

THE BODECIA BOOK CLUB REVIEW

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson

It was exciting to read Kate Atkinson's first of the set of now four Jackson Brodie mysteries'. We read the third in the series, *When Will There Be Good News*, last September, which at the time was the last one.

Case Histories, kicks off with a few unconnected stories: a three-year-old girl disappears one hot morning; a solicitor witnesses the violent death of his beloved daughter; a struggling mother loses her temper with her husband and reaches for the axe. That's three families shattered in the space of 50 pages – which leaves you hooked and wanting to read more. The style of her books are not obvious which keeps you guessing until the end and full of hidden secrets. We had been startled by the start of *When Will There Be Good News* by the horrific crimes, this one starts with three such shocking incidents, it does bludgeon the reader into a state of mild depression that cries out for closure .

Jackson swims into the diminishing ripples of the three cases - all of which happened more than a decade ago - and begins to work out what really happened. He is a reluctant detective, yet he has an ineluctable conscience. Asked by the obese and eternally grieving Theo Wyre to find his daughter's murderer, Jackson takes on the near-hopeless task. Jackson's fuzzy, semi-articulated desire to right the world's wrongs acts as a counterweight to the brutal deeds committed by faceless figures. "Amelia and Julia Land had found something," he thinks, reflecting on two sisters' discovery of their lost infant sibling's favorite toy. "Theo Wyre had lost something. How easy life would be if it could be one and the same thing."

We thought the ending was a fantastic twist which did take us by surprise! However, the endings were a bit ordinary and we did feel that we kept on loosing where we were with the characters and the timing; Atkinson kept going back and jumping to different cases.

High points for us were the twist at the end and that Theo had found something worth living for. Low point was finding out about Jackson's background which we did not get the opportunity to do reading the third book for the series.

It is very exciting as the BBC is making *Case Histories* into a 6-part series, filmed and set in Edinburgh, with Harry Potters' Jason Isaacs as Jackson. We eagerly await that to come onto our screens!

We gave *Case Histories* **7 ½ / 10**

Do You Want to Come and Meet Us?

The Bodecia Book Group will be holding a book sale in Wellingborough Library on Saturday 21st May 2011. Come and meet us and comment on the books we have read and let us know any books you recommend we review.

The book we are now reading is **Jump! By Jilly Cooper**

www.bodeciabookclub.co.uk

Don't forget the first rule of Book Club!