

THE BODECIA BOOK CLUB REVIEW

You're Next by Gregg Hurwitz

Gregg Hurwitz usually has an idea of the story he wants to tell before writing, the inspiration for *You're Next* came to him as a single scene: A boy of four is dropped off at a playground by his father. The father is anxious and sweating he tells his son "none of this is your fault", there is a spot of blood on his shirt, he tells his son to "go and play" and "I'll be back in a few hours". Morning passes to afternoon and it soon dawns on the little boy that his father is not returning in a few hours. This would be etched in Mike Wingate's memory as his father never returned; not knowing his last name or where he came from Mike got put into a children's home and he spends his childhood waiting for his fathers' return. From the start of the book then reader is gripped, what has happened to make a father abandon his son, where is his mother?

The book jumps from present day to those years of Mike growing up, where he befriends another young boy Shep. They become friends, Mike becomes top of his class and has a bright future at University however Shep becomes involved in petty thefts and the two of them are always in trouble with the law. Mikes' friendship is tested to the max when he takes the rap for a theft that Shep has done and Mike goes to prison and find that this has lost him his bright future.

Mike however comes out and becomes what he has always wanted, a family man and money that he has earned from working his way up in construction. The story is a morality tale, we all have flaws and shortcomings and have made bad choices under pressure and Mike gets dragged along on a small cover up on a project. This one fateful decision indirectly leads to figures from Mikes unknown past to find him, ones that have been looking for him since he was a little boy abandoned at the playground.

Mike calls on his one true friend to help him as he finds those around him including the authorities have him and his family down as a terrorist. Shep's character is likeable and he is a strong loyal friend who sticks by Mike.

The book is a very easy read and a rollercoaster of emotions, you will see yourself calling out loud in parts with disbelief and horror. There are parts that will make you feel how vulnerable you can be as a parent and what we would all do to protect our families. Wanting to find out why will keep you reading until the very end, through a complex tale of necessary deceptions, long-buried secrets to unravel Mike's mystery.

As a group we would love to see this book on film, with perhaps David Duchovny or Dermot Mulrooney playing Mike and Owen Wilson playing Shep!

Go and read this book!

We gave *You're Next* **7 ½ / 10**

The book we are now reading is **Second Honeymoon by Joanna Trollope**

[The Bodecia Book Club \(Bodecia@groups.facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/BodeciaBookClub/)

Don't forget the first rule of Book Club!