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From Reader Review Clementine's Shadow for online ebook

Maria-Paula says

Very much enjoyed reading Clementine's Shadow. A desert thriller that was very well told. Love how Rothschild could bring out Casey and all the other characters she interacts with. Received as an ARC.

Kelly Smith Reviews says

Lemonade, murder and art criticism. One of the final lines in Peggy Rothschild's mystery novel Clementine's Shadow will be permanently stuck in my head.

Deputy Casey Lang is new in Ardon, California. She moved due to two things: an 'incident' with a teen and a gun and her slightly disturbed ex, Sid, who won't leave her alone.

Brady Stone is a rich artist who loves women, whiskey and a little smoke. No one likes him much, but he doesn't really care. He and his friends are planning a little surprise for the town at the local concert...but they went out to the mine and won't answer their phones.

Jane Strauss is a troubled teen with anger management issues and a dark secret. When local drunk Winston's daughter Tiny goes missing, Jane vows not to let what happened to her happen to Tiny.

The sleepy town of Ardon is about to get a big wake-up call after Tiny vanishes at the concert...and some may never wake up ever again...

This book is very interesting and gripping. The cast of characters perfectly embodies the spirit of a small desert town like Ardon and the mystery surrounding Tiny's disappearance keeps you guessing from beginning to end.

It reads like an episode of Law and Order: Special Victims Unit meets an Agatha Christie novel. In most whodunit books, I know who dun it, but in this one I had no clue.

This is a book with a lot of heart behind it and it is really a great read for mystery fans. I'm looking forward to more books from Ms. Rothschild!

5/5—love it!

R.W. Lang says

This is a story about man reaching within to overcome his perceived shortcomings. Casey, Jane, Brady, and Winston all have a character defect they are living with, and it takes a child snatching predator to get them to change. Mister Masters, a high school health teacher, kidnaps Tiny, and hides her in the desert in the shadow of Clementine's Ridge. As our heroes search for the girl, they discover she's not his first dolly. They do rescue Tiny, and the perpetrator is apprehended, but then something strange happens. You'll need to read the book to find out what. Peggy does a very good job with this Indie.

Lynn says

Definitely Intriguing

This book was hard to put down once I started reading it. In fact, my only complaint was that while I really got involved in and liked the story I didn't like the writing style. It was why I gave it only 4 stars.

Jo-Anne Vandermeulen says

A Real Page Turner With An Atmospheric & Twisting Plot Right To The Totally Unexpected Conclusion!

Teresa says

Just moving to Ardon, California, Deputy Casey Lang has been through a really hard situation that no one should ever have to deal with. Now suffering from PTSD she is in search of a new beginning and takes on a case where she must find a six-year old child who has disappeared. While this is not the first case she would have preferred she has a lot of experience in kidnapping cases and knows she is the best person for the job. This book really hits home for me because I can't begin to imagine the terror of my child going missing and I am so happy that there are people out there like Casey Lang (albeit fictional) who are so good at their job.

Max says

Cool

Fran says

Clementine's Shadow
Author: Peggy Rothschild

The California desert provides part of the backdrop for this novel. The desert town of Ardon holds many secrets that its residents hope will remain buried under the hot sand and never revealed. A dark cloud hangs over the sun and blocks the harsh truths from coming out. Each person holding within him or her something they hope others will never learn.

Experiences can play a major part in what choices you make in life. Some choices are well thought out and will reap better benefits while others will bring you down and cause your life to take a downward spiral. Casey Lang was a good cop who worked for the LAPD. But, like most cops with a heart and conscious, killing a young child left her with a feeling that she could not really cope with. This traumatic experience almost equal to a traumatic brain injury but in a different way caused to shift gears and request a job in this small town.

Sometimes women are not given the chance to show their true potential and Casey finds herself doing traffic duty, writing up reports and doing what you might say is grunt work. Hoping to stay way below the radar and not step on anyone's toes she realizes that she will have to tread the waters carefully.

Winston's marriage went south when he caught his wife cheating on him at a party. Clarabelle loves men and

although they share a young child that never stops her from trying to snag a date or anything else for her personal enjoyment. Winston is an alcoholic who cannot stay on the wagon and falls off at regular intervals at the same time every year. Working for a man that is hardnosed and demands perfection he has a hard time keeping his life and his drinking habits straight. When dealing with his sponsor they discuss his issues and hopefully he will repent. But, Winston is angry, unhappy and has made some bad choices in his life and the only reason he is trying to keep it together is for his young daughter Tiny. Money is all his ex-wife wants and unless he pays her support he won't see his daughter.

Brady loves to smoke weed and his main squeeze Maisie supplies him with it. Well, she did until he forgot their 6- month anniversary. Justifying his actions and explaining his rationale for his behavior you realize that he too is headed for a slippery ride down an icy road.

Teens often mouth off and are sometimes sorry for their words and actions. Jane is rebellious. She has a fierce temper and when she and her grandfather spar the end result surprised her. Dressing inappropriately, not accepting her grandfather's assessment of her clothes she becomes violent and the end result she no longer has a place to live. But, even worse, she never stopped to find out if he was okay after their violent encounter. Calling her brother to bail her out was her first line of recourse but as we hear her voice and get to know her better we realize that this will not be the last bad choice she made.

There is someone out there watching young children as we hear this person's voice as one little girl named Dolly wants her candy and her mother wants her to wait until she completes her shopping. The voice is loud and clear and the end result will be a kidnapping at a concert that Casey, Winston and many others attend. Here is where the real story begins. Choices: You make them and have to live with the consequences. There is much more as a connection is made where they found something belonging to the missing child and three men who never made it to the concert to join Brady. All were headed for Clementine Ridge and the young child's headband was found there too.

So she has to tread carefully when her fellow officers look to her to take the lead in finding six year old Brittany Reid when the girl vanishes in the middle of a local fair. Casey sees Winston, Brittany's father talking her another deputy and comes over to see if she can be of assistance. Having an understanding of having to run this type of investigation she is frustrated when forced to deal with someone that decided to streak during the concert. As we learn more about the child's parents we realize that the mother sent Tiny to find her father in this huge crowd and she never made it. Clarabelle is only concerned with her needs and wants and does not hesitate to lay blame on Winston and much more.

While Brady, the streaker, is questioned a secret about Jane's past is revealed as she shows more than just concern for the missing child. With her friend Earl, she attends the concert and on the way back to Bobbie Faye's she explains what happened that she feels caused her parent's death. Choices are made and often those can cause others to feel guilty and this young girl asked for her parents to rescue her from sleep away camp and the end result turned her whole life around.

A town divided with secrets that they kept hidden for so long. As they all ban together to find one little girl and the three men that disappeared. The location is found; the characters in place and the end result will send shockwaves down your spine. Hear the voice of the killer, learn his secrets and find out the rationale behind his actions and you will shiver. As Casey decides to take matters into her own hands and follows her instincts others follow and one dangerous pedophile needs their brand of justice. The story does not end there and the connection between the killer and one person will definitely create a twist in this intricate plot so well crafted and developed by author Peggy Rothschild that it will keep you in suspense until you turn the last page. As Casey continues her investigation we learn the hidden truth behind the killer and someone else that will turn one small town upside down and a hidden secret when unveiled will unearth more than just the

bones beneath the ground.

Allowing readers to enter the desert, feel the heat, climb the mountains and become part of the plot you can see the backdrop of the scenery within you mind as you create your own mental image of the action described. But, nothing quite compares to each characters own account of their fears, choices and regrets when the author titles each chapter with each of the primary players within this novel.

Just when you think you have it all figured out you won't believe what happens when someone else is about to be confronted and an explosive ending will leave the reader hoping that the author will bring Casey back again real so we can learn more about what is in store for this great deputy. Will the shadow be lifted or will the black cloud remain?

Fran Lewis: Reviewer

Terry says

I enjoyed Clementine's Shadow very much. It's a taut mystery with lots of small-California-desert-town atmosphere and dynamics. What sets it apart are the two major female characters, one a cop seeking a new beginning away from the glare and casual violence of L.A. and the other a lonely teenager on the brink of homelessness. Rothschild does an impressive job of bringing these and other characters' stories together while building tension to a satisfying high desert climax.

Cyndy says

I really like Casey Lang and some of the odd ball characters in town. I would like to see how everyone turns out, maybe a new series? Good book.

Cate says

This is the Authors debut novel and, if she manages to keep up this level of penmanship, she will soon become a household name amongst the lovers of the mystery genre. How do I know this, because I stayed up far too late so I could finish this gripping novel.

From the very start she develops her characters with sensitivity and style, with both the main characters being women in search of very different things. The male characters in the novel are also very well developed and, unlike many novels with strong female leads, the Author does not belittle the men involved in the unfolding drama. In the beginning, the cast of characters may seem disjointed and a little hard to follow, but the Author skilfully weaves their stories together as she progresses. I just wonder what happened to a couple of the characters that appear early in the book, but then do not appear anywhere again, apart from in the thoughts of one of the males whose back story is told. The Author has also skilfully included characters in this novel that are really not likeable, at all, by anyone who reads this.

The description of the desert and mountains are very well done, to the point where you can almost hear the coyotes barking in the night, and feel the dip in the temperatures as the day draws to its close. And small

town life is described to a 'T'.

The subject of the book is very well handled, for such a concerning topic. Graphic details are kept to a minimum, but not to the degree where the horror of the situation is diluted beyond belief. There is no gratuitous sex or violence in this book, which will please those who are getting tired of Authors using it to pad out their novels. Also there is minimum use of the F-bomb, again pleasing for those its use might offend.

I don't usually mention the way a novel has been printed in my reviews, but felt that this one would have to be an exception. The pages were printed in such a way that, people like myself who hate to break the spine on a book, can read this in its entirety without having to do so. This was due to the wide margin along the spine edge of the pages, and is something that I, personally, would appreciate other publishers implementing.

Despite a few proof reading errors, this fresh and original book is full of well rounded and compelling characters and plenty of sharp dialogue which is appropriate for context it is used in. The plot is atmospheric and twisting in a way that keeps you turning the pages to the totally unexpected conclusion.

Originally reviewed on: <http://catesbooknuthut.wordpress.com/...>

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P Bee says

Clementine's Shadow is a book that I took my time with. Once I read through the first few chapters I realized what a rich story the author had created. The characters are dark and gritty with very developed backstories. The author creates a slow suspenseful build on the myatery and I loved it. The main character Casey is troubled and flawed and recovering from an incicnet involving shooting a child
I would recommend this book to any mystery reader but especially, one who likes slow brooding mysteries.

Michael says

Casey Lang obtains a job with the sheriff's department in the California High Desert. She had a bad experience with firing her weapon on an occasion where a small child was involved and has trouble with the memory of the event.

Now, a six-year-old disappeared from a summer concert and since Casey has experience with kidnapping, she's placed in charge of the investigation.

I was entertained with the image of the empty mines and the setting of cactus and sagebrush. The jacket cover was also well done and made me want to know more of the story that was to follow.

Casey Lang is an appealing character and one that the reader can feel empathy for. She leaves the big city and horrific incidents that can happen to children, then moves to the country to avoid this happening again, only to find a similar event has followed her to her new home.

There is also a well done surprise toward the conclusion of the story and this will entertain the reader and make them remember the story.

In short, Peggy Rothschild has put a nice mixture of suspense, interesting characters and a vivid setting that makes the reader want to know more.

Boundless Book Reviews says

This book was a great read! It kept me on the edge of my seat the entire read. I personally would love to see this book be made into a movie. It was fast paced, full of adventure, and had a great twist of an ending. Very highly recommended....Stormi

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Rekha Seshadri says

For self-exiled cop, Casey Lang, Ardon is a dull change the social and crime of L.A. If Casey had assumed that moving to the desert town would help her overcome the numbing fear of shooting another child on duty, she is in for a nasty service. After a slow start as a deputy, the kidnapping of a six-year child from a music concert at the town park sees her graduate from a trigger shy cop to the courageous and daring one of old.

Deputy Lang doesn't have to slog it out alone. Despite a figurehead sheriff throwing wrenches her way, she finds eager helpers among the locals. These include Brady, the rich artist; Winston, the distraught father; and Earl and Jane, two kids with issues of their own. As Lang and the other deputies work on the case, they unearth details of an older, unsolved murder. The stakes are now high and finding Tiny or Brittany becomes a matter of life and death.

Clementine's Shadow is a classic mystery novel with a slow start and a plethora of characters. The reader is introduced to the important characters, including the kidnapper, through separate chapters. As the story progresses, the lives and secrets of each person is peeled off layer by layer. While a couple of folks from Ardon are deemed suspicious, you are never surely sure of their motives or their actual involvement.

The book is a reminder of the stark reality of child abductions and subsequent brutality. The mystery is well maintained and the narration finds you on the edge of your seats, as plot hurtles its way to the climax. I liked the use of colorful words and enjoyed the believable banter.

The average reader may get impatient with the tedious beginning but persistence is rewarded in the form of engaging story. Somehow, this book reminded of the Northern Lights by Nora Roberts although the plot line is entirely different.
