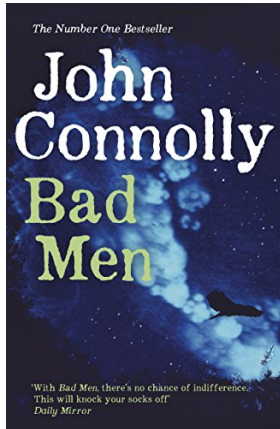




Prison Reading Groups

Bad Men

By John Connolly



Three hundred years ago, the first settlers on Sanctuary; a small, remote island off the coast of Maine, were betrayed to their enemies and destroyed. Since then, the island has known peace. Until now.

Moloch dreams. Dreams through the eyes of another. Dreams of a Sanctuary, that is anything but. A place with a history of violence, and where history is about to be repeated. Marianne also dreams. Dreams of running, escape, and peace. Of all the things she hoped she would find on Sanctuary. Dreams will turn to nightmares on the island, where forces greater than either of them can imagine that have awakened and are hungry. Hungry for vengeance. A group of men are descending on Sanctuary, intent on exacting their own revenge through brutal and relentless massacre. All that stands in their way are rookie police officer

Sharon Macie and the strange, troubled officer Joe Dupree. But Joe is no ordinary policeman. The weight of the Island's history has been passed down through generations, and he knows that it will never again tolerate the shedding of innocent blood. The band of killers who are set to desecrate Sanctuary will unleash the fury of its ghosts upon themselves and all who stand by them. On Sanctuary, all hell is about to break loose.

Discussion Questions:

1. The events of the book – aside from the prologue and epilogue – take place over four days. Does the pacing of the story convey this? If so, how?
2. There are many characters in the story, each with their own narrative, but do you feel there is a 'main character' or protagonist in the book, and if so, who?
3. The author gives a lot of attention to articulating the detail of the island – do you get a sense of its size and landscape from the story?

4. How do the descriptions of the various locations on the island give a sense of the atmosphere and emotion tied to some of the key events?
5. Which other ways do you feel that the author uses location, weather, or other descriptions of scene setting to set the mood in certain parts of the story?
6. Who do you feel are the true 'villains' in the book, and did you feel any differently about this at the end vs the start?
7. The book was released in 2003. Do you feel that the story could have unfolded different if it took place today?

Thank you to our volunteer Gemma for choosing the title and creating the resource.