessivamente mais interessante a cada nova revelação e consequentes implicações. Nas suas investigações, Morgan encontra outras mulheres possivelmente enganadas por este homem e acaba por se deparar com outro homicídio; a mãe de Bennet não o via há mais de 20 anos e na sua terra natal parece que ninguém irá sentir a sua falta, antes pelo contrário...

Morgan é uma mulher inteligente e desenvolta, mas a cada nova descoberta sente-se mais isolada e assustada. É muito fácil simpatizar com a protagonista de *A Carícia do Assassino* não apenas pelos problemas que enfrenta no presente mas também pelos episódios traumáticos que viveu no passado e pela sua dedicação e solidariedade para com os animais. No entanto, a perda do homem que era seu noivo parece atingi-la algo superficialmente. Mesmo descobrindo que Bennett era um mentiroso e um manipulador, a rapidez com que recupera da perda pareceu-me pouco realista (não querendo com isto dizer que gostaria de ver os autores perder demasiado tempo com o sofrimento de Morgan, o que, de uma maneira ou de outra, prejudica sempre um *thriller*, portanto esta foi provavelmente uma boa escolha por parte dos escritores).

Os conhecimentos de Morgan sobre psicologia criminal são muito interessantes. Curiosa por perceber por

que não atravessamos todos a linha que nos separa de um assassino, Morgan dedica a sua vida ao estudo psicológico do homicida, tocando num conceito muito interessante: o altruísmo patológico.

Infelizmente, quando a história se começou a revelar, perto do final, o meu interesse por ela diminuiu bastante. O potencial do livro acabou por não se concretizar como eu esperava e acabei por ficar um bocadinho desiludida: não gostei especialmente do desfecho, mas gostei do percurso até lá chegar.
