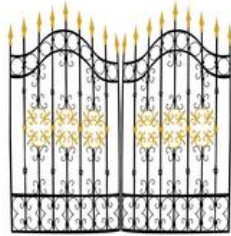


Outside the Gate

a novel



Tom Milton

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Carol Delaney confronts a parent's worst nightmare when her twelve-year-old daughter and a friend go missing from a gated resort on a Caribbean island. The local police believe the girls were abducted by a global organization that has a branch on the island and is involved in criminal activities, including human trafficking. A yacht belonging to local members of the organization was seen leaving the harbor around the time when the girls disappeared, but the police find no evidence that the girls were onboard, so they can't arrest the suspects. After they have determined that the girls are no longer on the island, Carol and her husband return to New York, where they help the FBI pursue the search. When their daughter's friend escapes from the kidnappers in Panama, it raises their hope of finding their daughter before any more damage is done, but after being threatened by the kidnappers the friend's parents refuse to let her talk with the FBI, and at this point there are no other leads. As she reaches out to organizations whose mission is to rescue victims of human trafficking and rehabilitate them, Carol discovers another world outside the gate of the one she knew.

Outside the Gate Details

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From Reader Review Outside the Gate for online ebook

Betty says

The title, "Outside the Gate," is a good choice in that it captures the reader's attention and nicely represents the theme of the book. Once I began to read, I was unable to put the book down until it was finished. All in all, it was well written; although, spending a full page on the preparation of baked zita added nothing to the story and seemed out of place.

April says

So I waited a few days to do a review of this book because I am honestly conflicted on what to write in the review. The subject of the book and the situations these parents face are some that I definitely think need to be brought to the forefront and discussed if we are ever going to find a solution to the problem. Additionally, the recognition that there are many high profile individuals who are involved in or hiding issues such as human trafficking is something that needs to be addressed as well. However, as much as I wanted to love this book for doing those things and helping others see the victims of human trafficking as real victims who are often not seen as such by agencies, I just don't think it quite did the job. The writing was almost always emotionless which made it very difficult to identify with the parents in any way. At first, I thought this was to convey the shock that the parents were experiencing, but this style stuck through the whole book for the most part. There were so many instances in which the author gave multitudes of details on things that didn't matter (such as baked ziti instructions or whose car the parents were driving at a given moment) and failed to bring us into the minds of the parents. The book would have been much more successful had the reader been able to truly connect with what the parents were feeling on a more visceral level. Additionally, delving into the aftermath more than the short amount that was given to the reader would have pushed the reader to really try to understand the victims, but again, this area fell short. Overall, I think the book raises awareness of an issue that many have little or no knowledge of, but it simply could have done so in a much more successful way if the reader was given more emotion and substance.

Lisa says

[Throughout the beginning of the novel, up until Amanda is found, there is a lack of character development, leading to too many awkwardly worded, very stunted conversations. Such as in the below example,

"Ramsey paused, and then he asked Brian, 'What do you do for a living?'"

'I'm an architect,' Brian said. 'But I'm not a famous one.'

'I work at a college on fund raising,' Carol said.

'So you don't have a lot of money,' Detective Ramsey said."

Which brings me to my next point- the book i

Darcee Kraus says

I am addicted to crime shows and love true crime novels so this book piqued my interest right from the start. Milton is a wonderful author with unique ideas. Outside the Gate has strong characters and is a fairly quick read. I was very excited to win this giveaway and was not disappointed.

Mae says

I think that this would be a really great book for a bookclub to discuss. I enjoyed reading it and think that it would create interesting discussion for a book club, especially one that likes to discuss social issues and discuss how they would respond in different circumstances.

When the main character's daughter is kidnapped, along with her best friend, the choices that she makes may seem odd to some, but I think that this book nicely reminds you that you never what you would do until you found yourself in that situation.

I gave this three stars instead of four only because I think that the pacing is a bit strange and there is too much resolution in too short a period of time for me, but I think that it is an interesting read. Still, it will definately make you think and there is a lot packed into its pages.

I do have to declare that I receieved my book free of charge from the Goodreads Firstreads giveaway.
